

Majestic Isles News

January 2017

Volume 20

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2017



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www.majesticisles.com

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 All expenses are covered by advertising revenue.

**MEET JAY PESKOFF**

By Claire Deveney

Meet Jay Peskoff, our newly appointed Licensed Community Association Manager from the Castle Group. Jay recently joined Castle Group after working as an executive at an independent living association in Delray Beach where he supervised a staff of 35.

Pleasant and approachable, Jay said, “I pride myself on customer service and taking care of residents. I want everyone to be 100 percent honest and do things that are promised. I want to be responsive to requests; this reflects on the team – so that everyone is responded to in a timely manner.” Jay also asks that the residents be patient with him since he is new to Majestic Isles and new on this job.

Jay was born in Princeton, N.J. and raised in New Jersey and then New York, after his parents divorced and his father moved to New York. At age 15 he moved to Scottsdale, Arizona with his mother and step dad. Until two years ago he lived in Fountain Hills, near Scottsdale, Ariz. before relocating to Delray Beach.

He is a graduate of University of Central Florida where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Business. He also studied at the Full Sail Recording Arts College in Orlando, Florida.

When Jay was considering moving to southern Florida from Arizona two years ago, he contacted the Castle Group and took the Home Owners Association certification test.

He and his wife, Kara were married in a civil ceremony this past October and are planning a destination wedding and celebration at a Sandals resort in Antigua soon. He and Kara both enjoy their dog, a five-year-old black shiatsu named “Lincoln.” They live in Delray Beach not far from his father, who relocated to Florida a few years ago.

Among his hobbies, Jay enjoys music and is a drummer in a five-member band that performed recently in Clematis, Florida and at the Hurricane Bar and Grille in Boynton Beach.

We all give a warm and cordial welcome to Jay. He may be contacted at the manager’s office at 424-0952 or through his email address, which is jpeskoff@castlegroup.com.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Harvey Galan



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish everyone a healthy and happy new year in a world of peace.

Many of us have had guests visiting during the holiday season and we are all looking forward to another holiday when we can have our loved ones visit us again. Our documents contain rules and regulations which are written to assure the safety of our residents and to maintain our property. Please be vigilant and remind your guests of the rules and point out that Majestic Isles is our home and should be respected like their own home. Repairing damage results in a cost to our community.

Majestic Isles will face many challenges in the year 2017. Our goal is to deal with each issue while continuing to meet our fiscal responsibility to the community.

The Board invites our residents to attend our Board meetings. We encourage your input and feedback.

MEETING NOTICE - ACCORDION HURRICANE SHUTTERS



There will be a meeting of interested Majestic Isles resident owners at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Clubhouse.

Everyone interested in having accordion shutters installed is urged to attend (or send a representative).

Extensive research has been done during the past month. A representative of the hurricane shutter company will be in attendance with samples and to answer all of our questions.

If you can't attend, but have questions, please contact me. Remember, it's NOT TOO LATE to join our group! There is strength AND cost savings in numbers.

Bob Freiberger: 561-877-8914
EMail: Floridabob77@Gmail.com

MAJESTIC ISLES ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

By now you have heard that a new Board of Directors and its officers were selected. That's the good news. Democracy in action. Less good was the fact that, as in the country at large, voter apathy is clearly present in Majestic Isles. Ballots were sent in the mail to residents. The December newsletter cover publicized the candidates. The Dec. 15 meeting was announced on signs at each gate. Yet as the evening wore on it became uncertain that there would be enough votes cast to comprise a quorum and legitimize the election. At length, the needed 30 per cent of owners was reached and the tally began. Congratulations to the winners. Thanks to the contenders. Let's give them all the support they deserve.

The Annual Meeting and the Board of Directors Election were held on Dec. 15 with seven residents running for the four open Board seats. Mark Jaffie was re-elected; Joel Cohen, Bob Edinger, and Jerry Ehrlich will be new members.

Following the announcement of the results, the newly constituted Board held its reorganization meeting and elected the following officers:

President: Harvey Galan
1st Vice President: Jerry Ehrlich
2nd Vice President: Duncan Hopwood
Secretary: Iris Rothstein
Treasurer, Bob Edinger.
Members-at-large: Joel Cohen
Mark Jaffie

We thank Alice Schultz, chairman of the residents' election committee and her committee: Dottie Caroff, Stan Davidson, Sally Galan, Arlene Koch, Merrill Rodin, and Irene Weinstein. Thanks also to LoriAnn Perrone for her efforts.

ARE YOU IN THE KNOW?

The Board of Directors of the Majestic Isles Homeowners Association makes financial and policy decisions that affect every homeowner. Keep yourself informed - attend BOD workshop and general meetings.

Next BOD workshop: Monday, Jan. 9 at 4 p.m.
Next BOD meeting: Thursday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.

Medicare 2017

By Paul Mendelsohn

Medicare is a confusing subject to many residents, and significant misunderstandings have arisen regarding the amount to be deducted from monthly Social Security checks for Medicare Part B coverage for 2017. Hopefully, this article will answer some of the questions plaguing residents.

As you all know, Medicare Part A covers hospitalization. Medicare Part B, which covers outpatient and physician care, is voluntary and requires a monthly premium, which is determined by formula annually and is set every January. Medicare Part D, the prescription drug program, is also voluntary; however, the cost is determined annually by the drug plan you elect.

What makes this year different is that the annual cost of living increase for Social Security is a mere 0.3 percent, which equates to a monthly increase per beneficiary of only \$4 to \$5.

There is a provision in the Social Security Act called the “hold harmless provision” which states that Medicare cannot pass along a premium increase greater than the dollar increase in a beneficiary’s Social Security check. As a result, for the approximately 70% of Medicare recipients who pay their Medicare Part B premiums with an automatic deduction from their Social Security check (which for most are deposited directly to the individual’s bank account), the 2017 monthly Medicare Part B deduction will be increased by \$4 to \$5.

In 2016, most of you paid a monthly Medicare Part B premium of about \$104.90. In 2017, your monthly premium will be around \$109. If you enrolled in Medicare Part B for the first time in 2017, your monthly premium will be about \$127.

Unfortunately, the “hold harmless provision” does not protect all 2016 Medicare recipients. Premiums for those who are billed directly for their Medicare Part B premiums and those who have deferred claiming Social Security, will increase in 2017 from \$121.80 to \$134 per month.

In addition, the “hold harmless provision” does not apply to high-income individuals/couples who already pay higher premiums based on their 2015 tax returns. Premiums for these people are as follows:

INCOME LEVELS	2017 PREMIUM PER PERSON
Individuals earning \$85-\$107,000	\$187.50
Couples earning \$170,000 - \$214,000	
Individuals earning \$107,000 - \$160,000	\$267.90
Couples earning \$214,000 – 320,000	
Individuals earning \$160,000 - \$214,000	\$348.30
Couples earning \$320,000 - \$428,000	
Individuals earning \$214,000 or more	\$428.60
Couples earning \$428,000 or more	

Other 2017 Medicare Changes for All Beneficiaries

* The Part B(l) annual deductible will increase from \$166 in 2016 to \$183 in 2017.

* **If you have a Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policy or a Medicare Advantage Plan you may be covered for some or all of these increases. Check with your Plan.**

For more information on all 2017 Medicare Costs visit Medicare.gov on the Internet and click “Find out how much Medicare costs in 2017” or call 800-633-4227

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GOOD AND WELFARE

GET WELL

Sylvia Arbesfeld	Stanton Polin	Sylvia Prant
Anita Scherer		Joan Shore

SYMPATHY

To the family of Mimi Hauser.
To Elinor Katz on the death of her husband, Fred.

MESSAGES

I want to express my gratitude to all my Majestic Isles friends for your caring cards, calls and donations on the passing of my husband, Seymour.

Isabel Lubchansky

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

COBWRA CLIPS

* COBWRA is currently discussing the future of the 571 acres in the AgReserve with the **County Commission and Water Management District**.

*COBWRA is also involved in discussions with the **Water Management District** and indirectly with the **Department of the Interior** regarding the control of the Loxahatchee River and the proposed reservoir.

*The **Parks and Recreation Committee** is in discussions with **Palm Beach County** staff regarding park development and is in need of volunteers.

FIRST RESPONDERS REPORTS

*Captain Christopher Keene reported that the **PBC Sheriff's Office** has trained more than 1,800 deputies in the handling of persons with mental health issues. Three hundred calls and 100 suicides have been dealt with in the past year.

*Tony Perro of **Fire/Rescue** reported that the **Stop The Bleed** program was very successful and thanked **Health and Welfare Chair, Joan Brunswick** for her efforts. He also reported that the joint efforts of **Fire/Rescue, PBSO** and **COBWRA** has significantly increased the survival rate of heart attack victims.

* The **Health and Welfare Committee** will be sponsoring a seminar on **Dementia / Alzheimer's / Depression** on **Feb. 8, 2017** at **Bethesda Hospital West** from **9 a.m. to noon**. Reservations are required and limited.

Drew Martin, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club, will discuss **What Happens to the Everglades if West of State Road is Developed** (Wednesday, February 15 At 9:30 A.M. At Valencia Pointe).

*Next Delegate Meeting: Jan. 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Indian Spring. State Senator Jeff Clemens and State Attorney Dave Aronberg will discuss Sober Homes in the COBWRA area.

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

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LUMP SUM GOT YOU DOWN?

Paying property taxes in one lump sum can be difficult. Thousands of property owners have opted to enroll in the Installment Payment Plan for 2017 property taxes. This plan gives property owners the option to pay their taxes in four quarterly payments instead of one lump sum. The plan offers a discount of slightly under four percent. The quarterly payments are due by the last day of June, September, December and March.

Enrollment is easy. Property owners can complete a short application online at
<https://www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan>

Deadline to enroll is April 30, 2017

SNOWBIRD RENTING REQUIREMENTS

Winter in South Florida means we are in the peak tourist season. Are you renting your home for less than six months? Don't forget to collect and pay Tourist Development Tax.

Formerly known as "bed tax," the Tourist Development Tax is vital to our community. This tax strengthens our local economy because it supports our county's tourism industry which provides more than 63,000 local jobs. The tax goes to fund county tourism marketing and promotion, which keeps us competitive in the global contest for tourists. It also funds beach restoration, art and cultural events and professional sports facilities throughout our beautiful county. Visit our website to register, collect and pay tourist development tax: <http://www.pbctax.com>.

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

In the event of an emergency, every second counts. Does law enforcement have your Emergency Contact Information (ECI)? You can register up to two emergency contacts with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This gives law enforcement the ability to contact your loved ones for you quickly in case of an emergency situation. If you travel out of state, law enforcement can still see your

ECI and contact your loved ones. Register your ECI now. <http://services.flhsmv.gov/eci/>

Sixty-five percent of Palm Beach County residents have registered. That leaves 35 percent unregistered. Register and pass this information along to your friends and family today.

Reminders from the SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Tuesday is Recycling Day

*Please have your recycling
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Yellow Bin

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- Magazines
- Catalogs
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- Tissue Boxes
- Dry Food Boxes
- Unwanted Mail
- School/Office Paper
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Blue Bin

- Drink Boxes
- Milk and Juice Containers
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- Steel Cans
- Glass Bottles and Jars (all colors, no lids or caps)
- Plastic Containers up to 5 gallons (1-7)

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- No Light Bulbs, Mirrors or Plate Glass
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For any questions or concerns with the collection of your recycling, contact SWA at 697-2700 or 1-(866) 792-4636

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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE M.I. NEWS?



When planning a cruise to Alaska, most south Florida residents arrange to start their journey in San Francisco, Seattle or Vancouver. There is a more adventurous alternative available in Washington State because travelers can opt to "drive" to Alaska by taking a car ferry cruise from the Bellingham Cruise Terminal pictured here.

Located in the northwest corner of Washington, just two hours north of Seattle and one hour south of Vancouver, the city of Bellingham is the southern terminus of the Alaska Marine Highway System. The largest ferry system in the U.S., the Washington State Ferries, offers service to Inside Passage ports and provides its passengers access to the 1,400 mile Alaska (Alcan) Highway.

A cruise to Skagway, the "Gateway to the Yukon," takes three days and the cost for two seniors, car and outside stateroom is approximately \$2,500. This kind of Alaska car/cruise travel is for adventurous, hardy souls who like to travel highways where you would see more wildlife than people and enjoy the rugged beauty of nature. It would be a true getaway.

Bellingham itself still has a small-town look and enjoys wonderful views of majestic snow-capped Mt. Baker. Live theater, dance and music performances are plentiful as are opportunities to explore the visual arts. A stroller's favorite, the historic Fairhaven district, was once the base town for an 1857 gold rush in neighboring British Columbia. Outdoor activities abound and, benefitting from Bellingham's extensive waterfront and waterways, one can whale watch, fish, sail, canoe or river raft. Bellingham is about as far from Boynton Beach as one can get in the "lower 48," but provides a unique starting point for a different kind of Alaska cruise.

By Elaine Jay

When planning a cruise to Alaska, most south Florida residents arrange to start their journey in San Francisco, Seattle or Vancouver. There is a more adventurous alternative available in Washington State because travelers

Reel Impressions "LOVING"

By Edye Frankel



When I first saw the title of this film, I naturally thought that it was going to be a romance dripping with platitudes and brimming with romantic emotions. In fact, initially, I was going to forego this one.

When I saw the trailer, it was evident that my preconceptions were totally incorrect!

The central characters are Mildred and Richard Loving (that's actually their name). Richard and Mildred are very much in love with each other and decided to get married. Problem—Richard is white and Mildred is black. In Virginia in the 1950's interracial marriage was illegal. For them that was not even an issue, but they had to go to D.C. to get married. When they returned home they were dragged out of bed, were faced with imprisonment and subsequently forced to relocate to Washington DC. They both longed for their familiar surroundings of "home." So, they secretly moved back. Of course, they were ultimately discovered and arrested. But then they were approached by the American Civil Liberties Union who convinced them to take a stand. They did.....

Surprisingly, there is no gory violence in the film even though it is so very down to earth.

The characters are exquisitely portrayed by Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga, who in their low key manner manage to deliver a powerful message (that unfortunately still rings true today). It is sweet and thought provoking. A good film to experience!

Natives who beat drums to drive off evil spirits are objects of scorn to smart Americans who blow horns to break up traffic jams. ~Mary Ellen Kelly





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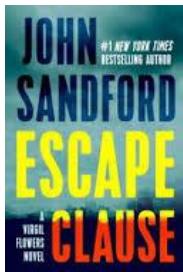
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"ESCAPE CLAUSE" BY JOHN SANDFORD

By Stan Kaish



If you feel like reading a straightforward, highly enjoyable, nothing deep, three-ring circus of a crime story written by an old pro at the business, let me recommend John Sandford's latest (or at least I think it's his latest; he turns them out pretty quickly) book, "Escape Clause."

This one features Sandford's number two boy, Detective Virgil Flowers of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, called away from a skinny-dipping summer frolic with his girlfriend to investigate the catnapping of two rare Amdur Tigers from the Minnesota Zoo.

There is no mystery to us readers as to what happened to the tigers. The book opens with a scurrilous crew of miscreants cutting their way through the outside fencing, using an insider's key to an inner gate, shooting tranquilizer darts into 1000 pounds of endangered species tigers, and somehow lugging their limp but alive bodies out to a getaway truck and eventual hiding place. The bad guys are a de-licensed doctor named Winston Peck, two not too bright, but well-muscled schleppers named the Simonian brothers and a zoo insider mistakenly identified as Larry King. It quickly becomes evident that the motive in the theft is not ransom. Rather it is to process the constituent organs, bones and juices of the soon to be defunct and dismembered tigers into medicines that bring high prices—estimated at two million dollars—from the Chinese market. Of course, they need a distributor of these soon to be compounded medicines and for that, Dr Peck has made an arrangement with a Chinese billionaire, Zhang Min and his significantly less talented son, Zhang Xiomin.

And so the chase begins. The people of Minnesota are heartbroken over the loss of their beloved tigers and mount considerable pressure on Virgil to recover them. And Dr. Peck, subsisting at this point primarily on Xanax, and the Simonians, set about processing one of the tigers, keeping the other alive and waiting due to lack of adequate refrigeration.

At Virgil's end, a lot goes on. He makes the rounds of the local producers of "traditional medicines." We find there are quite a few of them processing everything

from pythons to raccoons to pussy cats to road kill, and Virgil makes the rounds gathering names and possibilities.

At Dr. Peck's end, things are moving along, but not all that smoothly. It's a hot smelly business and along the way a finger print turns up that identifies one of Simonian brothers. What to do? Peck fears this breech in their anonymity will eventually lead to him. Popping a few pills to calm himself down, he dispatches his employee with a tranquilizer dart strong enough to knock out a tiger or kill a man. And so it begins, the tiger kidnapping leads to murder, and more murder and.... Well, I leave it to you to find out.

Meanwhile there are side issues galore. I said this was a three-ring circus of a story. Virgil's girlfriend's sister is working on a Ph.D. dissertation that involves interviewing migrant workers about working conditions, and gets beat up for her trouble. Six more Simonian brothers show up looking to see what happened to their sibling and they are none too gentle. An animal rights fanatic goes after one of the collateral traditional medicine people with a vengeance and a gun. Old man Zhang, we learn, is going to marry a fifteen-year-old bride, and when junior learns this, he becomes convinced he will be done out of his inheritance if it is allowed to occur.

And, of course, there is a final show down between Virgil Flowers and Dr. Winston Peck. I won't tell you what happens, but Sandford does have a series of books going devoted to the adventures of Virgil Flowers, and none that I am aware of involving the ongoing activities of Winston Peck, MD.

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WHAT I DID ON MY THANKSGIVING VACATION

By Alene Kristal

Steve and I drove up to NJ to spend the holiday with our families; our last Thanksgiving with them was in 2011, so you could say this was a long overdue visit. While the trip up north was rather tedious, it was interrupted by a splendid cousins' reunion in Durham, NC. It had been five or more years since I'd seen these cousins, and we had a joyous time revisiting family anecdotes, regaling the younger generation with stories about their parents, and generally reconnecting.

Once we got to our destination, we went out to dinner with friends and settled into the cold environment we had so gratefully left behind when we moved to Florida. Over the next nine days, we drove hither and yon, visiting friends and relatives whose faces had somewhat blurred in our memories after such a long time between visits.

One evening stands out as truly memorable. We had drinks, ate sushi, and played our favorite card game, O Sh*t, with the same group we'd spent many a pleasant night with in the years we lived in our old community. Our friend Chris still won't say the word Sh*t. It felt like I'd slipped back into a well-worn pair of gloves.

But the true highlight of our trip was getting acquainted with our new great grandson, Jaxon. (Yes, I'm much too young to be a great grandmother. Damn!) He tips the scales at 19 lbs. at five months of age, has delicious chubby thighs, an engaging smile, and radiates pure joy. No, I'm not at all prejudiced. If he hadn't been so heavy, I'd have held onto him indefinitely. He's so strong he's almost standing (though he can't turn over just yet) and will be walking soon, I'm sure. He doesn't seem to mind that his two dogs, both quite large, lick his face and snuggle up to him. We'd never met his father, and were delighted to begin to get to know this gentle young man.

And then there was Thanksgiving dinner. Fortunately, we had all voted for the same candidate, so we avoided the condition seemingly common this year of families split apart due to divergent political views. The food was terrific, the talk was loud and animated, and the dogs were an ever-present reminder that we had to vigilantly guard all the food at the table. No problem with that! A meal with five millennials and only one or two constantly on their phone – miraculous! And

we drank a toast to Jaxon's first Thanksgiving. He was the star of the show.

Aside from the pleasure of seeing that most of the members of our family and extended circle of friends are well and happy, this visit had me re-examining my priorities. I found such a profound sense of peace and well-being spending time with loved ones; I realized we must find a way to make these visits more frequent. The time we spent with each one was much too short, squeezed into a schedule that was unforgiving. And, sadly, a few old friends are slipping away in ill health. Yes, the cliché "it's a fact of life," holds true, but it's cold comfort. My friend Emily is slowly wasting away from COPD, and I don't know when I will see her again. Our friend Bob has a recurrence of cancer and is doing poorly.

I'm so glad to be home in the Florida warmth so I can snuggle with my cats and sing them the silly songs I'm so fond of. They like them too.



PET PATCH

By Molly



At this time I'm sure that our Snowbirds who are here are *very* happy to be in Florida! My Mom spoke to a friend of hers this week in Danbury, Ct. - She said it was 14 degrees there and snowing. Since I have always lived in Florida, I don't know what 14 degrees feels like – and I don't think I want to know. 70's and 80's sound much better to me!

Mom put up our Christmas tree – now I'm impatiently waiting to see what's there for me. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a Happy and *Healthy* New Year!

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BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

By Bill Harris

It's "season" in south Florida. Every weekend, a dozen or more cruise ships coming from or bound for the Caribbean or Panama Canal, pack the Port of Miami and Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades. But, not in this work of fiction, set not now but in the near future.

"Come on Charlie, Mom's almost at the top of the exit ramp." Seven-year-old Charlie had packed almost all the clothes she owned into her suitcase for their family's week-long Caribbean cruise vacation. Struggling to roll her suitcase up the parking garage ramp, Charlie looked around and said, "What's the big hurry, Dad? It's not like our ship's sailing without us. Look at this place; it's almost empty. Nobody's here yet. We have plenty of time." Charlie's father disagreed with her about "plenty of time." Their ship was due to sail in about 20 minutes. Charlie wasn't wrong however, about the almost empty parking garage. It should have been full.

Their ship was one of the newer megaships. It was four football fields long, 19 decks high and could accommodate 4000 passengers. Charlie's mom, Emily said, "Jake, where are all the other cruise ships?" Did they sail earlier today?" "Don't think so Hon" Jake answered his wife. "Today's a Monday. They all probably sailed over the weekend."

At that moment, the megaship's horn blared out over the empty harbor. A frenzied cruise line hostess across the road was frantically waving at them to hurry up. "Jake, I don't see any porters; we'll have to carry our own bags on board."

An empty embarkation lounge greeted them as they rushed through the boarding process. The ship's horn sounded two strident staccato blasts. Bursting onto the ship's entrance ramps, they climbed four deck heights, pushing and pulling their luggage up inclined passageways, before finally dragging them onboard into their ship's reception area. "We made it," said Jake. "And just in time too" Emily said as a long final warning blast emanated from the ship's horn. A sign over the shore excursion desk caught her eye. It said, "All excursions to the rain forests are cancelled!"

Emily and Jake had no problems, once on board, setting up their dining room dinner reservations. They easily got a 6:30 pm table for four and could have had their pick of any table or time. Later, as they rode an

elevator five decks down from their ninth-deck balcony cabin and walked half the ship's length through its cavernous interior to their dinner reservation, Emily commented "I know this is a huge ship but where is everybody?"

The doors to the dining room were closed. Waitstaff, posted outside them, were directing a sparse dinner crowd into port- and starboard-side anterooms. They were directed into the portside anteroom that was dominated by a large desk staffed by two ship's officers.

The first handed Jake and Emily paperwork, and Charlie a lollipop. The next greeted them by name and said "For your personal safety during this cruise, please read the materials and follow the instructions you were just given. If you have questions, ship's officers will be on call, 24/7."

He waved them right, towards another dining room door, saying "Be sure to wash your hands at every opportunity!" "Mom, Dad!" exclaimed Charlie. "What's going on? What do those signs say?" Two large-print, bold-lettered signs flanked a sanitary hand-washing station just before the doorway. A senior officer who made sure they each complied with the hand washing procedures manned it. Charlie's father read the left-hand sign out loud. It said "CDC Warns the Zika Virus Can Affect Anyone, Not Just Pregnant Women!" Her mom read the right-hand sign "Don't Be A Statistic!" "Apply DEET to All Areas of Exposed Skin." Charley asked, "What's a DEET? What's a statistic?" The ship's officer replied, "Missy, you don't want the mosquito that carries the Zika virus to bite you. You don't want Zika to make you sick! DEET can keep you safe. DEET is your friend." "Let's go in to dinner Charlie," her parents said. The dining room was almost empty. "Don't forget Mom and Dad. Squirt me with DEET tomorrow."

Disclaimer. – Any similarity to people, places, and personal situations or to cruise lines, ships or facilities is coincidental.



"People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas." *Unknown*



Gardening in the Isles

By
Stan Davidson



Starting on January 1, 2017, I will be chairing the Grounds and Property Enhancement Committee (GPEC). This Committee was very active in the early 2000s. This time, I will not be on the MI Board of Directors, but will report to a Board member assigned to issues concerning the residential and common properties grounds in Majestic Isles. The GPEC will make recommendations to the Board regarding actions designed to enhance our grounds.

Let's get started with a committee mission statement so you understand just what the goals and objectives of my committee will be.

Mission Statement:

The GPEC mission is to maintain the appearance and value of our common grounds and residential properties. This is to be in compliance with our site management landscaping contractual obligations and the needs of our residents. To accomplish this, GPEC will discuss residential issues for property enhancements and subsequently make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

To accomplish the above:

1. GPEC will consist of six residents who have a keen interest in maintaining the beauty of

Majestic Isles. A representative from site management will also be part of the group.

2. GPEC will conduct periodic meetings with the site management in attendance. If necessary, the landscaping management will be requested to attend. The meetings are open to MI residents and they are encouraged to attend. All pertinent items discussed will be documented and publicized via email.

3. GPEC, in conjunction with site management, will monitor the status and the completion of all contractual work on common and residential properties.

4. Regular periodic property inspections will be made to provide to the Board and our site management a "shopping list" of landscaping action items to be taken.

5. Our annual budget will reflect the estimated cost, if required, of all common ground landscaping enhancements, projected for the upcoming year.

John Keats said, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Lets keep our Majestic Isles landscape beautiful forever by achieving our planned mission!



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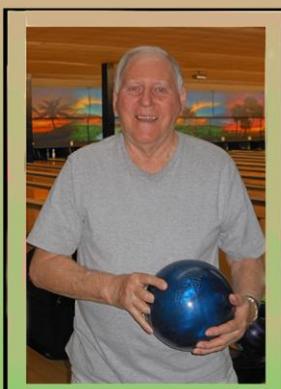


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In Commemoration of the 20th Year of The Majestic Isles News

Over the next few months, we will mark the 20th publication year of the Majestic Isles News by reprinting columns from years gone by. Although Phyllis Cohen has been writing her much-loved columns for "only" 16 years, we'll start off with an early column of hers – and with an article about her start in creative writing.

DO THEY STILL WEAR GIRDLES? (Nov. 2000)

By Phyllis Cohen

Recently, I decided to purchase a tape player that I could use with my receiver, CD equipment and powerful speakers. Surprise! Companies no longer manufacture tape decks, unless you want one in your car. Otherwise, you have a choice of listening to your tapes on your Walkman or buying a version of the boom box that annoyed you on the New York subway. That led me to thinking about how quickly products are appearing and disappearing on the market. I'm not even talking about 8 track players, beta format VCR's and Nehru suits which appeared and disappeared almost simultaneously. Technology and fashion are rapidly changing every aspect of our daily life so that your grandchild (who already suspects that you were born at the time of the dinosaurs) has never seen a dial telephone, a record player, carbon paper, a Royal portable typewriter, or a neighborhood milkman.

In one moment, Clark Gable changed men's underwear when he doffed his shirt in "It Happened One Night," to reveal a naked chest. Later, John F. Kennedy managed to kill the men's hat industry when he appeared bare-headed at his inauguration.

White gloves and hats for dress up have gone the way of the hoop skirt, though garter belts and nylon stockings seem to be making a comeback, thanks to Victoria's Secret. I know you can still buy full slips and camisoles, but perhaps not in the lingerie department, since young women seem to be wearing their underwear over their outer garments. And do they still make girdles, those vestiges of medieval torture that were equipped with steel "bones" and required a "corsetiere" to fit you properly?

Faxes, email, voice mail and computer technology all assure me of instant communication with all my children's email, voice mail, fax machine and computers. Actually talking to them is unlikely so that I can enjoy my "virtual" children, just the way I can enjoy my electronic bank, shopping and newspapers. Fortunately, I still have a flesh and blood husband.

I'm not complaining, mind you. I just need a little more time to catch up with the world of the 21st century. You'll excuse me now. I have to keep on practicing how to program my VCR before I replace my videos with DVD disks.

LOOKING BACK, OR HOW I GOT FROM THERE TO HERE

By Phyllis M. Cohen

I was getting ready to write my January column when I realized that I had been writing for 16 years...160 feature articles plus other bits and pieces for special events, holidays, etc. Wow! And it all started innocently enough. Our former editor, Gerry Herman, now our wonderful business manager, and I, were in the same art class. She was painting beautiful water colors and I was learning to paint within the lines when she asked me to write a little piece describing the class in order to recruit new students. I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I had always enjoyed writing since I was a child and had in fact once won both grand prize, first and second places in a grade school poetry contest by writing pieces for my stumped classmates to submit. All through school I continued to write for school magazines and though my professional career never actually included creative writing, I easily picked up the skill again.

My articles ranged from nostalgia bits to commentary on daily events and observations about senior living. Moving to Florida from our long-time home in Massachusetts was a bit of a culture shock to me since the accents, foods and people were so reminiscent of my Brooklyn childhood, as different from New England as stuffed lobster is to gefilte fish. Articles on growing up in New York met with a lot of smiles from my contemporaries. And, of course, it was impossible

(Continued on page 25)

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Visiting: RENEE STICHEL

By Claire Deveney



Renee (Weiner) Stichel is known to many residents of Majestic Isles for her involvement in many clubs and activities. For a decade, she has been serving as co-president along with Marilyn Chermak of the Pap Corps, an organization raising funds for cancer research with over 200

members in the M.I. chapter. The dynamic duo of Renee and Marilyn also chair the M.I. Singles Group.

Renee's perseverance in all of her activities and the loyalty and warmth she extends to friends and acquaintances are two of her hallmarks. Renee is often called the "Perle Mesta of Majestic Isles."

Renee was born in the Bronx, attended P.S. 50 for grammar school, Hermann Ridder Junior High School and graduated from James Monroe High.

After graduation she began her career working on the office staff of a large fabric company at 1410 Broadway in Manhattan and simultaneously she decided to attend City College of New York (CCNY) evenings where she earned her bachelor's degree in accounting. The evening program took seven years.

She met her husband, "Stich," at the Pine Hill Lodge, a bungalow colony in Mount Freedom, N.J. They had a whirlwind romance. They met on July 4, became engaged seven weeks later on August 24 and married that February. Renee became a bride at age 24. They had their wedding in the Bronx, and she and Stich moved into an apartment in Rego Park in Queens.

A few years before she was married, she had become an office manager at Checker Fabrics. They raised their son and daughter in their apartment, and when their daughter graduated from high school, they moved to a home in the Bayside section of Queens. Stich worked for the U.S. Post Office as a mailman for 30 years. After his retirement, he worked for Seventeen magazine where he was an escort for the models and a receptionist.

They relocated to Florida and initially lived in Coconut Creek for four years. They had friends who were looking at M.I. and came with them. Stich said, "I'm moving here." That was it! At that time Renee was an accounts payable bookkeeper for the Jewish Federation in Boca Raton. Renee said, "We bought it from the floor plan. They built the house for us." They moved to M.I. in 1997. Stich liked Majestic Isles. He was the informal "mayor" of the pool. He died in 2006. Renee was Social Club president from 2001 to 2003 and ran every New Year's Eve party from 2001 to 2006. She served on the Women's Club board for two years.

Renee loves traveling and has liked the cruises she has taken more recently. She and Stich also took many cruises. Renee enjoys reading mystery novels by James Patterson, Stuart Woods and others. She schedules and loves regular lunches and dinners with friends. She also loves to have parties at her home and plays cards. Her home décor features the colors of red, white and black. It's a Florida home with a Walt Disney Mickey Mouse flair -- very tastefully done.

Renee joins five friends from her kindergarten class who meet once a month for lunch and once a month for dinner. Two more former classmates are snowbirds who live in Manhattan and meet with the group in the winter season. The meetings have been ongoing for 19 years in Florida!

Renee has two adult children, Fred and Beth, and four grandchildren. Fred has his own practice as a registered dietitian and licensed nutritionist and holds a doctorate in biology. He and his wife, Karen, who manages a group medical practice, live in Ashville, N.C. They have two daughters: Jo, 17, a senior who was just accepted at Greensboro College in S.C. and awarded a soccer scholarship, and Sammie, 16, a high school sophomore. Her daughter, Beth, an educator with a master's degree, is currently heading a pre-kindergarten experimental program. She and her husband, Keith, a general manager of de-icing for Jet Blue airlines, live in Bellmore, Long Island. Their son, Michael, 18, is a freshman at Buffalo University, and daughter, Morgan, is a high school sophomore who enjoys sports and plays varsity volleyball.

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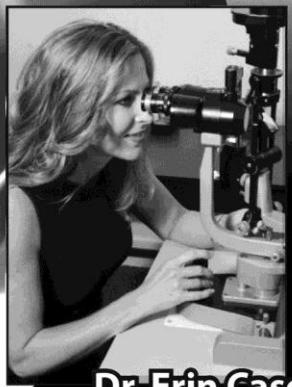
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FLAVORS OF FLORIDA

By Donna Shaneson



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- *Palm Beach Zoo, Dreher Park, 1301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach
- *Rapids Waterpark, 6566 N. Military Trail (561-848-6272). There are many others.

PHYLLIS COHEN

(Continued from page 21)

not to write about daily events, everything from the somber days of 9/11 to the space shuttle doings in our own back yard. And every four years, there were the presidential elections to moan and groan over. The exception was this year when I did all my moaning and groaning in private. I reminisced about all of our favorite topics: grandchildren, pets, dieting, health issues, aging.

Occasionally readers would ask where I got my inspiration to churn out a constant stream of writing and I admit now that inspiration accounted for only a tiny portion of my writing, the rest was just work. Sometimes I would get suggestions from my family or co-writers on pieces. I was once challenged to write a full page on the subject of "a penny" and later on "a button." Both turned out to be two of my most popular pieces. Some pieces took on a life of their own. A spoof on the space programs' astronaut training program that I claimed I had attended led to people stopping me to ask about my space adventures. I had to write a second piece explaining the first article, and coincidentally, NASA then added a civilian space simulation program at their sites.

Over the years I was inspired by the other people on our writing team, the unforgettable Naomi Marcus and Josh Katz as well as all of the talented new people on our staff.

Hopefully I can continue to write in the future as long as there is an audience out there who still wants to read my words. Happy New Year to all.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. - Bill Vaughan

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, as quoted by ThinkExist.com.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. - Joey Adams

New Year's Day - Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual. - Mark Twain



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MAJESTICS BOWLING LEAGUE

Spares and Strikes

By: Joyce Stoudermire



HIGH GAME

Week 8 – MEN

Steve Herbin	187	Steve Herbin	495
Alan Stevens	140	Alan Stevens	386
Jerry Elefson	133	Bob Wolff	375

Week 8 – WOMEN

Natalie Herbin	138	Carol Stevens	360
Carol Stevens	135	Natalie Herbin	350
J. Stoudermire	126	J. Stoudermire	343

Week 9 - MEN

Steve Herbin	150	Steve Herbin	391
Jerry Elefson	132	Alan Stevens	364
Alan Stevens	129	Jerry Elefson	351

Week 9 – WOMEN

Estelle Snyder	161	Estelle Snyder	427
J. Stoudermire	152	J. Stoudermire	399
Ilene Gross	141	Carol Stevens	367

Week 10 – MEN

Bob Wolff	154	Al Lynn	424
Steve Herbin	149	Steve Herbin	407
Al Lynn	146	Bob Wolff	385

Week 10 – WOMEN

J. Stoudermire	145	J. Stoudermire	401
Ilene Gross	145	Ilene Gross	401
Carol Stevens	141	Carol Stevens	365

Week 11 – MEN

Steve Herbin	170	Steve Herbin	468
Bob Wolff	161	Al Lynn	409
Alan Stevens	153	Jerry Elefson	377

Week 11 – WOMEN

Ilene Gross	151	Ilene Gross	367
Issy Elefson	150	Natalie Herbin	358
Natalie Herbin	130	J. Stoudermire	340

Congratulations to Steve, Estelle and Bob for their high scores (Weeks 8 – 11). Also a very special congrats to a new member, Issy Elefson, for her high score of 150 (week 11). Very nice Issy. Congratulations also to Steve Herbin 187 (week 8) and 187 (week 11); Bob Wolff 161 (week 11), Estelle Snyder 161 (week 9).

If you're interested in joining our fun group, please call Al Lynn 742-9937 or Alan Stevens 336-4223.

SINGLES

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermack

The swinging singles would like to wish you all a healthy happy New Year!! We have a great year planned.

Some of our singles celebrated New Year's Eve on a cruise, while some enjoyed Randy DelLago's program at the Delray Theater. After the theater, we invited all to the poker room to bring in the New Year with a champagne toast to wish you all great 2017.

In February if the Kings Academy theater is completed, we hope to see a show there. However, we have plans for the Stage Door Theater if Kings is not completed.

On March 11, we hope to see "Les Miserables" with dinner afterward. (We *always* go somewhere for lunch or dinner.)

THIS MEANS



**PLEASE OBSERVE ALL OF OUR
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Majestic Isles Little Theater 20th Anniversary Celebration December 11, 2016

By Selma Friedman



What a joyous evening! Spirits were high, room decorations were beautiful, helpful volunteers were plenty, buffet food stations provided a choice between Italian and kosher food, and a pianist entertained us as we dined! Table decorations commemorated the different shows that M.I.L.T. had performed over the two decades. Ira Schneider's video, "Down Memory Lane with M.I.L.T.", showed highlights from past performances that made us smile and applaud; views of members who are no longer with us made us sad, but the memories were wonderful. What M.I.L.T. has accomplished in the past 20 years combining the talents of residents willing to participate in so many areas is astounding. Friends from other communities come to our shows, enjoy themselves, and either tell me their communities do not have a theater group or say they do, but they hire professionals for direction. As someone who was actively involved from the beginning planning stages to now, I am so proud of our members (applause!!)

On a personal note – I was overwhelmed being called up to the front of the room and then serenaded by my Sing For Fun chorus with a song I had planned to teach them! Thank you to Ed Strauber for recording the music for "Thank You for The Music" from the Broadway musical "Mama Mia", and for arranging a secret rehearsal for the chorus. What a wonderful song; the chorus brought tears of joy to me. Then our president Francine Gitto presented me with a plaque for celebrating music with the wonderful M.I.L.T. organization. It is my pleasure. Thank You!

And who was the creative force behind this event? Francine Gitto was the visionary and party planner of this wonderful evening. A salute to

Francine and her family members Suzanne, Chris and Sylvia for all their work and help. Also thank you to the Majestic Isles Elves who set-up, served and cleaned up. A gentleman near me yelled out, "Let's

do this again next year!" Time goes fast, but 20 years doesn't go that fast.

To our membership – we appreciate your support; To the M.I.L.T. Board – thank you for your efforts, they are greatly appreciated. To our performers and support staff – we couldn't have done it without you. I'm sure the more than 140 M.I.L.T. members who attended will agree this was a night to remember.

THE MEN'S CLUB

By Joel Cohen

The Men's Club and I offer our sincerest sorrow on the loss of our president emeritus, Sy Lubchansky. He was a great friend and gentleman. He will be missed by all.

The Men's Club is scheduling events for 2017.

The trip to Isles Casino Racing was a sellout, so we will try to go there again on Wednesday, Feb. 8, and Wednesday, April 5, as long as people want to go.

In April or May, we will try, again, to go to the Marlin's baseball games on Thursday nights, which are free senior nights. We will look to go three times, two months apart, if the response is favorable.

It is time to pay your \$20 dues for 2017. Please put your check in the Men's Club box.

BOOK TALKS AND MORE

Wednesday, January 18 at 2 p.m.

Judy Markowitz will lead a discussion of

"NOBODY'S FOOL"
by Richard Russo

Following the discussion, we will show the classic film starring Paul Newman.

SOCIAL CLUB

by Arlene Koch and Joan Sorkin

As of this writing, we are anticipating a fabulous New Year's celebration with all our friends and neighbors. Lawrence of Florida will be providing us with an evening of dancing and merriment.

Opening night of the 2017 series will be Daniel Panetta accompanied by a three-piece band on Saturday, January 28. Daniel will enchant us with his great singing style and good looks. You will enjoy his contemporary hits from Jazz to Opera. Individual tickets can be purchased at \$30 per person. The complete three-show series can be purchased for \$75 per person.

We've been pleased over the years to have been able to present the best quality entertainment available for Majestic Isles. We have been going to larger communities in the area and see that we have had many of the same performers here. In order for the Social Club to continue with top notch entertainers, we must have the support of our community. Without the sale of 40 more series tickets, we will be running at a deficit and have to reconsider a series for the following year. We would appreciate if you have not yet purchased tickets, to consider joining us for three super shows.

We wish all our residents a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Best wishes
for a healthy, happy
2017
From
The newsletter staff*

HADASSAH

By Ellin Goldstein



On Monday, January 16 we will hold our annual card party. The cost is \$24. Please put all checks for your game in one envelope and list the game you will be playing. Glick's will furnish the food: salads and bagels, cream cheese and lox. Coffee and ... will also be served. Please indicate if anyone needs sugar-free desserts.

The Hadassah board will meet on Monday, Jan. 23 at 10:30 a.m.

We'll observe Rosh Chodesh on Friday, Jan. 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Morikami picnic area. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Women's Seder will be held Monday, March 27.

Bricks are still being sold for \$18 each. Call Lee Katz for more information.

Ten percent donor is now given for purchases of scrip.

Have a very Happy New Year!

Our members mourn the loss of Mimi Hauser, a devoted Hadassah member.

MOVIES - MOVIES - MOVIES

8 p.m. at the clubhouse

With Blue-ray capability, our movies fill the screen with wonderfully clear pictures.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14, FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS Despite her horrid singing voice, New York City heiress Florence Foster Jenkins is certain she can become an opera star. Her partner and manager, St Clair Bayfield, does all he can to shield Florence from the truth, but his task may prove impossible.

NEXT MONTH'S MOVIE: FEB. 4

NOTE: We show our films with closed captioning.

The film descriptions are taken from the Netflix website.

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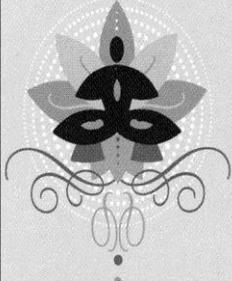
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PICKLEBALL @ M.I.

By Jerry Ehrlich



I want to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy new year. As the year begins, I'd like to remind all our pickleball players, especially the new ones, there are certain rules that must be observed:

The number one rule is that **you must wear tennis shoes on our courts.**

To make sure that no one gets hurt, we should all look out for each other and make sure we're playing with the correct shoes.

As we said in last month's newsletter, we're reaching out to our entire community to attend a morning get-together at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12. Our goal is to recruit potential new players for **bowling, pickleball and tennis.** There will be coffee, kosher pastry and cookies. To cover our costs, there will be a charge of \$1 per person. A sign-up sheet is in the back lobby and will be there until Jan. 8. We're really hoping for a big turnout.

Starting this month, Jerry Elefson and I will be calling other pickleball communities to see if we can set-up inter-community play. We hope by doing this we'll become better players and get to meet new friends. More information will be forthcoming in the February issue.

See you on the courts.

Complaint Form

Please write your complaint in the box below.

Write legibly.

LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING WITH YOU!

We are into sports and would like to have our residents join us to add to our current players



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INTERESTED IN PICKLEBALL?

We have mixed play & instruction if needed

Call Jerry Ehrlich @737-7369 or Jerry Elefson @734-5742

INTERESTED IN BOWLING?

Call Allan Stevens @336-4223

WE HAVE PLAYERS AT ALL LEVELS-WE WELCOME BEGINNERS-SO PLEASE JOIN US AND ENJOY COMRADERIE & COMPETITION

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE COURTS & ON THE ALLEYS

MAJESTIC ISLES LITTLE THEATRE

By Barbara Portnoff

Join In The Fun ★★

Majestic Isles Little Theatre is a community theatre group where all productions are staged by volunteers, from directors and producers to the performers and hospitality staff. We are a diverse group with a common love for theatre.

If you would like to become a part of this group, it's easy – just tell us.

If you would like to sing, act, read lines, paint, sew, write, prompt, organize props, type, be involved in lighting and sound, or just always wanted to learn, call us. We have a place for you – and your ideas. No experience needed. Snowbirds and full time residents are all welcome.

Remember – the show can't begin until someone opens the curtain!

Call Barbara Portnoff, 200-0717 or Roberta Jaffie, 733-2312.

ART SHOW

By Roberta Jaffie



Hello Artists,

Once more it is time to gather up the products of your artistic endeavors and think about what you would like to exhibit at our annual Majestic Isles Art Show. The show will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in the Majestic Isles Ballroom.

You may show any type of arts and crafts, including painting, photography, needlework, ceramics, as well as jewelry, woodwork, and more. There will be more information coming on channel 63. Pick up a flyer in the back lobby. If you have any questions, call Roberta Jaffie at 733-2312.

PAP CORPS

By Renee Stichel and Marilyn Chermak



Pap Corps wishes you all a healthy happy new year!! May all your wishes come true. Now we start our new year by supporting our Pap Corps research for cancer with hopes

to wipe out cancer completely!!

We ended the year with a dynamite tribute to Marcia Steiner. This was a tremendous success thanks to all of you who came. We know you enjoyed the night and did the job of paying Marcia the best tribute. Thanks to our servers and members who attended.

On Jan. 26 we will serve a lite lunch (which really is not lite), and then enjoy a really funny speaker and dessert. Place your donation of \$5 in our mail box. You must be prepaid so that we know how much food to buy.

On Feb. 9, our fashion show from Chico's will feature our marvelous members as models. Lunch will be Chinese food from our famous Bamboo Wok. Price is \$25 and again, place checks in our back box. Come one, come all, and bring your friends and relatives. We will have a good dessert as usual.

March 23 is the date of our annual card party in the clubhouse with prizes and a fabulous lunch. Lots of goodies will be there as you play your favorite game. If you cannot arrange your game, please call us and we will try to arrange one for you. Again, come one come all and bring friends and relatives. Price to be announced.

Looking ahead, we'll have a membership appreciation lunch and a closing meeting with fabulous desserts. Watch for details..

On May 25 we'll hold our closing meeting for the year with our wonderful board's fabulous desserts... We will keep you posted with all the information.

Hoping you all start this year with health, happiness and supporting the Pap Corps for Cancer Research as best as you can!!!



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8	Sun.	9:30 a.m.	Men's Club	Breakfast meeting	(f, h)
14	Sat.	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Movie Time	(p, h)
15	Sun.	7:30 p.m.	M.I.L.T.	Workshop	(f, h)
16	Mon.	11:30 a.m.	Hadassah	Card Party	(p, h)
22	Sun.	2:00 p.m.	Art Show	Presentations	(f, h)
26	Thur.	12:30 p.m.	Pap Corps	Meeting	(f, h) (charge for lite lunch)
28	Sat.	8:00 p.m.	Social Club	Showtime	(p, h)
29	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	Travel Club	Meeting	(f, h)

Weekly Activities

Mon.	12 noon 3:00 p.m.	Ceramics News & Views	Discussion	(f, h) (f, h)
Tues.	12 noon	Bowling		(p, a)
Wed.	10:45 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Sing for Fun Bunka		(f, h) (f, h)
Mon./Wed./Fri.	9:00 a.m.	Pickleball		(f, h)
Thurs. (1 st and 3 rd)	12 noon	Art Class		(f, h)



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

For additional information, please contact an officer of the appropriate club,
the Majestic Isles Office

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

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