

# Majestic Isles News

December, 2012

Volume 16

Issue 3



Bill Broth



Steve Bayer



Mark Jaffie



Joel Rosenthal



Saul Siegel

**Thursday, December 13**  
**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Vote for up to 4 Directors**

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**Manager's Corner**

As we near the end of 2012 and look to 2013, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for its work throughout the past year, with members doing everything they can to make Majestic Isles a place that everyone can be proud to call "home."

Joel Rosenthal, Steve Bayer, and Janice Davidson finish their two-year terms, and the election of new Board Members lies just ahead. Steve Bayer, Bill Broth, Mark Jaffie, Joel Rosenthal, and Saul Siegel are the five candidates vying for the four open seats on the Board of Directors.

Janice Davidson has decided not to seek re-election, but she deserves a big **thank you** for all of her work taking care of the Association's insurance needs while trying her best to keep the costs down for the community.

The election will be held on Thursday, December 13 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting Notice along with the candidate information sheets, proxies, and ballots were mailed out just before Thanksgiving. This gave the mail service plenty of time to deliver the packages to the owners' official billing addresses with time for those out of town to mail back the proxy form and ballot before the election. That is, there is time unless you leave the package on the kitchen counter thinking "I'll get to it later." Don't delay. It will only take you five minutes to read through all of the information sheets, fill out your proxy, mark your ballot, and mail it back. **Read the directions carefully!** If the proper envelopes are not used, your vote may not count.

\*\*\*\*\*

The oak trees have been a major issue this year. Acorns and leaves have littered the ground, driveways, and sidewalks three times this year with more droppings each time than ever before. This is probably caused by the mild weather last winter and the amount of rain that South Florida has seen this year. News reports state that we've had more rain this year than we've had in the last five years combined. All of the plants and trees loved it! Residents? – Not so much. By the time Zimmerman Tree Service gets here in January to trim all of the canopy/hardwood trees, the last of the acorns should have already dropped.

Now that the Board has voted on a 24-month moratorium on removing trees unless they are causing actual structural damage, my recommendation to purchase an inexpensive blower to help clean off your driveways and sidewalks stands. We simply do not have the manpower or time to blow off every driveway and sidewalk every day. Residents will have to help do their part to keep Majestic Isles looking the best that it possibly can for everyone to enjoy. Aside from the mess, this is also a safety issue because the acorns make walking hazardous.

Ken Miller, Association Manager



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## **Unofficial Highlights of M.I. Board of Directors Meeting, November 8, 2012**

*Minutes of the November 2012 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.*

### **Treasurer's Report, Sy Kugelmas**

- (Residents may request a report of the 11/8/12 cash positions and Statement of Operations at the office.)
- Maintenance receivable: The unpaid maintenance for prior quarters is now \$13,489. Of that, \$10,376 is due from one unit.
- Net revenues over expenses are reduced because Whitefly treatments were unanticipated and therefore were not budgeted for.
- The budget is within current year compliance requirements.
- The Board approved the budget for 2013 at the Oct. 18 budget meeting. Quarterly maintenance payments will be \$1,007 for patio homes and \$1062 for single-family homes.
- Nineteen patio homes and six single-family homes have sold this year. Single-family homes sold for an average of \$208,983. Patio homes sold for an average of \$165,526. While sales have doubled from 2011, average prices decreased slightly. They now seem to be trending upwards.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **COBWRA, Steve Bayer**

- If a community opens its weir without permission, Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) can weld it shut permanently. The roads are designed to flood in an emergency. During Tropical Storm Isaac everything worked as it was supposed to. No water entered any homes in Palm Beach County.

#### **Security, Steve Bayer**

- The shredding truck will be back on Wednesday Dec. 12.
- LWDD is testing a new email system and possible phone system to send out alert in a timelier manner to Associations. This will help get out information about opening our weir in the event of a storm and possible flooding.
- We are actively investigating a barcode system for the gates.

#### **Clubhouse and Pool, Harvey Galan**

- Tennis court repairs are being completed now that the header curb in the back is finished and the

repairs to the wash-out on the courts are being taken care of. More HarTru is being added to the courts.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Spiraling Whitefly proposal and discussion will be tabled until after the first of the year unless the insect is seen on the property.
- Motion to accept Zimmerman's proposal to treat the Royal Palm trees at a cost of \$910 passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion to accept M&P's proposal for fall plantings passed by a 5-1 vote.
- Motion to accept Atlantic Coast Elevator Systems' proposal for elevator maintenance passed by unanimous vote.

### **New Business**

- Motion that we notify Board members not to discuss renting unit at 5783 Grand Harbour with the attorney without a motion and second by the Board.
- Motion to table this motion until the new Board takes over. Motion failed by a tie vote of 3-3.
- Original motion passed by 4-2 vote.
- Motion to table issue of recommended amendments to the Documents until the new Board brings it up. Motion to table passed by 5-1 vote.
- Motion to charge a \$500 capital contribution for all new owners, subject to the approval of our attorney, passed by 4-2 vote.
- Motion to prevent non-residents from using the clubhouse unless they are overnight guests passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion that buildings next to one another cannot be the same body color number, passed by 5-1 vote.
- Motion to impose a 24-month moratorium on removing any street trees, except where tree roots are causing damage to the house, sidewalk, driveway, or water lines, and to require a plumber's report in the case of water line damage. Motion passed, 4-2.
- Harvey Galan approved a request from the Social Club for a \$700 donation for a \$700 donation by the for the Grandkids Party.





## ARC (Architectural Review Committee)

By Liz Hopwood

When I became chairman of the ARC, it became my job to tell Majestic Isles residents what they can and cannot do to their property. I don't like that part of the job; it makes me feel like a Roman tax collector. I am writing now to ask for your voluntary cooperation. You know the rules. Follow the rules, and I won't have to come around to enforce them. That should make both of us happy.

If you plan to change your landscaping, you *must* fill out an ARC form before you proceed. I get calls from residents saying, "The landscaper is 15 minutes away. Please approve the changes before he gets here." Sometimes I've done just that, even via the telephone, which totally violates Board protocol and gets my fellow Board members upset. *I will no longer approve requests that have not been submitted in writing ahead of time.*

Until the last few years, the oak trees never presented a problem, but now, because they've now matured and because we've had so much rain this year, they are on a third cycle of dropping acorns this year. People fed up with the mess on the driveways and sidewalks are removing them. That's terrific, because the acorns make sidewalks and driveways look dirty and can make walking hazardous. However, Palm Beach County (PBC) requires that when a shade tree facing the street is removed, it must be replaced by another shade tree. Ken has a poster of acceptable tree replacements in his office; see him before you buy your replacement tree. The replacement trees must be allowed to grow to their full height and width. If PBC inspects here and you have not replaced a required tree on the street side(s) of your house, or have trimmed your new tree to keep it shrub-like, PBC can require you put in an acceptable tree and may possibly issue a fine. The rules about trees are county rules; Majestic Isles does not have the authority to grandfather in existing trees. Oh – and by the way, palm trees are not considered shade trees.

Not all trees that went down in the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes have been replaced. Majestic Isles paid for an independent study that showed that although we do not have as many trees as we once had, we do meet PBC requirements in the common areas. Could we put in more trees? Sure, but we haven't unlimited funds. To maintain, improve and keep our community competitive, we have spent money from

the reserves on other items. Our most recent increase in maintenance fees went to rebuild the reserves and increase salaries for our personnel. I cannot see spending money on trees in the common areas when we already meet the county's requirement.

I believe that understanding can build cooperation and that members of this community can be responsive when they know why the rules exist. Please prove me right.



## GOOD AND WELFARE

### GET WELL

Jean Abramowitz	Phyllis Pinsel
Phil Chermak	Marilyn Reiss
Helaine Fazio	Norman Richman
Dave Feinberg	Rita Schneider
Barbara Goodman	Leon Zimmerman
Greta Oestreicher	Reggie Zimmerman

### SYMPATHY

To Gloria and Charlie Lindroth on the loss of their daughter.

To Bernice Maltz on the loss of her brother.

Art Stiskin on the loss of his mother.

### MESSAGES

Everyone talks about the camaraderie of Majestic Isles, but it is not until you experience it in action that you fully understand. Your support following my mother's death is truly appreciated.

Joan Sorkin and family

Thanks to all of our dear friends for their donations, cards and calls in memory of our brothers-in-law, Monty and Burt. Your wonderful thoughtfulness and support is greatly appreciated.

Fran and Erwin Silling

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

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING...

By Peter Fazio

I came home from running errands some weeks ago and found a bright yellow tag on my front door from the county Water Utilities Department (WUD). The notice said this was the second reading the WUD had taken within a few weeks because our water usage had increased "significantly."

To say our usage increased "significantly" was an understatement! We normally use four to five thousand gallons monthly, but for the month in question we were being billed for 35,000 gallons! We called the WUD and found out that we "must have a leak" and that if we wanted someone to come out to the house for consultation, it would only cost \$100.

I asked if there was any attempt to contact the homeowner when water usage changed so dramatically and was told, that was "not their operating procedure." If you happened to be home when they read the meter, lucky you! I asked if we should have somehow noticed the loss of an additional 30,000 gallons of water and was told by WUD that they could not speculate. They again offered to send someone to our house – at a cost of \$100. Be forewarned: the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department is a waste of time for this kind of problem.

The only hint we had of the problem was that the water pressure in the house seemed just slightly lower than normal during the time we had the leak.

We contacted M.I.'s Association Manager, Ken Miller. He came over as soon as he could and talked through various causes and solutions. Ken's advice was instrumental in getting the problem fixed and probably saved us hundreds of dollars. By the way, from beginning to end, this incident cost us almost \$1000. And that does include the final indignity: we had to pay almost \$250 for the 30,000 gallons of water that leaked away!

Although the leak was directly under our driveway, the water drained away from the driveway. That drainage pattern prevented a sinkhole from forming directly under the driveway, which was the one silver lining to the whole episode.

The lessons from this adventure:

- If you see or experience even a slight change in water pressure for more than a day or two, I would recommend calling a plumber. Ken mentioned that leaks like ours have already happened many times in the Isles. Remember, parts of the development are more than 15 years old.
- Contact Ken if a plumber determines there is a leak in the pipes, especially if the leaks are outside. He might be able to help identify where the water pipes are laid in the ground.

## Election

### M.I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Five candidates are running for the four open seats on the Board. All four are for two-year terms. The election will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012.**

The tape of the Nov. 14 Candidates Night will run on channel 63 several times each week until the election. The broadcast times are posted on channel 63.

A quorum of residents is necessary to hold the Annual Meeting and Election. Please arrive promptly at **7:00 p.m.** or earlier.

Completed absentee ballots and proxy statements must be received in the clubhouse office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 13, 2012.

#### ADD THESE FOLKS TO YOUR HOLIDAY LIST

While you are writing all those holiday cards and planning holiday gifts for your newspaper delivery/postal service/ cleaning crew/ beautician, etc., please do not forget the trash/garbage/recycle collectors. They are here week in and week out and too often they are ignored. Show your appreciation. Where would we be without them?

## Highlights of the November 14, 2012 COBWRA Meeting at Valencia Lakes

**E. Wayne Gent** was appointed **Superintendent of the Palm Beach County School District** in Nov. 2011. Mr. Gent described the District organization:

- The 187 schools have 177,815 students for 2012-13. PBC is the 11th largest school system in the country.
- There are over 8,000 teachers this year.
- Over 150 languages are spoken by students from 197 different countries and territories.
- 21% of students are in special education programs.
- 54% qualify for free or reduced price lunches.
- For 2005-2012, PBC is an “A” rated district, the only district in the state rated A for 8 years.
- PBC is considered an academically high performing district with 86 schools earning A’s and 28 schools earning B’s.
- Finalist for 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education
- 8th best graduation rate of US large districts. In 2011, 10,000 graduates had over \$90 M in scholarships.
- Built 85 **new** schools in past 12 years.
- The district has over 1,200 business partners and of the 38,000 volunteers, 35% are men. The many volunteers from COBWRA are much appreciated. More volunteers wanted. Call your Board member.
- Partnerships with Take Stock in Children and the Anne & Sam Klein Jewish Coalition for Literacy.
- Mentors and partnerships make a difference: For example, young people who meet with a mentor are 46% less likely to begin using drugs.
- A new test named Common Core State Standards, a national program, will replace the FCAT test.
- We need to teach democracy and citizenship more.
- There are now 40 some charter schools – which are public schools. Some charters are excellent schools and some are not –like regular public schools.
- Mr. Gent distributed a catalog of the 227 choice and career academy programs available for elementary, middle and high schools for 2013-2014. Most districts offer choice programs for 6 through 12 but PBC includes grades K-5.
- The choice example he cited was the construction academy at Seminole Ridge Community High that just finished building a Habitat for Humanity home.
- One challenge facing teachers now is they must not only teach but also must help raise many children.
- All students need to be prepared for college or a career in business or in the military.

- When a school is not doing well, the district provides additional dollars, stronger leaders and new materials and programs to support the teachers.

### Officials’ Reports

**Captain Doug McGlynn, PBC Fire Rescue**, requested that communities disseminate the information distributed by COBWRA about the difference between ionization and photo-electric smoke detectors. He stated the radiation from an ionization smoke detector is too weak to be of any danger. If you have not changed your smoke detector batteries yet, please do so immediately. **Commissioner Burt Aaronson** thanked COBWRA people for 20 years of cooperation and support. “It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you,” he said. **Mary Lou Berger** thanked COBWRA for support in the election and said she is ready to begin work when she is installed as Commissioner of District 5 on Nov 20.

### COBWRA Reports

**Growth Management:** Gerry Morrison reporting. The Delegates voted to recommend approval of the proposal by Bethesda Health City to expand with three new buildings, with three conditions:

- Immediately install the landscape buffer along the southern boundary with GreyStone to allow growth and provide for visual, light and sound buffering.
- Move the southern medical office building away from GreyStone houses as far NE as code permits.
- Parking lot lighting adjacent to GreyStone to be a maximum of 15 feet high using shoebox fixtures to avoid any light spilling into the adjacent homes.

The Walmart grocery store under construction at the Winn Dixie site on Boynton Beach Blvd and Military Trail plans to open on Jan 19 and is presently hiring.

**The Health and Wellness Committee:** Joan Brunswick announced that the committee is presenting a symposium on “Oh My Gosh, I’m Going Into The Hospital!” The panel of experts is from Bethesda Hospital West and JFK Medical Center. The symposium starts at 7:00 pm Wednesday evening, Jan. 30, 2013 in the Valencia Isles clubhouse. Refreshments at 6:30 pm. The public is welcome.

**Future Meetings** (Open to the public) Dec 4, 6:30 pm: Growth Management, PBSO District 6. Dec, 19, 9:30 am: Delegates at Bethesda Hospital West (9655 West Boynton Beach Blvd.) Introduction of all newly elected state and federal officials and an orientation to the new Bethesda Hospital West (Opening for patients on Jan 13, 2013.).  
—Ken Lassiter for COBWRA Communications  
[www.cobwra.org](http://www.cobwra.org)



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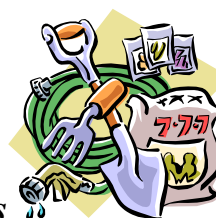




## *Gardening in the Isles*

*By*

*Stan Davidson*



The highlight of my recent trip to the Orient, which included China, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand, was the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which are situated just five minutes away from the bustling city. The Gardens are a sanctuary in the heart of the cleanest city I visited in my travels.

In the early years, this garden played an important role in fostering agricultural development in Singapore by collecting, growing, experimenting and distributing potentially useful plants. The Gardens also played a key role in Singapore garden history programs through the continued introduction of plants of horticultural and botanical interest.

Today, the 74-acre garden is home to a great diversity of tropical plants, many of which can be grown in South Florida. A tropical Eden with more than 150 years of history, it is a place where time appears to stand still. Within the garden, the National Orchid Garden is a highlight.

The Botanic Center houses important research resources such as the Singapore Herbarium, the Library of Botany and Horticulture and the Orchid Breeding Laboratory.

The Swan Lake, almost as old as the garden, is situated behind a huge ornate gate. Picture white swans gliding gracefully over the lake's smooth waters. An island on the lake is a familiar and timeless landmark crowned with feathered palms.

In the distance one sees the bandstand, a glimpse of Victorian heritage. A rim of handsome yellow rain trees surrounds the Bandstand section of the garden and you can envision a band in the gazebo enclosure playing a Strauss quadrille.

The Gardens have many freestanding sculptures that add life and humor to the garden's natural grace. A girl on a bicycle freewheels down a spiral hedge and a girl on a swing wears traditional Singapore dress.

The Ginger Garden displays several hundred species of ginger and other plants from related families. The Ginger Garden features a walk-behind waterfall, romantic night lighting, and a pool adorned with giant water lilies.

Fronds, fans, and feathers describe a section of the Palm Garden that contains a grand valley of palms. The palms range in size from small Mexican fan palms to giant skyscraper fan palms.

The Evolution Garden provides a journey through time displaying magnificent cycad palms that are the "Jurassic Park" center of the Gardens, starting with the beginnings of our planet to the first living organisms and the gradual development of plant life on land.

To me, the best part of the Garden Tour was the world-renowned National Orchid Garden. This is a fairyland of blooms with dazzling bands of vibrantly colored orchids. Dedicated to showcasing the finest orchids, the Singapore National Orchid Garden is the place to enjoy the splendor of thousands of these gorgeous blooms. A myriad of stunning, subtle, intricately patterned and simple varieties of phalaenopsis, dendrobium, vanda and cattleya orchids meet the eye here. Over 1000 species and 2000 hybrids are in the collection and are considered to be the largest display of orchids in the world!

My travels brought me back to Bangkok and, 23 air hours later, to Majestic Isles. After traveling over a total of 20,000 air and nautical miles, observing Asian culture was indeed interesting, but I consider the Singapore National Orchid Garden to be one of my own "Seven Wonders of the World."

This article is my holiday gift to Majestic Isles gardeners who may not be able to travel to Asia. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

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## FLAVORS OF FLORIDA

By Phyllis Cohen for Donna Shaneson

*Donna will resume putting together the "Flavors" column soon.*

Picture this: It's school vacation time and your grand-kids have already been here for a week. The pool has lost its allure, you've seen every G rated movie at the cinema complex and Chucky Cheese no longer has any appeal. It's time to get out of the house and take the kids to some of the many attractions that make Florida a great place to visit.

Florida abounds in wildlife and natural habitats:

**Gumbo Limbo Nature Center**  
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**([www.gumbolimbo.org](http://www.gumbolimbo.org))**

The nature center offers lots of hands on activities, boardwalk, viewing tower and gift shop.

**Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center**  
**12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach**  
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Elevated boardwalk and nature center

**Okeetchee Nature Center**  
**7715 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach**  
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This center offers guided tours through wetlands and pine flatwood woods.

Further away are other animal attractions:

**Busch Wildlife Sanctuary**  
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## AM I THE ONLY ONE?

By Peter Fazio



I wonder which community by-law states that Majestic Isle residents are required to eat out several times a week. It must be there someplace. We are glad to support the wide variety of local eateries available to us and thrilled that we have so many choices, but how is it that all the hostesses and wait staff in local restaurants seem to have been trained by the same individual, no matter the restaurant.

That training emphasizes the following rules:

- \* Any customer who uses a cane, walker, or any other support device, should be seated at a table that is furthest from the front door and/or the restrooms.
- \* If customers exceed the height and weight limits for the perfect body, immediately take them to the smallest booth in the restaurant. Or if you want to be really creative, sit these folks at tables behind or next to each other so there is no room to move.
- \* Waiters/waitresses should immediately tell customers how bad a menu item is if they don't like it personally. This particularly applies if the customer orders any meat item and the waiter is a vegetarian.
- \* As soon as the customers are seated, introduce yourself and provide the customer with your height, weight, marital status and educational background.
- \* Make sure the restaurant air conditioning is set to "Arctic Chill" and seat the frailest customers directly under the vents.
- \* Keep the lighting so dim that most folks will need a flashlight to read the menu.

Be brave, my fellow diners! Fight back! Demand good seating and bright lights! Bon Appétit!



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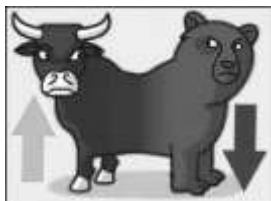
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## INVESTORS DISCUSSION GROUP

Al Silverman Facilitator



Those of you who have done any skiing or sleigh riding know the feeling. The uphill climb has been long and tedious to reach the projected height. Then with an energetic lunge, the ride down is filled with joy and exhilaration. Oh, if the first part were true about income investing, and if the last part did not happen. We can ponder and we can plan. We can hope and we can vote.

Well, we did the last thing – we voted. Now we ponder. Did the market act as we expected? Will taxes increase or decrease? Will the rock and the hard place (Congress) converge and turn into a compromising legislative body to the benefit of the public and the economy? We wonder about all this as we see the market take an excruciating tumble in an apparent reaction to the threatening approach of the “fiscal cliff” in addition to many other concerns.

In an attempt to stimulate the economy, the Fed is committed to buying 40 billion dollars per month of government securities, which pushes up their market value, thus pressuring interest rates to go lower. This causes the interest rate spread (the difference between long term and short term rates) to narrow. This hurts Mortgage REIT yields, among others. Many homeowners are refinancing their mortgages with lower rates. Companies are replacing their high yield preferred stocks with new preferreds at lower yields. All this may be good for the economy but not so good for investors.

Interest rates may not rise until there is evidence that the economy is improving, yet believe it or not, there is increasing evidence that this is happening, although at a slower than desired pace. When the jobs and housing markets show significant further improvement (however that may be measured), then the Fed should abandon its buying (printing) spree and interest rates may move higher.

**Woe is me! Woe is me!** (Courtesy of MILT). High income investments should then take a severe hit. (whoops!) – Some of them already have. As if that is not enough to worry about, the threatening “fiscal  
(Continued on page 33)

## TAX CORNER

By Mel Burstein

Congress has until Dec. 31, 2012 to make a decision whether the Bush tax laws that were put into effect in 2002 are to continue or change back to the rules in effect *before 2000*. If Congress takes no action to extend the law that is in *existence* by a date stated in the law, the tax law is terminated and is replaced by the prior law. This is known as the sunset rule.

Presently the tax on qualified dividends is the same rate as long-term capital gains. If the present law terminates the rules in effect before 2002 will return which means that the long capital gains will be taxed at 20% and qualified ordinary dividends will be taxed as ordinary income (presently both are taxed at 15%). Taxpayers in the 10% and 15% tax brackets presently pay no tax on ordinary dividends and long-term capital gains. This also will be eliminated if the sunset rule comes into play.

Regardless of what Congress does the tax rates on investment income will rise in 2013. Why you ask? Well, hidden away in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Obamacare) is a section dealing with taxing investment income. The proceeds received from this tax were to go to Medicare. It now seems that these monies will go into the general fund instead. Single taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income that exceeds \$200,000.00 and married couples filing jointly with modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$250,000.00 will now be subject to a 3.8% tax on investment income in addition to the regular tax.

What is investment income? It includes interest income, dividends, capital gains, annuities, passive income and rent income. Capital gains on sale of a personal residence are deemed to be investment income, but will not be taxed if the gain does not exceed \$250,000.00 and you are single or \$500,000.00 and married. Investment income does not include tax-exempt interest or retirement plan payouts, such as IRA distributions. If the gain does exceed the \$250,000.00 or \$500,000.00 limits it may still not be taxable unless your modified adjusted gross income exceeds the exclusion amounts (single- \$200,000.00, married- \$500,000.00).





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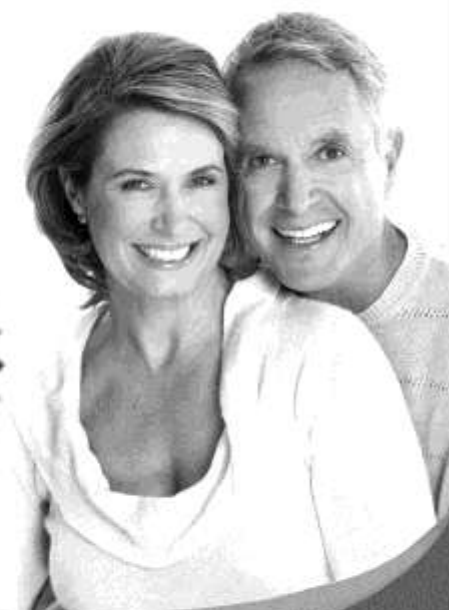
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## VISITING MARCIA STEINER

By Claire Deveney



Marcia Steiner is a soft-spoken dynamo with many artistic, decorating and fundraising ideas for a host of Majestic Isles groups in which she participates.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Marcia attended P.S. 202 and is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. She earned her

Bachelor of Science degree from Brooklyn College where she majored in elementary education and minored in art education.

She started teaching second grade at Public School 306 in Brooklyn, and also taught grades 3, 4 and 5 for ten years. "I loved teaching the fifth grade," Marcia explains. Within five years of graduation she earned a dual M.S. degree in elementary education and art from Brooklyn College.

Marcia married at age 29. She and her husband moved to Florida in 1979 and lived in Sandalford Cove in Boca Raton. She used to walk to a nearby mom and pop gift shop and by happenstance began working there using her art background to design t-shirts and individualize them for special orders. Later she returned to teaching at Palmview Elementary School in Pompano. She taught alternative education in grades 3 to 5 for a few years and conducted individualized programs in reading and in mathematics for children in jeopardy. She became involved in Broward County's teachers writing team that wrote a manual on alternative education programs. She also worked on Broward County's Sunshine State standards, objectives and programs for reading, mathematics, science and social studies. In addition, Marcia participated in developing minimum basic skills tests administered to elementary school children at the beginning and end of the school year.

Later Marcia became a third grade teacher at Tamarac Elementary School. She explains that for all the time she taught at Taramac it was like being a member of a large family. Her daughter Samantha Leigh drove with her everyday and went to school there for grades K to 5. "The school was well known for its warm, nurturing environment and quality of education." She adds that the school won a National

Award for Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education."

Her daughter, Samantha, attended a Hebrew day school for grades 6 to 12 and won a full scholarship to the University of Miami class of 2010. She is now in her third year at Nova Southeastern University School of Dentistry. She recently became engaged to Juan, a senior mechanical engineering student at Florida International University. They plan to marry on May 25, 2013.

After celebrating 42 years of teaching, Marcia retired in 2011. Divorced shortly thereafter, she moved to Majestic Isles in December 2011. "My sister lives in Villa Borghese, my mother-in-law lives in Indian Spring, my cousin lives in Winston Trails nearby on Hypoluxo and Jog, and I have many friends at Valencia Shores."

Marcia is an active member of the Singles Club, M.I. Pap Corps, where she is vice president of fundraising; Hadassah, where she is recording secretary; the Social Club, M.I.L.T and the Women's Club. In addition she's involved in weekly ceramics meetings at the clubhouse, the knitting club and plays Mah-Jongg and Canasta.

Marcia has many interests and ideas and applies them to decorating, arts and crafts, ceramics, catering, as well as fundraising and other topics. She makes hats for cancer patients, enjoys reading, theatre, music, ballet and restaurants.

Marcia thoroughly enjoys the new custom kitchen she designed. She chose roosters as her theme and along with matching dishes and an apron, she has a variety of roosters decorating her kitchen. A colorful basket of Granny Smith green apples and bright lemons decorates her kitchen table.

A prized possession of Marcia's is a plaque that Samantha gave her. On display in her kitchen, it reads, "If I didn't have you as a Mom, I'd choose you as a friend."

"Life is what you make it," says Marcia. "My life is now getting going. I'm emerging, having fun and enjoying my freedom and I'm interested in exploring travel and cruises."



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## ENGLISH IS A CRAZY LANGUAGE

There is no egg in the eggplant,  
No ham in the hamburger  
And neither pine nor apple in the pineapple.  
English muffins were not invented in England,  
French fries were not invented in France.

We sometimes take English for granted, but if we examine its paradoxes we find that:

Quicksand takes you down slowly,  
Boxing rings are square,  
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If writers write, how come fingers don't fing?  
If the plural of tooth is teeth,  
Shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth?  
If the teacher taught,  
Why hasn't the preacher praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables,  
What the heck does a humanitarian eat?  
Why do people recite at a play,  
Yet play at a recital?  
Park on driveways and  
Drive on parkways?  
How can the weather be as hot as hell on one day  
And as cold as hell on another?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language where  
a house can burn up as it burns down,  
And in which you fill in a form  
By filling it out  
And a bell is only heard once it goes!

English was invented by people, not computers,  
And it reflects the creativity of the human race  
(Which of course isn't a race at all.)

That is why:  
When the stars are out they are visible,  
But when the lights are out they are invisible.  
And why it is that when I wind up my watch  
It starts,  
But when I wind up this poem  
It ends.

*Taken from renzo.com  
Author unknown*

## MORE THAN JUST THE BIG BAND ERA

By Josh Katz

*The newsletter staff fondly remembers Josh Katz. This is the last column he wrote before he died in December 2010. We print it in his memory.*

### BLUE BARRON



**Blue Barron** was born **Herschel Friedland** in Cleveland, Ohio in 1911. After graduating from Ohio State University, where he played violin in a campus band, Blue Barron became a booking agent in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Barron's specialty was sweet orchestras, such as those of **Guy Lombardo**, **Kay Kyser**, and **Sammy Kaye**, the latter of whom he also managed. In 1936 Barron decided to form his own orchestra along those same lines. Though rough at first, his outfit soon took on a slick sheen and by 1938 posed a challenge for the title "King of the Mickey Mouse Bands."

Barron never took himself or his music seriously, often making fun of it in private. In its early years the orchestra recorded for RCA and during the 1940s and 1950s for MGM. Its tagline was "Music of Yesterday and Today, Styled the Blue Barron Way." **Russ Carlyle** was vocalist for several years, followed by **Clyde Burke** and **Jimmy Brown**, a former Kaye vocalist.

The band opened in the Green Room of the Edison Hotel on January 5, 1938 and played there for over nine months. They were on the air almost every night, coast-to-coast and, once on the air, everything else was automatic – you made movies and you had a record contract."

Sure enough, in just under a month, things fell into place. The band began using the tagline, "The Music of Yesterday and Today," was signed on by Bluebird Records, and continued to be heard from the Edison Hotel.

Besides making recordings in New York City and Chicago, the band typically played hotel engagements, such as the Astor or Biltmore in New York, for about 26 weeks total. During the other 26 weeks in the year, they played theaters, such as the Oriental in Chicago, and one-night stands across the nation.

While other bands worked their way to the top, Barron's very first theatre appearance was, impressively, at the Paramount Theatre in New York City.

Blue Barron gave up the orchestra and retired from the music business in 1956. He died in 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland and is interred there in the Baltimore Hebrew Cemetery.

### REAL NAMES

Sophia Loren	Sofia Sciolone
Peter Lorre	Laszlo Lowenstein
Tina Louise	Tina Blacker
Madonna	Madonna Ciccone
Barry Manilow	Barry Pincus

### TOP RADIO SHOWS IN EARLY 1930'S

How many do you remember?

Show	Sponsor
Amos and Andy	Pepsodent Tooth Paste
Rudy Vallee	Fleischman's Yeast
Atwater-Kent Hour	Atwater-Kent (Radios)
Lucky Strike Orchestra	Lucky Strike Cigarettes
Camel Pleasure Hour	Camel Cigarettes

### ROSEMARY CLOONEY

There has be a ton of discussion (two people) about my date with Rosemary Clooney. So here goes – all the details. If you do not dare – read no further.

I picked her up at the Alexander Hamilton Hotel in Paterson, N.J. She was singing, along with her sister **Betty**, with the **Tony Pastor** orchestra playing at Frank Dailey's Meadowbrook at that time.

I called from the lobby and she came down and met me 6 minutes and 24 seconds later. We walked down the street to Mr. Toy's Chinese restaurant where we enjoyed blintzes and matzoh balls. After our sumptuous meal, we went to the Garden Theater where we saw a double feature. That included two pictures, newsreel, short subject, March of Time, cartoon, serial. About two hours later we left the theater and walked back to the hotel. I escorted her to the elevator and said goodnight and didn't see her again for about 6 or 7 years, at which time she didn't have the slightest idea who I was.

But I got even. When I next saw her, she had gained about a zillion pounds, and I said, "Gee – I didn't recognize you".



## SUMMER MEMORIES, WINTER DREAMS

By Phyllis M. Cohen

This is the last column of the year, and usually I would be writing some kind of wrap-up, a nostalgic look back at what happened during 2012. Maybe I would have some comments on the great Summer Olympics in London or be trying to explain what happened in that year of political scrambling, back-biting, infighting, platitudes, as well as half-truths, non-truths and promises that passed for an important election campaign. After all, now there's nothing left but the deadening silence of the telephone without the constant robo-calls (Barbra Streisand called me). The mailbox is empty without the ten pounds of campaign material per day. The political pundits and prophets of both sides are intermittently making nice, playing make-up or second-guessing their prior predictions and polls. Isn't it great that like the weatherman, the pollsters and analysts get paid even when they are all wrong?

But no, that's not what I am going to write about.

For many of us, the event of the year was the arrival of a deadly superstorm with the innocuous name of Hurricane Sandy. And what she did was destroy a huge swath of land where many of us grew up and made the best memories of our lives.

Even after 30 years as a New Englander, the beaches and waters of the New York and New Jersey coasts still call to me. Whether you came from the streets of Brooklyn or the Bronx and went "to the beach" or from Teaneck or Trenton and went "to the shore," the highlight of summer was the day spent at the sea and sand of the ocean. The very mention of Coney Island evokes the long, crowded subway ride with passengers dragging coolers and chairs, towels and sand pails, everything redolent of hardboiled egg sandwiches and coconut-scented sunscreen. On a hot summer day, the beach was covered with blankets and people, sitting side by side, each group engaged in its own personal space. No hotdog would ever taste as good as Nathan's, no roller coaster would ever be as scary as the one on the boardwalk, and no fireworks could outdo the Tuesday night display on the beach. Returning home, burned to a crisp (just ask my dermatologist today), our only question was, "When can we go again?"

Far from my Brooklyn stamping ground were the beaches of "the Rockaways" where my aunts had little summer bungalows with outdoor cold-water

showers. The ocean always seemed rougher and colder than my familiar Coney Island and Brighton Beach, though my husband, who spent all his childhood summers there, denies that. Later on, I discovered the marvels of other beautiful beaches, Jones Beach and Long Beach and finally the Jersey shore with the splendors of Asbury Park, Point Pleasant, and Cape May.

And most of it is gone, the pizza and hero sandwich vendors, the saltwater taffy and frozen custard sellers, the kiddie land rides and skee ball stands. For those who lived in these areas, and the many other hurricane victims still in the dark and cold or struggling to find a way back, the tragedy and devastation are part of their daily life. We who mourn the loss of the sites of our family vacations can scarcely understand their anguish. Even the short term flooding and outages of Hurricane Isaac a couple of weeks before Sandy or the hurricanes of five or six years ago that left us in the dark for a week or two, were, fortunately for most of us, more of an inconvenience than a catastrophic life changing event.

If there is any bright side to the recent story tragedy, it is the tales we continue to hear about the good people who never fail to help those in trouble. From the first responders, policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, as well as power crews who leave their own loved ones to help, to the volunteers from local relief organizations like the Red Cross, including our own Steve Bayer, who never fail to step up to help, the goodness and generosity of many people never ceases to reassure me of the basic goodness of most people.

One of the first news conferences I saw after the storm was an interview with New Jersey governor Chris Christie, (whose outspoken attitude and frumpy appearance may have caused him to lose a spot as a VP candidate) where he greeted President Obama. Christie, rumpled and careworn, graciously thanked the president, who looked equally concerned, and expressed gratitude for the promised federal aid. Later on, the politicians would rumble at Christie's decision to embrace that hated rival, but Christie would continue to show that his citizens were important, not the political power struggle. So here's to us all. May this kind of noble spirit be the one that guides us all through the new year. No problems have been solved, but maybe we can all choose to think of each other more than we think of our own concerns.



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## BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

By Bill Harris



Ever wonder what happened to that deposit you just made? I'm not thinking about the kind you make at a bank. I'm thinking about the kind that requires you to **flush!** Most of us don't give the **flush** response a second thought. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has brainwashed us to really believe in the slogan "Out of Sight, Out of Mind."

These days we can't even bring ourselves to call this "stuff" by its correct name, in other words, sewage. Instead, because it sounds better, we call it "wastewater." Whatever we call it, it ends up at a sewage – or wastewater – treatment plant. Here it first goes to a degreaser, then to primary settling followed by secondary settling, digestion and clarification tanks. A bacterial cocktail is added to the secondary anaerobic digestion tanks (tanks without oxygen) to enhance the digestion of sewage solids. On completion of secondary treatment the sewage has been separated into three components: 1) a slurry of settled sewage solids and water known as sewage sludge, 2) clarified liquid waste still containing about 10 percent suspended solids called sewage effluent, and 3) methane gas which usually is flared off.

Sewage sludge solids usually end up in landfills or when dried and pelletized can be used as fertilizer or a soil dressing and spread on municipal park grasslands or golf courses, orange groves and sod farms. Such fertilizers may even end up on residential flowerbeds or vegetable patches. The City of Milwaukee bags their dried sewage sludge and markets it quite successfully as an organic fertilizer under the brand name "Milorganite."

Whereas use of Milorganite as an organic fertilizer generally does not pose a problem, another city's sewage sludge might. Some municipal sewage sludge can contain toxic concentrations of heavy metals e.g. cadmium, lead, copper and chromium. They also may contain carcinogens, such as benzene and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Spreading this around, especially on your homegrown tomatoes, may not be a good idea.

Los Angeles pipes its sludge offshore through deep ocean outfalls into continental borderland submarine canyons. New York City used to dispose of its sludge

only 30 nautical miles at sea off the Rockaways, but that created a biological desert at the dumpsite and sludge balls kept washing back onto Long Island beaches in the Rockaways, Atlantic Beach, Long Beach and Jones Beach, and on the northern New Jersey Shore. New York now barges its sludge round the clock to the edge of the continental shelf for ocean disposal, 110 nautical miles out to sea.

The clarified effluent is further treated either with ozone (oxygen molecule with three rather than two oxygen atoms) or chlorine gas to kill total and fecal coliform bacteria. The disinfected liquid is often claimed to be "pure enough to drink." Some communities don't think so. Sewage effluent collected from communities around pristine Lake Tahoe on the California-Nevada border west of Carson City in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is further purified via exceedingly expensive advanced treatment processes. Phosphates, pesticides and lead are stripped from Tahoe Shore secondary sewage effluent in giant hydrocarbon towers, quite literally rendering it pure enough to drink and thereby acceptable for disposal in the lake.

Other communities pump at least part of their treated secondary effluent into filter marshes, such as our local Green Cay or Wakodohatchee wetlands, where phosphorous and nitrogen nutrients are removed by plant growth. Some of Florida's treated wastewater (reclaimed water, often termed gray water) is piped to golf course, condo or homeowner association irrigation systems and retention ponds (lakes). Most communities however, like those in northern Florida discharge the treated secondary effluent via sewage outfall pipes to the closest lake, stream, river, estuary, or even to the coastal ocean.

South Florida is different! It's the only state in the country to dispose of domestic wastewater through deep injection wells, typically from 2000 to 4500 feet deep. To safeguard our beaches and keep our waterways pristine, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and 21 other Florida counties inject more than 460 million gallons of clarified and disinfected effluent each day into the lower Floridan Aquifer's "Boulder Zone" and other deep formations, far below drinking water supply sources. Once again, "Out of Sight, Out of Mind."

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## The Reel Story

### THE OTHER SON

By Judy Radin



“Switched at birth” is a recurrent theme throughout literature, operettas, stage productions and even an occasional TV series.

The French-Israeli movie, “The Other Son, another switched at birth story, starts when Joseph enlists in the Israeli Air Force. His mother, Orith, a French-Israeli physician, and his father, Alon, an Israeli army officer, learn from Joseph’s blood type that he could not possibly be their son.

Apparently, at the time of Joseph’s birth, the maternity ward where he was born was under a horrifying missile attack during the 1991 Gulf War. In the subsequent confusion, Orith and Alon’s baby was inadvertently switched with a Palestinian infant. Consequently the Jewish child was raised in the humble West Bank home of Said and Leila, while the Arab boy was brought up in the affluent Tel Aviv residence of Orith and Alon.

This French-Israeli production (filmed in French, Hebrew, Arabic and English with English sub-titles) takes us through the identity crisis that each of the now eighteen year old boys experience. Joseph is a wannabe musician, while the charming Yacine, who recently earned a B.A. from a French University, will soon attend return to France to attend medical school. Each learns from the parents who have raised them that they are not, in fact, their parents.

Joseph is crushed when his rabbi informs him that though he was raised Jewish and was a dedicated Torah student, he is not, in fact, Jewish. The rabbi further explained that since Joseph’s mother is not Jewish, Joseph would have to convert to Judaism – although he has been a committed Jew his entire life.

Yacine’s brother, Bilal, a zealous anti-Zionist, rejects, his “Israeli” brother as a member of the country that occupies the West Bank. Yacine himself, however, is not a political extremist and does not bear animosity toward any of the members of either of his families – including Bilal.

“The Other Son” not only depicts the inner struggles of the two sons, but of each set of parents and siblings as well.

Through a series of self-conscious visits, affected dialogues, and anxious trips over the border, each set of parents becomes acquainted with their true biological son. The mothers seem to cope with the hurtful situation with a lot more poise than the fathers and the younger siblings bring a heartening attitude to the standing hostilities.

French director and co-author of “The Other Son,” Lorraine Levy, scrutinizes the brutal inconsistencies at play and how each of family member reacts. There was quite a heart-wrenching response when the hospital’s chief of staff divulged the disastrous mix-up to both sets of parents, whom he had requested to bring snapshots of their sons to share. One could sense their feelings of tragedy and disbelief.

“The Other Son” stars an international cast whose fine acting takes the audience through an overview of Israeli-Palestinian politics through the eyes of the two principal characters. One could experience the conflict, blame, and the recognition they exhibit from the people in their lives.

The Other Son is a thought provoking film. It provides many pieces to the puzzle of a more global nature – that of how to attain peace in the Mideast.

## PET PATCH

By Molly



Would you believe I’m 12 years old! Some neighbors have asked where’s the bow that was always on the top of my head. My mom explains to them that I’m getting on in years, and just like humans

my hair is thinning, so the bow won’t stay any more. But I’m still as cute as ever!

The Snowbirds are gradually coming back – some just to get away from what hurricane Sandy did up North. It’s so sad to see some of the pictures on TV. I’m sure glad to be here.

The holidays are my favorite time of year. Lots of company, goodies and surprise presents. I try to keep an eye on Mom to see what she’s sneaking in for me. I love new toys – and of course treats.

I wish you all a Happy Hanukkah or a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



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## POST-ELECTION MUSINGS

By Thelma Mechanic

At last, we're able to get back to our routines – no more mailings, no more telephone solicitations. No more polling. For the good of the country, let's hope that the two parties can find a way to work together to solve some of the major problems the United States faces.

As a Democratic voter, I'm delighted with the election results. Obama swept all but two of the swing states and won the popular vote. Romney was most gracious in his concession speech. The Democrats gained Senate seats and regained several House of Representative seats. Locally, some well-known Republicans – Ellyn Bogdanoff, Adam Hastner, and Adam West (who demanded a recount) went down in defeat.

During the campaign, when the polls were "too close to call," suggesting that Romney might very well win the election, my biggest concerns were his positions on women's rights, and his potential Supreme Court nominees. Many M.I. residents thought as I did. Others, to whom other matters were more important, did not.

As Romney took the lead in the first debate, I yelled to the TV, saying "C'mon Obama fight back!" Romney brought up the economy with every opportunity he had. Obama claimed his stimulus bill had helped the country. And so they exchange went, back and forth across the United States. Democrats claimed that Romney did not understand the middle class voters; the Republicans claimed Obama didn't understand the economy. And so it went.

Hurricane Sandy led the New Jersey Republican Governor Chris Christie to embrace Obama and the federal government for their role in helping his state recover from the storm.

Both candidates, Obama and Romney, spent over one billion. Romney spent more, but the Democrats prevailed.

The one big hitch to Florida's voting is in getting the results. We are encouraged to vote early, yet Governor Rick Scott and state lawmakers limited the number of early voting days. Some voting lines lasted 5 hours and a few lasted much longer. Unfortunately Florida has a well-deserved reputation for troubled elections. Since every vote counts, it's amazing that votes are forever found in Broward and

other counties. Fortunately (in my view), those votes weren't enough to change the presidential outcome. And if it is any solace to Florida, it took Arizona fifteen days to complete its ballot count.

With all of our voting problems, we still stand out in the world as a model of democracy.

## HURRICANE SANDY

By Steve Bayer



As some people know, I was deployed by the American Red Cross to the Long Island area

on the Saturday before Hurricane Sandy. I was there for a week working with the local and national news media, as well as spending time with the local residents in the largest shelter on Long Island.

A year ago, I had been there for Hurricane Irene, which did little damage. A number of shelter clients recognized me and came to say thanks for providing them with comfort and help to stay safe. We were providing over 1,000 people with safety, warm meals and a shoulder to lean on. Although 90% of the homes on Long Island lost power, many for over two weeks, the shelter never lost power and after the storm it was a place that people could come to for hot food and a warm shower.

Our son and his family suffered water damage to their home and were without power for 16 days. In spite of this he felt fortunate because two homes on the street behind him burned to the ground during the storm because the local fire department couldn't get there. Hot embers landed on his roof and his neighbors all reported hearing them sizzle as they hit the wet surface.

I'd like to thank those in the community, as well as people from around the world, who have contributed to the American Red Cross in support of the relief effort. To donate by phone, call 1-800-733-2767, or online at [www.redcross.org/charitable-donations](http://www.redcross.org/charitable-donations). It's comforting to know that 91% of all donations go to the clients affected.

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## SNOWBIRDS

By Bobbe Greene



**On Dec. 7**, at 11 a.m., there will be a general meeting/get together in the clubhouse. The Welcome Back Brunch is scheduled for **Jan. 11**, at 11 a.m. Please check channel 63 and/or the back lobby for the price and details.

If you haven't already signed up, there are still a few spots open for the **January 29** bus trip to Naples and Ft. Myers. The Travel Club and the Snowbirds have planned a fabulous one-night trip. Call Seymour Bochner 734-6508 or Bernie Spiess 375-8066 if you are interested in joining us. For those of you who might not have been here, or did not see last month's newsletter, here are the details of the trip: upon arrival, we'll have a narrated tour of Naples and we'll have lunch at Altins; one night at the Residence Inn with a hot breakfast included. There will be a cocktail party Tuesday night plus a dinner show ("Fiddler on The Roof") at the Broadway Palm Theater. On Wednesday, a cruise of Naples Bay is scheduled. There will be ample time for shopping or relaxing. The cost is \$167 per person based on double occupancy. There is a \$30 single room supplement. All taxes and gratuities are included. A \$50 deposit is required when making your reservation and full payment is due by Dec. 10. Sounds great. **Everyone** is invited to join us.

For Wednesday, **Feb. 6, 2013**, Jack and Bobbe Greene have reserved seats at the Broward Stage Door Theatre for the musical "Damn Yankees." The performance is at 2 p.m., and promises to be great. Price for members is \$34 and \$36 for non-members. Invite your friends and get your groups together. Put your checks in the Snowbird mailbox to the attention of Jack Greene. And while you're at it, remember to include your dues for the coming year, which remain at \$5 per person.

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

*New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.* James Agate

*A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.* Source unknown.

## YIDDISH CULTURE CLUB

By Reggie Zimmerman



All Majestic Isles residents are invited to the Yiddish Club's Chanukah Dance and Dessert Party on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. We'll have wonderful desserts and fruit so there will be something for every taste. We want to be sure to have enough for everyone, so **you must sign up in the back lobby!**

The club is subsidizing the food, so the cost to attendees is only \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members. Please put your check in the Yiddish Club mailbox in the back lobby.

Again - **you must sign up in the back lobby!**

### MOVIES – MOVIES - MOVIES

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

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**SAT., DECEMBER 1: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARE EXPECTING** This star-studded romantic comedy follows the intersecting lives of several couples as they hazard the ups and downs of pregnancy and impending parenthood. In the process, they discover important lessons about life and love.

### **SAT., JANUARY 5: NEW YEAR'S EVE**

In this star-studded romantic comedy, the fates of a diverse group of New Yorkers are wound together on New Year's Eve -- including one expectant couple hoping their baby will be the first to be born in the Big Apple after midnight.

### **SAT., JANUARY 19: BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL**

To make the most of their meager retirement savings, a group of British seniors moves to India to live out their golden years at the Marigold Hotel. But upon arrival, they discover the once-lavish resort has wilted considerably.

**NOTE: We show our films with closed captioning.**

*The film descriptions are taken from the Netflix website.*

## BOOK TALKS AND MORE

By Judy Markowitz



At the **Book Talks** meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Doug Butturff will facilitate a discussion of **“The Snowman”** by Jo Nesbo.

One night, after the first snowfall of the year, a boy named Jonas wakes up and discovers that his mother has disappeared. Only one trace of her remains: a pink scarf, his Christmas gift to her, now worn by the Snowman that inexplicably appeared in their yard earlier that day. The case deepens when a pattern emerges: over the past decade eleven women have vanished – all on the day of the first snow. With brilliantly realized characters and hair raising suspense, international best-selling author Jo Nesbo presents his most chilling case yet – one that will test detective Harry Hole to the very limits of his sanity.

Harry Hole is a very well-drawn character. He is a thoughtful, good and passionate man who is not only addicted to alcohol, but to the thrill that comes when he gets close to solving a murder case. He blames himself and takes it hard when a murder is committed. He feels it could have been prevented if only he had been better at doing his job.

Reading this book is like riding a roller coaster. Many times the reader is led to believe a certain character is the murderer only to discover it was a false lead. As Harry chases down one possibility after another with no luck, the bodies keep piling up and Harry himself is in extreme danger.

**“The Snowman”** is being made into a movie. The book has been compared favorably to **“The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.”** I am not a fan of mystery detective novels but I loved this book. We hope to have an exciting discussion on December 19. **Do join us!**

AH YES,  
REMEMBER THAT THERE IS A REASON  
FOR EVERYTHING & FOR EVERYTHING  
THERE IS A REASON. IF THER ARE  
ERRORS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, THEY  
WERE PUT THERE SO THOSE WHO  
NEED TO FIND MISTAKES WILL HAVE  
SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO FULFILL  
THEMSELVES.

## WOMEN'S CLUB

By Ruth Oppler

Our card party was well attended and enjoyed. Maybe you can join us next year. The drive for contributions to Habitat for Humanity was done on November 15. Thanks to our chairpersons and all who contributed. This is our yearly outreach project.

### Reminders:

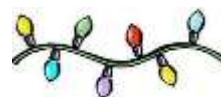
**December 10** -- Welcome Back Luncheon in our clubhouse, box lunch from 3G's at \$16 pp. For choices of lunch, see flyer in back lobby. Suzi Cruz will be here with her boutique/makeup products.

**January 7, 2013** -- Our installation with a guest speaker will be at Mama Mia's Trattoria, located at Lyons and Hypoluxo. \$25 pp., 11:30 a.m.

**February 14** -- Valentine Dinner Dance at Delray Country Club. This is a joint venture of the Women's and Men's Clubs.

We are now collecting dues for 2013 (\$15). Drop your check in our mailbox in back lobby.

We wish happy holidays and a happy, healthy New Year to all.



## MEN'S CLUB

By Joel Cohen

Once again we would like to welcome back the latest group of seasonal residents.

Our next breakfast will be on Sunday, Dec. 9 and we will have **loxx** along with our regular fare.

You **must** sign up on the sheet in the back of the clubhouse and you must also be a **paid up member** for 2012.

The next casino trip will be on Thursday, Dec. 20. We will be going to Gulfstream Racetrack & Casino.

Just another reminder regarding our joint ventures with the Women's Club next year: Thursday night, Feb. 14 for our Valentine's Day party and Sunday morning, May 5 for our Parent's Day brunch.



## Social Club GRANDKIDS' EVENTS

By Joan Sorkin

Once again, the Social Club is sponsoring activities for visiting grandchildren. The schedule is below.

### Thursday, Dec. 27

11:00 a.m. - 12 noon: **Fishing** at the lake near the pool. Fishing equipment supplied - no charge.

1:00 p.m.: **Pizza Party** in the ballroom.  
\$1.50 per slice, \$11.00 whole pie  
Complimentary soda, juice and water

7:00 p.m.: **Bingo** in the ballroom  
No charge - prizes for adults and children.

### Friday, Dec. 28

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.: **Arts and Crafts** in ballroom with Miss Gerry and Miss Estelle.  
Fun for all ages - no charge

2:00 p.m.: **McCarthy Wildlife Show** in the ballroom, featuring Florida panther, Scarlet Macaw, Alligator, Gila Monster and more.  
No charge - fun for everyone..

Followed by **Ice Cream Party** - make your own sundaes - everyone invited.

## SOCIAL CLUB

By Marge Chappell

At our quarterly meeting Nov. 13, we were entertained by the Venetian Isles (V.I.) Choraleers. They sang familiar songs as well as original parodies, and we all enjoyed them.

Be sure to sign up in the back lobby if you will be bringing your grandchildren to any of the Grandkids' Party events, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 27 and 28.

And we are coming up to "last chance" to purchase our 2013 Winter Series. If you enjoyed the 2012 series, this promises to be even better! After that, shows can be purchased on an individual basis. Prices for the individual shows are listed in the box on this page. Hurry and get your money in - any questions, call Arlene Koch (736-4315).

We wish all a wonderful holiday season, and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

## SOCIAL CLUB WINTER SERIES 2013

**Sunday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m.**

### **EARL TURNER**

This young, charming, exuberant, singer/dancer will amaze you with his talents. He will remind you of Sammy Davis yet he still maintains his unique personality.

Price for individual ticket is \$25.

**Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m.**

**KATHLEEN KANE** will entertain us with her many musical styles, including Jazz, Swing, Blues, Country and Top 40.

**KAREN RONTOWSKI** is an upbeat, optimistic comedian who has appeared on many late night shows. She has been on Comedy Central and has been entertaining our troops all over the world.

Price for individual ticket is \$25.

**Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.**

### **JON PETERSON, SONG MAN, DANCE MAN**

Following his success at Broward's Stage Door Theatre, we are thrilled to present Jon Peterson, in his one-man show "Song Man, Dance Man." He will delight you with memories of your favorite musical stars Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Bobby Darin, Donald O'Connor and more.

Price for individual ticket is \$35.

*Series tickets are \$70 per person.*

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## M.I. CANCER RESEARCH

By Marilyn Chermak, Claire Deveney, Renee Stichel



Our annual Coins for the Cure brunch will be held Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. Exquisite Catering by Robert of North Miami will provide a delicious and

varied menu. The Boca West High School Musical Theatre Group will provide entertainment. Price is \$25 per person. Please place your checks and table information in the Pap Corps mail box in back lobby. This is an event not to be missed. Fundraising chairmen Marsha Steiner and Suzanne Skinner are organizing this event and many other programs.

M.I. Pap Corps and Hadassah are offering a seven night Western Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean's Allure of the Seas ship from Sun., Jan. 13 to Sun. to Jan. 20, 2013. As we went to press, lower prices were offered. The ship will depart from Ft. Lauderdale. Informational flyers are in the back lobby and the contact is J.B. Travel at 880-2790.

Watch for details on collecting and donating men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, handbags, accessories and small household items such as small appliances. Items will be dropped off at one location in M.I. during January, February and March. Pap Corps is working with a thrift shop in Lake Worth.

Bring a smile to a child and donate new children's books. Books will be donated to Alex's Place at the Pediatric Cancer Unit, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami Hospital. Drop off new children's books at Renee Stichel's house.

## SINGLES

By Ellin Goldstein



The next few months are really going to be busy for the Singles. We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday.

Dec. 10, is the first show of the Kravis Adults at Leisure Series. Tickets have been purchased and are ready for distribution at the Dec. 7 meeting.

On Dec. 15, we are heading to Harid's for another great holiday ballet program. After the performance, the Marriot is on tap for dinner. This should be another fantastic meal.

On Dec. 22, we are going to the Stagedoor Playhouse for "Showboat." Tickets are \$33 and there are still a few available. If you haven't paid yet, be sure to put your check in the Single's mailbox addressed to Marge or me.

Our overnight trip to the West Coast (of Florida) starts on Dec. 31, with dinner theater to see "Fiddler on the Roof," an old favorite that we will all enjoy. We plan a boat trip for the following day, then shopping (of course) and home. Call Roberta (736-6387) with your questions.

Jan. 11 and Jan. 22 we'll see two more Kravis shows.

Feb. 6, we'll go to the Culinary Institute. Tickets are \$25; please place checks in our mailbox addressed to Marge or me.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or Chanukah, I hope your holiday is a good one, and I also wish you all a Happy New Year and a happy, healthy 2013.



## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

By Elaine Jay

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

Norman and Kathleen Hymowitz  
Edward and Irene Mordis  
Robert and Norma Wolff

## MAJESTIC ISLES TRAVEL CLUB

Doris Davidoff



Our recent excursion to Costume World's Broadway Collection in Pompano Beach was a rousing success. We had our largest group yet with 45 people.

After a short, but fun-filled, bus ride, we were invited into a magical world as the doors were opened to a magnificent view of the world of Broadway. Our guide was the daughter of the owner and her passion and love for the costumes and their history was contagious. We had a wonderful tour that included trivia and back-stories for many of the costumes we saw. That was followed by a beautifully presented tasty lunch. We then sat back to enjoy a wonderful performance by a singer who was able to make each song come alive. The day was topped off with an opportunity to don white gloves to go back and touch and feel the costumes and hats, before we headed back home to Majestic Isles.

Our next trip is a new experiment for our Travel Club. We have combined forces with the Snowbirds to jointly offer a one-night, two-day trip to Naples, departing on January 29, 2013, and returning the next day. The trip includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation between Majestic Isles and Naples, a tour of Naples, lunch, shopping and "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Broadway Palm dinner theater. On Wednesday, we start with breakfast and then enjoy a cruise of Naples Bay and shopping at Miromar, with a discount coupon booklet, before returning home. All taxes and gratuities are included in the price. Flyers with the details are available in the back lobby, and you can book this trip through either club.

The Travel Club is open to all Majestic Isles residents and their friends and relatives, even if they don't live here. There is no membership fee. We meet monthly, usually on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11:00 am in the Clubhouse. Visit our website at [www.majesticisles.com/travelclub.htm](http://www.majesticisles.com/travelclub.htm) to see what trips are available. You can also view pictures from past trips. If you like to travel, talk about travel or just dream about it, come join us at our meetings.

*"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."*

Susan Sontag

## MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER General Meeting, November 11, 2012

By Selma Friedman



Every time I hear Dr. Harvey Vetstein give a lecture, I think it's the best class I ever attended.

Besides being personable, Harvey clearly demonstrates he knows his subject, wishes to impart his knowledge to his "students," and to make sure they enjoy it. He does, and we do.

The subject this evening was, "Who Am I, This Time...Our roles As Actors On and Off the Stage." Harvey talked about who we are off stage, how we interact, how we act on stage in front of an audience. An audience can be a small group of people. Interaction for some people is difficult.

Harvey referred to the term "Dramatis Personae" meaning a false face used to make a point. He said some people with the false face define themselves materialistically, or in their retirement years glorify positions they held in their working years. He illustrated "propaganda usage" which many politicians use, and how non-verbal techniques often impact communication.

In reference to acting on stage, he said the audience can empathize or identify with the characters. For the actor, the audience is there as an escape. The audience is also there as an escape. An actor wishes to entertain his audience and so puts on a mask. In literature, the book offers an escape. To the reader, "Literature is a reflection of life; life is a reflection of literature." We deal with these situations to fantasize.

The final point of the presentation – "I am my true self – until I put on my 'dramatic personae.'"

## MAJESTICS BOWLING LEAGUE Spares and Strikes

Because of Dave Feinberg's illness, there is no report of scores for the Majestics League this month. Dave promises to be back on the job next month.



## HADASSAH

By Ellin Goldstein



Hadassah's next meeting will be on Monday, **Dec. 17**, at 11:30 a.m. The meeting includes a play with audience participation, "Mama's Bank Account" by the Center for Group Counseling.

We'll have holiday desserts.

The Hadassah/Cancer Cruise on the *Allure of the Seas* departs on Sunday, **Jan. 13** and returns a week later, Jan. 20. Everyone is looking forward to this annual event. There are still some rooms available. If you are interested, don't wait. Book now!!

On **Jan. 24**, our Hadassah Card Party will take place at Lakeview Terrace in Boca Raton at 10 a.m. Enjoy a spectacular buffet with fantastic choices. Get your groups and games together and submit with your checks to "Hadassah, attention Joan Shore." The price is \$39 if paid before Dec. 17, and \$40 after that date. Whatever you play, you will be welcomed: Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Dominos or anything else. There will be vendors available. For more information, call Janice Davidson (733-1189) or Marcia Steiner (752-2165).

You are invited to attend a barbecue on Feb. 17 at the home of Lee Katz. Arrive at 4:00 p.m., for wine and hors d'oeuvres followed by a fabulous barbecue dinner.

M.I. Hadassah will honor our 2<sup>nd</sup> Woman of the Year, Lee Katz, on Sunday evening, March 3. We'll have a catered kosher dinner here at the clubhouse. We'll also be preparing a special journal in which people can honor Lee with their good wishes. Watch for a flyer with the details.

Hadassah cookbooks have arrived and are available at \$18. Call Sheila Traum (742-3727) to order copies for yourself and to give as gifts.

The 2013-2014 Hadassah Calendar forms are now available. Personal ad forms give 100% donor, and ads from other sources have 50% donor. Contact me for the forms, (Ellin Goldstein 740-9050) or obtain them at the meetings. If you have not received your 2012 calendar see me.

Rita Marderstein has an ongoing project of making blankets for the VA hospital from knitted squares. Contact her (742-8140) to participate.

## INVESTORS *(Continued from page 13)*

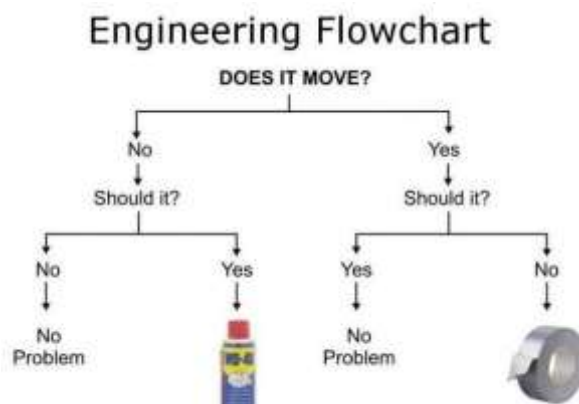
cliff" is fast approaching. (Explanation: Unless Congress takes action, federal income, dividend and capital gains taxes will rise on Jan. 1, 2013. The estate tax, meanwhile, will revert to a higher rate and apply to smaller estates.) Congress will try to find a compromise (that the president may be willing to accept) to minimize or avoid the fiscal cliff.

Yet another contentious struggle has just arisen. A brewing and potential bitter fight over Democratic efforts to curb filibusters is threatening to influence partisan tensions in the Senate even as President Obama and Republicans explore whether they can compromise on top tier issues such as debt reduction and taxes.

This article is short because as we write (Nov. 12, 2012) we are waiting for the "Rock and the Hard Place" Congress to do their thing.

P.S. Read this if you can stand a bit of financial humor after all this: A well-known editor and publisher of The Gloom, Boom and Doom Report, Marc Faber, upon being questioned about his own portfolio, said, in jest, "I'm 25% in gold, 25% in bonds, 25% in equities, 25% in cash and 25% in real estate. I use the same accounting standards as the U.S. Treasury."

Source unknown



## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### December, 2012 – January, 2013

**DECEMBER**

<b>1</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Social Club</b>	<b>Movie Time</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
		<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>M.I.L.T.</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Director</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Director's</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Snowbird's</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Single's Club</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Yiddish Club</b>	<b>Chanukah Dance</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Women's Club</b>	<b>Luncheon</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Investment Group</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Paper Shredding Truck</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Director's</b>	<b>Elections</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>Brunch</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Hadassah</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Book Talks and More</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>Gulfstream Casino</b>	<b>(p, a)</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Theater</b>	<b>(p,a)</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Travel Club</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>27,28</b>	<b>Thurs., Fri.</b>	<b>(see article)</b>	<b>Social Club</b>	<b>Grandkids' Party</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Mon.</b>		<b>Social Club</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Party</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
			<b>Singles</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>(p,a)</b>

**JANUARY**

<b>4</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Social Club</b>	<b>Movietime</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Women's Club</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
		<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>7:30p.m</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Snowbirds</b>	<b>Brunch</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
<b>13-20</b>			<b>Cancer-Hadassah Cruise</b>		<b>(p,a)</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Milt</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Investment Group</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Book Talks</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Social Club</b>	<b>MovieTime</b>	<b>(p, h)</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>M.I. Artiists</b>	<b>Art Show</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Hadassah</b>	<b>Study Group</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Hadassah</b>	<b>Card Party</b>	<b>(p,a)</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Travel Club</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(f, h)</b>
		<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Social Club</b>	<b>Showtime</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Hadassah</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>(p,h)</b>
<b>29-30</b>	<b>Tues., Wed.</b>		<b>Snowbirds, Travel Club</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>(p,a)</b>

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 = away, h = home



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