

# Majestic Isles News

January 2016

Volume 19

Issue 4

## Happy New Year



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The M.I. Newsletter is  
financially self-sustaining.  
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**MANAGER'S CORNER**



The Dec. 17 elections for the Association's Board of Directors filled the three open two-year seats. Duncan Hopwood was elected for the first time, while Harvey Galan and Iris Rothstein were re-elected. Congratulations!

We would like to say a special thank you to Ken Keller, who is leaving the Board, for his dedication and service to Majestic Isles Board of Directors and to the members of the community. We welcome Duncan Hopwood.

At the organizational meeting that immediately followed the election, the following officers were selected. (*Please note:* Mark Jaffie was out of town and did not participate in this meeting.)

**Majestic Isles 2016 Board Of Directors**

Harvey Galan – President  
Steve Bayer – First Vice President  
Iris Rothstein – Second Vice President  
Saul Siegel – Treasurer  
Duncan Hopwood – Secretary  
Bill Broth – Member at Large  
Mark Jaffie – Member at Large

**Some of the projects scheduled for 2016:**

- Pool and deck refinishing
- Association Voice
- Tree trimming
- Mulch
- Update and mail Rules and Regulations
- Update and mail Document amendments
- Painting

The Majestic Isles documents call for Board elections to be supervised by a committee of seven residents. The property management company, the Castle Group, prepared and mailed the election documents, and the committee members participated in the planning of the evening, assisted during the voting and then opened and tallied the votes. I would like to thank Doris Davidoff, chairman of the committee, and the committee members, Marilyn Broth, Dotty Caroff, Ed Gerard, Arline Rutsky, Alice Schultz, and Betty Wachtel for their time and efforts.

*Happy New Year  
To  
Majestic Isles  
From*

*LoriAnn, Pedro, Eddon and Fatima*

## SAFETY IN THE ISLES

By Steve Bayer

*The article below originally appeared in the February 2011 issue of the Majestic Isles News.*

### A few thoughts to consider:

Drivers and walkers, please be careful. When walking around the neighborhood after dark, please wear light colored clothing. If you are just out for a casual walk or you are walking your dog, consider wearing a red flashing light. Carrying a flashlight will also alert drivers who might not see you.

Professionals recommend having your dryer vent professionally cleaned annually. Over the years, lint accumulates not only inside your dryer, but in the vent leading to the outside of the house. After the cleaning, your home will be safer, your clothes will dry much faster and you will save money on electricity. Please make this small investment in your home's safety.

**In Case of Emergency:** Do you have I.C.E. on your cell phone? I.C.E. is an internationally recognized symbol for "In Case of Emergency." No matter where you are, if you become unconscious, or are in an accident or other disaster, emergency responders – the EMS, police and Fire Rescue personnel – know to look for I.C.E on your cell phone. So please, program this information for emergency contacts. You can have as many contacts as you wish.

For example:  
ICE 1 (Name)  
ICE 2 (Name)  
ICE Etc.....

In an article about I.C.E. that appeared in the February 2011 issue of this newsletter, we suggested including the relationship of the contact in the listing. This is no longer recommended because, in the event that a cell phone is lost and picked up by an unscrupulous person, a contact whose relationship to the cell phone's owner is listed could become the victim of a scam. "ICE" and the contact's name and phone number are all you need and that is safer.

It only takes a few minutes to enter this information, yet having it in you cell phone directory can be invaluable in the event of an emergency.

If you have trouble programming your phone, ask a neighbor to help you.

## Total Health Services AEROBICS CLASSES



Aerobics classes are now provided by Total Health Services (THS). Until recently, there was one aerobics class meeting on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in the ballroom, and one water aerobics class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

At this time of year the classes were too crowded, so through April, THS will provide two classes each day. Advanced aerobics will meet at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and intermediate aerobics will meet at 9:15 a.m. on the same mornings. Advanced water aerobics will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, and will be followed at 10:15 a.m. by intermediate water aerobics. In case of rain, the water aerobics class will not be cancelled, but will instead meet in the ballroom.

The only class with full registration is the 9 a.m. aerobics class. There is no waiting list, but because not everyone registered for the class shows up for every session, there is usually room for "stand-bys."

## GOOD AND WELFARE

### GET WELL

Stan Fox  
Max Kohn  
Simmy Rabinowitz  
Bobbie Rice

### MESSAGES

Thank you, friends and neighbors, for your cards, phone calls and good wishes. It certainly helps in my recovery to know so many care. Majestic Isles is a special place. Hope to see you soon. *Marvin Sorkin*

### SYMPATHY

To Elaine Jay on the loss of her brother, Burton Jay.  
To Tony Parker on the loss of his wife, Harriet.

*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](mailto:ElainJay@aol.com) with Good and Welfare as the subject. Acknowledgement of each email will be sent as verification of receipt.*

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

**Porta Crib**, boxed Baby Trend with accessories, \$40; umbrella stroller, \$20; Safety First Booster chair, boxed, \$20; ride on toy, \$10. Or take all for \$75.00. Call Marlene (738-1905).

**Sleeper couch**, white print. \$50. Call 364-7656.

**Stamina Exercise Bike**, grey with black trim, almost new \$75. Call Marlene, (738-1905).

**Bicycle, Iverson**, 26 inch, 3 speed, new tires and inner tubes. \$35. Call 561-413-2435 **(No Sat. calls!)**

**Electric wheel chair**. Jazzy Almost new, used a few times. Paid \$3500. Will sell for \$500. Has separate leg supports if needed for leg problems. Call Bunny Eisenberg (561-740-4975).

**Casio Music Keyboard**. Good condition. Great for children or adults. \$65. Call Shelly (561-733-1189).

**Red Oriental Rug** 49" X 77." Excellent condition. Asking \$185 OBO. Call Allan at (301) 335-2288.

*There is **no charge** to advertise in this column. Submit your request in 40 words or less and send to: [grambobbe@gmail.com](mailto:grambobbe@gmail.com) or place your written ad in the newsletter mailbox before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. Ads will run for 1 month unless you notify us that you want them to continue. This is a community service and is not intended for commercial use. *Questions?? Call Bobbe at 738-9983**

### ADDITION TO DECEMBER WE CARE ARTICLE

The December article thanking WE CARE for its eighteen years of service to Majestic Isles should have included mention of Stan Snyder and Sid Bedell.

Stan was extremely instrumental in getting the group started. When people hired him to look after their houses while they were away, he used the money he earned to buy equipment for WE CARE to loan out. As we paid him at the end of one summer, he commented that he would be using the money toward a lightweight wheelchair, because women found it difficult to get full weight chairs into car trunks. My thought then – as now – was, “A true mensch.”

Sid, a retired physical therapist, used his professional expertise to adjust canes, walkers and wheelchairs for our residents. Both Stan and Sid were involved from WE CARE’s early days in Majestic Isles until they were no longer able to continue.

Although the Majestic Isles WE CARE group is not in operation, Joan Baron still does resource and referral for anyone with a question about where to find the help they need.

Betty Wachtel

### WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

By Elaine Jay

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

Hank and Maureen Ripp  
Nissim and Miriam Attali  
William and Debbie Cohn

### Comcast Education Session

**Friday, January 8, 2016**  
**10:30 - 11:30 am**  
**in the clubhouse**

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## FLAVORS OF FLORIDA

By Donna Shaneson



**Norton Museum of Art**  
**1451 South Olive, West Palm Beach**  
**561-832-5196**  
**www.norton.org**

- “This Place: Israel Through Photography’s Lens” is on exhibit through Jan 17. It’s fabulous! You will take a trip to Israel by driving 20 minutes north on I95 to the Norton Museum, a fantastic treat.
- “Tiny: Streetwise Revisited” will be on display through March 20. It is a follow-up by Mary Ellen Mark to her photographic exploration of the issue of poverty in pictures taken during the 1980’s in Seattle.

Admission to the museum is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under 12 are admitted free.

**Mounds Botanical Gardens**  
**531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach**  
**561-233-1757**  
**www.mounds.org**

- “Nature Connects: Art with LEGO® Bricks,” a blockbuster exhibit featuring nearly 500,000 LEGO® bricks, transformed by artist Sean Kenney into 15 amazing sculptures and set in whimsical garden displays. The exhibit runs through Feb. 14, 2016. A LEGO® movie will be shown on Saturday, Jan. 9 from noon to 2 p.m. The gardens are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- “Last of the World’s Great Tuskers: Saving the World’s Largest Elephants,” on Jan. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon, wildlife expert James Currie will take attendees on a video journey of the life of the largest elephants on earth. He will explain why these last remaining giants are so threatened and what is being done to ensure their survival.

**Society for Four Arts**  
**2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach**  
**Gallery and Box Office: 561-655-7226**  
**www.fourarts.org**

- “Bill Cunningham Facades” from Saturday Jan. 23 through March 6, 2016. Renowned Photographer Bill Cunningham embarked on an 8-year project to document the wonderful architectural riches of New York City. This project features models in period clothing paired with historic settings. Don’t miss this

fascinating photo exhibit.

- On January 6, 2016 at 8 p.m., the Key Board Conservatory with Jeffrey Siegel, “The Greatness of Chopin” in a concert at Four Arts.

**Free Opera at the Waterfront  
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- Performances are on Saturdays at 2 p.m.



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## 2016 ELECTION INFORMATION

Submitted by Claire Deveney



**Florida Presidential Primary is March 15, 2016**

### Three Major Elections:

March 15, 2016 – Presidential Primary  
August 30, 2016 – Regular Primary  
November 8, 2016 – General Election

Absentee ballots will be mailed four to five weeks before the election. **For snowbirds and others, if you want to have your absentee ballot sent to an address other than your voter registration address, you need to complete a paper application, sign it and mail or deliver it to the Supervisor of Elections.** The application is available on the website [pbcelections.org](http://pbcelections.org), click on icon Vote By Mail or visit one of the PBC election offices.

If you have questions regarding voter registration and absentee ballots please contact Claire Deveney,

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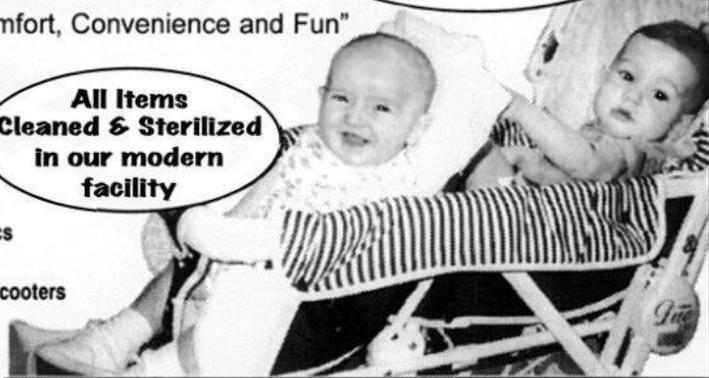
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## INVESTORS DISCUSSION GROUP

By Bill Harris, facilitator

Are REITs right for you? Owning shares in a real estate investment trust (REIT) is one way to passively invest in real estate without directly owning property. Through a tax loophole, REITs avoid paying income taxes by passing at least 90% of their earnings on to investors in the form of dividends.

There are two major classes of REITS, those that track an index and those that specialize in diverse types of real property. Index REITs are exchange traded funds (ETFs) that bundle shares of assorted REITs that mirror the market. This approach requires less research than would be required before buying an individual REIT. And, by its diversification it reduces the cumbersome due diligence investigation associated with purchasing a specialty REIT. If you can do your own research and perform your own due diligence, specialty REITs might provide you with greater total returns.

Index REITs were highly in demand in 2014, achieving gains of almost 30-35%. Share values hit a 40-year high in January 2015, but since then, have slowly declined. For 2015, REITs grew only 2-3%. Right now, share values are still bolstered by the continued strength of the multi-family residential market and by the continued recovery in the commercial and industrial sectors. Index REITs hold about 10% of the nation's commercial real estate. The strength of the commercial real estate market can be used to gauge in part the strength of the REIT market.

An analyst consensus predicts that going forward, over the next three years, REITs could have 10-12% gains.

A year ago, REITs had annual dividend yields of from 10-15%. Now, index REITs pay just 3-4%, far below their 7.5% historical average. You can get higher dividend yields (4-7%) from some specialty REITs. There's a REIT for just about everything from cell phone towers to health care facilities, from shopping malls to industrial parks, from rental apartments to public storage, from movie theaters to mortgages. You name it; it's out there.

The S&P 500's consumer discretionary sector is one of several currently performing better than the overall market. As our economy continues to recover, consumers are starting to buy things they don't necessarily need, yet want, and beginning to partake

in activities they had wanted to pursue, but previously couldn't: buying new cars and clothes, TVs, cell phones, tablets and computers, eating out and going to movies. Therefore, REITs specializing in properties e.g. shopping malls, restaurants, movie theaters, cell phone towers or hotel/resorts might produce higher returns than those involved with other properties.

Commercial REITs e.g. the Simon Property Group (SPG), multifamily rental apartment REITs e.g. Avalon Bay Communities (AVB) or self-storage REITs e.g. CubeSmart (CUBE) might offer unique opportunities at this stage in our economic recovery.

According to *Money* magazine, health care REITs e.g. HCP and Ventas (VTR) that specialize in leasing space to nursing homes, hospitals, and other medical facilities will profit from the aging of the population.

Are REITs a good investment for you now? A plus at any time is their Beta of <1. This means they don't track the overall market. REIT investors need to be wary however, of imminent short-term interest rate increases, which tend to drive down share prices. The flattened yield curve will severely stress the business model of mortgage REITs e.g. NLY or AGNC. REIT investors also need to be aware of longer-term mortgage rate increases, which will drive down the value of holding over time. If you still want to own a REIT, don't rush out to immediately buy one. Wait at least to see how badly the Fed's imminent (December 2015?) short-term rate hike affects REIT share prices.

**Our next meeting will be Jan. 11, 2016 at 4 p.m.**

*Disclaimer: As with all your previous investments, you must make your own determination whether an investment is appropriate for you. The facilitator is not recommending or endorsing any security mentioned in his Majestic Isles News articles or monthly meetings. Before investing, you (1) should conduct research and perform a thorough investigation as to the characteristics of any securities you intend to purchase, and (2) should acquire a full description of the product, including its features and risks, to determine whether it is an appropriate investment for your investment objectives, risk tolerance, financial situation and other individual factors, and be sure to re-evaluate those factors on a periodic basis. Performance data mentioned represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance data quoted. Yield and return will vary, therefore, you may have a gain or loss when you sell your shares.*

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## The 100<sup>th</sup> Monkey Phenomenon: Alive and Well in Majestic Isles

By Liz Hopwood



For decades, I have been wrestling with letting my white hair grow out. (I say white as I am long past the grey stage.) I have been dyeing and bleaching my hair for 51 years! Not only is this process time consuming and expensive but I doubt that all that dye has done any good penetrating my porous scalp and, God forbid, my brain cells. Recently the bleaching process, called highlights, has been so ghastly that hunks of hair have broken off and fallen to the ground . . . a pretty tough routine to survive every three weeks. Alas, enough is enough. With my husband's encouragement and with shock to our grandchildren, I decided to let the white grow in while in Colorado and had achieved about 1.5 inches of new hair growth by the time I got back to M.I.

All of which brings me to my bewilderment upon my return. As I met my friends, I saw that something had changed in the six months I'd been away. The women looked different but I couldn't immediately figure out why. In truth, about eight of my friends proudly announced that they were letting the white in their hair grow out . . . never to dye again!

This realization brought to mind the 101<sup>st</sup> Monkey theory, purportedly based on the observation in the 1950's of monkeys on a remote Japanese island trying to eat sweet potatoes dropped into the sand by the scientists. I say "trying" because the sand on the sweet potatoes made them difficult and unappetizing to eat. Most monkeys gave up altogether on eating the sweet potatoes. One day a female monkey washed the sand off her potatoes in a nearby stream and was able to eat her fill. Observing her, young monkeys followed her example and ate their fill. Older monkeys who could and would learn (much like us going to our grandchildren to learn about our electronic devices) followed their lead and pretty soon all the monkeys began washing their own sweet potatoes for an exceptional feast. Future generations of monkeys lived and thrived teaching their young to wash sweet potatoes.

The researchers then relocated to another remote island far away from the original research island. These monkeys had not seen or eaten a sweet potato

*Continued on page 23*



By Bobbe Greene

Winter has officially arrived and though we are in Florida walking around in our shorts, I am always reminded of the "good old days" when we looked forward to the first snow fall.

When we were young marrieds and strong, healthy and ambitious there was no problem shoveling the walk and the driveway. In fact it was even fun getting out there on a crisp, cold winter day to clear a path together.

When our children were babies and Jack travelled a lot it wasn't quite as much fun doing the job alone, but it got done. One day a neighborhood boy came to the door asking if we would like the sidewalk shoveled. "What do you charge?" I asked. "Well," this twelve year old entrepreneur replied, "That depends if you want it the width of the sidewalk or the width of the shovel." What a good little businessman that young fellow was.

As an aside, years later when he was a senior in high school his mother tearfully confided in me that she had no idea what was going to happen to Howard. His grades were poor, his class standing was low and he was nothing like his brothers, who were geniuses. I tried to reassure her by relating the story of the snow shovel and told her she had nothing to worry about; he would make it on his own. And the happy ending to that story is that he did become very successful in business.

As our children were growing up we had our own built in snow shovelers. I don't remember ever having to coax or cajole them. They saw snow and they were out there cleaning up our walk and driveway and then going around the neighborhood trying to earn some extra spending money. It's funny that when we didn't need anyone else the doorbell rang incessantly with youngsters looking for work. That breed of child must have disappeared with that generation; after our children were grown no one ever came around looking for the job.

We finally had to resort to contracting a person with

*Continued on page 23*



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## Another Book to Check Out “Saturn Run”

by John Sandford and Ctien

By Stan Kaish

You may know John Sandford as a very popular writer of crime stories. Twenty-seven of his books have the word “Prey” in the title and another dozen or so very well could. Most involve two good old boy policemen, Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers, who work solving murders occurring in Minnesota and thereabouts. The mood is generally light although the crimes aren't and the whole scene takes on a Fargo-like atmosphere of country. Folks who read Sandford generally do so because of these characters, and the repartee he provides them.

Now along comes a decided change of pace and venue. Saturn Run takes place, not in Minnesota, but in outer space. Lucas and Virgil have been dead for many years because the action here is in 2069. Sandford's latest foray is into the realm of science fiction and there are no guarantees that his legion of fans will cotton on to it. That Fargo country talk must be contagious.

The plot involves discovery by American observers that an alien space ship has visited one of the moons of Saturn. The ship is recognized as coming from outside our solar system and embodying a level of technology far in advance of our own. Man has never yet traveled as far as Saturn, but if we could go there, meet the aliens and cajole them into sharing their technology with us, it would instantly advance the state of our science by untold hundreds of years. That would give the U.S. quite a leg up on the Chinese, our main competition in these matters. When the Chinese also discover the interstellar visitors on Saturn, they have the same idea, and the race is on.

There ensues a Dirty Dozen-type round up of an odd ball but specialized crew by the Americans and a redirection of a planned voyage to Mars by the Chinese. We flip back and forth from the space ship of the Americans to that of the Chinese. The Americans are commanded by Captain, soon to be Admiral, Naomi Fang-Castro promoted to match the rank of the Chinese commander, Admiral Zhang Ming Hoa. Our U.S. President is the none too savory Amanda Santeros, so there are plenty of ladies in authority positions on both sides, wheeling, dealing and pushing the boys around.

Sandford's co-author in this book is someone called Ctien, a science writer and photographer perhaps known to sci-fi aficionados, but an unknown to me. As a major in both English and Physics at Cal Tech, his task is to describe and make scientifically plausible the mechanics of the flights of the two ships. In an appendix, the authors elaborate on this and tell us they wanted real science, as contrasted to the “wantum mechanics” employed by the Star Trek genre. I say, “More power to them for that,” but it is the long digressions the book takes into space nitty-gritty that may turn off those simply looking for a space thriller. The comments readers posted on The Kirkus review of the book included these two”

“Couldn't stop reading this book. Read it in 2 days. Didn't skip a page. Wonderful. Loved the tech stuff!”

and

“I just quit reading this disappointing book about half-way through, too much scientific gobbledy-gook and science fiction crap. I like Virgil Flowers, Lucas Davenport and those characters. I felt like I was snookered by Sandford's name on this drivel. I will certainly look carefully before I choose another Sandford novel! “

Both are a bit extreme but understandable. The book is nearly 500 pages in length and a good many of those pages are indeed given over to explaining such things as how the VASIMR propulsion system used by the Americans differs from the “more conventional” nuclear thermal engines used by the Chinese and the relative advantages of each.

Nevertheless, the activities of the dirty-dozen crew are fun. After all, men and women are confined on a two-year trip; weightlessness doesn't dampen the passions and evidently enhances the experience. These play out against the backdrop of the inherent dangers of space travel compounded by dirty tricks played by both the Chinese and Americans against each another. There is much political one-upmanship, offering a cynical allegory for what goes on today in world statesmanship.

So, all in all, I think “Saturn Run” is a pretty good science fiction read for those inclined that way, although some Sandford fans may choose to focus a little more on the fiction and go a little lighter on the science.



## ***Gardening in the Isles***

***By  
Stan Davidson***

Many of us living in south Florida are part-time residents and would like to have practical answers to the unique challenge of not being able to do year-round gardening. This challenge is presented in an excellent book entitled, "Snowbird Gardening," by Chase Landre.

In "Snowbird Gardening," you will learn about south Florida's easiest ways to grow trees, shrubs and flowers, and how to maintain a healthy lawn, deal with pests and manage irrigation. You will get answers and helpful information on when and how much to prune and what plants to avoid. You will discover ways to keep a beautiful low maintenance landscape year-round with only part-time care.

In this book, you will find easy-to-care plants that are perfect to grow for part-time residents. These plants have to look good and flower in the winter months, be hardy to survive through the hot south Florida summer with minimum care and not grow aggressively. Also, they have to be wind tolerant. Hurricane season is from June through November while many of our part-timers are enjoying the cooler north.

The following are plant specimens highlighting the topnotch plantings suggested for part-time residents. The pigmy palm, better known as the Robellini, is a perfect specimen. This wind tolerant palm was one of the few plantings remaining after hurricane Andrew. It grows slowly, is cold hardy, requires minimal maintenance and takes both sun and shade. The

Hong Kong orchid tree is probably one of the best mid-sized trees with its reddish purple orchid-like blossoms that can be seen January through spring when most of our part-time residents are in south Florida. The Florida Flame Vine is an enticing brilliant orange trumpet shaped flower cluster that is a fast growing vine and will bloom in the winter months. However, it is rather invasive and has creeping characteristics. If you are a rose lover back north, you can enjoy the Knock-out Rose or the Drift Rose that are both dwarf shrubs, require no special care, and can be trimmed to about three feet.

In this book, there are a few ideas for other plants that you can enjoy in your landscape and you can forget about the harsh winters back north. These include: the Croton with colorful foliage in red, orange, and yellow, the Bougainvillea both dwarf and full size in many gorgeous colors, the Ti plant with pretty pink-red foliage, the Jatropha with red blossoms that attract butterflies, and the Gold Mound Duranta with bright green foliage.

I hope the above extracts from the book, "Snowbird Gardening," will provide the many of our part-time Florida residents with some insight on the exotic tropical plants that can grow successfully in their absence. There is no such thing as a plant that requires no care, but there are many easy to care for plants mentioned above that are looking for minimum care.

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## **The Bronx CASTLE HILL POOL, 1940's**

**By Jim Wachtel**

I spent the summers when I was 15 and 16 at a swimming and recreational area in the Bronx, a short bus ride from where we lived. I loved it. I started playing tennis there and spent almost every day with friends. It was the first place I spent time with girls. I didn't make notes at the time, so I am writing from my memories of 65 years ago.

Castle Hill Pool was a privately owned recreational complex in the northeast Bronx. The complex had three large swimming pools, athletic facilities, areas for sitting, as well as picnic tables and a restaurant. The lockers took up a huge part of the complex. I can only describe the men's lockers; I think the women's were approximately the same. There was row after row of lockers. The annual fee depended on whether a person had his own locker, or the locker was shared with one or two other people. The lockers were approximately three feet wide and four feet deep. They were rented for the season, so people would leave their swim suits, athletic equipment, lawn chairs and even bridge tables in the lockers, which had Dutch doors. People would dress inside the lockers. There were stall showers outside, which I think had only cold water.

I said that I first played tennis at Castle Hill Pool, but it wasn't real tennis, because there were no real tennis courts. Instead we played against walls with wooden facing on them, starting at the height of a tennis net and extending about eight feet upward. Hitting the ball on the facing and making it bounce within the lines of the court put the ball in play. The game was played with tennis rackets, but with handball rules and scoring; 21 points won the game. The smaller of the two courts was the size of a one-wall handball court; the bigger one was the size of a tennis court, without the alleys. It would be like playing tennis with four players on a side, all playing in the backcourt.

Real tennis players would have scorned our style, which lacked broad sweeping groundstrokes. Most players hit the ball very close to the body, elbow bent and pointing at the ground, face of the racket at head height. I longed for the day I could play real tennis.

There were more people who wanted to play than there were courts. In a way it was nice; adults and teenagers played with each other and talked to each

other while waiting. I remember some of the adults even now. One was an English teacher named Gil, who tried to show us that high school English was not as pointless as we thought. The English teachers at Bronx Science terrorized us with stories of people failing English composition at college because of a single run-on sentence. Gil told us that he had passed the English teachers' exam by deliberately writing short sentences. He replaced any long sentence he was unsure of with two short sentences. I learned more from him than I did in school.

I sometimes played with a man named Jake. After we had played several times, he and my father met and recognized each other from their old neighborhood in the South Bronx.

Food was my mother's area. She was a very good cook, but during the summer the rest of the family wasn't interested in elaborate meals to be eaten at Castle Hill Pool. There were women who did serve elaborate meals; their families sat at bridge tables and ate food from plates. To Mom, the distinction between eating nicely and just schlepping along was cantaloupe, especially if it was eaten from a plate. Mom would have loved to do that, but my sister, Carol, and I wanted to get to the pool as early as possible and insisted on food that could be prepared quickly. Carol and I happily ate tuna sandwiches and peaches while sitting on a blanket – and probably deprived Mom of a chance to feel good about herself.

Some of the girls spent their time swimming or sunbathing at poolside. One of the nice things about wall tennis was that girls also played it. My recollection is that some of the girls wore bathing suits when playing wall tennis. Men and boys also played in bathing suits. No one had tennis clothes. The second year I was at Castle Hill Pool I spent a lot of time with June, who I knew from Bronx Science. I was on the track team there and June was one of the managers. June was going out with a good friend of mine on the team. My mother was concerned about June's three-piece outfit – a pink two-piece bathing suit and a cross.

Castle Hill Pool is long gone and the people it served have left the area. Life was simpler then; even the sports were different. Good memories.



## THROUGH THE WORMHOLE

By Phyllis M. Cohen



I'm having a conversation by phone with my daughter-in-law when she mentions casually that she had to take my grandson for new shoes and he now wears a man's size 12. It doesn't hit me for a minute until I realize that somewhere in my house I still have the instructions, knitting needles and baby blue wool to make him a pair of booties when he was first born... just a few weeks ago. But no. Somehow I have lost a couple of decades and the baby has overnight become a six-foot-tall boy-man. How is that possible? Could I have slipped through a crevice in a Stonehenge-like formation in Scotland like Claire, the Scottish nurse in the *Outlander*\* series, which enables her to travel back and forth in time? More likely, have I gone through a wormhole\*\* in space and traveled decades in moments?

But suddenly I know the answer. It's Florida. It must be the heat and humidity. After all, ever since I have moved down here, I have noticed that living in Florida shrinks things. Just put some clothes in the closet and a week or two later they are two sizes too small for you to wear. And wasn't I six-feet tall when I first arrived? Now I need a high chair to eat at the table. And my bank account keeps getting smaller and smaller each month. No wonder time shrinks here! Looking in my bathroom mirror I see that my mother is looking back at me. When did lighting candles on my birthday cake become an event requiring a fire department permit?

A year barely lasts a few weeks. Before you can brush away the confetti from your new year's celebration the stores are full of spring clothes, Fourth of July celebrations are being planned and suddenly Thanksgiving and Christmas have rolled around again. No wonder the first question the doctor asks you at your annual check-up is if you know what year it is? Does he? Fortunately my cellphone and my watch show the date, though my husband's expensive atomic clock that gets the date and time from satellite keeps insisting at times that the year is 2040 and just yesterday, 2067. It's definitely been traveling through the wormhole with me.

I have, however, recently discovered some ways to slow down the rapidly disappearing year. One of the simplest is to watch a network one hour show completely through from start to finish without using the tuner to change channels during commercials. You will discover that there are 14 commercials for every two or three minutes of show time and the one hour show lasts about 12 hours. (Don't try to make sense of the show, however.) You can also extend time by watching a cable news network like CNN where the news information, good or bad (alas, mostly bad) is repeated in an endless loop so that no matter where you come in, it is always in the same place. And there is an unbreakable cycle of "experts" relaying all of their expert opinions after the fact. If you are a true glutton for punishment, you can follow the 2016 presidential campaign maneuverings that started in 2008 and promise to never stop. Time does indeed stand still.

Of course, one of the easiest ways to extend time is to go to your doctor's office and be ushered into the examining room to wait for the doctor. You will certainly sit there for "just a minute" garbed in a paper gown in a sub-zero room while time stops. When you finally leave, (after an exam that took a nanosecond) you will have no idea what time it is, let alone what year.

Naturally all of this pondering has been prompted by the realization that 2015 has glided effortlessly into the year 2016. We are probably all glad to see the old year out. Forrest Gump said that life is like a box of chocolates. You don't know what you will get. A new year is like a surprise, a beautifully wrapped gift. We don't know what to expect when we unwrap it...hopefully not a big, fat rubber snake. At the risk of being maudlin, I can still wish for us the enjoyment of all of the good things that make life worthwhile: new babies, family, old friends, love, joy in music and art, happy memories. Happy New Year to all of you.

\* "The Outlander" series of books (also a television series) by Diana Gabaldon features a wonderful female time traveler.

\*\* "Wormhole" is based on an Einstein-Rosen precept that there is a theoretical shortcut through space that connects distant parts of the universe. Much loved by sci-fi writers, it helps to explain time travel in such sagas as *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*.

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## **DOWN (With apologies to Lewis Carroll)**

**By Betty Wachtel**

When Alice tumbled down the rabbit hole late one Monday afternoon, she might as well have landed in China for all she understood of how things worked there at the bottom. She looked all around, but could find no way up. Without help she was going to stay right there at the bottom of the rabbit hole - and so she went exploring the underground labyrinth.

Tuesday morning, Alice came to a door marked "Chaos Xperts." She tried the door, only to hear a mechanical voice saying, "This area is out of order and we're working on it. We expect to be back in service at 11 a.m." She tried again at noon only to hear, "This area is out of order and we're working on it. We expect to be back in service at 5 p.m." After 5 p.m., she tried again and this time the disembodied voice hoped that repairs would be completed by 11 p.m. And so it went, with six-hour postponements until late afternoon Wednesday.

Alice remembered that in her neighborhood there was a Person With Access who knew how to contact Someone Who Could Get Things Done. Oh - but how was she to contact that person from so far underground? She groaned to herself, "My cell phone won't work here," but when she tried to call she was able to reach the Person With Access, who promised to contact Someone Who Could Get Things Done.

The next day, a friend who had also spent time in the rabbit hole called to say she was back above ground. She had been able to reach a Real Live Person (RLP) who told her how to get out of the area she had fallen into. But Alice wasn't in the same area, so those directions didn't help her.

Alice went back to the Chaos Xperts' door and kept knocking and pounding, while saying, "Agent, Agent, Agent," over and over again until finally an RLP opened the door. This man, however, insisted, "It will do absolutely no good to give you directions. Your problem is area-wide and has absolutely nothing to do with getting out of this part of the rabbit hole. There is no need to check your specific location."

Well, that was Thanksgiving Day and obviously the first team of RLPs was off enjoying turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes and other traditional dishes.

Friday morning, Alice rattled the Chaos Xperts' door again. The first thing she heard was a recorded voice saying that a Wizard was scheduled to meet her in the rabbit hole between 8 and 11 a.m. (By this time, it was 10:30 a.m.). She guessed that the Someone Who Could Get Things Done must have initiated the appointment, but thought it odd that it had been set without anyone consulting her. Suppose she'd gone exploring - or to sleep - in a corner where the Wizard couldn't find her? Again, she repeated "Agent, Agent, Agent" over and over and over until finally an RLP responded and cheerfully reported that a Wizard was on his way, but was running late and so would arrive between 1 and 4 p.m. "But," said Alice, "I didn't ask for a Wizard and the RLP I spoke with the other day was quite sure that the problem was area-wide, not specific to this part of the rabbit hole." "Okay," replied the RLP. "I'll cancel the appointment." She assured Alice that the problem would be fixed by 11 a.m., or, if not, by 5 p.m. She did not specify which day, week, month or year this would happen.

Alice had once been told that if one got stuck in a rabbit hole, it was best to ask to talk with the Big Solutions Department. She hadn't asked the RLP to help her get to that department because she no longer believed anyone behind that door knew anything helpful. She was sure she would be given directions that would get her further lost. Alice waited until the end of her conversation with the RLP and then asked, "Would I have gotten the same answers to my questions if I'd spoken with someone in the Big Solutions Division?" "No," came the response. "There is no longer a Big Solutions Division. It has been rolled into one of the other divisions." (She found out later that this was not so.)

Alice closed her eyes while she tried to think of something else that might help her. When she opened them moments later, she saw a Wizard in a red golf shirt with a white logo approaching. In short order, the Wizard figured out that there was indeed a problem in that particular part of the rabbit hole, and that the problem was not area-wide. He directed Alice to another part of the hole where she climbed out of the rabbit hole and life resumed.



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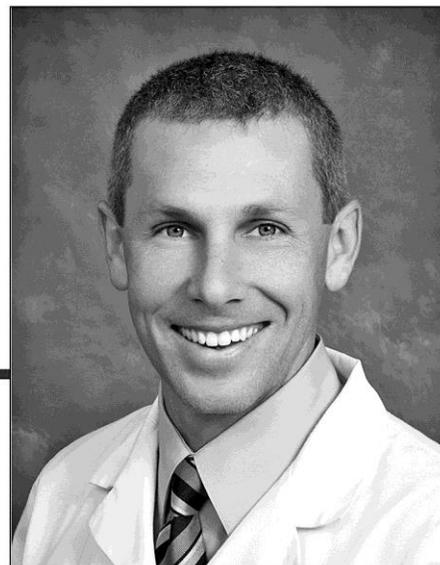


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## Reel Impressions “BROOKLYN”

By Edye Frankel



“Brooklyn” opens in Ireland in the 1950’s, where a young woman, Ellis Lacey, is preparing to leave for Brooklyn, New York. In her Irish home town she is a meek shop girl who is basically just overlooked. Her sister, Rose, is the popular one, on track to marry one of the town’s rich kids.

When Ellis arrives in New York, she is totally overwhelmed and doesn’t find life in America any better than it had been in Ireland. She’s stuck in a women’s boarding house with other ladies who find her too square and she is working in a department store where her quiet bashfulness becomes a serious struggle to be more outgoing.

Then Ellis meets a sweet-natured Italian-American named Tony, who seems to be smitten with her from the very first moment. He gently and gingerly asks her for a date, and then another date, and then suddenly they have become “an item.”

Ellis returns to Ireland for a visit, where she discovers she’s more in demand than she’d ever imagined, and she wins the attention of a desirable local bachelor. He, too, is smitten with her and offers her a life of security and romance. Therein a dilemma presents itself to her.

No more hints.....Just a comment that I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy this film not only for its romantic and general content, but also for the skillful portrayals of the Irish and other immigrants in Brooklyn. The acting, the costuming, the scenery were all so well done that you are certain to leave the theater with a big smile on your face. Hope so!

\*\*\*\*\*

*An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.* Bill Vaughan

## A DAY WITHOUT WINE IS LIKE A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE

By Buddy Koch



Wine is a developed taste and everyone has a unique palate. Having spent forty years in the wine industry, I may have learned a little something, so I’ll start off with what I would present at a wine seminar.

There are numerous types of wines and shapes of bottles. If you are invited to a wine tasting you should go. You will see, learn and taste. You can learn a great deal about wine even before you remove the cork. The shape and color of the bottle often indicates origin. For example, a bordeaux bottle is generally pudgy and stoop-shouldered and has an off-green color. A claret, usually comes in a lean bottle with high shoulders and an intense green hue.

The label reveals much about the bottle's contents: the vintage date, whether the wine is a blend, the types of grapes and their origin. The words "estate bottled" indicate that the grapes came from a particular vineyard and that the fermentation was done there. "Produced by," means that at least 75% of the grapes were grown and bottled at a particular vineyard. The condition and markings of cork, which is made from the outer bark of a cork oak tree, can also tell something about the wine. A dry or moldy cork indicates trouble with storage; a moist cork bodes well.

If the juice (the “must”) from any colored skin grape is clear, could it be possible a white zinfandel is made from two different grapes? Find out in next month’s issue of the Majestic Isles News.

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## MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER

By Selma Friedman

You would be hard –pressed to find a more intriguing topic than “50 Shades of Grey and Several Shades of Scarlet, Sex in Literature” and add to that “From Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey to the present.” Wow!! Of course Dr. Harvey Vetstein delivered a thoroughly rich lecture on the topic, illustrated with many examples. In many of the novels, sex is presented in conjunction with violence, domination and submission, or love, but it can stand on its own. The main novel with the colorful title was “50 Shades of Grey,” which was followed by “50 Shades Darker,” and then “50 Shades Free.” As Harvey spoke of these, he brought out that in many of these novels discussed, the female lead character was the victim and the “Grey” books are told from her perspective. However, there is a new book out, “Grey,” which puts forth the man’s perspective and educates the reader to his experiences.

Of course, our audience hung on to his every word. Harvey always is an exciting, informative, and sometimes humorous lecturer. Well done, Harvey. I always learn from you.

On Jan. 10, M.I.L.T.’s Ed Strauber will present “State Fair.” Our Majestic Isles “Sing for Fun Chorus” has been working for several weeks on this Rogers and Hammerstein musical. Come and enjoy, but please sign up in the back lobby.

Please watch Channel 63 for exciting news. Jerry Ehrlich is planning a Rock and Roll Night for mid-winter 2016-2017. There will be a cast call on Channel 63 coming soon, giving the date. Remember Jerry and Nadine when Francine Gitto had a “Dancing with the Stars” night? That was such fun. Come join us.

### BOOK TALKS

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Dr. Doug Butteruff will discuss

“GO SET A WATCHMAN”  
by Harper Lee

## The 100<sup>th</sup> Monkey Phenomenon

*Continued from page 11*



with or without sand and had never seen another monkey wash a potato. What was strange was that the monkeys grabbed the sandy sweet potatoes and began washing them.

Thus it was theorized that at a certain critical point after X number of monkeys (arbitrarily defined as 100 for this theory) learn an idea or achieve awareness of a specific behavior, the concept becomes a truism which is universally transmitted through thought regardless of physical setting or location. If true, this theory would have powerful sociological implications.

So, upon seeing all the newly white haired women of Majestic Isles, I realized that universal awareness of the beauty of white hair had jumped from Florida to Colorado! Silently I chuckled to myself that the 101<sup>st</sup> Monkey Effect was alive and well in Majestic Isles ... I have apparently now achieved the honored status of being the 101<sup>st</sup> monkey!



*Continued from page 11*

a snowplow to clear our driveway. He was very conscientious and arrived religiously when the snow had fallen at least 2 inches. It was his mission in life, however, to make sure that we would not see our front walk again until spring. Our driveway was very long and quite wide but the only place that our reliable plowman managed to put the largest mounds of snow were (you guessed it) right in front of the path leading to our front and back doors.

I tend to answer my own questions. Where are all of the kids that used to like to shovel snow? The answer, of course: Who in their right mind would want to tackle those huge mountains of snow to find our sidewalks? So by the time we sold our home, we didn’t care if the paths were shoveled the width of the sidewalk or the width of the shovel.



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## WOMEN'S CLUB

By Joyce Milbauer, co-president

Healthy, Happy New Year to All!!

Monday Jan. 11, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. we will have our Women's Club luncheon at Copenhagen Restaurant. The price is \$20 per person, members only, because the Women's Club is subsidizing this event. There will be tables of eight. We will have a very interesting speaker.

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, we will go to the Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach. The luncheon will include a tour, dessert demo at 11:00 a.m., followed by a sit-down lunch. The price will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Members are being subsidized. We will be carpooling. Please put your check, marked with your menu choice, in the Women's Club mailbox. The menu is posted in the back lobby of the clubhouse.

March 7 we will hold a lunch in the clubhouse with Chinese food from Bamboo Wok. There will be entertainment. Price is \$15 per person.

Please support your Women's Club! It's time to pay your \$15 dues for 2016. Please put your check in the Women's Club mailbox.



## SINGLES

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermak

We are anticipating our Jan. 8 post-holiday party, with a sangria toast and a marvelous Italian meal. Ed Slater will entertain us as well. Again, thanks to Doris Robin, Helen Benowich and Linda Kessler for planning a terrific time, with the help also of Marcia Steiner. We are hoping this starts a fabulous new year for all.

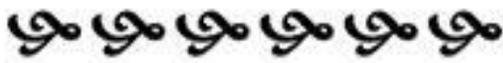
Our plan for February is a shopping trip to the Palm Beach Outlets with lunch at a restaurant called B.J.'s.



March we'll go to the Kings Academy show, *Wicked*. Contact Doris Robin about tickets.

For April, Seena Calder is assisting our wonderful event planners in planning potluck with games, etc.

This sounds like a wonderful start for 2016. Don't forget your \$15 dues. We wish you all a healthy, happy, peaceful and safe new year.



## HADASSAH

By Ellin Goldstein



Don't forget to sign up for the Hadassah Card Party to be held

here at the clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 29. The price is \$22. Please place your check in the Hadassah mailbox and be sure to indicate the players in your group and your game.

We are serving a wonderful dairy lunch of bagels, cream cheese, lox and a trio of salads (egg, tuna and whitefish) fruit, dessert and coffee. The time for the party will be 12- 4:15 p.m.

There will be no Hadassah meeting in January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2016.

Remember to contribute \$18 for a brick for any occasion. The money goes toward completion of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower. Call Lee Katz or Lucille Garelick for more information.

See you at the next meeting!

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## THE PAP CORPS

**By Renee Stichel**



Well here we go again, starting the Pap Corps article for the January newsletter. We wish it could be the last – that there were no more need for Pap - but it is not.

We will have to keep raising funds to eliminate this dreaded disease. However, the doctors at Sylvester are making headway in offering solutions to prolong lives and making patients more comfortable till we find the cure. Some have found remission drugs and that is why we encourage you to come to our meetings and events and become more knowledgeable about their findings. Please join us in having a good lunch and great entertainment for such a small price.

Thanks again to Marcia Steiner and Suzanne Skinner, our Coins for the Cure brunch was a rousing success. Those who were able to attend had a marvelous time.

On Jan. 28 we will have lunch and hear the fascinating story of a woman who was a foster child, and is now a judge. You will also receive all the information about the Dolphins Cancer Challenge (formerly known as the Walkathon), which will be held on Feb. 20.

The Feb. 25 general meeting will feature another wonderful lunch and more entertainment.

On March 6, we'll have a theater party to the wonderful Boca West High School performance of "Chicago." Call Suzanne Skinner for tickets, which are only \$20.

Later in the month, on March 24, we'll hold our great luncheon and game function in our ballroom. Get your games organized early!

Ellie, Marilyn and Renee wish all our friends, neighbors and their families a healthy, happy, safe and peaceful New Year. Let's try to rid this world of cancer for us and our children and grandchildren. Please help.

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## The Annual Majestic Isles Arts and Crafts Show

Sunday, January 31

2 to 5 p.m.

**Come see original artwork  
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**Bring your friends**

**Refreshments will be served**

**Sponsored by the M.I. Board of Directors**

**Painting (all media)    Bunka/crafts  
Photography            Ceramics  
Jewelry                    Sculpture  
..... are just some of the entries**

To exhibit your work,  
please sign up in the back lobby by Jan. 16

Committee members will be in the front lobby to assign tables and screen space on Thurs., Jan. 28 from 3 to 4 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions? Call Roberta Jaffie 733-2312

## PET PATCH

**By Molly**

Wow – time sure does fly – as my mom is writing this, just around the corner is my favorite time - a visit from Santa – and since I've been such a good girl, I know he'll stop at our house. Mom has my "wish list" for Santa – a new toy and some treats are on my list.



My mom was away for a week and I went to camp at Aunt Audrey's house – she has a dog Lacey. I had a lot of fun there – our friend Andy was there one night with us – he's like a big brother to us.

And then comes New Year's Eve – a time to welcome in the New Year. I hope you stay safe and drive very carefully.

Best wishes to all my friends and their families for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

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## SOCIAL CLUB

**By Arlene Koch**

We are so pleased that our last activity for 2015 was a *bold out* New Year's Party. As this is being written we are looking forward to the music of Lawrence of Florida, and enjoying the evening with friends, good food, great motivators and lots of fun.

Our next event will be the start of the 2016 Series on Jan. 23 starring John Capes accompanied by a three-piece band and songstress Marcia McLain who will join John in duets. Feb. 27. you will enjoy the music of the "Atlantic City Boys" who have appeared at many communities in the area with rave reviews. "Modi," a favorite comedian of the New York area, will end the series and you are sure to be laughing for 90 minutes. Coffee and ... will be served around the pool after this last performance. It is not too late to call me for tickets either for all three shows or any individual show.

The Social Club's Board was announced at our last regular meeting.

- Co-presidents: Rita Dick and Arlene Koch
- Recording Sec'y and Programs: Sylvia Fefferman
- Corresponding Sec'y: Helen Aldoroty
- Treasurer: Ralph Oppler
- Membership: Bobbe Greene
- Entertainment: Rita Dick, Joan Greenwald, Arlene Koch and Joan Sorkin
- Movies: Stella Grottalio
- Tickets: Ray Kozlin
- Members at Large: Helen Mai and Carol Stevens

We look forward to having a large audience at our regular meetings.

The next movie scheduled for January 16th will be "I'll See You In My Dreams." Thank you to Stella Grottalio and Judy Zied for their help with the movies.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the toy collection for the Soup Kitchen. Again, Majestic Isles did come through with a very nice selection of gifts. With our residents' help the children of Boynton Beach had a merrier Christmas.



## MOVIES – MOVIES - MOVIES

**8 p.m. at the clubhouse**

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS:** With her well-ordered life thrown out of balance by the death of her beloved canine companion, aging widow Carol Petersen – who hasn't dated in 20 years – unexpectedly finds herself involved with two very different men.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, THE GIFT:** As Simon and his wife, Robyn, are trying to revitalize their relationship, a string of encounters with someone from Simon's high school days and a shocking 20-year-old secret threaten to unravel the couple's lives.

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



## MENS CLUB

**By Joel Cohen**

For those seasonal residents just returning, welcome back.

We are planning our annual Parent's Day Brunch, jointly with the Women's Club, at Broken Sound on Sunday, May 1, 2016.

We will keep you updated as the date draws closer.

### Membership Dues

It is time to pay 2016 dues of \$20. Please put your check in the Men's Club box in the back lobby.

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2016

3	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Men's Club	Breakfast	(f,h)
4	Mon	4:00 p.m.	News N' Views	Discussion	(f,h)
5	Tues	11:00 a.m.	Calendar	Meeting	
6	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		(f,h)
8	Fri	4:30 p.m.	Singles	Holiday Party	(p,h)
10	Sun	7:30 p.m.	MILT	Workshop	
11	Mon	11:30 a.m.	Women's Club	Copenhagen	(p,a)
		4:00 p.m.	Investment Group	Discussion	(f,h)
12	Tues	TBA	Travel Club	Everglades	(p,a)
13	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		(f,h)
		2:00 p.m.	Neighbor to Neighbor		(f,h)
16	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Movie Time	(p,h)
18	Mon	4:00 p.m.	News N' Views	Discussion	(f,h)
20	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Men's Club	Casino Trip	(p,a)
		11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		
		2:00 p.m.	Book Talks	Discussion	(f,h)
21	Thurs	2:00 p.m.	Board of Director's	Meeting	
23	Sat	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Showtime	(p,h)
24	Sun	11:00 a.m.	Travel Club	Meeting	(f,h)
27	Wed	11:00 a.m.	Sing for Fun		(f,h)
		2:00 p.m.	Neighbor to Neighbor		(f,h)
28	Thurs	12:00 p.m.	Pap Corps	Meeting	
29	Fri	11:30 a.m.	Hadassah	Card Party	(p,h)
31	Sun	2:00 p.m.	Art Show	Exhibit	(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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