



NORTHEAST JOURNAL

JAN/FEB 2019
St. Petersburg, FL
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

Power of Play Meets Power to Build

Livia Zien

Habitat for Humanity focuses on affordable homeownership for families. Great Explorations Children's Museum focuses on children. So it was only natural that when Habitat launched a new program creating playhouses for children, Great Explorations was the first organization to get involved.

Last fall, you might have noticed a small painting party underway in the parking lot on 4th Street North which Great Explorations shares with Sunken Gardens. Great Explorations' staff, board members, and even some of the children from the museum's after-school

program joined in the fun to assemble and paint a playhouse under the guidance of the local Habitat team.

The finished playhouse, which is large enough to fit four children, has an arched doorway that opens and closes, windows on the side, and an actual roof to protect against the elements. It's painted in bright Great Explorations' colors – purple, blue, red, and green. At the request of kids participating in the painting project, the playhouse has a sign that reads "Kids Only."

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

Mandy Paige, public relations director for Great Explorations, notes that this was the first

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Great Explorations staff and board members paint a Habitat playhouse.



TFO Guild members Joan Jaicks and Emily Gillespie welcome guests at the home of Rita and Stephen Peters.

Florida Orchestra Guilds Keep Giving

Gay Wasik-Zegel

*Tho' the holiday trim is all packed away,
I can't get my mind off that beautiful sleigh.
It was silver, and sparkled, through windows of light.
The scenes that I saw wake me up in the night:
Objects from Germany, pieces from France;
A place full of history as well as romance;
Family mementos near art that was hung on a wall,
Open vistas of water encasing it all;
Strains of music that lead to a Christmas Boutique,
While Poggenpohl cabinets called for a peek;
Greenery and flowers adorned every space,
While books, lined in rows, all had their own place.
Then my eyes lifted skyward to a towering dome.
So much of the world can be found in a home.*

These visions, and more, were a sight to behold at The Florida Orchestra Guild of St. Petersburg's Holiday Tour of Homes. Held on December 1, the seventh annual tour provided a wonderful way to begin the season and to get some great decorating ideas.

The past year's annual benefit for the Florida Orchestra began on November 30th with a holiday cocktail reception at the home of Snell Isle residents Walter and Joyce Larson. The next day – the tour, which always takes place on the first Saturday in December – welcomed guests inside six *spectacularly* decorated homes in Snell Isle. Visitors were given an easy-to-follow map and could leisurely arrive at each site. Music being played in each home by volunteer and student musicians set the perfect backdrop. Inside each residence, tour guides, and often the homeowners themselves, were available to answer questions and share information. Flower arrangements by local florists were also on display. Tickets for the reception were \$90 and included the next day's tour, while tour tickets by themselves were \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. Plans are already underway for this year's event. All funds benefit the Orchestra's operating budget.

HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA GUILDS

Today there are two volunteer guilds in the Tampa Bay area which strive to "raise a portion of the financial support for The Florida Orchestra, to stimulate interest in its concerts, and to encourage its growth through volunteer services and fundraising events." With a total of approximately 300 members who provide thousands of volunteer hours, the guilds provide major support for the continuing operation of the orchestra.

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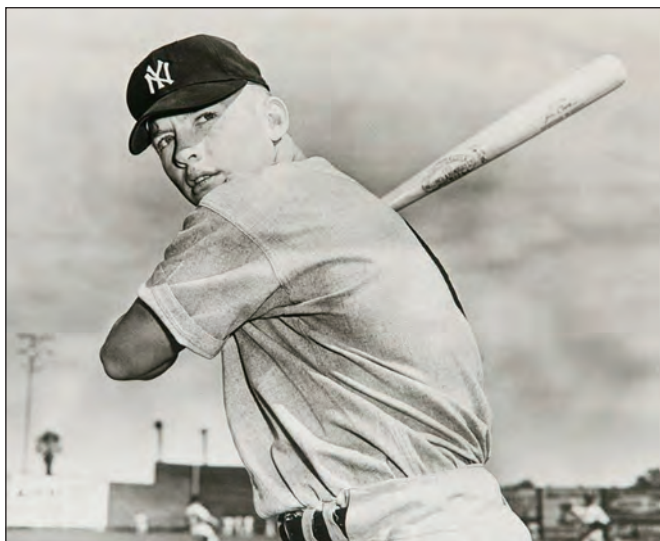
Mickey in St. Pete: Part 1

Will Michaels

Among the many Major League baseball greats to walk the streets of St. Petersburg was Mickey Mantle. Mantle was three times Most Valuable Player, Triple Crown winner in 1956, and still holds the record for World Series home runs at 18. He was a switch hitter, one of only 8 among position players on MLB rosters in 1951. Many regard him the greatest switch hitter ever. His collar size was 18, and one of his nicknames was 'Muscles.' But he did no weight training, nor did he use a protein diet, or work with a personal trainer in the off seasons.

At the age of 17 in 1949, Mickey Mantle was recruited by the New York Yankees. After three years in the minor leagues and the Yankees instructional camp, he was called up to the Yankees Major League Team in 1951 at the age of 19. The Yankees won the pennant in 1951 and Mickey found himself at right field in the World Series. In the second game of the World Series, Willie Mays hit a fly ball to right-center field and Mickey ran for the ball as did center fielder Joe DiMaggio. Joe called for the ball and as Mickey maneuvered out of his way, he tripped over an exposed drain pipe and severely injured his right knee. This was the first

Continued on page 24



Mickey Mantle played right field for the Yankees during the 1951 World Series at the age of 19.



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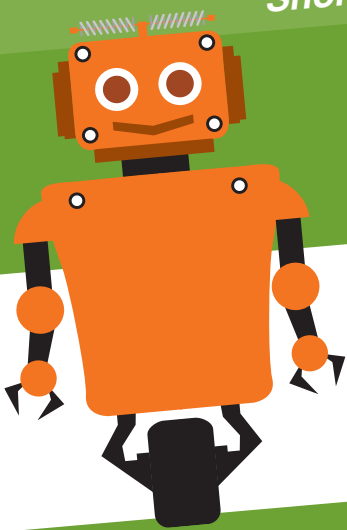
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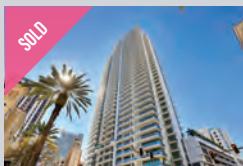
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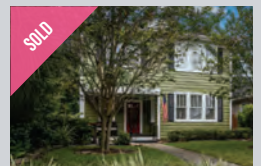
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EDITOR'S NOTE

I was never one to make New Year's Resolutions. It all seemed to be too much wishful thinking rather than an action plan. Besides, six weeks after New Year's, most of us have completely forgotten about our resolutions, especially if they involve chocolate or exercise.

Instead my hope for 2019 is kindness and compassion. Too often these days, we live in a world where intolerance is on display at local, national and international levels. Sometimes news reports seem to amplify this message. That's why I am grateful for publications like the Northeast Journal and the many writers who make it possible for us to read good news stories about our neighbors and our community. These feature stories make us feel better, and they give us hope.

In 2019, we want to share even more of these stories. Tell us how you, your family and friends, neighbors, or co-workers are making a difference by spreading the love through volunteer activities that connect, serve and uplift. Are you working at a food bank, shelter, pet rescue, assisting at a school or day care, visiting nursing homes, leading a scout troop or serving on a medical or humanitarian mission? We want to hear from you.

Over the holidays, I visited Southeast Guide Dogs' main campus in Bradenton. I was already familiar with the organization, but I had no idea about the extent of their mission or the hundreds of volunteers who make it all possible. I'll be writing a feature story about them in the next issue. In the meantime, I want to bring your attention to a very fun community event in support of the guide dogs. The SEG D walkathon, St Petersburg chapter, will be held on Saturday, February 23 at Vinoy Park. The organization is attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the most dogs wearing bandanas at a single event! Get your dog dressed and meet us there.

Let's make 2019 the best year yet,

Janan Talafer
Editor, *Northeast Journal*



Bear Talafer wearing his bandana

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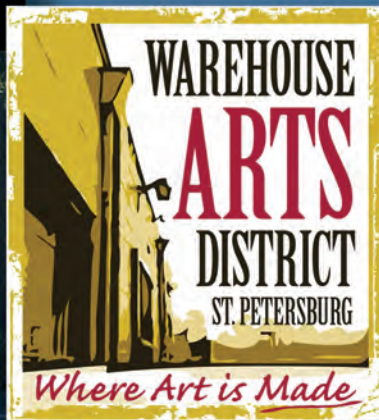


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MEET THE WRITERS

Jeannie Carlson is a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. and an adjunct professor of English at local colleges in the area. A resident of the Old Northeast since 2000, she is the publicity/entertainment chair for the Suncoast Scandinavian Club. [carlburn@tampabay.rr.com]



Rick Carson has lived in St. Pete since 2001, after a career journey that took him from national Republican politics to the innkeeper of a B&B – from the cesspools of Washington to cleaning guestroom toilets (ask him if there is any difference). [nsnaeditor@aol.com]



Julie Johnston (NEJ art director/copy editor) says, “Graphic design is ‘home’ for me. It’s a natural fit for my synesthetic mind.” Julie is a freelance graphic designer, theatre technician, and gemologist. And that’s her fur-baby who was found in a box! His name is, of course, Jack in the Box. [johnstongraphicdesigner@gmail.com]



Diana Krause Geegan, a UCF grad, taught school and later excelled in the financial services field. She found her passion in real estate and utilizes her skills and training as a successful realtor. She loves spending time with friends and family, studying God’s Word and giving back to the St. Pete community.



Lynn Lotkowitz spent years in radio in NY, and in business dev/mgmt at *Florida Trend Magazine*. She volunteers at Tomlinson Adult Learning Center ESOL Program, and travels internationally. Lynn is the new NEJ Facebook roving reporter sharing photos and video about exciting events, people and places around town. facebook.com/NortheastJournalFL



Will Michaels is retired as executive director of the History Museum and has served as president of St. Petersburg Preservation and vice president of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum of African American History. He is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg*. [wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com]



Howard Pollack has been a career attorney in New York for over 30 years. He moved to St. Petersburg to be closer to the rest of his family and has been writing for enjoyment for many years. Howard published his first novel a few years ago, a murder mystery entitled *Everywhere That Tommy Goes*.



Sylvia Raymond, a longtime St. Pete resident (now in Crescent Heights), has been a teacher, college administrator, editor, and an administrator at an international organization accrediting business schools. She enjoys biking, volunteering for Crescent Heights Neighborhood Assoc. & others, painting/hiding rocks, and hanging out with family, friends & her two cats.



Gary Smith is a realtor in downtown St. Pete. He has a degree in Journalism from Colorado State University and has been a freelance writer for 30+ years. He covered the Tampa Bay Lightning for eight years for the *Bradenton Herald*, and has written about the Rays, Bucs and Bolts for the Associated Press and the *Herald*.



Stacie Steinke recently relocated from McLean, VA, and is happy to call The 'Burg her home. Attracted by the vibrant arts scene, Stacie is a singer and voice teacher, and equally happy to apply her curiosity to writing and gardening. She enjoys paddleboarding on Coffee Pot Bayou and meandering the St. Pete waterfront with her dog, Kent.



Janan Talafer A long-time Snell Isle resident, Janan is the editor of the *Northeast Journal* and enjoys writing about people and places in St. Petersburg. She loves swing dancing, blues music, and gardening, even when the weeds threaten to overtake the yard. [janantalafer@gmail.com]



Alec Turnage received a degree in journalism from the University of Florida. A St. Petersburg native, he’s worked as an editor for the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Bleacher Report*, and he now works as a project manager for software development.



Gay Wasik-Zegel moved to St. Petersburg five years ago after retiring as a school media specialist. She is the author of a children’s book *Stop Means Stop!* She enjoys gardening, yoga, biking, volunteering, and living in the best city in Florida. [gwzegel@gmail.com]



Livia Zien moved to the area from Washington, DC in 2000. She married, traveled, and changed careers from electrical engineering to culinary arts to teaching math. Livia (who also enjoys running and swimming) and her husband Greg love life in the ONE with their two kitties.



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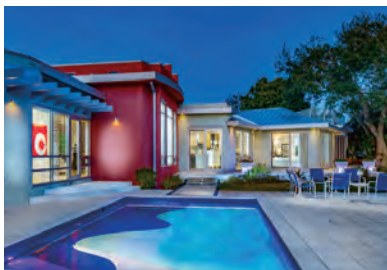
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SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

St. Pete's Artsy Murals Move Into the Old Northeast

Gary Smith

Our beautiful city of St. Petersburg is becoming known as an eclectic artsy town, and our growing collection of urban murals is definitely adding to that image. Murals of all shapes, sizes, and styles are popping up overnight on the front, sides, back and even interiors of buildings. Seems like everyone wants a colorful piece of this unique form of street art on a storefront, restaurant, or bank.

John Collins, executive director of the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance – and one of our neighbors in the Old Northeast – tells me there are over 500 murals in St. Pete. That's a surprising and impressive number! In the past, most of the murals were downtown. But more recently, they've been expanding into the 4th Street North and 9th Street North corridors where they're adding a cool touch to our part of town.

John says that he's "thrilled to see murals moving out from the central core as businesses see how mural art brings attention to their sites." He gives the new mural on Pilot Bank as a perfect example. "While not directly advertising, it's a great way for business and art to work together," says John.

I couldn't agree more. Every time a business owner commissions a new mural, we've made our city even more beautiful. The quality and beauty of the art is inspirational. So, just exactly where are these new murals? Here's a quick guide to some of the murals that can be spotted on 4th and 9th.

MUSIC & ME

Have you seen the stunning, south-facing colorful blue wall at 1507 4th Street North with the cute little girl blowing bubbles that turn into musical notes? The mural is on the building at Music & Me, an early childhood music education experience for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Artist Cecilia Lueza painted the mural for business owner Colleen Lilly who says she decided to commission Cecilia



Music & Me



Hemingway and Dali at Plotnick Law



Hess Fine Art & Northeast Jewelers



Pilot Bank

to do the mural "because her art is so beautiful."

HESS FINE ART / OLD NORTHEAST JEWELERS

An old-fashioned pocket watch with an attached chain dresses up the side of building at 1131 4th Street North, the location of Hess Fine Art and Old Northeast Jewelers. "Aaron Tullo was our artist and he came to us, got the city code department to say yes, and then we worked on a rendering," says business owner Katrina Hess. "Since we deal in vintage, the pocket watch was perfect. This is Aaron's third mural and we are very pleased with it. We hope it spurs more people to utilize his talents."

PLOTNICK LAW AND PILOT BANK

A dynamic mural of Ernest Hemingway and Salvador Dali – also painted by Aaron Tullo – graces the side of the Plotnick Law office at 1515 4th Street North. Then, traveling north, it's hard to miss the mural on Pilot Bank, especially since it's located at the busy intersection of 4th Street North and 22nd Avenue North. Artists Derek Donnelly and John Gascot created the stunning mural of a biplane flying over the city. The mural absolutely rocks it – quite a testament to St. Pete's early history. The first commercial flight departed from the downtown waterfront in 1914, with Tony Jannus flying a Benoist airboat from St. Pete to Tampa.

JWAGS

Just a bit farther north at 2312 4th Street North is a new mural facing north on the wall of JWags, a popular local hangout. Cecelia did that one, too, in collaboration with the artist DAAS. Their painting of three birds – a cardinal, a blue jay, and a mockingbird is bright, colorful, and stunning. You can't miss it when you drive by.

Cecelia was born and studied art in Argentina, and now lives in St. Pete. She's painted many of the murals in town, including the large geometric design that covers

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the intersection of Central Avenue and 5th Street North near Florida CraftArt. Cecelia told me she uses an acrylic water-based product to paint her murals. I asked if she drew the murals first in black-and-white and then colored them in. “No, I create an idea on my computer and then paint it on the building. It’s 90 percent spray paint, with the rest painted by hand.” By the way, Cecelia also painted the new mural on the side of the ONE luxury tower downtown.



JWags



Flower Centre

9TH STREET MURALS

Jump up to 9th Street North and a mural of enormous, colorful tropical flowers cover the side of the Flower Centre at 2500 9th Street North. A short distance away, on the side of Cut-Ups hair salon in the 2600 block, mural artist Derek Donnelly has portrayed St. Pete ‘founding father’ Peter Demens, a Russian aristocrat whose Orange Belt Railway opened up this part of Florida to exploration. In an interesting twist, Donnelly transitions the right side of Demens’ face into a Native American woman – an artistic element that he says is an homage to the large Native American population that existed here for thousands of years before present-day history. The title of this piece? *Angels and Demons*.



Cut-Ups Hair Salon, 2600 9th St. Peter Demens

NORTHEAST WATER TREATMENT

There is one final mural story, and in my mind, perhaps the most amazing one. It’s the Northeast Water Reclamation treatment plants on 62nd Avenue



Tom Stovall stands on top of the water treatment tanks that he painted.

Edel Mohr, SPWTD

always had, but now I can see that we definitely deserve our new reputation as the Mural City. ●

NE near Canterbury School. Tom Stovall—a local artist known for painting the tarpon at Bob Lee’s Tires on 4th Street North, and the Crescent Lake Water Tower – decided to tackle the job. Because of an issue with worker’s compensation, the city

told Tom he couldn’t hire painters to assist him. So this 67-year-old guy who is a former actor and ballet dancer as well as artist, took on the job himself. This was a painting task that should be called the *Sistine Chapel* of water treatment plants. There are two giant water treatment tanks on the property, a total of some 130,000 square feet – about five football fields in size. Tom says it took 2,000 gallons of paint.

“I flew out of the St Pete-Clearwater Airport, looked down and saw these bright blue, gum drop-shaped tanks from the air,” says Tom. “My thought was, it looks like a true wilderness. There’s a large coyote population, along with snakes, raccoons, and huge soft shell turtles. It’s all absolutely beautiful. So I decided to add a coyote into my work.”

Writing this story made me humbled by the gifted artists in our city. St. Pete still has a lot of the small-town, quirky charm that it’s



OLD NORTHEAST



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OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Vectoring and Visiting

Julie Johnston

I've said before I'm 'from away.' I'm the art director for the Northeast Journal and I live just a half-hour away, but a drive through the Old Northeast is like a mini European vacation.

Occasionally I 'keyhonk' with my angel-mom as my co-pilot. I vector from interesting thing to interesting thing. On this day, I started near the northwest corner of the ONE (30th Avenue and 1st Street). I took a left at the cool bike (17th), and a right after the ladder in the road (two cool women between Locust and Cherry trimming trees), which brought me south past the ironically named Cherry Hill Apartments with not a hill in sight (11th Avenue and Cherry).

Wandering toward the water, I had to choose: turn left... turn right... (The brilliant Broadway show If/Then came to mind. Turn left, and your life - or at least your keyhonk - takes you on this adventure; turn right and you're on a whole 'nuther trip.) I turned right.

On North Shore Drive - after passing the blond-dreads guy on the scooter - I turned left into the aquatic complex and snapped a photo of the big huge beach ball, soccer ball, and the blue... bocce ball... croquet ball... marble? I need to learn more about this area... What is the big blue ball?

Next up, I mused about the bike-share bikes with the rider's choice of 'Go Bolts' or 'Buccaneers' emblazoning. If numbers tell the story, there were more Lightning fans on the road and more Bucs bikes in the rack.

I wish I could include sound with this story so you could listen to the woman I heard warming up her voice and singing "Glo-o-o-o-o-o, o-o-o-o-o, o-o-o-o-o-ria..." Her vocals wafted from some window, or car, or grassy spot nearby.

I wandered through the parking lot at North Shore Park which was empty-ish for the first time in my visits. I've volunteered with PARC at the blues festival a few times, and now I was intrigued to see the waterfront in its natural-beauty state, sans bands and crowds. It was a bit like seeing a super model without her makeup - even more stunning once I got to see the great bone structure of the place, with the sailboats in the background showing it off like a strand of pearls.

Onward. I got a kick out of the giant holiday greeting cards at Vinoy Park made by teens from local recreation centers. I couldn't pick a favorite, but chose to highlight the Peace on Earth artwork since, more than ever, I really want world peace.

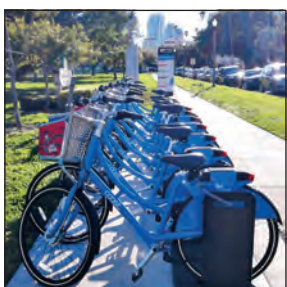
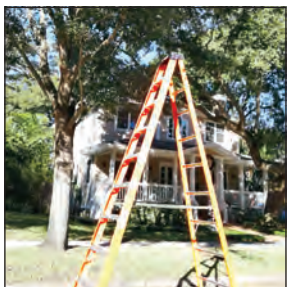
The flag at half-staff in honor of President George H.W. Bush waved respectfully in front of Vinoy Place as I meandered onto 5th Avenue. I wasn't ready to face 275 and the drive home yet, so I veered right on Beach Drive, and left at the stunning bougainvillea (9th Avenue). I think my next adventure will be 'take a right at every bougainvillea and a left at every cool cactus.' Let's see where that corkscrew takes me...

I was hungry. I have to admit, this was the third time I've tried to visit Fray's Donut House with no luck. I'm a night owl. Fray's is not. I now know they close at 2pm and open at 5:30am. Maybe I'll stay up late and head down at 5am some day.

My last turn was the right onto 4th Street North, the epic, storied thoroughfare, at the intersection of the American Red Cross and Starbucks (kind of an illustration of life lately). I whizzed by the "20 Days 'Til Christmas" surfboard at Reno Beach Surf Shop. So Florida.

I stopped at the north-est/west-est corner of the ONE, just south of the corner of Publix and Publix. (Insert high-pitched "whaaaaat?") I discovered Yogurtology and a pecan-praline-and-chocolate combo, topped with strawberries, Reese's Cup, salted-caramel truffle, coconut and marshmallow, and some sort of blondie bar. Magical. It was more 'variety' than 'pretty,' but dang it was good. (The jury is still out on the strawberry bobo fish-egg-things.) I enjoyed Ernest's subtle and wry dancing at the register, and spent several minutes getting to know sweet recent-Scranton-transplant Nicollette. Enjoy a treat soon. You're welcome.

I miss the John Gee and Eugenia Woods days of odd observations in the Northeast Journal, so I decided to record my own. I promise no great history lessons or insider insights, but I hope to remind you how intriguing and beautiful your corner of the world is to us passersby. Take a ride and discover new adventures of your own. We'd love to hear about it. ●



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THE POWER OF PLAY *continued from page 1*

time the museum has partnered with Habitat and the project was a great success. "We were all covered in paint, but we learned new skills. Our staff is talking about doing it again," says Paige. "Habitat is such a fantastic organization, doing amazing things. It's not often that nonprofits find that kind of synchronicity where you can work together side-by-side so easily."

Alison Riley, vice president of corporate partnerships and marketing for Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County, agreed that the build was seamless. "It was such a great experience to watch a team of people smiling and laughing together as they created something for children that will likely change their world." She notes Habitat's program traditionally focuses on homeownership for the parents and not generally on the children. "The Playhouse Program gives us the chance to provide children a playful retreat that they get to call their own, while helping to support our overall mission of affordable housing," says Riley.

When Riley first joined the Pinellas Habitat team in 2017, she had a goal of introducing more local businesses to the organization's mission. She also wanted to implement the playhouse program, which had originated in the East Bay/Silicon Valley Habitat office in California. "Just as important, I wanted to find a special way that we could partner with the children served by Habitat, who often work side-by-side with their parents to help earn their family a chance at homeownership."

It was through connections made during the Leadership St. Pete Class of 2018 that the local playhouse program was born. As a member of that class, Riley met Darryl Feldman of Great Explorations, and Lisa Suprenand of Ronald McDonald House Charities. As luck would have it, Suprenand happened to send Riley an article about a playhouse being built in Austin, TX and the seed was planted. Riley contacted Feldman, discussed it over coffee, and says, "That meeting at Panera blossomed into an amazing idea that we are looking to spread through the business community."

According to Riley, the playhouse program is designed to be a corporate team-building opportunity. The Habitat of Pinellas website notes that teams contribute



Kids add a creative touch to the playhouse.



The team poses for a photo.



Paint transforms a children's playhouse.



Kids Only!

a tax-deductible donation of \$2,500 per playhouse to cover the cost of materials and support our work in the community. Habitat Pinellas provides all the materials, tools, training, and supervision needed for a great experience.

It's the ideal corporate community involvement. Instead of companies having to commit to a long-term project, the playhouse is tailored to be completed in about a half a day. The playhouse pieces are pre-cut, ready-to-prime/paint/assemble, and delivered to the sponsor organization site. Four hours later, with the guidance of Habitat's talented team, a playhouse is constructed. While each of the playhouses is designed similarly in layout, paint colors selected by the participating organization help make each one more unique and personal.

"Participating in the playhouse project gave us the chance to provide these children a playful retreat that they get to call their own, while helping to support our overall mission of affordable housing," says Paige. "Not only did we build playhouses that day, we also built a lot of good will. As a museum, we are trying to expand our reach into the community. We wanted to show our commitment to the community beyond our four walls."

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Riley hopes that Habitat will be able to fund and complete 10 more playhouse-building programs. She says that in the long run, she hopes "we can fully fund a home sponsorship through the Playhouse program which would amount to \$50,000."

Her vision for the future? "My hope is that Habitat Pinellas can be an advocate for this innovative means of fundraising, and help others to focus on the children of the Habitat Program. These individuals are the leaders of the future, and we need to make sure we support them and allow opportunities to grow their imagination and creativity."

Riley adds that Habitat is working toward creating a world where everyone has a decent, affordable place to live. "Children are the first to benefit from living in a stable, secure home," she says. "They are healthier, have fewer behavioral problems, and perform better in school."

Our city is fortunate to have these two wonderful organizations working side-by-side to help nurture our children and guide them to a brighter future. ◆

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Spanish Immersion School Headed Our Way

Alec Turnage

Parents are always looking to give their children any advantage to success in today's world. For those living in our community, one more avenue toward that goal is about to open. The St. Petersburg International School – expected to open in August of 2019 – will offer students a Spanish language immersion experience with a heavy focus on the arts. The nonprofit school is branding itself as a 'bilingual home for the arts.'

At first, the school will offer classes for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. Then each year following the launch, the school will expand a grade higher until it reaches its goal of preschool through 12th grade. Graduates of the program will be bilingual and biliterate in Spanish and English – able to speak, read, and write in both languages fluently.

This is the second language immersion school to open in St. Pete. Earlier this year, the *Northeast Journal* featured the French American School of Tampa Bay which began accepting students in the fall. That school is located at 2100 62nd Avenue North. The St. Petersburg International School has not yet settled on a location, but they are searching for a facility near the downtown corridor.

WHAT IS AN IMMERSION SCHOOL?

Bennett Zamoff, an educator and founder of the St. Petersburg International school, points out that there are two factors that set immersion schools apart. Instructors teach all the subjects in the target 'foreign' language, and students spend at least half the day using the language.

Most people first encounter foreign language classes in middle school and sometimes in grade school. Students usually attend a class taught by a teacher who specializes in the language. But for the remainder of the school day, students do all their socializing and learning in English. "When students get to the age where they learn a foreign language, it does have real value, but it will not put them on a path to becoming bilingual," Bennett says.

According to Bennett, becoming bilingual has many advantages, ranging from cognitive advantages to social advantages to monetary advantages. A bilingual college applicant has a significant advantage over a monolingual applicant, and it all starts at a young age. "Around the world, the United States is the exception to children learning only one language," says Bennett. "Monolingualism (using only one language) is the illiteracy of the 21st century."

Bennett and his wife, Virginia Chacon, who is from Uruguay, know the value of immersing their children in a foreign language from birth. They spoke Spanish with their children (now ages 6 and 8) from an early age, but as the kids entered

the school system, their speaking preferences switched from Spanish to English. "Their speaking skills were developing equally well, if not better, until they started school," Bennett says. "They were fortunate to receive some Spanish instruction, but not nearly enough to help them become bilingual." Bennett suspects there are a lot of families who see their children's Spanish language skills diminish as they get older, and he hopes the St. Petersburg International School will prevent that from happening.

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

Providing a path in Pinellas County for children to become bilingual in Spanish is just the first of the three needs the school aims to address. The second is the need for an arts-driven curriculum as a primary vehicle of instruction. A curriculum rich in the arts readies the mind for learning in all subjects, according to research reported by Pacific Standard. The St. Petersburg International School will use music, the visual arts, the performing arts, and the literary arts to teach its core content.

St. Petersburg seems to be the perfect location for such an endeavor. The Spanish-speaking population in our area is growing. According to the City of St. Pete's website from 2016, the population of citizens born in Latin America has increased by 40 percent. Immersion programs are increasing in popularity around the country, and a whole-school immersion model for Spanish and the arts would seem to fit St. Pete like a glove.

The third purpose for the St. Petersburg International School is to make tuition more affordable for children in families where private schooling is simply out of reach. "We want to bring in kids from all around St. Pete and from all kinds of socio-economic levels," Bennett says. Tuition will

be determined using a sliding scale that takes into account a family's income and number of dependents. The scale ranges from \$600 a year to \$12,500 a year. This will allow the school to garner as diverse a student body as possible, he says.

Why should parents consider sending their students to the school? Bennett replies: "I would just urge them to consider what they'd like their child to be able to accomplish as a 12th grader, or as a citizen of the world." It's never too early to begin supplying your kids with the tools for a rich and well-rounded life.

The application process for the school's first year is now underway and will end at midnight on February 1st. Because immersion is most effective when it begins at a very early age, the school's website says that beginning-to-intermediate Spanish speaking skills will be required for students entering second, third, or fourth grade this year. To learn more about the school, go to www.saintpeteininternational.org.



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TAKING A LOOK

Dress For Success

Howard Pollack

One of the things that I noticed after moving from New York to St. Petersburg was the laid-back business attire that prevails here. In Manhattan – as it is in most parts of New York – a suit and tie is an office requirement, unless you're a Millennial Wunderkind who owns the company. So far, in St. Petersburg I haven't seen many ties, and suits are a rarity. Perhaps I've been looking in the wrong places; you see, I forgot to mention, I work from home and have not put on a tie since I moved here. However, when I do venture out during working hours, the local business attire is much more casual, comfortable and light. Of course, because of the heat this all makes sense, but it also helps to create an atmosphere that feels much less like a rat race and much more like a stroll in the park.

So, I began to wonder if the level of dress had any impact on productivity, performance, or success and it prompted me to investigate my hypothesis. Mind you, this was not intended to be a scientific research project, but merely an exercise in curiosity; or better yet, a way to spend otherwise unproductive time adorned in shorts and a tank top, while working on what I hoped would be an entertaining article.

I began my study walking through Downtown St. Petersburg on a typical humid and sunny afternoon in August. I peeked through glass windows into various real estate offices. No suits, no ties, no women in skirts, just casually dressed professionals going about their business, chatting it up and looking productive. I also witnessed many people dining inside and outside of the abundant restaurants and cafes along Beach Drive. Some were tourists, but there were quite a few of the locally employed out for a nice lunch as well. I will admit though, it was difficult to ascertain who was vacationing and who was simply on a break.

From there I went to a local bank, and the assistant manager, sporting a Tampa Bay Rays t-shirt, greeted me with a handshake and a smile. "Big game today," he said. We spoke for a few minutes, conducted some business, and I was on my way. So far so good, though I still wasn't sure what I had accomplished. I pressed on

and walked into a nearby office building that prominently displayed the name of a major local law firm out in front. It was more difficult to move about unnoticed, so I made a quick walk through and actually did glimpse a few pressed shirts and ties, along with professionally dressed women, but no suit jackets. Of course, the atmosphere was formal and everyone looked extremely busy. I suppose that meant they were being productive.

From there, I found my way back to one of the cafes on Beach Drive, had a cold soft drink and thought for a bit, wondering where I should go next to continue my investigation. And then it hit me. I realized that the best place to look for over-dressed movers and shakers is actually after work, at the happy-hour bars that populate the downtown area. At least in New York that's the way it was. And, certainly the research would be more entertaining.

Not long after five o'clock, the hustle and bustle began. The streets slowly (check spacing on the layout; there is a big space here) filled with people leaving work and so did the bars that offered two-for-one cocktails. I spotted a few ties, some suit jackets flung over shoulders, but mostly casual clothes, khaki shorts, and light colored shirts. More to the point, beads of moisture dripped down sweaty foreheads as smiles played across happy faces. Drinks were at hand and the fun had commenced in earnest. A good day's work... perhaps productive, perhaps not, but at least it was over for the day. Influenced by the scene, I ordered a cocktail, sat for a while, still pondering whether I had actually accomplished anything.

When I grew weary of the revelry, I found my way out, less sober and more informed – or confused – I'm still not sure, but as I walked along the street, I came upon a man pushing a shopping cart filled with various odd and ends. He had a scraggly beard, unkempt hair, and was generally disheveled. Homeless or not I couldn't say, because he was wearing a sport jacket. And while it was clearly in need of a pressing, I wondered if it was instrumental in a productive day of raising capital. ●



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ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • nsnaeditor@aol.com



We want to share our neighbors' thoughts about what it means to be neighborly in The Historic Old Northeast. Send your thoughts about The Historic Old Northeast (200 words or so) to NSNAeditor@aol.com.

OLD NORTHEASTER PUBLISHES CHILDREN'S BOOK

We all make our New Year's resolutions with good intentions, but unfortunately more often than not those resolutions

are broken and forgotten before Sinatra finishes singing *New York, New York*. Old Northeast resident Tori McGee was determined to make 2018 the year she followed through with her dream of writing a children's book, and she did just that. *Sloth's Don't Run* just hit Amazon, Barnes Noble online, and Haslam's this past December.

Her inspiration for the book came from her background of competing in Ironman triathlons and running marathons along with her husband, Patrick. For Tori, it was finding the courage to start the races despite the challenges along the way. In *Sloth's Don't Run*, the moral of the story is that winning doesn't always mean finishing first. Often winning is just having the courage to start the race – even if you're



a sloth competing in a world of jaguars. Tori notes that it takes courage to chase your dreams, but with hard work and determination those dreams can become a reality.

Tori was born in St. Pete and raised, along with two brothers and sister, in



The Old Northeast on 16th Avenue North where her parents have resided for the past 35 years. In 2008, Tori and her husband purchased the home directly behind her parent's home on 17th Avenue and are chasing their own dreams now as a family, along with their two-year-old son, Rowan.

~ Sharon Kantner



HONNA invites and encourages you to stay connected and on top of programs, events, and other happenings in our neighborhood. Want to learn more about the neighborhood, become involved, share ideas, learn about events and dates of Porch Parties, and provide feedback? Share/Like us at www.facebook.com/honnaorg.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

- Visit www.honna.org
- Become a HONNA member. You'll receive periodic informative email announcements. honna.org/get-involved
- Volunteer for a project, program, or event (the Candlelight Tour of Homes, Trunk or Treat, Porch

Parties, Crime Watch). Contact John Johnson at jjt1sp@gmail.com.

- Follow Historic Old Northeast Forever at www.historicoldnortheast-forever.org. HONF works "to preserve and protect our special neighborhood" (HONF is not affiliated with HONNA).



NOVEMBER MEETING

HONNA held its last quarterly meeting of the year on Monday, November 12, which was also the election of the board for 2019. The report by the Police Department officer about criminal activity in the neighborhood over the previous six weeks indicated one home invasion (with a gun – the perpetrator fled), and several residential and vehicular burglaries (almost all of unlocked properties). Over 100 squad-car patrols during the night and 66 park-walk-and-talk by officers took place.

Thirteen residents were elected by HONNA members to the Board for 2019. Eleven are returning and two – Doug O'Dowd and Kevin Smith – are new. Two outgoing members, Jay Weisberg and Rick Carson, were recognized for their service on the board (five and 13 years respectively).

Guest speakers were two members of the City Council who represent parts of the Old Northeast: Gina Driscoll and Darden Rice. Gina's remarks touched on local historic districts, parking issues (e.g. permit parking), and the City Beautiful Committee. Darden spoke about affordable workforce housing, transportation (e.g. bus rapid transit), and environmental concerns (e.g. 'green' initiatives).

At its December Board meeting, the following were elected officers for the year: Natalie DeVicente, president; John Johnson, vice president; Ben DeLozier, secretary; Charleen McGrath, treasurer.

After over 15 years moving around the country as a Coast Guard officer, newly elected Kevin Sullivan (9th Avenue NE) is enjoying making a 1922 Craftsman bungalow home with his wife, Dr. Noëlle Boucquey, a professor of environmental studies at Eckerd College. Kevin is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and is Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's emergency manager. He coordinates



the response to hurricanes, oil spills, and search-and-rescue cases along the west coast of Florida. Kevin is a certified emergency manager and earned a Master of Science in emergency services administration from California State University/Long Beach. When not working on the house or yard, Kevin and Noëlle enjoy sailing, kayaking, and hiking throughout the Tampa Bay region.

New boardmember, Doug O'Dowd (21st Avenue NE), grew up in Clearwater and received both his Bachelor and Master degrees from the University of Florida. He has



lived in the Old Northeast since 1993, and he and his wife, Cecilia, have two sons, Liam and Aidan, which explains his involvement in the Northeast Little League and Boy Scouts. The family has contemplated moving a few times over the years, but always come to the same conclusion that the best place to live is right here in the Historic Old Northeast. Doug has a passion for making sure that our neighborhood is

up to par with respect to its infrastructure, and allowing for easy access for all without jeopardizing the historical integrity of the ONE. He is currently the CFO of College Hunks Hauling Junk and Moving.

CANDLELIGHT TOUR BREAKS RECORDS!

On Sunday, December 9, HONNA held its most successful Candlelight Tour ever! The 21st annual event was attended by 1,379 people – a record turnout that was especially gratifying considering the threat of inclement weather. Proceeds from the tour will fund neighborhood improvements with a portion donated to the Sunken Gardens Forever Foundation.

The tour featured six lovely houses, which homeowners graciously opened to the public. The homeowners are Leslie and Tom Burket, Tori and Patrick McGee, Ulla and Clay Glover, Carlos Mata and Kevin Brown, Marci and Joe Emerson, and Anna and John Broshears. Different architectural styles and periods were represented with some homes having been remodeled or updated over the years to better meet the needs of the owners and their families.



After registering at Westminster Palms and receiving a wristband and souvenir booklet, tour-goers were able to visit the homes in any order they chose. Complimentary open air trolleys ran through the neighborhood from 3-8pm for visitors to hop on and off. Walking, bike-riding, and personal cars were other options for getting around. When darkness fell, two large metal lanterns with battery-operated candles were placed on the sidewalks at the entry to each home to light the way, replacing the lighted candle luminaries of old.

Thanks to committee members who worked to put the Tour together this year: Shawne Angelle, Becky Barie, Natalie DeVicente, Ann Goldman, John Johnson, Sharon Kantner, Charleen McGrath and Jay Marshall – with appreciation to the support of the HONNA board of directors in our efforts.

Thanks and kudos to the over 100 volunteers who donated their time and effort to ensure that everything ran smoothly. And thanks to our generous advertisers who offered financial support to help defray costs. Westminster Palms – which was ‘Tour Central’ – as well as the Inn at Dickens House and Purepoint Financial served as hospitality locations, and Vesper Bells from the Lutheran Church of the Cross entertained. We also appreciated the convenience provided by ticket outlets: Marion’s, J.Con Salon-Spa, Old Northeast Rally, and Sunken Gardens. We also value friends who also donated to the event, like Rebekah Lazaridis and Lauren Lynn who did so in remembrance of Rebekah’s late mother, Susan Alderson, who was a longtime ONE resident and managing editor of the *Northeast Journal*.

Portraits of each home painted by local artist Robert Holmes were given to the homeowners as a token of our appreciation. These home portraits appeared in our souvenir booklet along with a story about each house. Leslie Curran of Articles Gallery donated gift certificates to the homeowners for framing the paintings. Two lovely floral arrangements provided by ArtisticFlowersgraced the Westminster Palms lobby Saturday evening and Sunday. The colorful descriptive booklet was created by ONE neighbors MJ and Jerry Robinson of Robinson Brand Builders. Thanks to all!
~ Cathy Weisberg, Candlelight Tour Chair

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Recently, several cases have come before the Development Review Commission (DRC) seeking variances for projects which do not comply with the City code. HONNA would like to make certain that residents are aware of some of the City’s regulations which impact what we can and cannot do to our properties. Keep in mind these regulations were instituted to maintain the high standards and home values which we have come to expect in our special neighborhood.

Artificial Turf: This type of turf is considered an impervious surface in St. Pete. Required front and side yards abutting streets must be maintained as permeable landscaped vegetative green space with the exception of paved and non-organic mulched areas, which for interior lots shall not exceed 45% of the lot. This means artificial turf is acceptable in rear yards as long as the walkways, pavers, structures, etc. does not exceed 45%.

Circular Driveways and Parking in Front of Houses: Here in the ONE, we are fortunate to have alleys which give us access to our required parking as well as providing for access to utilities and trash pick-up. There is a tier of City regulations governing acceptable locations for parking if you do not have an alley adjacent to your lot. No vehicle parking is permitted in front yards.



Tree Canopy: Trees are prominent characteristics of our neighborhood and are protected by City ordinance. You must get a permit before cutting down a tree on your property. Trees and plantings located in the parkway (i.e., between the sidewalk and the street) are owned by the City but must be cared for by the homeowner. HONNA supports our tree canopy by planting trees free of charge each spring for residents who agree to care for the newly-planted trees, especially during the first year when they are getting established. To be considered for a tree, please contact our tree chair, Carol Kline, at carolkline1948@gmail.com.

~ Robin Reed, Chair, Historic Preservation & Planning Comm.

HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY PARTY

The Trunk or Treat dress rehearsal for Halloween held on Sunday, November 25, in the parking lot of Westminster Church, was a blast – for kids as well as their parents. Some 70 children enjoyed having their faces painted and playing ghostly games to earn tasty rewards. Thanks to all who showed up with decorated trunks and treats for the kids, and special thanks



to Maria Abadesco, Debbie and Tim Costello, and Natalie and Logan DeVicente who engineered the children’s activities! Given the attendance, we will plan more activities for this event next year. On Halloween night, the ONE once again proved itself to be Halloween Central as thousands of creatively costumed kids (and parents!) descended upon the neighborhood in search of candy and thrills. HONNA paid the police department to hire extra officers to assure safety and order to supplement those officers secured by neighbors on and near the busy and popular 17th Avenue NE.

And, we can’t forget the highly anticipated Halloween Porch Party hosted by Steve Deal and Frank Hay. A ghoulish time was had by all!

HONNA threw its annual holiday party at the Old Northeast Tavern on Monday evening, December 17. Some 50 or so convivial neighbors joined the festivities and enjoyed one another’s company as well as several varieties of the Tavern’s popular pizzas. Folks didn’t come empty-handed. They brought toys, books, and other gifts which were donated to CASA (the domestic abuse shelter) to brighten Christmas for those who might not otherwise have been visited by Santa. Elves Lily and Harper DeVicente helped with the collection.
~ John Johnson, Chair, Events Committee

HONNA’S SHINING STARS – “BEFORE” AND “AFTER”

In an effort to honor Old Northeast homeowners for preserving or updating their home or property – and investing the extra dollar to keep the character and history of their homes intact – HONNA has been recognizing them with the Neighborhood Star Award. Every month yard signs will be placed on properties to indicate an award. Here are the Stars for December: 235 12th Ave North (Scott and Laura Simon), and 556 21st Ave NE (Roger and Susan Thrun)

Watch for new Stars in the neighborhood monthly, and you’ll be able to find them posted on www.honna.org in addition to HONNA’s Facebook page.



We invite you to be a part of this effort, so please feel free to nominate a neighbor or a refurbished property in the ONE you admire. Have a home to honor? Send the information to Charleen McGrath at treasurer@honna.org.



DECEMBER: 235 12th Ave North “Before”



DECEMBER: 235 12th Ave North “After”



DECEMBER: 556 21st Ave NE “Before”



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THE HEART GALLERY

The Heart Gallery provides an emotionally safe way to connect children with families through a traveling exhibit featuring the faces and stories of local foster children ready for adoption. www.heartgallerykids.org.

NOAH, AGE 9

Noah loves to smile and laugh – especially when accompanied by Elmo! He enjoys watching *Bob the Builder* on the Nick Jr. channel. His favorite colors are red and blue. His significant and pervasive medical challenges make daily life a challenge to navigate, but he does it with happiness and joy. Noah will need a family that will empower him and help him engage in the world on his own terms.



DFL-101195851 • Photo courtesy of Petal & Vine Photography

WYLAN, AGE 13

Wylan's love of vanilla cookies is only surpassed by his love of twirling shoelaces, beads, and strings. He enjoys playing games on his tablet and is continuing to learn about playing with others. Wylan thrives on consistency and will need a family ready to encourage and engage him on his terms. In this puzzle called life, let Wylan show you what love and determination are really all about.



LSF-101159351 • Photos courtesy of Remember This. Previous photos courtesy of Liara Studios

To learn more, attend an adoption orientation. Call Diane Johnson at 727-456-0600 ext. 2085 or email djohnson@eckerd.org for information. Can't adopt, but want to help? Contact Patsy Stills, executive director at patsy@heartgallerykids.org or call 727-258-4806. Donate at www.heartgallerykids.org, or Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco; 500 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N, Suite 300; St. Pete FL 33705.

THEY STILL NEED ADOPTING

Do these children look familiar to you? They were previously featured in the Northeast Journal, but each is still waiting for a loving family. Each year, there are over 365 children living in foster care until they get adopted. While thousands of other foster children are reunited with their biological families within a year or so, these kids do not have that option and many spend 5 or more years in foster care placements that are not designed for permanency. If they are not adopted by adulthood, their chances of success as an adult are dramatically decreased. The answer is adoption. Spread the word.

THE IMPORTANT STUFF

At any given time, approximately 80 children are available for adoption. The Heart Gallery features the hardest to adopt: siblings, teens and medically challenged children. We've helped more than 356 local children find their forever family and get adopted since 2006. To see current gallery locations, please visit www.heartgallerykids.org/gallery.php.

We need more locations for galleries and more companies to support us through website links, financial support, and employee giving. If interested, call Patsy Stills, executive director at patsy@heartgallerykids.org. Thank you!



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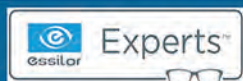
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

To be considered for the Meet Your Neighbor page, contact editor@northeastjournal.org.



Mila Turtle

17th Avenue North
Crescent Lake

How long have you lived in St. Pete and where are you from originally?

I came here from Northern New Jersey to go to Eckerd College in 1986, where I met my husband Jesse. We fell in love with each other and the City of St. Pete and never left!

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

The Warehouse Arts District. Every time I go there I discover a new studio or artist.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Alaska for the glaciers and Northern Lights. And I would like to see the pyramids in Egypt.

A gadget you can't live without...

My Nespresso milk frother. Looking forward to a delicious cup of coffee helps get me out of bed.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Gigi's – the best pizza in town!

What famous person, current or past, would you like to meet and why?

The Dalai Lama. I would love to discuss his quote: "Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions."

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

I enjoy indulging in all things creative, museum and gallery hopping, as well as swimming at North Shore pool and walking around Crescent Lake Park.

A great movie you'd recommend?

The Princess Bride, a classic that never gets old. "As you wish."

If a teleporter existed, what time period and place would you go to first?

I am very curious about what The 'Burg will look like in the future.

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?

All expressions of gratitude.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?

Any kind, as long as I can be scratched behind the ears.

Tell us about a mentor or someone who inspired you.

My parents have always been a major source of inspiration and encouragement and have helped me see my full potential.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Mindset by Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., about a fixed mindset and a growth mindset, and how each influences the decisions we make in our work and personal lives. It's enlightening and motivational. I'll admit I'm a bit of a self-improvement book addict.

What local venue is a must-see for out-of-towners?

There are so many, but I'd start with the MFA, strolling down Central Ave. and visiting the art galleries, shops, and restaurants. Also, breakfast at Skyway Jacks and enjoying a glass of wine on the front porch of the Vinoy.

Tell us about an accomplishment you're proud of.

The longevity of my business and my marriage, I am celebrating the 25th anniversary of both! And I can't leave out the two people I am most proud of, my daughter Zoe and son Owen.



Rick Kantner

14th Avenue NE

How long have you lived in St. Pete and where are you from originally?

My wife and I have lived in St. Pete for 15 years (Hyde Park in Tampa prior to that) and I am from Brevard, NC (near Asheville).

Best hidden gem(s) in St. Pete?

The Coliseum and The Vinoy Hotel (not so hidden)

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Italy and Germany

A gadget you can't live without. ...

I guess my laptop would be most indispensable.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

For go-to casual, Hooks Sushi.

What famous person would you like to meet?

Ronald Reagan. He was a visionary who held strong to his goal of defeating communism, ultimately winning the Cold War. He was an eternal optimist and helped lift us out of the horrific economic conditions of the '70s and '80s and restored a lot of pride in our country that had lagged after the tough circumstances of Vietnam, Watergate, gas lines, Iranian hostage situation, high interest rates, etc.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

Hiking the amazing mountains of North Carolina and boating on gorgeous Lake Toxaway, NC.

A great movie you'd recommend?

The Princess Bride. Kids and adults can enjoy it and it has everything in it – sword fights, pirates, monsters, action, suspense, comedy, romance, clever dialogue, and lots of memorable lines. "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die."

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?

"You're a great dad."

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?

Black Lab. Even-tempered, loyal, athletic, and smart. I don't fit all those but... if only I were a dog!

Tell us about a mentor or someone who inspired you.

My dad is an inspiration. He is battling prostate cancer, now metastasized, for a third time and is facing tough odds. But he always puts on a smile, keeps his faith, and has a positive attitude even through the painful days.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

The Vision of the Soul: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in the Western Tradition by Josh Davidson, an interesting take on what 'conservatism' really means. Fundamentally it is an artistic movement – not a political one – and should promote art, beauty, and goodness to elevate us to see God and the divine. Not an easy read at times, but interesting.

What local venue is a must-see for out-of-towners?

The St. Pete waterfront and The Vinoy... have a drink on the veranda.

Tell us about an accomplishment you're proud of.

Being a father is the greatest thing I've ever done.

Something people might not know about you?

At 13, I beat a tennis player who would go on to be a top-50 player in the world.



Beth Harrison

2nd Ave South
Downtown St. Pete

How long have you lived in St. Pete and where are you from originally?

In St. Pete 7+ years; originally from NYC.

Best hidden gem(s) in St. Pete?

Driftwood. When I drive through their main street, I feel like I'm in a Stephen King novel, circa Civil War period.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Prague and Vietnam

A gadget you can't live without?

My Nespresso milk frother, it's the little things in life.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Brick & Mortar

What famous person, current or past, would you like to meet and why?

Abraham Lincoln. There's too much division in our country currently, and as someone who had to navigate similar tides in US history, I would love to hear his perspective and words of wisdom.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

In my spare time, I make art. I enjoy losing myself in creative endeavors.

A great movie you'd recommend?

Wings of Desire – The original Wim Wenders version, not the remake.

If a teleporter existed, what time period and place would you go to first?

I'm a sucker for British dramas. I think I would be a member of the Royal court during the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth. I'd be worried about plumbing options, but would love to experience that lifestyle: the homes, the dresses, and of course, the parties!

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?

Thank you for making a difference in my life.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?

Most likely a miniature schnauzer like my spoiled dog.

Tell us about a mentor or someone who inspired you.

Most recently, Beto O'Rourke and the manner in which he ran his senate campaign in Texas inspired me. It was so encouraging for a politician to focus on the things and desires that we have in common as Americans and human beings instead of applying labels and words that tear us apart.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

I wish I had time to read fiction. What's on my night stand: *Designing Voice User Interfaces*. It's not for everyone, but I'd recommend it to anyone who's interested in voice technology.

What local venue is a must-see for out-of-towners?

St. Pete Shuffleboard Club (I'm a member), and the Imagine Museum if you are a fan of contemporary glasswork.

Tell us about an accomplishment you're proud of.

For several years I mentored a young woman through Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. She's in college now. I'm proud of the time we spent together, and how I was able to provide some guidance, and new experiences in her world.

I LOVE THE 'BURG

Preserve the 'Burg Historic St. Pete Bicycle Tour

Sylvia Raymond

I love St. Pete. I also love riding my bike and walking. When I ride, I notice and really see what is right in front of my eyes, low down and high up, rather than grabbing a quick glimpse as I drive by. Plus I don't have to worry about finding a parking spot, not so easy these days in downtown St. Pete! So, when I read that Preserve the 'Burg offers bicycle tours, I thought what a great way to learn about the buildings and neighborhoods in the city where I live, work and play.

Preserve the 'Burg offers various walking and bicycling tours throughout the area, from October through May. The tour I signed up for was titled, Bicycles, Neighborhoods & Buildings – Keeping St. Pete Special Bicycle Tour. It was a two-hour event and was already full within a few weeks of its promotion. It's definitely a popular tour.

On Thanksgiving weekend, at 10am, I hopped on my bike and rode downtown to meet up with the other tour participants

at the Independent Bar on Central Avenue. When I arrived, I met the tour guide, Emily Elwyn, president of Preserve the 'Burg's board of directors. Emily is an historic preservationist and architectural historian. She has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in heritage preservation. She's also studied in the Architecture program at Georgia Tech and with the Florida Studies program at the University of South Florida. Emily lives in an old home in the Historic Old Northeast and is an unabashed lover of all things Florida. She's been leading historic, cultural, and architectural tours since she relocated to St. Petersburg in 2006.



L-R: Sue Chatham, William Beaton, Sue Ewing, Linda Grossman, Laurie Grossman, friend, Bill Grossman, and friend



Jim Shirk



Emily telling us about Mirror Lake

Before we started, I introduced myself to some of the tour participants, one of whom was Jim Shirk from Tampa. I had met him before on a couple of fun Florida Bike Tour Urban Restaurant Tours in Tampa, so I wasn't surprised to see him. He gets around since he is with the Hillsborough County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and participates at many area cycling events. He told me that these types of historic bike tours started in Tampa.

I didn't have much time to talk to the other riders since we were there to ride not to gab, but I did meet a group of riders who used to be neighbors in St. Pete. Some have moved to other parts of the country, but they have an annual reunion here and a few of them decided to do the bicycle tour together. I got a few pictures of this fun crew before the ride began.

Our tour wound around several neighborhoods and buildings, some known to me, but others were a complete surprise. Our wonderful tour guide, Emily, led us through the city, stopping to show us what

makes St. Pete so special, and sharing her knowledge of the history and architecture of these interesting neighborhoods. Here are some highlights from the tour.

METHODIST TOWN

During the segregation era in St. Pete – which lasted from about the turn of the century until the 1960s – most African Americans lived in just a few specific neighborhoods, one of which was Methodist Town. Development of Methodist Town began during the 1890s and was centered around Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Bethel AME). The neighborhood (bordered by 9th Street

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Murals behind Crislip Arcade



Rawls I-House in Round Lake neighborhood

and 14th Street North, Burlington Avenue North and Fifth Avenue North) got its name from the church. In 1922, the current AME Church was built on the footprint of the 1894 church. At one time, the neighborhood had its own small business district and a popular hotel called the Robert James – developed by Robert James – which accommodated black entertainers and athletes.

LANG’S BUNGALOW COURT

Lang’s Bungalow Court Historic District (just off 4th Avenue North, south of Interstate 375) is a tiny historic gem. The neighborhood encompasses ten historic bungalows built between 1912 and 1925, with one more built in the 1950s. All of the homes face a central pedestrian path, with alley access to the rear of the homes. The district was platted by former St. Pete Mayor Al Lang after he visited similar communities in California. In 2015, Lang’s Bungalow Court became a locally designated landmark after two homes were nearly demolished to make way for surface parking.

MIRROR LAKE

Rumor has it that looking across Mirror Lake provides one of the best views of downtown St. Pete, and as I stopped to look across the lake, I must

say, I agree. Mirror Lake (located close to St. Pete City Hall) was originally known as Reservoir Lake. In the early 1900s, it was once the source for the city’s drinking water. There are many historic buildings around the lake, including the historic Mirror Lake Library built in 1915. It is one of the earliest beaux-arts-style buildings in the area and was built with the help of a \$17,500 Carnegie grant to the city. The building was locally landmarked in 1990.

ST. PETERSBURG SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB

Another very popular building on Mirror Lake is the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club. The first courts were constructed in 1923. Architect Harry Cunningham designed the clubhouse which opened to members in 1927. A second building was added in 1929, and as the club’s popularity continued to grow, a bridge-club/dance-hall was added in 1937. Two years later, grandstands for the courts were built. The St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club is the oldest and largest shuffleboard club in the world. The site was locally landmarked in 1994.

CRISLIP ARCADE

Crislip Arcade (at 645 Central Avenue) was built in 1926 and is an open-air covered hallway with an

impressive decorative wrought-iron-gate entryway. Inside, distinctive vintage brown-and-yellow tiles cover the floor, and a string of small retail shops are on either side. At one time there were 10 similar shopping arcades in St. Pete, but unfortunately only three remain. With the advent of malls and air-conditioned stores, shoppers left downtown and Crislip Arcade languished. After years of disrepair, Leslie Curran and St. Pete Preservation (now Preserve the ‘Burg) persuaded the developer to create an artist colony, with reduced rents to the businesses. Now, the arcade and the adjacent 600 block of Central Avenue is thriving with locally owned shops. We stopped at The Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops for a refreshment break where I tried the delicious Peachy Peach flavor.

THE RAWLS HOUSE & HISTORIC ROUND LAKE

One of the first houses in St. Pete – the Rawls House built in 1898 – is located at 734 Grove Street in the Round Lake neighborhood, on the edge of downtown near 6th Street and 6th Avenue North. The Rawls House is an example of an ‘I-House,’ so named because of the style’s common occurrence in the rural farm areas of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. I-Houses were designed to be

simple and functional. This is the only known example in St. Pete.

ST. PETE’S BRICK STREETS

Before there were brick streets, the streets were made of crushed shells. In 1941, there were 339 miles of brick streets; in 1989, there were less than 100 miles; and in 2015 there were just 81 miles. But the remainder are protected. If you remove them to make repairs, you must replace them. Although most of the bricks are Augusta bricks, there are many other makers of the bricks making up the streets of St. Pete. In some of the bricks, you can see fingerprints!

HUGGINS-STENDEL FIELD & CRESCENT LAKE

The newest local historic designated landmark (2018) is Huggins-Stengel Field beside Crescent Lake. The field was created in 1925 as the practice field for the Yankees. It has not changed or been leveled since it was first built. The Australian Pines were planted at the request of Babe Ruth because he said the lake caused a reflection. One of the bike-tour participants added that it is said Babe Ruth would not play the outfield because of the alligators in Crescent Lake. After the Yankees left, next came the Mets, then the Orioles.

The Crescent Lake water tower was built in 1923, is 175 feet high, and holds 500,000 gallons of water. It is designated a local landmark and is still in use. It is the only remaining historic water tower in the City of St. Petersburg. In 1994, artist Tom Stovall painted a mural on the tower of fish living in Florida’s underwater coral reefs. Tom restored the mural in 2016.

We completed our tour by riding back to where we started via the new bike lanes on 9th Street North. I highly recommend the bike tour. If you don’t own a bike, you can rent one from Coast Bike Share. For tour info, visit www.preservetheburg.org/walkingtours. Enjoy! ●

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HISTORY continued from page 1

of numerous injuries that plagued his 18-year career with the Yankees. He played the rest of his career with a torn ACL, but his leg injuries did not slow him down. He had the highest stolen-base percentage in history at the time of his retirement.

In the 1950s, St. Petersburg could rightly claim to be the Spring Training Capital of the World. Between 1914 and 2008, nine major league teams spring trained in St. Petersburg, sometimes two in the same year. The Yankees first arrived in 1925 – with Babe Ruth – and continued through 1961, with some gaps in between. They were in St. Pete continuously from '52 to '61 and so was Mickey Mantle. During that time, the Yankees used Miller Huggins Field at Crescent Lake while the St. Louis Cardinals used Al Lang Field. Typically, the spring training season started in late February and ran through early April.

1952

While a major reason for the Yankees selecting St. Pete for their spring training was our mild, sunny weather, the 1952 season began with unseasonably cold weather. Some of the Yankees wished they were back in Arizona where they spent the '51 season. Mickey began the season with a light workout, still favoring the knee he injured in the previous year's World Series. When interviewed in St. Pete about his less-than-stellar performance, he stated that he was "doggone scared" of the American League pitchers he had never seen but had read so much about. "I don't think I'll be scared any more. Not that I think I know all about the pitchers. Far from it. It is just that I think I have been through the mill. A year's experience... means so much." When asked about being groomed to be Joe DiMaggio's successor, he stated, "I don't consider myself that. How can anyone think that when I haven't proved yet I can play here regularly. I'm just out to win a regular job. I don't even know if I can make it, although I'm going to try my best."

Yankees manager Casey Stengel maintained the suspense about who would replace DiMaggio. "I've got five outfielders, any one of whom could be a regular on any other club." He went on to name names, saying of Mickey, "Mantle is a big leaguer all the way. He is going to be great." Stengel proceeded to experiment with his team during spring training, even trying Mickey out at shortstop. Associated Press (AP) sports writer Joe Reichler – in summing up the '52 spring training season throughout Florida – did not have much to say about Mickey, describing him merely as the "most reticent" of all the players. That most reticent player went on to be the Yankees hitting star in the 1952 World Series with an on-base percentage above .400 and a slugging percentage above .600.



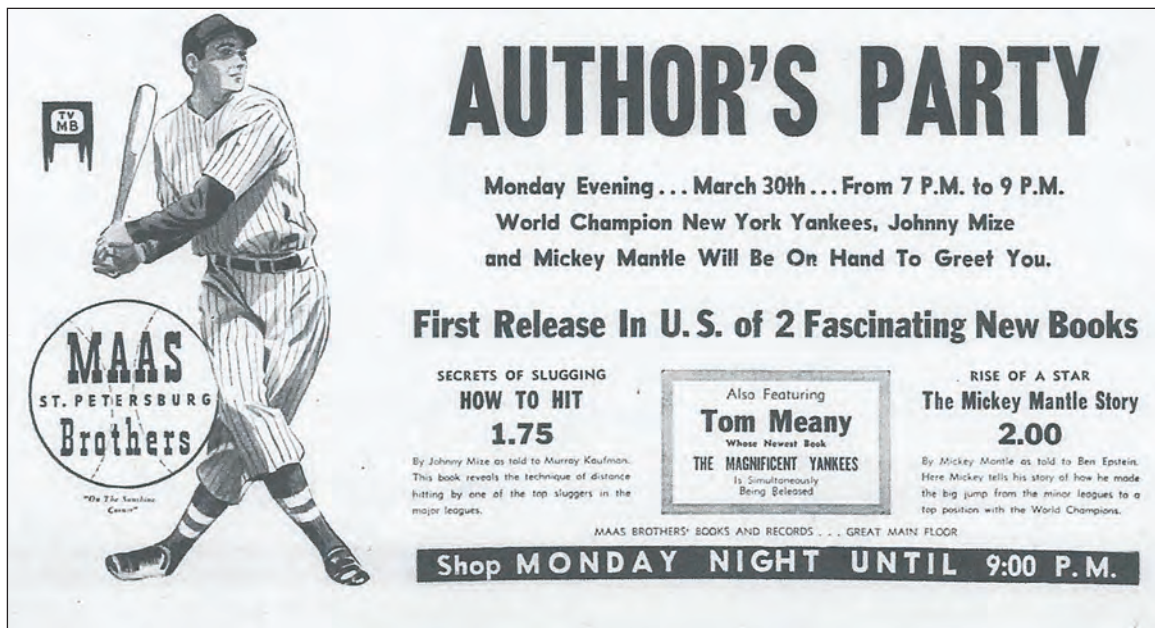
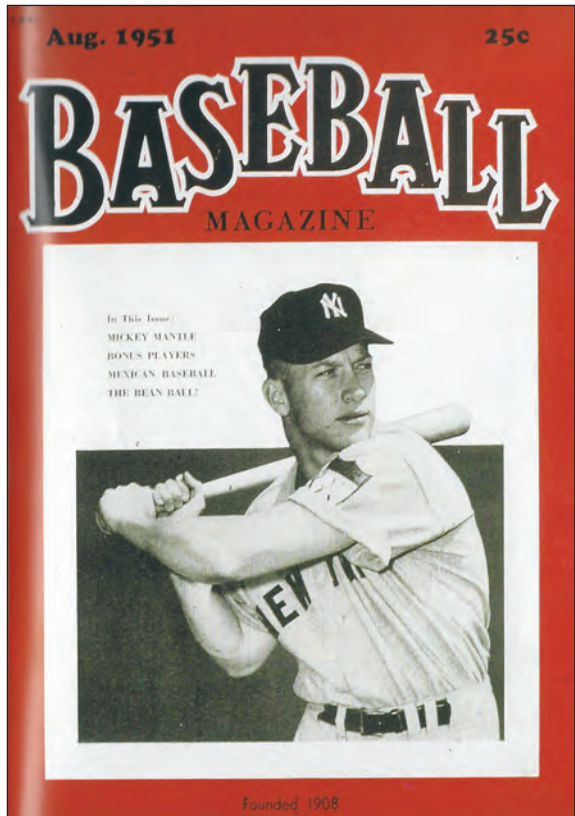
Mickey's plaque at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Mickey was inducted in 1974.

1953

The '53 spring training season began with nationally syndicated sportswriter Grantland Rice declaring, "St. Petersburg now happens to house the two greatest ballplayers in the game. Their names are Stan Musial and Mickey Mantle. They are the two best left today." He continued, "One is just coming up with most of his career ahead. The other is at the top of the hill, going over, with most of his career in the past." He described Mickey as having "speed, power, great natural skill, and all the distinct signs of superior class."

Another nationally syndicated sports writer, Red Smith, reporting from St. Pete observed, "This is St. Petersburg in the spring, as seen on any sunny afternoon from the rooftop press box at Al Lang Field. The green benches which line the streets are all occupied by spectators watching the cars pour past at 12 miles an hour. Beyond the left field fence, white sails scud across the blue waters of Tampa Bay, and now and then a plane drones over the waterfront airport. From a small stadium beyond the parking lot comes the clink-clank of horse shoes as the bloods of the town do battle, neither giving nor asking quarter. Down on the velvet geometry of the diamond, professional ball players are running, hitting, throwing, sweating."

One of these ball players was Mickey Mantle. Smith noted manager Casey Stengel watching Mickey closely. Stengel had positioned Mickey batting clean-up (4th) for the spring season. Red Smith fantasized Stengel thinking, "Can a man who struck out 103 times in the 1952 season really be my clean-up hitter?" The answer appeared to be "yes." In the game Smith was watching, the Yanks beat the Tigers 5-0. It was reported "Mantle continued his batting rampage with two singles... boosting his Spring training average to .444." Later, on March 9th, the Yanks beat the Red Sox 6-4 in nearby Sarasota. Mickey was described as having "the biggest batting day for a Yankee against a trio of Bosox

Mickey on the cover of Time Magazine, 1953. Mickey hit 21 home runs during the 1953 regular season. Cover by Boris Chappelin

rookie righthanders, getting a double and a single in addition to his long [425-foot] home run."

While the Yanks were in St. Petersburg that season, two new baseball books appeared on the shelves. One was *The Mickey Mantle Story* by Mickey Mantle as told to *New York Daily Mirror* sports writer Ben Epstein. It included a forward by Casey Stengel. The other was *How to Hit* by Yankee first baseman Johnny Mize. Both Mantle and Mize launched their books with a signing at Maas Brothers department store, now St. Petersburg College's downtown location. Following the '53 spring season, Mickey went on to hit 21 homers during the

regular season including a famous “tape-measure home run” initially said to travel 565 feet at Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC. (Years later, experts concluded the home run at somewhat over 500 feet in the air, rolling further after it hit a house.)

1954

The '54 spring season began with the press again reporting on the condition of Mickey's knee. In November, he had torn cartilage removed, and in February a cyst was removed. Referring to Mickey as “a baby-faced baseball player just past voting age,” news of the cyst was carried by Associated Press on its 'A' wire, a line reserved for news of the greatest importance.

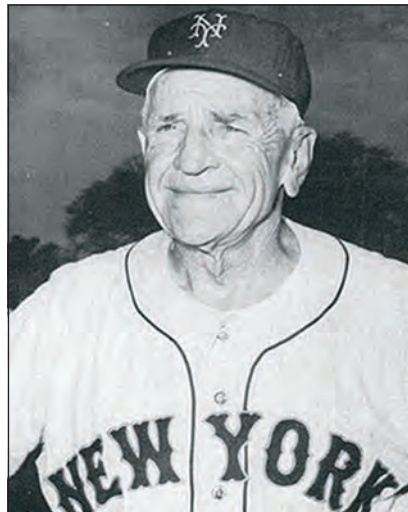
Mickey began training restricted to jogging and hitting righthanded to reduce the weight on his healing right leg. (Righthanded hitters put more weight on their left leg.) But these restrictions did not interfere with his batting. During practice, he hit the centerfield fence at Miller Huggins Field, a distance of a little over 400 feet. Then he did the same with the rightfield fence.

Needless to say Mickey had many fans that came to see him at spring training in St. Pete. One in particular was Billy Gerhards, a ten-year-old boy who lived with his parents in Germany. His father was an Army sergeant. Billy was selected from among hundreds of American boys in Germany to tour the USA as guests of NBC-TV. In addition to baseball, one of Billy's hobbies was building model planes. When asked what he wanted to do most, Billy said, “Shake hands with Mickey Mantle.” Before arriving at Miller Huggins Field to get his wish, Billy visited the History Museum to see a model of the First Airliner flown by Tony Jannus, and a game played by the famed Kids and Kubs Softball League of players 75 years of age and older. (The 'Kids' still play weekly at Northshore Park.)



Baseball Digest, May 1951

Casey Stengel and team. New York Yankees act out hopes for their 18th pennant in 1951. Manager Casey Stengel points to #18 on Bob Muncief's back, while combined uniforms (L-R) Frank Shea, Joe DiMaggio, and Jim Brideweser form the calendar year. The Yankees won both the pennant and the World Series, with Mickey Mantle briefly playing right field in the Series.



Casey Stengel both played and managed in St. Petersburg, first as an outfielder for the Boston Braves in 1924-25; then as manager of the Yankees in 1949 and again from 1952-1960; and finally as manager of the New York Mets from 1962-65. Circa 1963.

1955

Times sports writer Jack Ellison noted regarding the '55 spring season that “there are so many St. Petersburg datelines appearing in the nation's press these days that I hear the Reds are kicking themselves for changing the name of that city from St. Petersburg to Stalingrad.” He went on to note the Havana Yacht Race, the St. Petersburg Golf Open, and of course the Yankees and other major league baseball teams playing in St. Petersburg.

For Mickey, the season began very much as a family affair. In addition to Mickey, his twin brothers (Ray and Roy) had also been signed by the Yanks to a Class D team and were playing at Crescent Lake at the Rookie School which preceded spring training. His cousin Max – also a Yankees minor

league player – was there as well. None of his brothers or cousin, though, ever made it to the major league.

Mickey did not make his mark that year in spring training until an away game with the Milwaukee Braves in Bradenton in mid-March. Up until that game, he was hitless in 12 times at bat. But at the Braves game, he drove in six runs with a grand slam homer and three other hits. He also went on to be one of three major-leaguers to ever clear the rightfield fence at Lakeland. It was there that after a game, a young boy ran up to him while he was waiting for the bus and asked him to autograph a ball. “It's the one you hit the homer with I went and got it.” Mickey looked at the boy quizzically and asked, “How'd you get back so soon?”

This is Part 1 of a two-part series. Part 2 will include the story of St. Petersburg native Bill Bond, Jr. who was a Yankees' batboy in 1960 among others. Persons having recollections of Mickey Mantle or comments are invited to contact Will at wmichaels2222@gmail.com or 727-420-9195.

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FLORIDA ORCHESTRA GUILDS *continued from page 1*

The North Suncoast Associates Guild is made up of members from northern Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough Counties. This guild will celebrate its 25th anniversary on March 9 this year at the Innisbrook Golf and Spa Resort in Palm Harbor. There will be a brunch, silent and live auctions, and a piano performance by principal guest conductor and Tony-Award-winner Stuart Malina. Proceeds from this event will benefit the orchestra's education and community engagement programs.

The second guild – our local St. Petersburg Guild – was founded in 1963 with the goal of raising cultural awareness of what was then the St. Petersburg Symphony. In 1968, the St. Petersburg Symphony merged with neighboring Tampa Philharmonic Orchestra to form the Florida Gulf Coast Symphony, thus covering the entire bay area. Then in 1984, The Florida Gulf Coast Symphony became The Florida Orchestra, and the guild was renamed as well, becoming The Florida Orchestra Guild, St. Petersburg, Inc. This guild sponsors several fundraising events in our community during the year. They include The Holiday Tour of Homes and the Golden Baton Award dinner, awarded to a person or couple who has made significant contributions to the growth of the orchestra. In addition, prospective members and guests are invited to attend December's Kringle Mingle and the springtime Afternoon Tea Party.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

The Kringle Mingle was held on December 10th at the Florencia high-rise condominium complex in downtown St. Petersburg. Members and their guests were given a final chance to shop at the Holiday Boutique while enjoying food, each other's company, and holiday songs performed by St. Petersburg Yacht Club's Nauticats. Kim Payne, legacy giving manager and guild liaison, was present at the event. When asked how important the guilds are to the orchestra, he was

quick to respond saying a huge void would be left without their help. Though total donations had not yet been tabulated for 2018, he noted that the combined donations of both guilds totaled \$100,000 in 2017. "That's a big chunk of change!"

For any and all lovers of symphonic music in St. Petersburg, being a member of St. Petersburg's Florida Orchestra Guild is an option open to both men and women. George and Charlene Gaskill are just one of the couples who are active in the guild. When asked about his role, George, a retired industrial-arts teacher

at Dixie Hollins High School, said that he is there to "help carry things and do whatever heavy lifting is needed." Susan and Dick Luehrs also volunteer as a couple. One of their jobs is to work backstage when the orchestra performs at the Mahaffey Theater. They place themselves near the side entrance where they "offer candy treats and get to see



St. Petersburg Guild members, Charlene Gaskill and Emily Gillespie play a duet at the Kringle Mingle. Center: Rita and Stephen Peters' home was one of the Snell Isle homes featured on the Holiday Tour of Homes. Right: George Gaskill "on duty" at the Kringle Mingle.

the conductors and guest performers up close, just before they go on stage! At intermission, many of the musicians come by for a sugary pick-up. We enjoy talking with the musicians," says Susan.

Being a member of any volunteer organization can be a lot of work, but it can also be fun, providing rewards such as the formation and bonding of friendships. Peggy Grom, current president of the St. Petersburg Guild, writes in a letter to members: "Together we can be a mighty force helping The Florida Orchestra. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we reach for the stars for our beloved orchestra. Music, camaraderie, and fun await you this year."

Look closely and you will see St. Petersburg Guild members at work in venues throughout the community during this new year. Whether carrying light-up buckets at the popular Pops in the Park Concert, providing information in the Mahaffey Theater lobby or at a Saturday Market table, working behind the scenes at a concert, or simply enjoying music, you can be sure they are helping keep orchestral music alive and well in our community. Be sure to thank them! ●

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 Of awe
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PEOPLE AND PETS

To submit photos or to be photographed, contact *The Northeast Journal*.
Email your HIGH-RES digital photo to Diana Krause Geegan at dkghomes@gmail.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, and pet's name.



Bob Rusher with Simba
3rd Street North



Gene Knippers with Bailey
Beach Drive NE



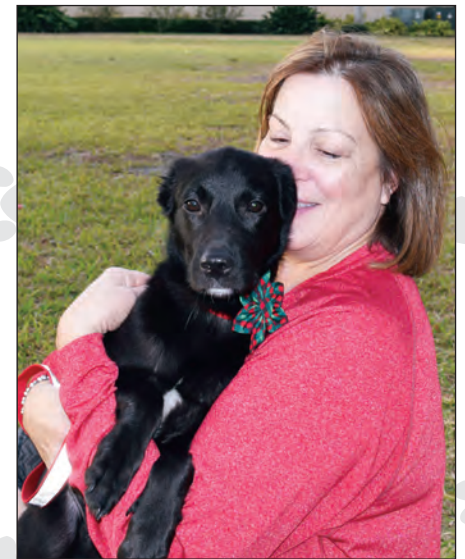
Terri Laxton with Madi
5th Avenue North



Laurie Stogniew with Lucy
1st Avenue North



Joan Heelan with Zecki
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Aspiring Musicians: St. Pete Kids Benefit From Suzuki Strings

Stacie Steinke

Children can learn music just as they learn to speak – it is the ‘mother’ tongue, and it’s facilitated with step-by-step mastery, stated Shinichi Suzuki, founder of the Suzuki method of music education for children. Developed in the early 20th century, it has grown into one of the most widely practiced methods internationally. Over the past 16 years, Jennifer Diedrich has lovingly directed the Suzuki Strings of St. Petersburg and taught over 450 local students to play the violin and appreciate music.

Briana and Ashley – daughters of Old Northeast residents Justin and Marisol DeStoppelaire – take lessons with Jennifer and were among the two-dozen students who performed a holiday recital at First Unity Spiritual Campus where the program is currently located. Briana DeStoppelaire, now 12, has played violin since she was five and says it’s her passion. “When I grow up, I hope to play in an orchestra and travel around the world. I feel like music makes people’s day.” Her younger sister Ashley DeStoppelaire, 7, just started playing in August, but also enjoys performing and playing. The family’s commitment to their children’s music education is important, says Justin. “The arts are a valuable part of a healthy lifestyle,” says their dad. “Research shows the importance of violin lessons in the development of the brain. The Suzuki program adds a completeness to their education.”

Jennifer started playing violin at an early age in a public school string program in Northern Illinois. She was a member of the first cohort of students taught by Arthur Montzka, an early pioneer of the Suzuki method in the US. She learned violin and viola under his direction and studied with members of the Vemeer Quartet at Northern Illinois University.

Although music has always been an important part of her life, Jennifer’s path to music education was definitely not a straight line. She is also passionate about tennis and competed as an intercollegiate tennis player while she was a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. When she first moved to St. Pete, she was a tennis pro at Harbor Island Athletic Club in Tampa. Later, she decided to pursue teaching and took a position with the culinary arts program at Northeast High School. A fateful day in February of 2002 changed the course of her life. A stock pot of grease caught on fire in the student kitchen. The entire school was



Top: The DeStoppelaire – Justin, Brianna, Marisol, and Ashley. Middle: Suzuki students perform a holiday recital. Bottom: Ashley Gielazyn, Hailey Touchton, Jennifer Diedrich, and Audri Dressback.

evacuated. This was the same day that Jennifer had an appointment to discuss violin-teacher training to become a registered Suzuki violin teacher. The message was clear. She realized that she needed to pursue teaching music full-time.

She was accepted as a registered teacher by the Suzuki Association, and six months later, Rick Smith – the music director of First Presbyterian Church on Beach Drive – called to ask if she would start a Suzuki violin program there. Suzuki Strings of St. Petersburg was born. “The climate for music instruction in St. Petersburg was very ripe for developing in 2002,” says Jennifer. “I wanted to share this gift. The vibration of music is so healing.”

In 2011, the program moved to Canterbury School, and last year it relocated again to a new permanent home at First Unity Spiritual Campus. Jennifer offers group lessons there weekly. She is also the director of the Florida Music Institute, a week-long Suzuki summer music program that brings teachers from all the country to St. Pete. The nonprofit institute is one of 45 similar institutes in the US, and the only approved program in Florida. This year’s program will take place at First Unity June 12-15.

What makes the Suzuki method so unique? According to the International Suzuki Association, “it’s based on the principle that all children possess ability and that this ability can be developed and enhanced through a nurturing environment.” The philosophy supports the idea of cooperation versus competition. “The goal is to develop people with ‘noble hearts’ which is conveyed through beautiful performance so the competition is from within,” says Jennifer.

There is also strong parent involvement. “We use a ‘Parent-Teacher-Child’ concept where all must contribute or the triangle becomes lopsided,” says Jennifer. Parents participate in lessons as the home teacher until the child reaches eight-to-ten years old. Hailey Touchton, 14, and Ashley Gielazyn, 13, (pictured above) are among the older students in the St. Pete program. Here is what Ashley has to say about lessons. “Music brings us all together. I love to share my talents with other people. It is an awesome way to meet new people and make new friends.”

Students perform in two recitals per year in December and April, and for charity events. For more information, visit www.suzukiassociation.org. To read more about the Florida Music Institute, check out their website at www.floridamusicinstitute.com.

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GOODNESS InDEED

North Shore School's Turkey Trot a Great Success

Jon Kile, North Shore Elementary School Parent

An eager crowd gathered early on Thanksgiving morning. Was it another pre-Black-Friday melee in the making? No, it was North Shore Elementary School's second annual Coffee Pot Turkey Trot 5K race taking runners from the school through the streets of Snell Isle and Coffee Pot Bayou.

After a successful fun-run for 500 early-risers in 2017, the 2018 Turkey Trot went pro with official



Turkey Trot start line

North Shore parent Amy Morrow, who participated in this year's Turkey Trot, agrees. "It's a small school with a welcoming family feel. We're really happy here," said Amy.

This year's event chair, Amber Brinkley, also the mom of two North Shore students, said: "I can't say enough about how much the North Shore PTA appreciates the support of the Turkey Trot volunteers, the cooperation of our co-sponsor, the City of St. Petersburg, and the police department. It means a lot

Thank you, Todd Bates for the great photos."



The Hine family

runners and our generous race sponsors helped us achieve our multi-year goal of providing after-school programs and field trips for all students regardless of their ability to pay. We now have 15 unique after-school programs to include electives like Spanish, yoga, chess, drama, art, and soccer."

Laura also noted that proceeds from the Turkey Trot help fund professional development and other support for teachers and classrooms. "The Turkey Trot makes these programs and support possible," said Laura. "Our community is amazing. Thank you!" This year's proceeds exceeded \$27,000.

North Shore Elementary has gained attention recently as an example of a great partnership between a public school and its community. Several years ago, a



Turkey Trot finish line

group of parents of preschoolers in the surrounding neighborhoods, tired from analyzing the Pinellas County school-choice options, said, "How about our zoned school?" They visited North Shore and found welcoming teachers and staff, a loving environment, and an opportunity to get involved in their neighborhood public school rather than enter the lottery for limited slots at magnet and fundamental schools across the county."

timing for an expanded field along a picturesque 5K route. More than 1,400 runners, walkers, and strollers came out to support the North Shore Elementary PTA and burn off some calories in preparation for Thanksgiving dinner. It was a happy, festive event; there was even a marriage proposal!

"An amazing morning," said North Shore School PTA President Laura Hine. "Everyone had great fun kicking off the day and the holiday weekend. The

that everyone is out here on a holiday morning to help raise money for things that aren't in the school budget. We also want to be kind to the neighborhoods around the school that graciously opened their streets to the runners and walkers."

It's not too early to mark your calendar now for the third annual 2019 Coffee Pot Turkey Trot which will take place on November 28. Join us and make the this fun 5K part of your new Thanksgiving tradition. ◆



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SOLD *in 2018!*



SOLD FOR 95% OF ASKING PRICE

2410 Coffee Pot Blvd NE, Granada Terrace
Last offered at \$1,475,000



1600 Beach Dr NE, Historic Old Northeast
Last offered at \$2,499,000



1055 Marco Dr NE, Caya Costa
Last offered at \$1,099,000



3214 El Centro St, St. Pete Beach
Last offered at \$2,140,000



AGENTS FOR BUYER & SELLER

225 26th Ave N, Historic Old Northeast
Last offered at \$899,000



**UNDER CONTRACT IN 4 DAYS
WITH FULL PRICE OFFER!**

245 26th Ave N, Old Northeast
Last offered at \$475,500



1841 Oceanview Dr, Tierra Verde
Last offered at \$3,100,000



SOLD FOR 98% OF ASKING PRICE

2101 Cherry St NE, Historic Old Northeast
Last offered at \$839,000

**\$85 MILLION
SOLD**

SINCE 2014



**PROUD OF OUR 5-STAR
CLIENT SERVICE**



Coffee Pot Water Lot #13
Last offered at \$137,500

460 Lido Way NE, Snell Isle
Last offered at \$459,900

**5901 Bowen Daniel Dr #103,
West Shore Yacht Club**
Last offered at \$399,000*

5619 Sycamore St N, St Pete
Last offered at \$139,900

**6650 Sunset Way #120,
St Pete Beach**
Last offered at \$699,500*

6745 17th St S, Pinellas Point
Last offered at \$315,000

9668 105 Terrace, Largo
Last offered at \$410,000*

4663 Redfish Ln SE, Coquina Key
Last offered at \$289,900*

**2079 Montana Ave NE,
Northeast St Pete**
Last offered at \$372,500

2797 Calvano Dr, Land O Lakes
Last offered at \$494,500*

2360 Irish Lane #36, Clearwater
Last offered at \$89,900*

1020 30th Ave N, Woodlawn
Last offered at \$339,900*

10th Ave S, Vacant Lot in Gulfport
Last offered at \$70,000

**325 22nd Ave NE,
Lot in Old Northeast**
Last offered at \$320,000

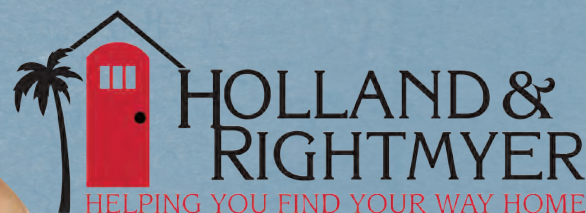
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*We would love to
help you with your
real estate needs
in 2019!*



JUDY HOLLAND
CNE, CLHMS, REALTOR®
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