

# Majestic Isles News

February, 2009

Volume 12

Issue 5

**M.I.N.T.**  
Presents

# JOURNEY THROUGH THE FOUR SEASONS



**Produced by Francine Gitto**

**Musical Director Selma Friedman**

**Sunday March 8 @ 7:30 P.M.**

**Members Free/Non-Members \$2.**

**Coffee and.....**

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

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

**[www.majesticisles.com](http://www.majesticisles.com)**



It's almost that time of year when we get a sudden influx of visitors coming from up north to South Florida to escape the ravages of another winter and to bask in the warm sunshine. Many of our residents look forward to this migration, which gives them a chance to spend some time with their kids, grandkids, and great grandkids and to show off our beautiful community.

Now is probably the right time to bring up a few of the Rules and Regulations of Majestic Isles, given that last year we had more damage to Association property during the school holidays than any other time of year. Pool tables were broken, holes were punched in the club-house walls, table tennis paddles had the rubber coating pulled off, shuffle board cues were damaged, graffiti was drawn on the walls, and soap dispensers were pulled off the walls in the restrooms. There was also a constant smell of cigarette smoke in all four restrooms.

Although most of the repairs were done in-house by either our maintenance man or me, it still costs the Association for time and replacement materials.

Residents are responsible for all actions of their guests. If something is broken or damaged by the guest of a resident, the cost of repairs will be billed back to the homeowner. We urge all homeowners to come to clubhouse with their guests and to make sure that their guests are aware of our rules, with particular attention to the following: Children are not to be left unattended at the clubhouse or pool. No food or drink except water is allowed in the pool area or any other room in the clubhouse aside from the ballroom. We have 2 picnic tables behind the dumpster at the Clubhouse that are only used by the landscapers from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. for their lunch. Why not suggest a picnic for the family and have an early or late lunch there?

Children who are not toilet trained may not use the swimming pool, and no one under 16 is allowed in the hot tub. Young children do not have the ability to know when the 104° water is overheating their body.

The billiard room is not to be used by anyone under 18. Every year this seems to be the room that experiences the most damage, so regular inspections will be made of all rooms during the weeks when visitors come in droves.

By all means, bring the family to the clubhouse and enjoy the amenities of Majestic Isles, but remember that this is a community and residents and their guests should be able to enjoy everything we have to offer. This can only happen if the facilities and equipment are left in good condition.

Ken Miller, Property Manager

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## ***Unofficial Highlights of M.I. Board of Directors Meeting, January 8, 2009***

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

### **President's Report, Joel Rosenthal:**

- Letter to be sent to PBC Road and Bridge about the pedestrian bridge at Woolbright and El Clair.
- Letter from a resident concerning the irrigation on her property. Issue has been corrected.
- Letter from a resident about wind chimes in the back of the homes. ARC Rules only state "front of the house". Board will have to look into it.
- All Meetings are to be posted on Channel 63.
- Letter to be sent to the Dept. of Roads and Bridges putting them on notice re condition of the sidewalk at El Clair and Woolbright. Copy will be sent to Commissioner Aaronson.
- Stan Brizel to update Rental/Resale Applications.

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

Cash balances:

Operating Accounts	\$ 444,183.13
Reserve Accounts	<u>\$ 258,874.67</u>
Total Cash	\$703,057.80

A/O 12/31/08, outstanding balance due vendors for unpaid invoices: \$24,925

Balance of loan payable to Wachovia bank a/o 12/31/08: \$194,261.72

Reserve and Painting & Roof Payments:

Reserve payments for 2008	\$112,181.84
Painting payments for 2008	\$110,830.15

- Letter to attorneys re additional Lien for residence in foreclosure.
- Total due from one unit holder in arrears: \$2,942.00. Unit is now owned by WaMu bank; our attorneys have sent letters requesting payment. Under Florida law, mortgagees are responsible for paying maintenance on property for one year after they take property back.
- After providing for additional expenses not yet paid, 2008 budget ended up with an overage of approximately \$20,000, which will be put into the General Reserves.
- To date, 104 unit owners have signed up for Autopay.
- Audit for calendar year 2008 to begin on or about 1/18/09 and s/ be completed and issued before 4/1/09.

- In 2008, 13 patio homes sold for an average price of \$200,538 and seven single homes sold for an average of \$256,643.

### **ARC Committee, Harvey Galan:**

- Completed preliminary check of the homes to be painted. Hartzell will start next week. Notices will be posted at homes 2 days before the crews get there.
- Still waiting on the permits for the solar panels.

### **Clubhouse Committee, Irene Weinstein:**

- Still waiting to hear back from the interior decorators.
- The pool will be closed for two weeks starting Jan. 24 and will reopen by Feb. 9. We hope to do pool tile regrouting while the pool is closed.

### **Grounds Committee, Mort Goldstein:**

- Zimmerman Tree Service completed trimming all of the canopy and hardwood trees. Eight dead Queen Palms were removed.

### **Old Business:**

- Motion to accept M&P Contract at the reduced negotiated rate for '09; passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept '09 contract by Van's ComforTemp; passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept '09 contract by Palm Beach; passed unanimously.

### **New Business:**

- Motion to accept proposal from Pool Works to regrout pool tiles; passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept settlement offer from Philadelphia Insurance for water leak claim; passed unanimously.
- Motion to sign Resolution re proposed Legislation to Address Mortgagee Liability for Assessments; passed unanimously.
- Presentation to the Board by Joel Rosenthal to consider hiring Becker and Poliakoff as Majestic Isles Legal Rep. Motion to hire passed unanimously.
- Motion to charge residents \$175 to replace mailbox posts as needed; passed unanimously.
- Discussion re issues concerning residents who install solar panels, liability, insurance, and permits. Ken Miller will check into permits for the installations. Question will be brought to the Attorney.
- Ken Miller to send a letter to Solid Waste Authority and Waste Management that all trucks must stop at the Guardhouse and wait until the gate has completely opened.

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**WE CARE**

What should you do if you see someone fall? Or if you are with a friend who suddenly complains of “just a little stabbing pain” in the chest? The answer is

**CALL 911**

Of course you knew that. Everyone does. But recently in our community when a bystander saw that someone appeared to be having a medical problem they called the spouse before calling 911. If you are the bystander next time, *first*

**CALL 911**

If you witness a fall, your first instinct may very well be to help the person who has fallen get back on his or her feet. But that could aggravate or cause new damage. Hold back and

**CALL 911**

**Did You Know?**

That if you pick up the phone in the elevator in our Clubhouse, it will immediately and automatically

**CALL 911**

**About WE CARE**

We Care offers non-emergency help to residents. We have volunteers who can take you to medical appointments; we can lend you medical equipment, pick up a prescription from the drugstore or take you shopping. (We do need someone to head up our shoppers committee. To volunteer, call any of our officers.)

We Care Board and Committees (partial listing):

Co–Presidents: Fred Oestreicher and Sid Bedell

Secretary: Marge Chappell

Treasurer: Renee Stichel

Publicity & Planning: Estelle Snyder and Naomi Marcus

Coordinator: Joan Baron

Drivers Committee: Herb Friedberg and Saralee Weinstein.

N.M.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Joel Rosenthal

Let me first take this opportunity to thank past presidents Bill Broth and Stan Brizel, as well as Steve Bayer, all of whom have just left the Board, for their outstanding service to the community.

Our newly elected Board members, Janice Davidson, Mort Goldstein, and Saul Siegal are not newcomers to Majestic Isles service. I’m sure their financial backgrounds will make them assets to the board.

In an effort to encourage involvement, we will be changing the meeting format to allow residents to speak during the Board meetings on all issues being discussed. Simply raise your hand and you will be called upon to speak.

All committee-meeting schedules will be announced on channel 63 and residents are encouraged to offer their expertise as committee members. There will be more evening meetings as well.

Among the matters our Board will face this year will be the plantings along the Woolbright wall, a new cable contract, the effect of the recession, pool deck work, as well as the improvement and maintenance of our lakes and establishment of a realistic reserve account. Our goal, of course, continues to be to avoid any additional assessments and to reflect the needs of the community. We hope to see you and hear from you at upcoming meetings.



**A MESSAGE FROM BONNIE**

I’ve had a number of complaints that people are removing announcements and cards from the bulletin board in the back lobby.

**Please observe the posted reminder that material should not be removed.**

Thank you,  
Bonnie

## CITIZENS OBSERVER PATROL C.O.P. Unit #74

By Ken Keller, Captain

We mourn the passing of Captain Emeritus Joel Gross. Our condolences to the family.



We had our first meeting of the new year and welcomed back many of our snowbird members.

We have seen some fresh faces at our meetings and have discussed the possibility of these residents joining our C.O.P. unit. We look forward to new members.

With the permission of the Sheriff's department, we will expand our patrol area to include the new shopping mall on Jog and Woolbright. Our residents shop there, so we believe it is beneficial to their safety for our unit to offer safety patrols.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy new year.



## SOLAR PANELS

Solar panels may not be installed without prior approval of the Architectural Review Committee.

Harvey Galan, Chairman



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## GOOD AND WELFARE

### GET WELL

Maddy Rosen

### SYMPATHY

To Artie and Bobbie Blitman on the loss of their daughter.

To Enid Gross on the loss of her husband Joel.

To the family of Jesse Meerbaum.

To Saralee Steinberg on the loss of her husband Abe.

### MESSAGES

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, well wishes, prayers and donations during this very stressful time. Thank you Majestic Isles for being there for us.

The Blitman and Coleman Family

Thanks to all my Majestic Isles neighbors and friends for the calls, cards and donations made on the passing of my beloved sister, Regina Bloom Levine.

Joe Bloom

A heartfelt thank you to all in Majestic Isles for your calls, visits, cards and donations upon Joel's passing. We are truly grateful.

Enid and Ilene Gross

Many, many thanks for all your calls, cards and visits while I was in the hospital. This is a great and caring community.

Ray Kozlin

A special thank you to all my friends and neighbors for your cards and donations given in memory of my beloved mother, Millie.

Paul Mucci

*Please note: We reserve the right to edit for length (30 word maximum) and clarity. Submit articles to Elaine Jay by email at [ElainJay@aol.com](mailto:ElainJay@aol.com) with **Good and Welfare** as the subject.*

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We welcome articles, while reserving the right to reject material that may be inappropriate for any reason whatsoever. The staff also reserves the right to edit for content, length, clarity and accuracy.

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## Highlights of the January 21, 2008 COBWRA Meeting

The January meeting of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations was held at Avalon Estates.

### Officials' Reports

#### Mary Lou Berger speaking on behalf of County Commissioner Burt Aaronson, District 5:

Traffic light Progress:

- Boynton Beach Blvd. and Acme Dairy Road poles are due in a few days. Installation takes six days after receipt of poles.
- Hagen Ranch & Flavor Pict Roads light has been approved by County and will be paid for by owner of shopping center. Progress update next month.
- The blinking traffic light at Hagen Ranch Road and Pipers Glen will become a regular traffic light if and when traffic warrants it. A new traffic study is scheduled to take place in February, 2009.
- It takes approximately a year from the date of approval for the light to its installation.

#### State Representative Maria Sachs, District 86:

Today, the economy is in dire straits. In everyday life, when faced with that situation, ordinary people try do the three "Rs," Reduce spending, Reduce costs and Raise revenue. I see my job as two fold, in the legislature to raise revenue and to my constituents to help them in their attempts to follow the three "Rs" I am available to help you reduce costs in a number of ways like insurance, prescription costs etc. I am available to meet with anyone or group.

#### County Commissioner Shelley Vana, District 3

Her priority as Commissioner is to understand and help work out the new budget. She introduced her assistant, Danna Ackerman White.

#### Captain Martin Bechtel, PBSO Commander, Dist. 6:

Crime stats for the month 12/15/08 to 1/15/09

21 stolen vehicles –3 arrests, 60 vehicle burglaries – 5 arrests, 56 residential burglaries—5 arrests, 12 business and construction site burglaries, 9 robberies in streets or parking lots p –5 arrests.

Tip of the day –When leaving your car, even for a second, take your valuables –shut the motor and, lock your car and remove the key.

A bicycle has the same road rights as a car. I recommend a brochure from the Safety Office of the FL Department of Transportation. Log onto <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/>.

When the page opens type "Road riders are drivers" in the search space. You can download the 2 page brochure in either PDF or text format. The next Safety and Security meeting is on January 28, 2009. The program will feature the Boca Point Country Club Performing Scams Troupe. The Deputy of the Month is **Gordon Starr**. The Deputy of the year is **Norman Timbeki (TJ)**.

**Deputy Karl Martin, FCPP:** The Crime Prevention Unit Community Services Division's function is to help develop Community Safety and to how to protect yourself. When a complaint is received we:

- Review area crime stats
- Meet with the complainant
- Walk around the area
- Security survey: What the residents think needs improvement.
- Develop and implement a plan of action.

### COBWRA Reports

**Barbara Katz, COBWRA President:** The Delray Alliance Vendor Fair will be at the South County Civic Center, south side of Jog Road, South of Atlantic Ave. on Feb. 27, 2009 from 10 A.M to 4 P.M. It is only for board members and property managers.

COBWRA is investigating the statement from some communities that a license is required to show movies in clubhouses. Check your association's lawyer for an opinion. **Chelley Konyk, Rainbow Lakes** is a lawyer and has researched this subject. Her opinion is that showing a movie in your home is OK but showing it in the clubhouse, by Federal Law, requires a license.

**Ken Lassiter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** asked for reports of good experiences with the Sheriff's Dept. and/or EMS. These reports will be put on our website.

**Roberta Levitt Moccia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President reported** on a meeting of the ABC group and Senator Deutch. He advised us of the dire shortage budget funds requiring raiding certain Florida trust funds and major cuts in Education and Medicaid. The COBWRA Board will meet with Senator Deutch on February 23, 2009.

**Ralph Moccia, Chair, Safety & Security Awareness Committee:** To get your free credit reports, log into our website and click the Safety & Security button.

**Frank Cuomo, Chair of Nominating Committee** asked that anyone wanting to run for COBWRA office in the March election to contact him by January 23. The slate will be presented at the February meeting.

### Future Meetings (Open to the public)

**Feb. 3:** 6:30 P.M., **Growth Mgmt** at PBSO Dist 6

**Feb. 18:** 9:30 am, **Delegates mtg** at The Grove, W BB Blvd. opposite Turnpike North entrance. Program: Harvey Oyer, Historian, History of Unincorporated Boynton Beach.

**Feb. 28:** 9:30 am, **Security Awareness** at PBSO Dist 6  
Program: Boca Point CC Performing Scams Troupe.

By **Bob Katz, COBWRA Communications**

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## A BIT OF BOYNTON BEACH HISTORY



*The following article was written for Majestic Isles News by Janet DeVries, Archivist and Historian and staff member of the Boynton Beach City Library.*

Boynton Beach has a history that is short in comparison to other Florida cities, such as St. Augustine, but in the late 1890s, acreage in south Florida could be purchased for practically nothing. Before railroad magnate Henry Morrison Flagler brought his Florida East Coast Railway to this region, our area was pretty much cut off from the world.

This area was a tropical wilderness with alligators, panthers and snakes outnumbering people. The mail was even delivered by a mailman who walked barefoot along the beach from Palm City (Palm Beach) to Lemon City (Miami). The round-trip was 136 miles and took these dedicated men six days.

Back in 1894, Major Nathan Smith Boynton of Port Huron, Michigan ventured down to this remote locale in search of a land investment and finding a piece of paradise. By this time Boynton, born in 1837, had been a grocer, farmer, carpenter, inventor, postmaster, editor and mayor. Boynton rose to the ranks of Major during his service in the Civil War and was also the founder of the Order of the Maccabees.

Major Boynton and Michigan Congressman William S. Linton hired Frederick C. Voss to take them in his

launch, "Victor," south from Lake Worth into the newly opened East Coast Canal. Back then, the canal was a small toll canal. Today that body of water is known as the Intracoastal Waterway. Major Boynton bought land on the east side of the canal for a luxury hotel site. Boynton paid \$25 an acre for the land. Linton bought land a little farther south and west of the canal in what would become Delray Beach, for a town site.

The early residents of Boynton were mostly truck farmers. They grew vegetables all year round and shipped the produce up north via the railroad. Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Woolbright, who arrived in Boynton in November of 1912, lived for their first year in a tent. Woolbright was a farmer and a pineapple grower. Mrs. Woolbright established the first private school, Hillcrest, which they operated for several years. Most of the students were drawn from the old Boynton Beach Hotel. *(The photo above depicts the Woolbright homestead.)*

Prior to the early 1900s, the land around Military Trail was basically a three to five mile wide pine ridge. The land west of Boynton from where I-95 runs today, to Highway 441 (the old Rangeline Road) was undeveloped or used for farmland from 1900 to about 1975. There were dairies, pineapple plantations, ferneries, gladiola farms, citrus groves, orchid growers and vegetable farms.

The history of the road Military Trail goes back to the Second Seminole Indian War, 1835-1842. It took four days for Major William Lauderdale's command to hew a trail from the Indian River to New River, covering 63 miles. The road became the road for all future Indian military operations from Ft. Jupiter to New River and Ft. Dallas (Miami). While at New River, Major Lauderdale built a fort known later as Ft. Lauderdale. Military Trail reminds us of the dramatic history of the Seminole Wars that took place in our own back yards.

Janet DeVries is the author of *Around Boynton Beach*, Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

## MAJESTIC ISLES ART SHOW

By Phyllis Cohen

Once again, the Majestic Isles community shows that its talent just keeps growing. The festive afternoon include delightful refreshments and the opportunity to spend time with the artists and guests.

Here is a list of the artists and their media:

- Sylvia Arbesfeld .....abstract watercolor
- Sue Bieber..... oil water
- Dottie Caroff ..... needlework
- Phyllis Cohen..... oil and acrylic paintings
- Jerry Fefferman.....photography
- Phyllis Fishkin.....sculpture
- Irene Freedman..... watercolor painting
- Marilyn Friedberg..... oil painting
- Claire Friedman..... watercolor painting
- Sandy Gardner..... bunka/craft
- Lucille Garelick..... watercolor painting
- Merle Goldstein..... bunka/craft
- Sylvia Goldstein..... bunka/craft
- Bill Harris..... oil painting
- Gerry Herman..... watercolor painting
- Roberta Jaffie.....oil painting
- Betty Kula..... oil painting
- Rita Marderstein..... bunka/craft
- Marilyn Milano..... oil painting
- Phyllis Moss..... bunka/craft
- Fred Oestreicher..... watercolor painting
- Phyllis Pinsel..... jewelry
- Joyce Rogers..... oil painting
- Toni Ross.....oil painting
- Ruth Rossi..... watercolor painting
- Stan Rothstein..... photography
- Brenda Schreckinger..... acrylic painting and bunka
- Alice Schultz.....needlework
- Donna Shaneson.....decoupage and oil painting
- Estelle Snyder... bunka/craft and watercolor painting
- Irwin Snyder..... sculpture
- Gloria Steingart..... bunka/craft
- Irving Sultan.....oils and sculpture
- Howard Wander.....wood sculpture
- Judy Zied..... decorative pillows

Many thanks to the organizing committee, Marilyn Friedberg, Marilyn Milano, Irene Freedman and Roberta Jaffie. We also thank Bonnie Haberstick, Creative Coordinator; Ken Miller and Brian Barton, Installation; Marty Baron, Mark Jaffie, Bernie Freedman, Stan Snyder; and Herb Friedberg, Bartender.

Refreshments were provided by the Social Club. We all look forward to next year!

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## FLAVORS OF FLORIDA

By Donna Shaneson

The Cuillo Center for the Arts in West Palm Beach will present Valerie Harper as Tallulah Bankhead in "Looped" from Jan. 7 through Feb 15. Tickets are \$45-\$55. Don't go looking for Rhoda from TV; this is a much edgier performance. The Cuillo Center is located at 201 Clematis St. Performances are Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (561) 835-9226 or order online at [www.cuillocenter.com](http://www.cuillocenter.com).

If you attend the Thursday matinee at the Cuillo Center, follow it up with dinner and then enjoy Clematis by Night from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m. in Centennial Square. This **free** weekly event features music, food, and sidewalk shopping.

Also, if you missed "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" last year, you have another chance. There will be a limited run from Feb 19 to April 5 at the Cuillo Center. This charming one-man show evokes many fond memories of the old neighborhoods and the hotels in the Catskills. Ticket information is in the first paragraph of this article. For group sales, call 1-888-264-1788.

Take your out-of town visitors to The Girls, where they can see Florida's exotic birds and pick strawberries to their heart's content. Try a free chocolate dipped strawberry with any purchase. The Girls store and "backyard" are located in the shopping center just south of The Boys on Military Trail.

Another suggestion for your grandchildren or out-of-town visitors is the Palm Beach Bicycle Trail Shop located at 233 Sunrise Ave in Palm Beach (561-659-4583). Bikes can be rented by the hour and you can cycle along the beautiful intracoastal's trails in Palm Beach. This bike trail is 4 miles of lush foliage and beautiful estates, yachts and homes. It's a great way to spend an afternoon.

"Natural Affinities," a special exhibition of works by Georgia O'Keefe and Ansel Adams, will run from Jan. 24 through May 3 at the Norton Museum of Art. The show includes 40 O'Keefe paintings and 54 Adam's photographs and explores how both artists focused their attention on beauty in nature. The museum is at 1451 S. Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach (561-832-5196).

The new Hagan Ranch Library will offer a book talk, led by Roberta Proctor, on "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen on Feb 4 from 2- 3:30 p.m. The library is located at 14350 Hagan Ranch Road (561-894-7500). Check out the list of all adult programs. This is a beautiful well-stocked library. (*For a listing of programs offered at the Boynton Beach City Library, see p. 19.*)

Check out the Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 South Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach for guided tours of shark feedings. The fee is \$4.00. (561-274-7262).

Lynn University offers wonderful concerts at Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For tickets call 561-237-9000 or go online at [www.lynn.edu/tickets](http://www.lynn.edu/tickets). On Feb. 5. the program will be "An Evening with Double Bass" with Timothy Cobb. The Feb. 12 program will be George Millen in Concert and on Feb. 14 there will be a piano recital with guest artist Robert McDonald. Feb 19 will feature Elmar Oliveira and Friends. All of the concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. Check it out! Palm Beach Cultural Council sponsors these events.

The Society for Four Arts offers lectures, films, library, museum, and garden. There are chamber music concerts on Sun for \$10. Order online at [www.fourart.org](http://www.fourart.org) or call 561-655-7227.

My husband and I attended a fabulous performance of the Boynton Symphony Orchestra at the Boynton Beach Community High School. Majestic Isles resident Jack Lust is a violinist with the orchestra. On Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm. the orchestra will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth with a concert featuring works by Aaron Copeland and Anton Dvorak. Treat yourself to a fantastic evening. For tickets call 561-304-3937 or go online at [www.BRSO.net](http://www.BRSO.net). You will enjoy the wonderful acoustics, comfortable seats and fine music. Support our local art venues.

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## *Gardening in the Isles*

By

*Stan Davidson*

Did you know that flowers are the “universal language of love”? Ever since Cupid shot his first arrow into a love-shy maiden, both men and women have given flowers to their loved ones on St. Valentine’s Day.

Flowers come in many colors, shapes and fragrances. When purchasing flowers you should keep in mind the favorite color or the fragrance of the recipient. An arrangement of flowers that coincides with a hobby and the fragrances of the recipient is the best choice.

Flowers are very expressive objects and they are able to reflect different personality traits. For a person who is the outdoors type, you may want to send flowers with wood accents. For the romantic folks, soft color floral arrangements would be the best. For the trendy type, an arrangement with large and vibrant colored flowers is the best choice.

When sending flowers to a man you need to think differently, as their choices might be quite different from those of a woman. The flowers for men should compliment the personality and preferences of the man. Men are likely to be most receptive to and fascinated by vivid colors such as yellow and orange.

In a poll that asked women “What Valentine’s Day flowers do you really want,” the clear choice was still the classic rose. But women wanted roses in colors other than the traditional red, such as peach, yellow and lavender. A little research on this subject revealed that the red rose conveys the message “I love you,” the white rose, “I am the one for you,” and the pink rose, “Thank you.” The yellow rose says, “I

care about you,” while the yellow rose with a red tip conveys “I am falling in love with you.” Orange coral roses say, “I want you in my life,” the red-white combination states, “We are a great match,” and the peach rose declares, “Let’s make this a memorable Valentine’s Day.”

Lilies came second in the above poll. They have a wonderful fragrance, come in a variety of reds and they are beautiful when they are in bloom day after day. They are a slow blooming flower so that means they last that much longer. There are a number of varieties of lilies to choose from. I would recommend fragrantly sweet Stargazers, or the Asiatic varieties, which have a touch of elegance.

Here are some tips on taking care of gift roses. Remove the roses from the packaging immediately and place in tepid water. Remove the leaves that will fall below the water line when placed in a vase. To extend the life of roses, use a sharp knife or shears to cut about one inch at a forty-five degree angle from the bottom of the stem while immersed in running water. Keep the vase in a cool place. You may want to add a pinch of sugar. Most important from my personal experience is changing the tepid water daily. If you do this daily ritual of replacing the water, you may get up to two more weeks of continuous blooms.

On St. Valentine’s Day you may want to consider flowers, since they are the best medium to say “I love you.” “Love is like a rose; when pressed between two lifetimes, it will last forever.”

***Happy Gardening!!***

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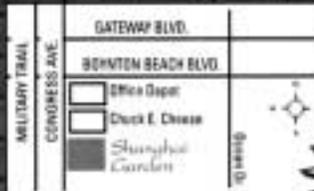
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## TRIVIA TIME

By Naomi Marcus

Test your knowledge of Florida history as you celebrate Presidents' Day! Listed below are names of 10 U.S. Presidents and 10 highlights of Florida history. Can you match the President with the event that occurred during his tenure?

*(Answers at end of article.)*

### The Presidents are:

Grover Cleveland	Lyndon B. Johnson
William J. Clinton	John F. Kennedy
Calvin Coolidge	Abraham Lincoln
Herbert Hoover	Richard Nixon
Andrew Jackson	Theodore Roosevelt

### 1. U.S. GENERAL INVADES FLORIDA

During the Seminole Wars this future President exceeded his orders to put down an Indian rebellion in Georgia and invaded northern Florida, a Spanish possession at the time. After it was ceded to the United States, he served as Florida's Military Governor. His inauguration party at the White House (1829) turned into a brawl. "Old Hickory" also precipitated a major banking crisis. What was his name?

### 2. FLORIDA SECEDES FROM UNION

Florida was ceded to the U.S. by Spain in 1819 and on March 3, 1845 was admitted to the Union as a slave state. It seceded in 1861 to become part of the Confederacy. The President then in office served during a bloody war, but succeeded in preserving the Union. Who was he?

### 3. RAILROAD EXTENDED TO MIAMI

In 1896 Henry Flagler's Florida's East Coast Railway Company reached Biscayne Bay at the site of today's city of Miami. By 1912 railroads extended to Key West and south Florida and the Keys were ready for major development. (In 1896 the man who was President had the same name as a city in Ohio.)

### 4. DRAIN THE EVERGLADES!

Although most explorers of the Everglades pronounced it a noxious swamp, a land of mosquitoes and reptiles, some saw it as a land of great potential. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, Governor of Florida, made it his mission to drain it and began dredging and creating canals in 1906. The man in the White House, known as a sportsman and nature lover, came to visit the 'Glades and thought that draining them was a great idea. Who was he?

### 5. FLORIDA'S FIRST LAND BOOM

After the First World War a massive publicity campaign lured speculators and suckers into buying, selling and reselling Florida acreage, much of which was under water. The price of land soared, new cities were developed and fortunes were made and lost before the bubble burst in 1925. Florida was tumultuous, but the U.S. President was a man known for his silence. Can you name him?

### 6. DAM BREAKS, 'GLADES FLOODED

In October 1928 a powerful hurricane accompanied by torrential rains caused Lake Okeechobee to breach the earthen dike on its southern rim, resulting in massive flooding and the loss of more than 2,500 lives. The next President, an engineer, approved funds for a new dike and it is named for him. Who was he?

### 7. SPACE AGE LAUNCHED AT CANAVERAL

This President promised that America would go to the moon. A major step was taken when a rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral on May 5, 1961, carrying Alan Shepard into America's first manned suborbital flight. (It lasted 15 minutes.) Florida's space center is now named for this President. Name him.

### 8. LAND AMASSED FOR NEW THEME PARK

Although the park wouldn't open until seven years later, it was 1964 when the Walt Disney Corporation began to purchase small and large lots of farmland, cattle pasture and marshes on which to build Disney World. The President who held office in 1964 is best remembered for Civil Right legislation and a war, not fun and games. What was his name?

### 9. GO, DOLPHINS!

On January 14, 1973 the Miami Dolphins beat the Washington Redskins 14-7 to win Superbowl VII, completing a history-making undefeated season! The man in the White House in 1973 made history when he resigned before completing his second term. Who was he?

### 10. SAVE OUR EVERGLADES!

On December 11, 2000 the President signed the Everglades Restoration Act, a \$7.8 billion 30-year project. Its purpose is to save and restore the remaining half of the swamps, prairies, hammocks and reefs that comprise the Everglades ecosystem. This President is still a powerful political figure. Who is he?

*Answers: 1 Jackson; 2 Lincoln; 3 Cleveland; 4 Theodore Roosevelt; 5 Coolidge; 6 Hoover; 7 Kennedy; 8 L.B. Johnson; 9 Nixon; 10 Clinton.*

## VALENTINE MUSINGS

By Phyllis M. Cohen

So Valentine's Day is coming, in the midst of bleak winter days, after the euphoria and excesses of Christmas, and before spring brings the lengthening of days and the present-giving occasions of Easter and Mother's Day, to revive the coffers of business and industry. Fortunately, it is late enough so that by now you have managed to pay the bills you incurred for the winter holidays and it is early enough for you to rectify the errors you might have made in your Christmas gift choices.

If you were the guy unlucky enough to have given your wife a crock pot for Christmas or the gal who gave her significant other a Leatherman tool which he still hasn't figured out how to open, you can make up for those faux pas.

Traditionally, Valentine's Day was a holiday for lovers or would be lovers. It meant an exchange of "billet-doux" or love notes. The Victorians gussied everything up with elaborate lacy cards and poems. But it took the power of advertising and American ingenuity to create a Valentine monster that made it a holiday akin to Christmas and Halloween. Valentine cards are directed at everyone in your life from your goldfish to your grandmother. I've always been bemused about whether or not to send a Valentine card to a sister or son, neighbor or friend. And if I don't send them cards, does it prove that I don't love them enough?

It goes without saying that spouses and significant others expect Valentines, as does every child in your youngster's class, dating couples and grandchildren. Nor is it enough to send a mere token of your affection. Years ago, my most unromantic hubby delighted me by decorating our house with a dozen big hearts. When he tried it again the next year, the gift fell flat. The poet Dorothy Parker cynically noted that she had been the recipient of a similar romantic gesture when she received a single perfect rose as a gift:

Deep-hearted, pure with scented dew still wet  
One perfect rose....  
Why is it no ever has sent me yet  
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?

The Lexus Company apparently agreed with her this holiday season as they encouraged a new Lexus as

the perfect gift. Fortunately, the traditional Valentine gifts of chocolates and flowers still seem to be the most popular, though jewelry, perfumes and expensive clothing items are not far behind in popularity. That pretty much takes care of the ladies and I guess that leaves whiskey, wine and beer for the guys. I'm not sure that a six-pack sends the right message, but hey, it takes all kinds.

Even if you decide to send just a card, be prepared to spend a lot of time and money selecting from the different variety available. It's not just a matter of choosing the right sentiment, (*Honey, you bought me a ginzu knife, you bought me a pot, you bought me new tires. Gee, thanks a lot! Or, Our love is so wonderful, you make the bells chime. Our love is blissful, romantic, sublime! Yuck!*) You also have to choose from cards that play music and allow you to record your own message. Hmm.... That sounds like such a good idea that here are a few suggestions:

### *To the SEC*

Alas, poor Madoff, I knew him well  
Before my Palm Beach mansion I had to sell  
So this valentine ditty is not really funny;  
Tell us, SEC, who's watching the money?

### *To Congress*

Mirror, mirror on the wall,  
Which senator will rise and who will fall?  
Burris, Franken, but no Kennedy.  
What a circus the senate will be!

### *To Oprah Winfrey*

Can't send you candy, or chocolate cake  
No chips or nibbles, not even steak  
But you deserve a medal, you're a heroine to me.  
You admitted your weight on national TV!

But how can you be so cynical about anything that promotes love and happiness in this world? So, I'll bite the bullet and pick up some cards for the grandkids and whip up something special for dinner for the man in my life. And for my readers, I'll promise not to write any more bad rhymes!



## INVESTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP

By Al Silverman Facilitator

Although it is calm and peaceful inside the protective cocoon called Majestic Isles, beyond our protective walls, economic mayhem is raging at home and worldwide. Some of our residents may be very fortunate to be satisfied with their current cash flow while others may be searching for ways to recover their principal, boost their cash flow to a more manageable level and/or prevent further losses.

Well, whom do you turn to for advice? Those advisors who did not see it coming and got hit themselves? Those who say the market is near the bottom and will probably turn up in six months or one to two years---or when the housing market begins to recover---or when credit loosens up and the banks start lending to small business and car buyers --or when President Obama's program goes into effect and two to three or four million jobs are provided within two to three or four years? (Please fill in the time frame that you believe is plausible)

The truth is that there is no easy answer. It's all of the above---or some of the above. All we can do is:

-Hope and pray that the new administration will be successful in turning the economy around

-Stay diversified with quality investments that have positive cash flows and projected earnings that exceed current dividends. This is a pie in the sky statement often made by analysts since earnings may fall and dividends may be reduced or eliminated to conserve cash.

-Talk about the search for income in diverse areas. That's what we did in our meeting on Monday, Jan.12, 2009. We discussed a variety of typical income securities where these approximate higher yields may be available by climbing the ladder of risk; such as C.D.'s with 2% to 4%---Accidental high yields with 6% to 10%--- Some Preferred Stocks with 8% to 12%---Master Limited Partnerships with 9% to 12%---a few others with 12% to 16%.

As you well know, the market is very volatile. If you are interested in any of the above, do your own research with regard to suitability, risk, etc. and consult with your advisor.

## BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY

Do you know about the newly expanded Boynton Beach City Library at 208 S. Seacrest Boulevard? All Palm Beach County residents are welcome to use the library and to participate in its programs at no charge.

Listed below are some of the events scheduled for February and early March. For more information email [www.boyntonlibrary.org](http://www.boyntonlibrary.org) or call the library at 742-6390.

**Brown Bag Series.** Mondays, noon to 1 p.m.

Bring your lunch and enjoy complimentary coffee or tea. February 2. Last Works of Famous Composers  
February 8. Classical Guitar Music  
February 16. *Library will be closed for President's Day*

February 23 Florida's Amendment One and its affect on your property

March 2. FPL's Clean Energy Story

**Great Decisions.** Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Books with discussion material are available for sale at Reference Desk.

February 5. U.S. and Rising Powers

February 12. Afghanistan and Pakistan

February 19. Energy and the Global Economy

February 26. The Arctic Age

**Featuring Florida: A Film Series.** Third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. through May 13.

February 18. *Sunshine State*. (Explores lives of people in a fictional Florida town, including their interpersonal relationships and the possibility of development that supposedly promises big bucks. Length: 141 minutes)

**Great Books.** First and third Friday of each month. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

February 6. *Bhagavad-Gita*. Selections.

February 20. *Troth* by Gregor von Rezzori

March 6. *The Bacchae* by Euripides

Library hours:

Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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## INTRODUCING...

### Lenore Gerber

By Claire Deveney



Gracious, warm, bright and involved are words that begin to describe Lenore Gerber.

Lenore was born in the Bronx, New York, and at age 14 her family moved to Brooklyn. Her older sister, Norma, who lives in Morristown, NJ is a snowbird with a home in Boca Raton.

Lenore, a graduate of James Madison High School, attended Brooklyn College and then transferred to a secretarial program at Interborough Institute Business School. She fondly recalls her first full-time job working as a secretary for a group of lawyers on Wall Street, where she got to witness several ticker tape parades. She expressed the excitement she felt at attending one particular parade for General Wainwright, a World War II hero who served on Corregidor in the Philippines. Later, she worked for a blouse manufacturing company in Manhattan.

She met her husband, Milton, while attending Milton's brother's wedding at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York. As she stepped out of the elevator to visit the bride before the ceremony, her future husband stepped out and then back into the elevator and walked out of the elevator with her. She was introduced to him and they were seated at the same table at the wedding. "He asked me out for the following Saturday and we became engaged in 4 months, and married 7 ½ months later."

Milton served with the U.S. Army in England for 18 months during WW II. Lenore and Milton lived in Linden, NJ for 7 years and moved to Livingston, NJ where they made their home for 30. Milton was a showroom manager of an electrical fixtures and supply company.

The Gerbers moved into M.I. in Oct. 1996, and very sadly Milton died two months later. "We were married for 48 wonderful, happy years. He was the sweetest man alive!" Lenore says. "Forty-eight years was not enough." Milton was a loving grandfather whose grandchildren enjoyed his many stories.

When she and Milton moved to M.I. they had a network of friends living in M.I. and in neighboring

communities who are from Linden, NJ and they continue to be good friends.

The Gerber's son, Roy lives with his wife, Eileen, in Yorba Linda, Calif. They have three daughters, Allison, age 27. and twins, Nicole and Kimberley, age 24. The twin girls appeared in the TV show "Dynasty" as the baby from the age of 5 months to 2 years old. The show's director wanted to use twins, so one would always be available. Allison and her husband, Adam, are expecting their first child – Lenore's first great grandchild - in May. Her daughter, Bonnie, and her husband, Michael, live in Succasunna, N.J., and also have twins, Eric and Kevin, who will be 21 this month. Lenore describes her grandchildren as "loving and delicious." On her wall, she has a framed needlepoint with her grandchildren's names and the saying, "Grandchildren are a bridge to heaven."

One of Lenore's goals is, "To be healthy and to be able to go and do things." She and her husband traveled a lot and she enjoys cruises. She has taken cruises to Hawaii and throughout the Caribbean on different ships and to different islands.

Lenore has many interests. She enjoys her beautiful and colorful collection of crystal, glass and ceramic butterflies that she displays. She says she "has no room for anymore." An accomplished Mahjong player she enjoys games weekly at M.I. where her group rotates playing cards at each other's homes.

A life member, board member and Pap Angels project chairman of the M.I. Cancer Unit of Pap Corps. Lenore is also a member of the Women's Club, M.I.L.T. and the Social Club.

Lenore has a great and positive attitude about everything and everyone. She says, "Plan for the future and hope everything goes well." She has already booked travel arrangements to visit her children and grandchildren for Passover in New Jersey, as well as trips to California this June and for Thanksgiving.

A woman of many talents, Lenore is a delight to talk with and a friend to many. She enjoys life everyday.

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## MORE THAN JUST THE BIG BAND ERA

By Josh Katz



### THE ANDREWS SISTERS,

Patty, the youngest and the lead singer of the group, was only seven when the group was formed, and just twelve when they won first prize at a talent contest at the local Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis, where

LaVerne played piano accompaniment for the silent film showings.

The Andrews Sisters started their career as imitators of the Boswell Sisters. They first came to national attention with their recordings and radio broadcasts in 1937, most notably via their major Decca record hit, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schön." It sold a million copies, making them the first female vocal group to achieve a Gold Record award. They followed this success with a string of best-selling records over the next two years and they became a household name by 1940. The Andrews Sisters became the best-selling female vocal group in the history of popular music, setting records that remain unsurpassed to this day.

During World War II, they entertained the Allied forces extensively. They also helped **Bette Davis** and **John Garfield** found California's famous Hollywood Canteen, where the trio often performed, volunteering their personal time to sing for and dance with soldiers, sailors and marines. Perhaps only **Bob Hope** and his troupe did more to entertain the troops.

Maxene, Patty, and LaVerne appeared in 15 Hollywood films. "Buck Privates," with **Abbott and Costello**, featured the song, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Universal hired the sisters for two more Abbott and Costello comedies, and then promoted them to full-fledged stardom in B musicals.

The sisters broke up in 1953, the main catalyst being Patty's decision to go solo, with her husband acting as her agent. When Maxene and LaVerne learned of Patty's decision from newspaper gossip columns rather than their own sister, it caused a bitter two-year separation, especially when Patty decided to worsen matters by suing LaVerne for a larger share of their parents' estate. Maxene and LaVerne tried to continue the act as a duo and met with good press during a tour in Australia, but a reported suicide

attempt by Maxene in December, 1954 put a halt to any further tours (Maxene spent a short time hospitalized after swallowing 18 sleeping pills, which LaVerne told reporters was an accident).

When all was forgiven and the trio reunited in 1956, they signed a new recording contract with Capitol Records. They toured extensively during the 1960s, favoring top nightclubs in Las Vegas, Nevada, California and London, England.

The act came to an abrupt end in 1967 when eldest sister LaVerne died of cancer. LaVerne had founded the original group, and often acted as the peacemaker among the three when they often fought. Once she was gone, Maxene saw no need to continue as a duo (she taught acting, drama, and speech at a Lake Tahoe college and worked with troubled teens), and Patty was once again eager to be a soloist.

Patty distanced herself from Maxene, who appealed to Patty for a reunion. Maxene suffered a heart attack while performing in 1982 and underwent quadruple bypass surgery, from which she successfully recovered. She had a successful comeback as a cabaret soloist in 1979 and toured worldwide for the next 15 years, recording a solo album in 1985 entitled "Maxene: An Andrews Sister." The two sisters did reunite when they received a star on Hollywood's famous Walk of Fame. Other than this encounter, they remained estranged for a total of 20 years.

In 1995 Maxene suffered another heart attack and died. Patty did not attend her sister's memorial services in New York, nor in California.

At age 89, Patty Andrews remains a recluse in Northridge, California, together with Wally, her husband of over 55 years. In interviews, when granted, she rarely speaks personally of her sisters. When asked about their legendary feuding, she jokes about it and quickly moves onto the next topic.



Patti



LaVerne



Maxene

(This article by special request)

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## TWO SKINNY PRESIDENTS

By Thelma Mechanic

Abraham Lincoln, a skinny 6'4" and Barack Obama, a lean 6'2" have more in common than their stature. Lincoln, in his time had a broad and difficult agenda for the country. Obama starts his presidency with monumental domestic and international problems on his plate.

Barack Obama, the 44<sup>th</sup> president is a great admirer of Abe Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> president, who is considered to be the best and most quoted former president.

It is astounding what Lincoln achieved, considering the many obstacles he had to overcome. Born 200 years ago, his parents were uneducated frontier people. Abe was needed to assist with chores and was eight years old before he learned to write. His love of learning is legendary and he was largely self-taught. His formal education added up to about one year! He never attended college, but read whenever he had an opportunity. He had a keen mind and retained what he read. Historians claim that he kept only three books on his White House desk; the U.S. Constitution, the King James Version of the Bible, and a collection of Shakespeare tragedies.



Barack Obama, born in Hawaii, had a white mother from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, whom he barely knew. Both parents, however, valued education but had little funds. They divorced when Obama was two. His mother later married an Indonesian and moved to Indonesia with Obama. He attended a Muslim school for a year, but then returned to Hawaii to live with his grandparents. In Hawaii he was schooled at the elite Punahou academy on a scholarship. The rest is legendary – becoming a community organizer, going on to Columbia University in New York City, and later Harvard Law School. He was a brilliant scholar and often quoted Lincoln, particularly Lincoln's "a house divided" speech.

In his day, Lincoln's hero was Henry Clay, also known as "the Great Compromiser." (Clay is considered today as one of the greatest senators in U.S. history)

Lincoln announced his candidacy in 1858 at the State House in Springfield, Illinois. It is no coincidence that Obama, a 45-year-old junior Senator from

Illinois, announced his candidacy for President in 2008 from the same site – the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois.

Lincoln was an eloquent speaker. His Gettysburg Address, in simple and beautiful language, told why the U.S. needed to be kept as one nation. He achieved a miraculous feat by holding a nation together and giving freedom to thousands of slaves. Nationwide, schools, streets and towns are named for him. His face is on the penny and the five dollar bill. He is memorialized at Mount Rushmore and in Washington, D.C with the Lincoln Memorial.

When Barack Obama announced his candidacy, he was aware of his relative lack of experience in the Illinois Legislature, and as a first term Senator. But he knew how to connect deeply with people. "I've been here long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change" – and he inspired Americans in what he called "the Audacity of Hope." Like Lincoln he strives to build consensus among different views. As he takes office he faces a multitude of domestic and international problems. With his charismatic personality and his keen intellectual ability, let us hope his mantra will be fulfilled – "Yes we can, yes we can!"

## MAJESTIC ISLES YIDDISH CLUB The Joys of Yiddish

By Jerry Raske

At the January 4 Yiddish Club meeting, we welcomed new members Sid and Carol Berger, Herb and Marge Rosin and Linda Kessler.

Leon Leidner cautioned about the efforts of extremists who are organized and are actively spreading anti-Semitic and anti-Israel feelings.

Thanks to Mort Goldstein for acquiring the film "Watermarks" for our enjoyment. The film was quite moving. We also owe a note of appreciation to those members who work so hard to make each meeting a success, and a retroactive thanks to Herb "Teveye" Levin, whom we failed to recognize as part of our November entertainment..

There will be no meeting in February. Come join us for our next meeting on **March 1** for camaraderie, great entertainment and delicious refreshments. And remember, **you don't have to speak or understand Yiddish** to enjoy our great evenings.

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## WOMEN'S CLUB

By Sandy Gardner and Myrna Levine

On Jan. 12, we held our installation of officers in the ballroom of the clubhouse. We want to thank Bonnie for doing the honors of installing our new board members. Our entertainment program was very well received by the attendees who learned to be wary of all the potential scammers that are lurking out there, trying to separate us from our money. A PBC sheriff took questions from the audience and answered them all to our satisfaction. Everyone present received magazine handouts entitled, "Safe and Secure", which outlined much of what was discussed at the presentation

On Saturday evening, Feb. 14, Valentines Day, a party with the joint participation of the Men's Club and Women's Club, will be held in the clubhouse. Entertainment and dancing followed by sandwiches will make for an enjoyable evening. The cost will be \$14 per person and food choices should be noted on your check made out to the Men's Club. There are flyers in back lobby of clubhouse for more information.

On March 9, our Appreciation Luncheon will be held at Boca Greens Country Club with entertainment. The cost will be \$20 per person. Please check flyers in back lobby for more information

On March 23 we will be holding our Annual Canasta Tournament at the clubhouse. The cost will be \$7 per person and partners should put their checks in the same envelope before dropping them in the Women's Club mailbox.

We feel that it is imperative to restate the following message about why we cannot make any exceptions to cut-off dates for payment for each function. This is done so the chairpersons and their committees will not be harassed in planning seating arrangements and will have sufficient refreshments available. Please do your part and realize the importance of helping your volunteers who work SO hard to have all the functions run smoothly and successfully.



## TAX CORNER

By Mel Burstein



return.

April 15, 2009, time to file your 2008 Federal Income Tax Return, is not far off. This article will be devoted to discussing some of the changes in the tax law that may affect your 2008 tax

There are several line changes on the 2008 Federal Income Tax Return form 1040. Line 56, "Residential energy credit" has been removed. Both "Real Estate Taxes" and "Disaster Losses" are to be recorded on the new line 39c, and "Recovery rebate credit" goes on the new line 70. **Line 70 is only for taxpayers who deserve more than they received because of a new baby, a drop in income or a person who is no longer a dependent.** You must complete a 29-line worksheet to figure the amount of that credit.

Who must file a 2008 tax return? If you are single, under the age of 65 and had gross income of \$8,950 or over 65 and had gross income of \$10,300 you are required to file a return. You are also required to file if you are married, filing jointly, both spouses are under 65 and had gross income of \$17,900. Add an additional \$1,050 (a total of \$18,950) if either spouse is over 65 and add an additional \$2,100 (a total of \$20,000) if both spouses are over 65.

The personal exemption for 2008 is \$3500.00 and the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly is \$10,900 and \$5,450 for those filing separately. Unmarried taxpayers over 65 and/or blind can take an additional deduction of \$1,350 each. Those who are married, over 65 and/or blind can take \$1,050 each.

If you are in the **10% or 15% tax brackets**, gains on assets held for more than one year (long term gains) and qualified dividends **will not be taxed.**

The deduction for qualifying mortgage insurance premiums has been extended through 2010. A surviving spouse can qualify for the exclusion of \$500,000 if the sale of the principal residence occurs not later than two years after the spouse's death, provided the requirements for the \$500,000 exclusion were met immediately before the spouse's death and the survivor spouse has not remarried as of the date of the sale. *(continued on p. 31)*

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## MAJESTIC ISLES HADASSAH

By Bobbe Greene

Thanks to Roberta Rabinowitz and Doris Robin, the luncheon/card party at Broken Sound Country Club was a fun filled, successful day. These two ladies deserve a round of applause for their hard work and their dedication.

**Remember, Sunday February 8th** from 10 am to noon, the Chico's store on Atlantic Ave. in Delray, will be open exclusively for our members. Coffee and bagels will be served, all coupons will be honored and Hadassah will receive a percentage of the sales.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday **Feb. 23**. Barbara Grau, past executive director of a Holocaust Center and Museum in New York State and an educator will be the speaker. Having had the pleasure of hearing her speak, I can assure you that this dynamic woman will hold your interest.

Wednesday March **11**, we'll hold our Life Member Dessert Gala. Watch channel 63 for further details.

A tour of the Holocaust Memorial and several synagogues in the Miami area is scheduled for Thursday **Mar. 19**. Bus fare, admissions and guide will cost \$40 per person. Call Judy Radin (736-9990) or Donna Shaneson (752-5516) for more details.

Reservations and \$100 deposits are being accepted for a cruise on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas. **Date:** November 29 to December 6, 2009. **Ports of call:** Costa Maya, Belize City and Cozumel. **Rates:** from \$720.84 to \$959.84 **Call:** Roberta (736-6387) for further information.



### All Majestic Isles Residents

Hadassah invites all Majestic Isles residents to hear Andrew Rosenkrantz, regional director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, speak about anti-Semitism in Palm Beach County. Mr. Rosenkrantz will speak in the clubhouse on Monday, February 16 at 3 p.m.

## "THE" SINGLES

By Myrna Levine

Thirty of our members celebrated New Year's Eve with Randy Del Lago at the Delray Beach Playhouse. Ah, what "Musical Memories!" he evoked! Brought us back in time. Randy followed the evening with an abundant and sumptuous champagne cocktail buffet. However, preceding the evening's entertainment everyone dined sublime! Oh, if we only knew what was planned.....well, you get the picture!!! There was some more bally-hoo as we watched the ball drop at friends' homes.

On January 9 we said a big thank you to Marge for a job well done! The balance of the meeting was appointing new officers, as follows:

**Co-presidents:** Roberta Rabinowitz, Naomi Kalter

**Vice-president:** Barbara Roland

**Recording Secretary:** Norma Linden

**Treasurer:** Mimi Hauser

**Corresponding Secretary:** Florence Cohen

**Calendar:** Jeanne Abramowitz;

**Coalition Reps:** Marge Chappell, Barbara Roland

**Newsletter:** Thelma Mechanic

**Members-at-large:** Marcia Brandfon, Helen Benowich, Roz Wolf

### FEBRUARY

6 – "Forever Liza" 8 p.m. at Olympic Heights High School. Tickets \$16

12 – Valencia Isles - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valentines Day Party. \$15 pp. includes beverages, snacks, dessert and special entertainment.

22 –Ponte Vecchio West- Original Florida Follies presents "That's Entertainment"–Tickets \$28

### MARCH

2 – Palm Shores – 12:30 p.m. SteinMart presents "Coordinate your Wardrobe." Contact Anita Sokoloff (364-8360).

11 – Aberdeen – Fairchild Gardens & Miami Tour. \$61 pp., including bus.

14 – Venetian Isles "Les Miserables" at Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables. \$59 for show and bus. Lunch on your own...

29 – "Cagney" Florida Stage at Manalapan.

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## M.I. CANCER RESEARCH UNIT

By Bobbe Greene

What a wonderful Brunch we enjoyed on December 21! Chairperson Laura Buchwalter, and her co-chairs, Rita Goldman and Selma Friedman, outdid themselves. After a sumptuous spread catered by the Famous Market was served, we were treated to the talents of Florine, a VERY accomplished pia-nist. Thank you ladies!

Join us on **February 13** for the annual "Coins for the Cure" luncheon. Because it was so well received last year we are returning to Bene-venuto's. In addition to a fabulous lunch, there will be many door prizes and raffles. Entertainment will be supplied by the very talented duo, Jose and Patti. Put your checks for \$40 in our mailbox with your request for seating. There will be tables of eight, 10, and 12. For further information call Marion Brandwein (738-5899), Barbara Lader (734-0277) or Simmy Rabinowitz (733-2766).

The Membership Appreciation Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday, **March 26**. Look forward to entertainment by the wonderful Boynton Beach High School choir. Channel 63 will have further details.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Ninth annual Walk-A-thon and Health Fair will be held on **Saturday, March 28th** on the FAU campus in Boca Raton.

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### TAX CORNER *(continued from p. 27)*

The new law gives non-itemizers a limited deduction for state and local real property taxes by increasing the amount of their standard deduction. The deduction is the lesser of the real estate taxes paid during the year or \$500 (\$1000 for a married couple filing jointly). At the present time the deduction is available until December 31, 2009. If you are claiming this deduction in lieu of itemizing you must check box 39c on the 1040.

## SOCIAL CLUB

By F. Cohen, R. Dick and S. Fefferman

The Social Club ushered in 2009 with their annual New Year's Eve bash. One hundred fifty-seven people attended the party to eat, drink, dance and be festive. Unfortunately, the music did not meet our expectations, but we intend to change the format for next year's party by using a DJ and dancers. Special thanks go to Karen Cohen, Helen Mai and their committee for the efforts they put forth. Our ballroom was beautifully decorated under the supervision of Rita Dick.

On a positive note, the grandkids' party and activities were huge winners. We offer our thanks to Roberta Jaffie and Estelle Snyder for arts and crafts, to Marvin Sorkin for fishing, to Claire Deveney for the pizza orders and to Betty Zeidler for refreshments. The Social Club also extends its gratitude to the residents who volunteered their time and assistance for the activities. Children and grandparents enjoyed the "Salty Sue, the Pirate" show followed by "make your own sundaes." Fishing, arts and crafts and a pizza luncheon delighted and left the grandkids with great memories of their visit to Majestic Isles.

We're looking forward our first subscription series show, on January 24, being a great success. Tickets are still available for the next show, on February 28, starring Judy Scott and Rick Corso. Our final series show, on March 28, headlines a group known as "The New Platters." The cost is \$25 per person per show. Contact Arlene Koch (736-4315) or Joan Sorkin (733-8380).

Our annual blood drive will be held on Friday, March 13 and chaired by Helen Benowich and Fran Weiner. Look for more information on flyers and channel 63.

Please mark your calendar for our first general meeting of 2009 on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. A choral group from Olympic Heights High School will entertain us. As usual coffee and ... will be served following the performance.

We would appreciate dues for 2009 being paid promptly. Make your check payable to MISC and drop in our mailbox in the back lobby.



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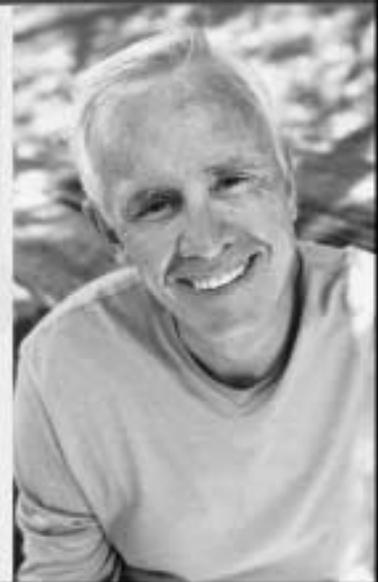
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## SNOWBIRDS RETURN

By Marilyn Levy



The Majestic Isles Snowbirds Club held its first meeting of the season on Friday, December 19. There was a festive air as members happily welcomed each other back. Five-dollar dues per person were collected. If you were unable to be at the meeting, checks covering the dues may be placed in the Yiddish Club mailbox in the back lobby. The Yiddish Club graciously shares its mailbox with us.

Joel Rosenthal, the newly elected president of the board attended the meeting to welcome us back.

After the business meeting was finished a brunch was prepared by a committee made up of Lil Desnet, Pearl Kornblau, Walter Bieber and Morris Berman.

The group will meet on a Friday of each month from January to March. The next dates are February 13 and March 20. Please mark your calendars.

Activities were scheduled for January and March. On January 19, the club will attend an opera lunch at Benvenuto's. The trip was organized by Joan Greenwald and Paula Stein.

On March 25, we will see a performance of "Sugar" at the Stage Door Theater in Coral Springs. "Sugar" is a musical based on the movie "Some Like It Hot". Bobbie and Jack Green arranged this activity for us. All orders for tickets must be in by March 1.

Irwin Finkelstein tried to arrange a February tour of the Sun Sentinel plant. Due to the economy, the paper has cancelled tours. So Irwin is trying to arrange a boat trip for the club. Details of the boat ride will be announced on Channel 63.

It is great to be back at Majestic Isles and we are looking forward to a wonderful season.



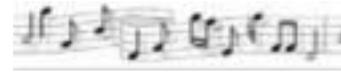
## WHEN INSULTS HAD CLASS:

*George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill:* "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... if you have one."

*Winston Churchill, in response:* "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."

## MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATER General Meeting, January 11, 2009

By Selma Friedman



The word for the January 11 performance has to be "versatility." I cannot remember hearing a more versatile performance. Cecilia Roy, a native of Vancouver, Canada, sang and played musical standards ranging from Billie Holliday and Duke Ellington, ABBA and Joabim, Patsy Cline and Etta James, and a little Louis Armstrong added to the mix.

She sings beautifully in all these styles, also including "scat" and some Spanish hits. Cecilia just doesn't accompany herself; she arranges piano stylings that expand the musicality of her performance. And she surprised us with some fine harmonica playing! Appropriately, her closing number was a Boccelli-Brightman hit - "A Time To Say Goodbye". Our audience gave her, also appropriately, a standing ovation.

Our February 8 meeting will feature movie script readings for our more daring thespians to try. Call Phil Chermak (735-0695) if you'd like to give that a shot. During the business portion of that meeting the nominating committee, headed by Enid Bayer, will present the proposed slate of officers and board members for the coming year. Nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as the nominee is present and is a member in good standing. We'll vote at our March 8 meeting.

Our March meeting will also present a light-hearted, festive view of the seasons of the year entitled "A Journey Thru the Seasons," written and produced by Francine Gitto. Come and enjoy!

Thinking about enjoyment, our thanks again to Francine and her hospitality committee and to Marty Baron for all the treats. We especially appreciate the sugar-free items for those of us who are sugar-restricted.



## SPARES AND STRIKES

By Dave Feinberg



Another position week has past and it seems the top 5 teams keep going up and down the ladder. Seems no one wants to take charge.

### MEN

### WOMEN

#### **WEEK 16 – HIGH GAME**

Howard Scherer	227	Barbara Lader	134
Ted Shapiro	194	Gladys Cohen	130
		Luise Levine	130

#### **WEEK 16 – HIGH SERIES**

Howard Scherer	629	Barbara Lader	384
Ted Shapiro	508	Gladys Cohen	359

#### **WEEK 17 - HIGH GAME**

Dave Feinberg	211	Barbara Lader	157
Lew Specland	188	Marcia Brandfon	153
Howard Scherer	187		

#### **WEEK 17 – HIGH SERIES**

Howard Scherer	534	Barbara Lader	397
Dave Feinberg	508	Marcia Brandfon	363
Lew Specland	507		

#### **WEEK 18 - HIGH GAME**

Howard Scherer	213	Sandy Rosenhouch	169
Dave Feinberg	166	Luise Levine	148
Al Lynn	161		

#### **WEEK 18 – HIGH SERIES**

Howard Scherer	586	Sandy Rosenhouch	403
Dave Feinberg	464	Luise Levine	393

#### **WEEK 19 - HIGH GAME**

Lew Specland	204	Sandy Gardner	175
Al Lynn	201	Shirley Scheftel	152

#### **WEEK 19 – HIGH SERIES**

Al Lynn	505	Sandy Gardner	427
		Shirley Scheffel	410

Just a reminder: We are now going into the last 9 weeks of bowling.

Next month, I'll report on the Jan. 25 luncheon, which hasn't taken place as I write. I'm sure it will be a great affair. Sorry to jump the gun, but I always think positive.

## BOOK TALKS AND MORE

By Judy Markowitz



On Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 2:00 p.m., Bonny Golub will facilitate a discussion of “A Thousand Splendid Suns” by Khaled Hosseini, the best selling author of “The Kite Runner.” Everyone is welcome to attend even if you have not read the book. We would love to see some new faces.

As a reader of both books, I believe that Hosseini is successful in communicating the viewpoint of Afghani women during the period 1964-2003. He describes in gut-wrenching details the poor and hazardous living conditions of the characters, which affects the reader emotionally. He also describes the mental abuse of the women who must abide by the many rules of their society and husbands.

“A Thousand Splendid Suns” is a remarkable story of two women in a society that is unforgiving and unwilling to see Mariam and Laila as equals. Not only does Hosseini tell a story of women trying to survive, but he also gives the reader knowledge of a lifestyle that is foreign, yet so real. I would recommend the book to any reader who has a thirst for knowledge and desires an engrossing story.

## THE MEN'S CLUB

By Sy Lubchansky, Pres.

The Men's Club, together with the Women's Club, will have a Valentine's Day party on Sat. Feb. 14 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be entertainment and dancing. We will have sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks and desserts.

The cost is \$14 per person and is being subsidized by both clubs. Please see the flyers in the rear of the clubhouse.

Bingo will be held on Sunday Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be planning another trip to the Hard Rock Casino on Wed. Feb. 25. Details will follow.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### February 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009

#### FEBRUARY 2009

Feb. 1, Sun., 5 p.m. Men's Club, **Super Bowl** party (p, h)  
 Feb. 6, Fri., 8 p.m. Singles, **Forever Liza**, (p, a)  
 Feb. 8, Sun., 10 a.m. Hadassah, **Chico's Shopping Spree** (f, a)  
     7:30 p.m. M.I.L.T., **Movie Monologues**, (members  
 free/non-members \$2, h)  
 Feb. 13, Fri., 11:30 a.m. Cancer Unit, **Coins for Cure** (p, a)  
 Feb. 14, Sat., 7 p.m. Women's and Men's Clubs, **Valentine Party**  
 (p, h),  
 Feb. 15, Sun., 7 p.m. Men's Club, **Bingo**, (p, h)  
 Feb. 18, Wed., 2 p.m. **Book Talks and More**, (f, h)  
 Feb. 21, Sat., 8 p.m. Social Club, **Movie Night** (p, h)  
 Feb. 25, Wed., 10 a.m. Men's Club, **Casino** (p, a)  
 Feb. 28, Sat., 8 p.m. Social Club, **Showtime** (p, h)

#### MARCH 2009

Mar. 7 and 8, Sat. and Sun., 8 p.m. M.I.L.T., **show**  
 (members free/non-members \$2, h)  
 Mar. 9, Mon., 11:30 a.m. Women's Club, **Appreciation Luncheon** (p, a)  
 Mar. 11, Wed., 2 p.m. Hadassah, **Life Member Tea** (f, h)  
 Mar. 15, Sun, 7 p.m. Men's Club, **Bingo** (p, h)  
 Mar. 19, Thurs, 10 a.m. Hadassah, **Jewish Miami Tour** (p,a)  
 Mar. 21, Sat, 8 p.m. Social Club, **Movie Night** (p, h)  
 Mar. 23, Mon, 12:30 a.m. Women's Club, **Canasta Tournament** (p, h)  
 Mar. 25, Wed, 10 a.m. Men's Club, **Casino**, (p, a)  
     2 p.m. Snowbirds, **Sugar** (p, a)  
     2 p.m. **Book Talks and More** (f, h)  
 Mar. 26, Thurs, 7 p.m. Bowling Club, **Dinner and Dance** (p, a)  
 Mar. 28, Sat., 8 p.m., Social Club, **Showtime** (p, 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 = away, h = home**

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