

Majestic Isles News

February 2015

Volume 18

Issue 5

MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER *presents*



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Cover by Jerry Fefferman

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MANAGER'S CORNER

It seems as though every time I turn on the evening news I see more and more reports about people being taken by scams. Organized groups of identity thieves are mining the Internet for information that can be used to hijack identities. Once they have the key pieces of information – full name, date of birth, address, and Social Security number – in the blink of an eye they can open up multiple credit cards, take out loans, or buy cars. It doesn't matter much to them what they buy, because it's not their money. It's yours. Rather than go through months or even years trying to get

identity theft straightened out, take steps now to help protect yourself.

Most of us don't have the time to check our credit reports every day, so it's a good thing that there are several reputable credit monitoring companies that will do this for you. Once you sign up, they will constantly monitor your credit and notify you if large or unusual purchases are made on your existing accounts or if an attempt is made to open additional accounts. I was out to dinner a couple of weeks ago when the company I use for credit monitoring called to ask about my new boat purchase. Needless to say, I was not buying a boat between my appetizer and main course. The loan was denied and all of my creditors and the three credit reporting bureaus – TransUnion, Equifax, and Experion – were contacted on my behalf to issue a fraud alert.

If you do not have a credit monitoring company and suspect fraud, call your bank and the issuers of every credit card and loan you have taken out and ask them to put a fraud alert on your account. To make it harder for someone to open new accounts in your name you'll need to ask the three credit reporting bureaus to put a fraud alert on your account. Use these phone numbers to contact them: TransUnion (800-680-7289), Equifax (888-766-0008), and Experion (888-397-3742).

We all need to be alert to other schemes that are making the rounds. In a nearby community a man posing as a Water Utility employee was able to gain access to a home and distract the owner, then helped himself to the owner's valuables. Before letting anyone claiming to be a workman into your house, make sure you check credentials closely. If you are not certain that the credentials you are shown are legitimate, before allowing the "workmen" into your home, call the utility company and ask if they have sent workers to your house. (For more about this, please see the "Scam Alert" on page 8.)

The bottom line is – Do everything in your power to not become a victim. Never give out your personal information or banking information, know with whom you're dealing, and keep all of your valuables safely put away if someone is working in your house. If you believe you're in immediate danger, CALL 911!

Ken Miller, Association Manager

M.I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 8, 2015

Minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting will not be available until the Board approves them at the next meeting. To inform residents in a timely manner, we present the unofficial and abbreviated notes below.

President's Report, Harvey Galan

- We have two new vendors that started January 1, 2015: Barefoot Pools for the pool and hot tub and Perry Sinnet for the tennis courts.

Treasurer's Report. Saul Siegel

- *(Residents may request a report of the 1/8/15 cash positions and Statement of Operations at the office.)*

Security Committee, Mark Jaffie for Steve Bayer

- At the COBWRA security meeting at the Sheriff's Office, most of the discussion dealt with the "Good Samaritan Law" which protects people from being sued when they try to help out in an emergency.
- At Valencia Point there was a scam with thieves posing as utility workers to gain access to homes. Residents are reminded to check vendors' credentials closely. *(See related article on page 8.)*

Grounds Committee, Bill Broth

- The areca palms had the undergrowth trimmed and the walls are exposed. The trimming and cleaning was a little excessive, but lots of trash and rodent nests were removed. The arecas will grow back in time.
- The ficus hedge along the wall is thin in several areas and we're looking into solutions.
- M&P will be making regular inspections along with the manager and any issues will be brought to the Board of Directors.

Insurance, Ken Keller

- We had discussed bringing in an appraiser to make sure that we are neither under or over insured, but would like to hold off on this for a while. The Board agreed.
- We've been contacted by, and will meet with, companies who insure for various Association responsibilities, such as fire, flood, vandalism, and more.

ARC Committee, Mark Jaffie

- All of the painting colors have been checked. One resident still has not picked colors and one resident

needs to change the color selection because it's the same color as the house next door.

- The Board agreed with Mark's suggestion that we send a certified letter to the resident who has not picked colors advising that if the colors are not selected by Jan. 16, 2015, the Board will select colors for him.

Welcoming Committee, Iris Rothstein

- 14 new Residents were contacted in 2014. Iris has met with 11, scheduled one, left a voicemail for one, and one will call back upon return to Florida.

New Business

- M&P will replace several of the areas at no cost to the Association.
- Motion to accept M&P's proposal for \$1102.50 to replace some of the plantings around the five signage areas was passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion to accept the proposal from M&P to replace plantings at the lobby overhang for \$710 was passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion to accept M&P's proposal to replace plantings at the front entrance for \$2035 was passed by unanimous vote.
- Ken Miller reported that the bougainvillea at the ballroom entrance is showing new growth and may not need to be replaced.
- Motion to remove the oak tree in the parking lot nearest the tennis courts and replace it with a ligustrum passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion to accept the proposal from LBS to power wash the inside of the El Clair wall for \$450 was rescinded.

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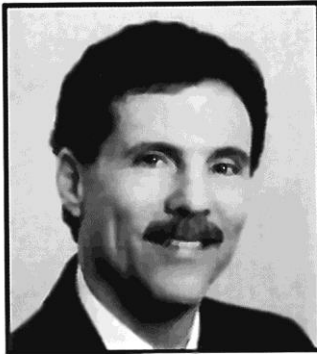
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SAFETY IN THE ISLES

By Steve Bayer

Recently I have had calls from residents excitedly reporting that they had a stranger knocking on their front door asking to come in. Fortunately no one opened the door.

However, no one called the Sheriff's 911 number. One person called me and the other called the gate guard, and a while later called me. There is nothing the guards can do; their instructions are to never leave the guard post.

The correct procedure is to *always* call 911. Explain that someone is trying to gain entrance and that you are frightened and ask that a deputy be sent as soon as possible. The patrol car will come as soon as they can. After you've made that call, you may call me.

Reminder.... Your security begins at your front door. Please keep your alarm *on* at night and especially when you leave the house.

Please see the other article in this page relating to the recent scam in our area.

Please put the date of March 16 on your calendar for a Town Hall meeting. The topic will be announced at a later date.



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

By Elaine Jay

The Majestic Isles Newsletter welcomes the following new residents to our community.

Bob & Karen Feldman
 Roger & Sheila Gottfried
 George Isserles & Judy Ellenbogen
 Michael & Gayla Neikrug
 Eli & Vicki Omes

SCAM ALERT



We bring to your attention a scam that occurred in Valencia Pointe on January 5, 2015. A person posing as a Palm Beach County Water utilities worker knocked on a resident's door and requested entry to check her water.

The imposter had the woman clear out everything under her master bathroom sink, so that he could get to the pipes. When she finished doing as he had asked, she realized he was gone and that he had stolen jewelry that had been in her master bedroom. Fortunately he didn't assault her, or worse.

We urge you to not to allow anyone claiming to be a workman into your home without first requesting proper identification. If you are unsure, please contact the office of the agency the person claims to represent.

To report any suspicious activity, immediately contact the non-emergency PBC Sheriff's Office at 561-688-3400, then call Ken Miller at 561-424-0952 or Bonnie Haberstick at 561-734-8738 in the Majestic Isles office to report the incident.

Note: The photos on the preceding page were taken at the Social Club's annual Grandkids' Party, which this year was held on Dec. 26 and 27. The photographers were Claire Deveney and Jennifer Sorkin.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS PALM BEACH COUNTY, PRECINCT 5028

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202-456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov

Vice President Joseph P. Biden (D)

The White House
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202-456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D)

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561-514-0189
www.billnelson.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R)

284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
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Local office: 4580 PGA Bldg. Suite 201
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
561-775-3360
www.rubio.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Ted Deutch Congressional District 21

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Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3001
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516-470-5440
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Governor Rick Scott (R)

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GOOD AND WELFARE

GET WELL

Joe Bloom	Norma Schneider
Marcia Brandfon	Irwin Zivitz
Enid Gross	Sandy Zivitz
Beverly Jaffe	

SYMPATHY

To Bunny Eisenberg on the loss of Larry Rockman.
To former resident Arlene Levin on the loss of her husband, Herb.
To Penny Spinner on the loss of her son-in-law.

MESSAGES

To my friends and neighbors: Thank you very much for all your good wishes after my surgery. You have lifted my spirit and contributed to my speedy recovery.

Larisa Chizhik

Thanks to all our friends and neighbors for your condolences, cards and food platters on the passing of my beloved and devoted husband, Dave.

Fran Feinberg

To my dear friends and neighbors in Majestic Isles, and to my relatives: For all your cards, calls, and good wishes for my recovery, thank you very much .

Norma Schneider

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.

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UNCLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: One Miami City Ballet ticket for Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. at the Kravis Theater. Orchestra seat. My cost is \$83.75 - negotiable. If interested, transportation will be provided. Call Elaine Grossman (736-3636).

For Sale: Portable Folding Table, very sturdy, 24" X 48" \$15. Call Don (733-4020).

For Sale: 4 kitchen chairs in excellent condition. Call 738-9983

HELP!! I need someone to teach me how to sell on Ebay. If you or someone you know can help, please call Marty Baron (737-8722).

For Sale: 2 tickets to Tony Bennett concert at Kravis Center on Saturday Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. Great seats in Mezzanine Row D. Best offer over \$100 for the pair. (731-3164).

FREE: 4 patio chairs. They need a little refurbishing. (738-9983).

For Sale: Hess Trucks in boxes, never used, collector's items. Various years, prices start at \$20 each. The more you buy, the lower the cost per truck (733-4020).

For Sale: Lovely upholstered beige chaise lounge, in excellent condition. Best price takes it. Call Freddie at (413-2494) for information and appointment.

For Sale: Computer desk, electric outdoor blower, vacuum cleaner, arts and crafts table, Sony 46" flat screen TV. Call (739-8562).

Moving - Everything Must Go. Entire contents of house for sale in Majestic Isles.. Furniture, pictures, bric-a-brac etc. etc. Call (654-7322).

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Highlights of COBWRA Meeting at Indian Spring, January 21, 2014

The January Highlights are abridged below. The full version is posted in the back lobby.

FIRST RESPONDERS' REPORTS

- **Captain Christopher Keene, PBSD District 6**, reported that residential burglaries are down 24%, business burglaries down 14% and auto burglaries remain unchanged. He encouraged the delegates to remind their constituents to remove valuables and lock vehicles left in driveways. A Citizens' Police Academy will begin on February 3, 2015. The academy will be held each Tuesday for eight consecutive weeks.

- **Palm Beach County Fire Rescue District Chief Doug McGlynn** introduced **Rich Ellis, Battalion 4 Chief** and announced a county-wide **CPR event** will be held on February 14, 2015.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

- **Vice Mayor Mary Lou Berger** announced that the Ag Reserve meeting will be held in March. The panhandling ordinance is moving forward and is expected to be presented to the County Commission in March. The ordinance will prohibit panhandlers from soliciting from the medians of roadways.

- **School Board Member Karen Brill** announced that the board will be conducting a nation-wide search for a new Superintendent and all input will be accepted. Ms. Brill mentioned that the Palm Beach County School District does not permit firearms in schools.

- **State Attorney David Aronberg** informed the delegates that although laws exist for establishing whether a person is DUI for alcohol, there are no standards that clearly define the level at which an individual taking drugs can be charged with DUI. His office hopes to be able to close the loopholes in current law.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following individuals will serve on the Nominating Committee: **Lew Doctor, Audrey Arian, Ken Lassiter, Ellen Gabler And Selma Coyne.**

GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson **Gerry Morrison** reported that the committee reviewed proposed changes to the previously approved plan for the Lantana Farms

(continued on page 25)

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HELP CAN BE A 2-1-1 CALL AWAY

By Stanley Kaish

This article originally appeared in the February 2013 Majestic Isles News. The 2011 statistics cited in the original article have been updated to 2013.

Majestic Isles is a social place. There are clubs and activities galore and most of our residents are tied into a network of friends, neighbors, and family who, if asked, will readily provide advice and help to someone in need. The key words in that sentence are: "most," "if asked," and "in need." Most, but not all, are socially involved; some are reluctant to ask for something so personal as help, and indeed, some may not even recognize they are in need of help.

With a potential gap in the web of personal support, there is one more piece of advice we can offer. If you don't know where to turn or are embarrassed to burden a friend with your problems, you can get help from a not too well known program in our area called "2-1-1 for Elder Services." This is part of the over all Federally mandated assignment of the 211 number for social information and referral. How do you get it? Simple! Just dial 2-1-1. Seven days a week. Twenty four hours a day. Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast have offered this valuable, free social service for 40 years. It began as a drug hot line during the '70's but the social services agencies didn't take long to realize that there were problems that extend beyond drugs and the largest population encountering them were seniors. In 1988, the Elder Crisis Outreach Program (ECO) was formalized. I have excerpted a paragraph from their web site, www.211palmbeach.org, to indicate the range of their services for the elderly:

Elder Crisis Outreach: People often cope with crisis situations throughout their lives. However, when an unexpected crisis strikes a frail, disoriented, isolated or depressed elder the effects can be devastating. A crisis may result from overwhelming problems related to grief and loss, financial hardships, social isolation, loss of independence, self-neglect, illness, victimization, emotional distress, depression, or suicidal thoughts.

This vulnerable population may not have the physical strength, the financial resources, or the



family or caregiver support to deal with a crisis alone.

Elder Crisis Outreach is here to help!

Elder Crisis Outreach is a service devoted solely to serving elders, 60 years of age or older, their families and/or caregivers by providing:

- Supportive crisis counseling
- Comprehensive needs assessment
- Goal setting and a plan of action
- Linkage to community services
- Advocacy with family or service providers
- Suicide evaluation
- Follow-up

In 2013, the most recent year offering data, almost 700 elders were admitted to this program, many with multiple needs. A somber note is that, unfortunately, rates of suicide are highest among seniors, exceeding the rest of the population by 50%. So we see that our population is particularly vulnerable to depression and its consequences.

In addition to Elder Crisis Outreach, 2-1-1 offers the more proactive, "Sunshine Telephone Reassurance" program. Here, each day, a volunteer calls the client to chat a bit, and check out their well being. If the client doesn't answer within an hour of the expected call time, the volunteer calls a back up to check on the client. If no contact is made within three hours of the appointed time, the sunshine program calls an appropriate agency to investigate the client's welfare in person. In 2013, 597 individuals received regular calls, with 301 requiring follow-up checks on their welfare. Cited were falls, stroke, heart attack, and diabetic coma. Serious stuff.

If you want a daily call from a Sunshine volunteer, dial 2-1-1 and tell them. Hey, you never know. We're a vulnerable group.

The Sunshine Program also calls paramedics when a client sounds sick or confused. Every couple of months, Sunshine finds someone who has fallen or had a stroke or heart attack or is going into diabetic coma. In 2013, Sunshine provided service to 597 individuals and asked for 301 welfare checks.

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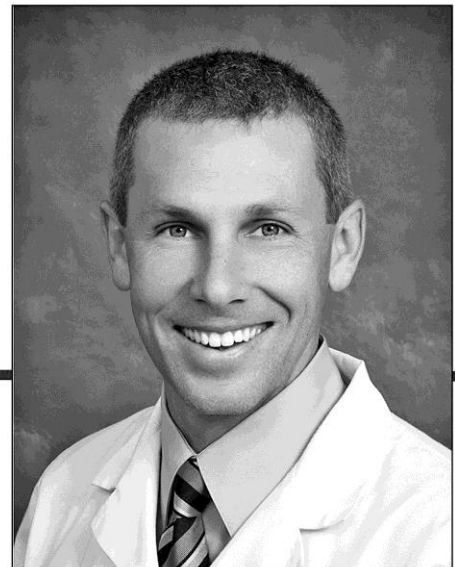
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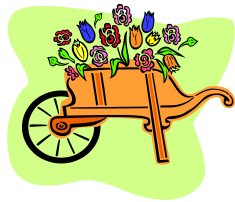
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Gardening in the Isles

By

Stan Davidson

Should our community have weeds as long as the “Weeds” show time drama that ran for years on the TV cable network? If you closely examine your lawn, well before a cutting, you will probably see several of the unwanted 600 species of weeds native to South Florida lawns. Weeds grow in lawns that are not properly weed controlled. Thick healthy lawns regularly fertilized will not have many weeds. Weeds are spread by their seeds, lawn to lawn by the underside of mowers, the wind, rain and animals. A good example of this is the pink low growing weed, pursley, that we see growing in massive beds throughout South Florida. How does one control and manage the weed population? To many of us, with the exception of the avid gardener, it appears that weeds disappear after our lawns are mowed. An avid gardener finds this unacceptable aesthetically and resorts to weed control.

Of course, the least expensive means of weed control is just bending down and pulling the weed out by hand. For many seniors, bending down is no longer easy or even possible. There are many products, not particularly safe for the environment, that one can find in the big box stores that if properly applied will kill weeds. Within our community we rely on our landscape management to annually control the weed population. In accordance with the University of Florida Extension Service, for St. Augustine grass, a fertilizer with an application of weed control should be applied in February and November. Also, lawn fertilizer should be applied in May and fertilizer in combination with pest and disease control July

through August. The pre-emergent weed application in February will control weed growth in the upcoming months. A post-emergent application in November will kill weeds that occurred in the previous months. The above management program consisting of weed control with fertilizer will result in a thick healthy lawn that will inhibit the growth of weeds. This program must be strictly followed annually and as specified monthly for success.

While we are on the subject of weed control, a very successful inexpensive and environmentally safe way to kill weeds in our stonescapes is to apply a mixture of one part of table salt to 8 parts of vinegar. Add a dab of dishwasher to the solution that you can mix in an empty plastic spray bottle. Be sure to label the bottle. Apply the spray only on weeds in your stone-scape and sidewalk cracks; ***do not use on weeds in the lawn.*** I believe that use of the vinegar mix is just as good as many of the more expensive weed killers, is environmentally safe, and is a fraction of the cost of commercial products.

Remember, one can cancel “Weeds,” a TV program easily, but it takes some effort to follow the above scheduled weed management program to control the weeds in our lawns. A note to our landscape management: In February our lawns are starving to be fed with an application of fertilizer and pre-emergent weed control for the upcoming months!!

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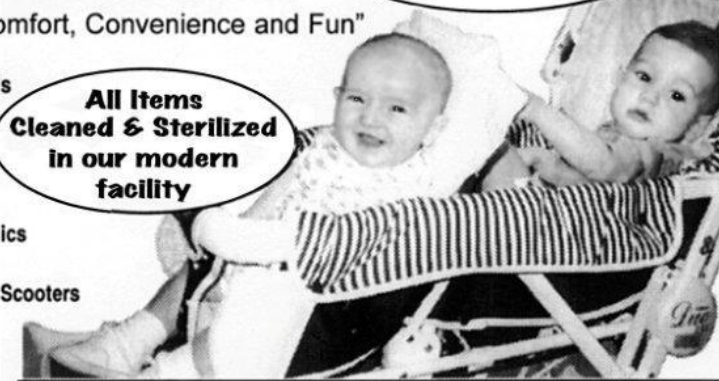


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BETWEEN THE MED, THE RED AND THE DEAD

By Bill Harris

My column usually pertains to what's going on in south Florida, between our two "rivers," the Everglades and the Gulf Stream. Not so this month! I recently returned from my latest annual winter (Chanukah) trip to Israel. I skipped Chanukah 2013, but visited instead in May. I couldn't believe what changes 19 months had made to Israel's infrastructure. When it came time to write this article, Israel was where my heart and mind were. Hence, the temporary change in the article's title to reflect what's going on in Israel, between its three seas. I hope you don't mind the digression.

Israel's major transportation routes – its highways, including the "6," its new toll expressway from Haifa to Beer Sheva; the coastal railroad, originally built during the British mandate; and the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) to the Negev national water carrier, all trend north-south, parallel to ancient trade routes. Now, under Netanyahu, a massive west-east transportation build out is occurring. In Israel's north, train tracks are already laid, tunnels and overpasses built, and the right of way landscaped for extension of the coastal railroad from south of Akko east to Karmi'el, where a train station is now being built. The train route, scheduled for completion by early 2016, someday will extend all the way northeast to Kiryat Shmona. Another west-east track route extension, now also under construction, will bring trains from south of Haifa to Beit She'an in the Jordan Valley.

In Israel's Center, the train route from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion airport is being extended through the Judean Hills to Jerusalem. This mega project includes many tunnels and sections of elevated train tracks that bridge valleys between hills that ascend to Jerusalem. The last stretch from Mevotzeret Tzion to Jerusalem consists of a 4-mile long valley-spanning train bridge, now being constructed 400 feet over Israel's 9/11 memorial, just before the tracks tunnel the rest of the way up to Jerusalem. In the same Jerusalem corridor, traffic-clogged west-east Highway "1" is being widened from two to three lanes. Giant earthmovers dot the route, cutting down mountainsides to make room for the additional lanes. In places, the highway is actually being lifted up via overpasses to remove dips and straighten out curves.

Most of Israel's Center was once desert; its south still is! Although the national water carrier and local groundwater have been an acceptable water supply, Israel now needs more water. In Israel's south, center and north, five to six desalination plants will transform seawater into drinking water and water for agriculture. I've said it before and I'll say it again! With south Florida's Biscayne aquifer, our sole source of drinking water in jeopardy, we too need to commit to build desalination plants. In Israel, giant water mains being laid from the Mediterranean eastward will transport desalinated water inland to supplement water from the Kinneret. Many kilowatts of electricity are needed to desalinate seawater and to pump this water up from the coast and throughout the country.

The resultant Energy/Water nexus is often a subject of discussion in Israeli media. "How much of its newfound offshore natural gas (Nat-gas) wealth should Israel export vs. how much should it keep for itself?" The government is considering a 50:50 split, whereas its critics want Israel to keep more than 50%, claiming Israel needs its Nat-gas to fuel its increasing electricity demands.

The Tamar and Leviathan gas fields 20 and 29 miles off Israel's Mediterranean coast contain enough Nat-gas to meet Israel's energy needs for the next 50 to 100 years. Egypt, Jordan and Europe all want to buy Israel's Nat-gas. Israel is considering export logistics for Tamar production with Egypt. Leviathan, mostly Israeli but shared by Cyprus and Lebanon, poses major geopolitical problems. Lebanon wants to rewrite the Law of the Sea treaty and claim most of Leviathan for itself. The Turks don't like the Cypriots so they may force Israel and Cyprus to seek a costly subsea pipeline to Greece rather than through Turkey to Europe.

And then there are those Israelis who say that Israel needs more than 50% of its gas if it's to generate the electricity necessary to convert seawater to fresh, make the Negev bloom and open it up to settlement. It's amazing what can go on in just 19 months, in Israel between its three seas, the Med, the Red, and the Dead!

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LOVING THE BAD GUYS

By Phyllis M. Cohen

If, like me, you think of the Met when you hear the term, “The Sopranos,” then you must be one of the few people who never heard, let alone watched, the long running cable TV drama about a fictional New Jersey mob boss and his angst-ridden life, as he worried over his criminal empire and his family. Even though we all cheer on the “good guys” and want to punish the evildoer, there has been an endless fascination in literature and real life about the bad boys, from Robin Hood and “The Highway Man” to Al Capone and Sonny Corleone. More has been written about Jesse James and Billy the Kid, Bonnie and Clyde, and Bugsy Siegel than the guys who ended their careers. Jesse James was immortalized in a folk song in which his killer was named only once and referred to as “The dirty little coward who killed Mr. Howard (alias James was using at the time of his death).” The killer was another gang member, Bob Ford, who wanted to get the reward.

Why this interest in the bad guys? Maybe it’s because their lives seem so adventurous and exciting compared to our everyday 9-5 routine of working, commuting, endless chores, and family obligations. Or it could be the thrill of watching people who get away with bucking the system, facing down the big people, breaking all the rules. I never personally had any interest in these kinds of characters, but there was no way I could escape hearing and learning about them. After all, I came from Brooklyn and grew up in the stamping ground of one of the most notorious gangs of the country, Murder Incorporated, earlier known as the Brownsville Boys. Equal opportunity employers, Jewish and Italian gangs from Brownsville, East New York and the Ocean Hill neighborhoods provided enforcement and contract killings in the thirties and early forties until government trials curbed some of their activities. It was convenient that the chief government witness, Abe Reles, fell from his death at the Half Moon Hotel in Coney Island while under police protection. Crime and the big crime families continued on.

While I was growing up Brownsville, I very rarely heard talk about gangsters or the old time gangs. It was well known among the neighborhood kids that nearby, mostly undeveloped Canarsie was supposedly the dumping ground for the hundreds of bodies disposed of by the gangs. Yet there were two neighborhood figures that my parents told me had

been part of the old time Murder Incorporated. A candy store near my parents’ business was a well-known bookie site, presided over by a sharply dressed, cold-eyed man straight out of a Damon Runyan book. Winter or summer, he wore a fashionable light-colored suit as if he were in Palm Beach. He made book at the back table of the candy store while customers came in for seltzer, halvah, comic books and ice cream. When I saw his eyes, I could believe my parents story that he had been an enforcer for the mob. Equally disturbing was another neighborhood figure who had a horse-drawn junk wagon and was nicknamed “Chinky” because of sallow skin and slanted eyes. Bald, built like a jockey, he was reputed to have been another contract killer. He had managed to evade any kind of punishment until the Fates caught up with him and late in his life he decided to get married. The marriage didn’t last long, but the acrimonious divorce did. The judge required that he pay monthly alimony and every month, spewing curses and epithets he came into my father’s drugstore to buy a single stamp and a penny envelope to send her the money.

Unknown to me, my future husband was also hearing about New York gangsters. His father worked in the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets on the docks where the transportation and hauling were largely controlled by the mobs in the 1940’s, particularly the Gambino family (the successor to the legacy of Murder Incorporated) and Anthony Anastasia. Family lore has it that one day my father-in-law, Herbie, was working at the market when Anastasia arrived in a limo, stylishly dressed in a bowler hat, camel hair coat and white spats. One of the mob underlings brought Herbie over to the boss who said, “I understand that you are good people” and he was given one of the boss’s business cards (entitled Consultant) in case he ever needed a favor! Not long after, my father-in-law was in Las Vegas, where one of the mob boys recognized him and, to my mother-in-law’s horror offered him everything from free room to booze and girls.

Proving that life comes full circle, my Boston-based daughter was talking about her neighborhood and mentioned casually that her nice neighbor, in his earlier life, had been an enforcer for the Winter Hill gang, the famous Whitey Bulger killers in the 80’s and 90’s. Who said real life isn’t interesting?


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Another Book To Check Out “THE BURNING ROOM”

By Stan Kaish



“The Burning Room” brings two old pros together again. One is author Michael Connelly who, over the years, has written some 26 crime novels, and the other is Harry Bosch, the detective who has been featured in 21 of those books. Harry is a tough, humorless, hard as nails cop who abhors the brass he

works for and who, through dogged detective work, unravels some of the most difficult cases facing the Los Angeles police department. His quick bio from Connelly’s web page reads:

“Born in 1950 in Los Angeles to Marjorie Phillips Lowe. He was named Hieronymus Bosch after the 15th century Dutch artist and nicknamed ‘Harry.’

“... became an orphan at 11 when his mother, a prostitute, was murdered. He grew up living in a youth hall and foster homes. He joined the army and did two tours in Vietnam. Harry returned to Los Angeles and joined the LAPD in 1972. He became a detective after five years in patrol.”

No wonder he’s humorless.

During the 22 years of writing Harry Bosch books, Connelly has aged his character appropriately. Harry is now age 64, and in his last year with the LAPD. He is working Open Unsolved Cold Cases partnered with a young, inexperienced, but equally intense, detective named Lucia Soto. Harry hopes to teach her his hard-learned lessons of the trade as they work on whatever cases come their way; lessons like, “Get off your ass, knock on a lot of doors, and ask a lot of questions.” (This piece of wisdom came after he observed many of the detectives purchasing \$1500 office chairs with their own money; an indication that they did most of their work sitting down, on the phone, or the Internet.)

Musician Orlando Merced has just died. He was shot and wounded ten years ago and has, at last, succumbed. The medical examiner, with whom Bosch had a brief affair some books back, rules the death the result of the original wound, and declares it a homicide. Bosch is given the assignment of finding the killer. Merced, as is often the case in these tales, had some political connections that create added pressure for resolution.

Connelly is a master of police department nitty-gritty. There is the by-play as Bosch and Soto show up to take this ten-year-old case away from the officers originally assigned. Resentment at the implication that they weren’t sufficiently diligent in their handling of it is handled with a promise by Bosch that if he finds anything, he will call them for the arrest. Whether practical or not, it defuses the issue and presents a lesson for Soto. There are the numerous personal contacts Bosch has built up over the years: some who expedite lab work for him, explore newspaper records, leak FBI files and expedite ballistics tests. We have met several of these characters before in earlier books. Connelly likes to do that.

As the story unfolds, we learn that Soto has an agenda of her own. She had been trapped as a child in a fire in a “burning room” located in a day care center. It was determined to be arson and six of her childhood friends and a teacher died. This has remained Soto’s personal cold case that she was working on the side to solve. When Bosch discovers this, he agrees to help her and, in the process, they find yet another related case, a robbery, linked to the two already in their hands. It takes a pretty good writer –and Michael Connelly is one – to make it all hang together credibly. Knocking on doors and asking lots of questions, our detectives break a few rules along the way, but ultimately get to the bottom of things.

Harry Bosch fans may wonder whether or not their aging hero will be back in a new book down the road. Connelly is at work on a TV series called “Bosch” that will reportedly be streamed over Amazon Prime Instant Video starting in February 2015. I don’t know what Amazon Prime Instant Video is, but my grandchildren tell me it is something like Netflix. The word on the Internet is that the series will draw material from several earlier Harry Bosch novels, so there is more than enough old stuff to go around.

Either way, Harry has been a fun character over the years and I am sure he will continue to be so; however, he is delivered by that other old pro, Michael Connelly.

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Joseph Brodsky

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INVESTORS DISCUSSION GROUP

By Al Silverman, co-facilitator

On June 2, 1997, 17 ½ years ago, 40 residents met in our then new clubhouse and formed the Investors Discussion Group. We have enjoyed the comradeship that developed over the years as we discussed the actions and reactions in the financial arena.

After writing approximately 150 articles in the *Majestic Isles News* containing subjects we discussed at our meetings, I have run out of words. I therefore want to close with my resignation and retirement as facilitator, or should I say co-facilitator of the Investors Discussion Group.

Bill Harris has agreed to take over as the group's facilitator. I have full confidence in his insight, knowledge and capabilities to continue to make these meetings interesting and informative.

The next meeting will be held Feb. 9, 2015 at 4 p.m.

The paragraph below was written by Bill Harris, who will be taking on the responsibilities of the Investment Discussion Group's facilitator.

I want to thank Al Silverman for his many years of service to us, and for his kind words and trust in me to serve as facilitator of our investment discussion group. I pledge to do for the membership no less than what I do for myself almost every day – gather and disperse investment research. To that end, we will, at our next meeting, discuss the current state of the market and investigate several smart ways to double our yield. Initially, we will begin a monthly review of basic definitions requisite to development of investment strategies you might make.

Disclaimer: The Facilitators are financial news reporters who may bring subjects to your attention to stimulate discussion at the meeting. They do not make recommendations. Do your own research and due diligence with regard to suitability, investment objectives, etc. and consult your investment advisor. Above all, for any investment you make, you are buying into someone's business. Make sure you understand the nature of the business and the potential pros and cons for its future

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By Donna Shaneson



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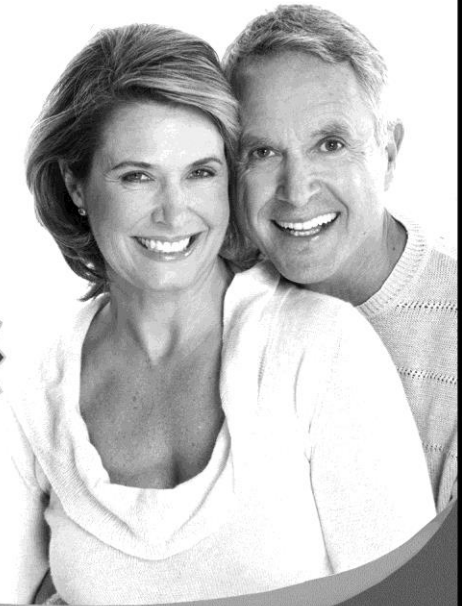


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“REEL IMPRESSIONS”

By Edye Frankel

Yes, I know it's been a while since my last movie review. Forgive me, but I hadn't been frequenting the movies recently. Now, you are in for a treat (if you choose to follow up on my recommendation).

The movie “The Imitation Game” is a combination of a fascinating and suspenseful plot, unusually brilliant characters mixed with hard-nosed, small-minded people obstructing the “mission of the brilliant” at every turn. The main character, Alan Turing, was a genius-level English mathematician, logician, and cryptanalyst and pioneering computer scientist. He was a key figure in cracking Nazi Germany's Enigma Code, which helped the Allies win the Second World War. Even after he had accomplished this seemingly impossible task, he was later tragically prosecuted for his homosexuality. Turing's character was brilliantly played by Benedict Cumberbatch. All of the supporting actors were equally convincing and their parts well performed.

My attention never wavered, and at the end of the film I was left with many thoughts and feelings that lingered for quite a while. You may have guessed that I strongly recommend this film for entertainment and information.

PET PATCH

by Molly



First, welcome back to my doggie snowbird friends. Glad to have you here.

I gave my Mom a big scare the other day – she said I was twitching and my eyes were rolling. I wasn't walking right – kind of wobbling and I was shaking. She called Aunt Ellin, and she took us to the Pet Emergency Room. They asked all kinds of questions – did I pick up a pill off the floor, and would you believe – they wanted to know if there was marijuana in the house (my Mom? – no way!). Unless Mom wanted to leave me there overnight so they could watch me (Aunt Ellin was shaking her head “No”), we could go home and Mom watched me (literally!) all night. Next morning, I was fine.

I saw my regular vet the next morning, and she couldn't find anything wrong. She was sure I either picked up a pill off the floor that Mom missed, or picked up something along the street. So – *don't pick up anything off the floor or the street!!* You really don't want to visit the emergency room! I'm so glad I'm okay now.



COBWRA

(continued from page 11)

PUD, a 141 single family home project to be located on the south side of Lantana Road east of the Florida's Turnpike. The Executive Board recommended the approval of the project with the condition that the architecture of the homes will meet the current COBWRA Design Guidelines.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE Chairperson **Joan Brunswick** reminded the delegates that the Health and Wellness Symposium, “Food & Drug Interactions: The Good, The Bad & The Dangerous” will be held on Feb. 25 at Valencia Pointe. The Symposium will begin at 7 p.m. with refreshments served at 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Former County Commissioner Karen Marcus presented a brief history of governance in Palm Beach County and spoke about the **next generation** and how the county might be governed over the next 20 years. She emphasized that “we do not want uncontrolled growth. Issues such as water resources, drainage, the Ag Reserve, the Glades and economic development must be addressed.”

By Bruce Brodsky

NEXT MEETING: February 18, Valencia Pointe

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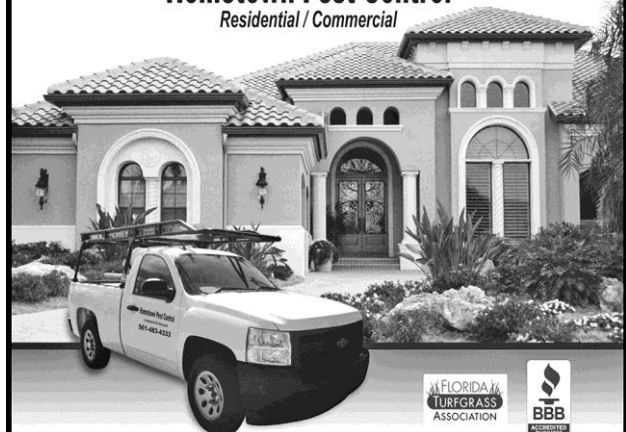
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MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER

GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 11, 2015.

By Selma Friedman

During the business portion of the meeting, the slate of officers for next year was presented to the membership. Good luck to all the candidates.

My sincere apology to Stan Rothstein for omitting his name in the credits of our December program. Stan did a fabulous job reading, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." Mea culpa, Stan.

Our wonderful educator, Dr. Harvey Vetstein, gave a dynamic lecture on insanity in literature. It was quite illuminating and thought provoking. I was especially taken with the thought from "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" on "Who's running the asylum, the patients or the staff?" Great job, Harvey, you gave us much to think about.

February's meeting will celebrate Valentine's Day. Come and enjoy a diverse program saluting that special day.

We always welcome participation from our members. If you have found your niche, please tell us. We have a great time and so will you.

SINGLES

By Ellin Goldstein

Our New Year's Trip was fun. Highlights were the Ford Edison Museum and the Paddleboat ride. We were lucky enough to have dry, fairly cool weather.

The first meeting of the New Year was Jan. 9. Our new presidents, Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermak, took over the reins and served champagne and crackers to celebrate the event. The outgoing presidents thank everyone for the thoughtful gifts.

If you haven't paid your dues, now would be an excellent time to do that.



On Feb. 21, the Singles will be attending a matinee of *Cabaret* at Stagedoor Theatre on Sample Road. Tickets are

\$33 for members and \$36 for non-members. Please put a check in the Singles' box and indicate if you need a ride or are willing to drive there. Afterwards, dinner will be at Snappers Restaurant on Congress.

On March 6, the Singles will host a potluck dinner for members only. Admission will consist of an appetizer, entrée, or dessert. Please let Seena Calder know what you are bringing.

Women's Club

By Joyce Milbauer, Co-President

Hi! This is my first Majestic Isles Newsletter to you. Now that the holidays are over, we can get back to "normal." We had a wonderful luncheon at our Welcome Back event in December. Bamboo Wok did a good job of setting up the food, serving, and then cleaning up. Entertainment was great. Our guest, who talked about Judge Judy, was very informative and funny.

In January, we held our installation luncheon at the Copenhagen Restaurant. Sondra Steinhauer, who entertained us with a talk about Carmen Miranda, was very knowledgeable and fun to listen to. All the ladies had a good time and enjoyed the lunch was very good. The portions for the lunch and the dessert were very generous. Nobody left hungry!!

Here are the upcoming events for the rest of the season: Please get checks in early if you're planning to attend.

- Feb. 8: Valentine's Dinner Dance at Delray Country Club. The cost is \$35 for members and \$42 for non-members. The buffet will be served at 6 p.m. Please make your checks out to Majestic Isles Men's Club; we are co-sponsoring event with them.
- March 25: Wednesday **matinee** - *George M. Cohan Tonight*. We are co-sponsoring event with the Snowbird Club at Stage Door Theater in Coral Springs. Tickets are sold out.
- April 27: Canasta tournament is open to all. The cost is \$10 per person at the clubhouse.

Annual club dues are \$15 person. Please support your Women's Club by putting your check in our mailbox in the back lobby.

MAJESTIC BOWLING LEAGUE

By Arnold Everitt



The League members must keep the following dates in mind. The 28th and final week of bowling will be March 20. The League has also chosen that date to have the Greenacres Bowl sponsored buffet at 2:30 p.m. With that said, the League will have their annual awards dinner the following Thursday - March 22. Details of the dinner will be forthcoming.

Our own Estelle Snyder showed everybody how it's done - bowling a terrific 194 on week 20. That ties Ken Ramnarine with identical high scratch bowling scores - well done.

The League notes with sadness the passing of our president of sixteen years, Dave Feinberg. Dave took exceptional pride in the League and devoted much time and effort to that end. Our condolences to Fran and the family.

SNOWBIRDS

"Seasonal Residents"

By Bobbe Greene



The January brunch meeting was very nicely attended. A **big** welcome to the new Snowbirds who joined us.

Thanks to Harvey Galan for being our guest speaker and filling us in some things we might have missed while we were away.

The theatre party this year, on March 25, is completely sold out. We are all looking forward to seeing the musical "George M. Cohan Tonight." Anyone who has purchased tickets can pick them up at my home. Call me at 738-9983 to arrange a time. Plans are being made to have dinner after the show at La Luna.

The Snowbirds will be joining the Travel Club on a day trip to the Fairchild Gardens and the new Chilhuly exhibit in the near future. Reports from others who have been there is that it is a "not to be missed" outing.

Men's Club

By Joel Cohen

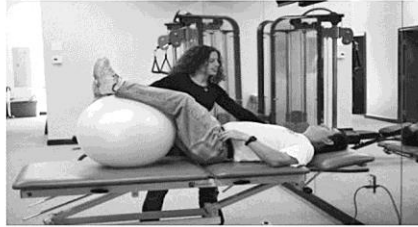
Just a reminder that we are now collecting the dues for 2015, in the amount of \$15. Please drop your check off in Men's Club mailbox in clubhouse.

Our next trip to the casino will be Wednesday, March 18, to Gulfstream Park. We hope the horses will be running that day.

The Men's Club, jointly with the Women's Club, has booked our Parent's Day brunch at Broken Sound again this year. Broken Sound's brunch is one of the best I have ever seen. It leaves nothing out. Anything you can think of is at the brunch. We will, of course, have an entertainer. The brunch will take place on Sunday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m. The cost will be the same as last year: \$38 for members and \$43 for non-members and guests.



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Photos by Stan Rothstein

PICKLEBALL @ M.I.

By Ed Strauber and Jerry Ehrlich



On Wednesday, Jan. 8, action photos were taken at Pompey Park of some of our players playing this high-energy game. Stan Rothstein gave up his morning routine to take the pictures. He snapped over one hundred pictures and picked the best ones for this issue. A very **big** thank you goes out to him for all his efforts and exceptional pictures.

We meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the clubhouse. Anyone interested in just observing the game can come with us. If you'd like to take a free lesson on Thursday mornings, please contact Ed or Jerry so we can set it up. We would like to see some women take part in this game. Come on out, ladies (and gentlemen), to see if you can play .

To all those who have been playing this game, here is how to tell if you're a pickleball addict.

- *You have postponed a hip replacement, knee surgery, and a dental appointment so you won't miss a pickleball game.*
- *You don't warm up before playing pickleball as a waste of good court time.*
- *You can no longer read the label on the face of your paddle.*
- *You strap on two knee braces, two elbow braces, and a back brace and yell "I'm warmed up, who wants to play?"*
- *You come off the court after an hour straight, hyperventilating, wiping sweat with a towel, sit down, take a swig of water and then immediately jump up and yell "Let's go, I can only play another hour!"*
- *You have a different pickleball shirt every time you play.*
- *Someone yelled "dink" and you didn't look down to see if your fly was undone.*
- *Your only reason for going to Walgreens is to buy a bottle of Aleve.*
- *You get up in the morning and it takes five minutes to roll out of bed.*
- *You know that 2-4-1 is the score of a game and not a sign at the flea market.*

So until our next article we'll see you on the pickleball court.

MAJESTIC ISLES TRAVEL CLUB

By Doris Davidoff



Our meeting last month was amazing. A representative from Collette Tours presented a slide show about our trip to Ireland in October. By the end of the meeting this trip was almost sold out.

We will be visiting Dublin, Waterford, The Ring of Kerry, Killarney, Limerick, Galway and more. We will enjoy an Irish evening and a factory tour at the House of Waterford, among many other features of this spectacular country. We will even have the opportunity to kiss the Blarney Stone.

May is coming up fast, when more than 30 of us head off to Alaska. We will spend a couple of nights in Vancouver to visit the famous Butchart Gardens in Victoria and have a city tour of Vancouver before we board our cruise ship for a one-week Alaska cruise, sailing from Vancouver to Seward (the port for Anchorage). Then, we set off on a three-night tour of Denali National Park and Fairbanks.

If you are interested in taking either the Alaska or the Ireland trip, both of which are either already sold out or close to it, make sure to get on the waitlist. Put a note in the Travel Club mailbox if you want to be on the waitlist.

Our next local trip is to the beautiful Fairchild Gardens in Coral Gables at a date to be announced. We are lucky this year to have the Chihuly glass exhibit back at the Gardens after several years. Chihuly's intriguing and magnificent glass pieces are scattered among the wonderful natural beauty of the gardens. Our morning there will include a 45-minute tram ride, and we'll conclude our visit with lunch at the Gardens. Then we will have another activity for the afternoon before returning home.

The Travel Club is open to all Majestic Isles residents and their friends and relatives, even if they don't live here. We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month (check Channel 63 for any changes). Our trips have a mixture of couples and singles. There is no membership fee to belong to the Travel Club.

SOCIAL CLUB

By Joan Sorkin

Our 2015 Series started off with a fabulous show and a crowd of over 160 people. Bob Folse, a classical guitarist opened the show for Jodi Langel, a former Broadway star of many of Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber's shows. She sang an medley of his songs that was outstanding. We are all looking forward to "Sarge" for our February show. Over 200 people have already bought tickets, so do not wait much longer. Tickets are \$30 per person. Call Arlene Koch or me for tickets.



Sunday, Feb. 15, the Social Club will hold a Bingo Night with prizes. There is no charge to attend, but we do ask that you be a member of the Social Club. Dues are only \$10 per person.

Thank you to Ray Kozlin and Dave Aldoroty for their assistance with the Bingo equipment. Of course, refreshments will be served.

Our last movie attracted 92 people. We are not sure if it was the added ice cream for dessert or the movie. Our next movies are listed on this page. Movies are These devices are courtesy of our own newspaper club. See you at the movies.!!!

Movies – Movies - Movies 8 p.m. at the clubhouse

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7: MILLION DOLLAR ARM Looking to save his failing business, sports agent J.B. Bernstein launches a reality show to find India's best cricketers, with the goal of turning them into professional baseball players and signing them to Major League contracts.

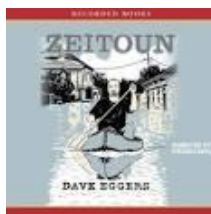
FEBRUARY 21, JERSEY BOYS: Adapted from the hit Broadway musical, this nostalgic look at the Four Seasons and their bumpy offstage lives stretches across four decades. Each of the musical act's four original members presents a different set of memories from their shared past.

NOTE: We show our films with closed captioning.

The film descriptions are taken from the Netflix website.

Book Talks

By Judy Markowitz



On Wednesday, February 18, 2015 Jack Greene will facilitate a discussion of **ZEITOUN** by Dave Eggers.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Abdulraham Zeitoun, a prosperous Syrian-American and father of four, chose to stay through the storm to protect his house and contracting business. In the days after the storm, he traveled the flooded streets in a secondhand canoe, passing out supplies and helping those he could. A week later, on

September 6, 2005, Zeitoun abruptly disappeared.

Egger's riveting nonfiction book, three years in the making, explores Zeitoun's roots in Syria, his marriage to Kathy, an American who converted to Islam, and the surreal atmosphere in New Orleans and the United States generally in which what happened to Zeitoun was possible.

Be sure to join us for this review of a very interesting book, which I am sure you will enjoy.

MAJESTIC ISLES PAP CORPS

By M. Chermak, C. Deveney, R. Stichel



As we went to press, we looked forward to our Jan. 29 program featuring The Kings Academy High School chorus, with desserts and coffee to be served.

All members and guests of the M.I. community are invited to attend an upbeat concert by a Kingston Trio member on Wednesday evening **Feb. 25**, at 7:30 p.m. Coffee and ... will follow the performance. Tickets are \$15 per person. Seats will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, so hurry and get your checks into the M.I. Pap Corps mailbox early. Contact Suzanne Skinner, 200-0794, or Marcia Steiner, 752-2165, with any questions. Watch Channel 63 for the dates and times of paid ticket distribution at the clubhouse.

We are now selling tickets at \$20 per person for the Boca West High School performances of "The Addams Family" on Saturday, **March 7**, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, **March 8**, at 2 p.m. Place your checks with requested number of tickets and performance dates on the outside of the envelope in the M.I. Pap Corps mailbox attention: Suzanne Skinner or Marcia Steiner.

Save Saturday, **March 14**, for the 15th Annual Pap Walkathon at FAU, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, at 8:30 a.m. Contact Chairmen Helene Riffle (432-5898) or Ellie Rogg (733-3945) with your questions. Honorary chairman is Enid Gerard. Registration fee is \$20 per person and includes a T-shirt. Commemorative markers to honor or in memory of loved ones are \$20 per marker. All sponsors are welcome to contribute. Donors of \$125 receive a Pap Corps cap. Peace bracelets at \$5 each will be sold at M.I. Pap meetings to raise additional funds for the Walkathon. Sign-up flyers are in the back lobby. To register online visit www.papcorps.org.

The Card Party, catered by Famous will be on Thursday, **March 26**, at 11 a.m. Put together your card groups or Scrabble and dominoes groups. Price TBA.

HADASSAH

By Ellin Goldstein



The new executive board for Majestic Isles Hadassah consists of President: Lee Katz, Membership VP Sue Horowitz, Records Administrator Evelyn Harris, Program VP Irene Mordis; Education VP Donna Shaneson, Fund Raising VP's Janice Davidson and Adele Freitag, Corresponding Secretary Judy Markowitz, Recording Secretary Ellie Rogg, and Treasurer Sheila Traum.

The opening event for 2015, was our wonderful Card Party including a full course meal for the players on January 26 in the clubhouse.

On Feb. 19, the region is sponsoring a Heart Walk and Breakfast. There is a flyer in the back lobby.

On March 4, we will be holding a Majestic Isles Sweet Sixteen event. Janice Davidson and Adele Freitag are sponsoring it. There will a luncheon at Westchester Country Club at noon and there will be entertainment. The cost is \$45. More information, including a menu, is on a flyer in the back lobby.

To buy a brick on our 6th Brick Lane, call Lee Katz (733-6702) or Lucille Garelick (364-0533).

Remember, there is a \$2 donation for a light lunch at our meetings.

Right now, we are selling Mah Jongg cards. Irene Mordis will be collecting this year. We got a very nice check from the Mah Jongg league this year, thanks to Bev Jaffe and Irene Mordis. Bev thanked Irene for typing all the names for her. Regular cards are \$8 and the large print cards are \$9.

Don't forget, we can always use more volunteers.

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ACTIVITY CALENDAR

February 2015

1	Sun	7:30 p.m.	M.I.L.T.	Workshop
4	Wed	11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Sing for Fun Neighbor 2 Neighbor	(See ad on page 10.)
5	Thurs	2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors	Meeting
6	Fri	4:30p.m.	Singles	Meeting
7	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Movie Time (p, h)
8	Sun	6:00 p.m.	Men's & Women's Clubs	Valentine's Party (p, a)
9	Mon	4:00 p.m.	Investment Group	Discussion
11	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun	
13	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Snowbirds	Meeting
14	Sat.	7:30 p.m.	M.I.L.T.	Workshop (non-members \$2)
15	Sun	7:30 p.m.	Social Club	Meeting
18	Wed	11:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Sing for Fun Book Talks Neighbor 2 Neighbor	Discussion (See ad on page 10.)
21	Sat	2:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Singles Social Club	Cabaret Matinee (p, a) Movie Time (p, h)
22	Sun	11:00 a.m.	Travel Club	Meeting
23	Mon	11:30 a.m.	Hadassah	Meeting
25	Wed	11:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Sing for Fun Pap Corps	Concert (p, h)
28	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Show Time (p, h)

FEBRUARY



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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