

Northeast Journal

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

St. Petersburg, FL

JAN/FEB 2022

EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

4th Annual Boston Terrier Tea Party Parade



Boston terriers and their owners smile for the camera on the steps of the Museum of Fine Arts

— JANAN TALAFER —

t must have been quite a sight to drive by the Museum of Fine Arts and see 120 Boston Terriers and their owners posing for a photo on the museum steps. Definitely a reason for a double-take. But this is St. Petersburg and we love our fur children so, it's not really that surprising.

The occasion was the 4th annual Boston Terrier Pet Parade, held in December on the weekend closest to the anniversary of the Revolutionary War-era Boston Tea Party. Last year was the 248th anniversary of the infamous day when the 'Sons of Liberty' boarded a British ship and tossed a shipment of tea into Boston Harbor as a protest.

"The Boston Terrier is the only American-bred dog and it's from Boston, so I thought it would be appropriate to make the connection with the Boston Tea Party," says Jim Nixon, director of the Mayor's Action Center. Jim came up with the idea for the parade and hosts the event each year. Starting with about 25 dogs and owners in 2017, the group has gotten larger each year as word spreads and those passionate about Boston Terriers join in the fun. Jim hopes to set a Guinness

Continued on page 14

Indian Key Bird Sanctuary

- WILL MICHAELS -

any birds in St. Petersburg were on the verge of extinction in the late 1800s. This was because their feathers had become unbelievably valuable. For example, the snowy egret's fluffy mating feathers fetched thirty-two dollars an ounce – the same as the price of gold. Feathers had become quite fashionable, especially when displayed on women's hats. The throat pouches of pelicans were made into tobacco pouches. There was even a market for wild bird eggs. The killing of birds for their feathers had become an industry for many hunters. And one of the most notorious of these was Jean Chevelier.

Chevelier purchased property in the vicinity of what is now Maximo Park in south St. Petersburg in the late 1870s and set about killing birds. Frenchman's Creek is believed to be named after him. In just one season, Chevelier and his employees obtained 11,000 bird skins and plumes and 30,000 birds' eggs. Chevelier quickly depopulated the immense bird rookeries that existed at that



American White Pelicans. White and Brown Pelicans are now again abundant in St. Petersburg. The pelican is one of St. Petersburg's most prominent birds and is represented on the city's logo. The Indian Key Wildlife Refuge has been a major pelican rookery or breeding habitat.

time in the vicinity of Maximo Point. About 1882, he moved on to new killing fields in the Everglades near Miami as well as the Ten Thousand Islands south of Naples. While plume hunting was legal in the late 1800s and hunting in general wascommon, even Chevelier's contemporaries abhorred his decimation of the bird population. John Bethell called Chevelier the "worst scourge that ever came to Pinellas Point." Plume hunting continued into the

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Indie Local Bookstores Share the Love



Michelle Jenquin of Wilson's Book World

- SHELLY WILSON -

Then the grandaddy of independent bookstores in St. Petersburg, Haslam's, closed its doors at the start of the pandemic, no one thought it would be forever. A staple forlocalreaderssincetheGreatDepression, Haslam's current 30,000-square-foot building is also prime real estate on Central Avenue.

While rumors abound, dogged persistence by *Tampa Bay Times* reporters revealed in June that the famous Haslam Bookstore cats have been rehomed – at least for now. And third-generation owners Suzanne and Ray Hinst are "undecided" about the future.

The shuttering of Haslam's leaves a sizable hole in the independent bookstore scene, but there's still a lot for book lovers in the Bay Area to love, from traditional new and used sellers to hybrid shops and pop-ups.

News of the demise of print books has been greatly exaggerated. According to *Publisher's Weekly*, after an early pandemic slump, sales of print books soared in 2020 and 2021, in nearly every category. And while box stores and online giants gobble up much of those sales, there is a persistent and perhaps growing trend to buy from local, independent sellers.

Michelle Jenquin, the third-generation owner of Wilson's Book World on 16th Street North, says, "St. Pete is a thriving community of local businesses and I think the future for independent bookstores is positive! Every city needs one or two bookstores, as no two are alike." Wilson's, which has offered used and antiquarian books for 50 years, relies on customers who want more than the internet can offer, says Jenquin.

"I see many new customers each week and they always express their love of books and that they prefer an independent business

Continued on page 34



GET INVOLVED. BE INSPIRED.



THE FUTURE IS FEMALE

JANUARY 20

Join us for a marathon performance by celebrated pianist Sarah Cahill featuring more than sixty women composers from around the globe. Cahill kicks off with a blind listening session in which she plays compositions by both men and women, questioning what we conceive as gender in music through the ages. Lee Krasner's masterful painting, *Re-Echo*, is showcased during the performance. Audience members are encouraged to drop in and listen for any length of time.

2-8 pm, Marly Room. Free with museum admission.

These programs are generously sponsored by





OUR WALLSJANUARY 24-30

Participate in a week-long community art display on the front lawn of the MFA. Using Hughie Lee-Smith's *The Walls*, we invite adults and children to create a response to the barriers that walls create in our everyday lives.

Free on the front lawn of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Hughie Lee-Smith, American, 1915–1999, *The Walls*, 1954, Oil on board, 24 x 36 in., Art Bridges. © 2021 Estate of Hughie Lee-Smith / Licensed by VAGA at ARS, NY

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SPIRAL FULL CIRCLE

JANUARY 27

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Featured performing artists:

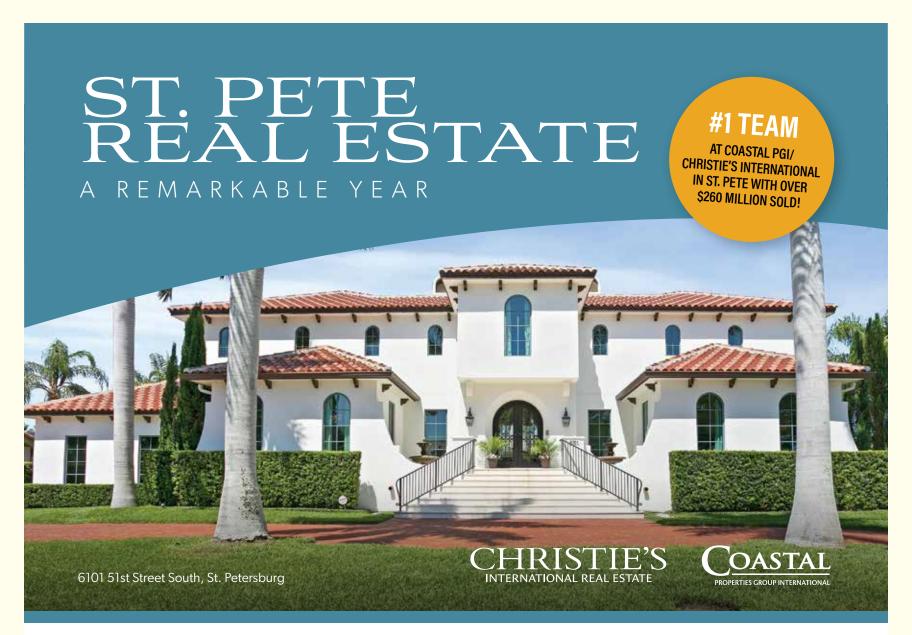
Tenea D. Johnson, author Speculative fiction inspired by Emma Amos

Cranstan Cumberbatch, actor Performance centered on Romare Bearden

Butch Thomas, musician Musical suite inspired by Norman Lewis

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Enjoy special pricing every Thursday after 5:00 pm. Admission for adults is only \$10 after 5:00 pm



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1205 13TH AVENUE N
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1919 SHORE ACRES BLVD NE\$405,000
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13275 102ND AVENUE N
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1064 PASEO EL RIO DRIVE NE #7\$1,057,000
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4703 DOLPHIN CAY LANE S\$2,145,000
732 23RD AVENUE N\$425,000
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470 3RD STREET S #803\$320,000
1 BEACH DRIVE S #806\$1,701,000
801 61ST STREET N\$380,000

2152 COFFEE POT BLVD NE	000
8829 21ST AVENUE N	000
2186 COFFEE POT BLVD NE\$3,350,0	
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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I write this editor's note on New Year's Eve, I can't help but feel some relief as we leave 2021 behind. What a year it has been - full of both highs and lows, challenges and concerns, but also blessings. For the Northeast Journal team, one of our biggest blessings is being able to continue our mission of delivering good news, thanks to the support of our advertisers who make it possible for us to maintain a bi-monthly printed publication when so many other media



Janan with granddaughters Ellie & Rheia

outlets have been forced to cut back or close. We also value our readers who tell us they enjoy our stories focusing on inspiring people and organizations in our community.

It's hard to know what will 2022 will bring, but for me personally, it will be pivotal. I will be retiring this month from a full-time writing career that has kept me busy with many diverse clients since 1999. This issue will be my last as editor of the Northeast Journal.

I started writing for the Northeast Journal in 2015 after finding the paper on my doorstep and reaching out to the publisher, Jen MacMillen. I took over as editor in November 2017. While the deadlines are never fun, I have enjoyed every story I wrote and every story I edited. We have a great, loyal team of writers. I am especially proud to have overseen the summer 2020 issue during the middle of Covid when we focused entirely on what our neighbors were doing to make a positive impact and lend support to those who were suffering.

I will continue to write occasionally for the Northeast Journal, but I will be spending time with my family, weeding my garden, traveling to new places, and supporting Sunken Gardens, where I am on the new Sunken Gardens Forever Foundation board.

Best wishes in 2022,

Ganan Talater

Dear Northeast Journal readers:

It is with great sadness and great joy that we bid Janan Talafer - our heart-and-soul editor – a happy retirement. When our longtime editor/photographer and Old Northeast native, Susan Alderson, suddenly passed away in 2016, Janan ably stepped in. She has shared stories of good with, for, and about our neighbors with care and respect for the written word, and for the hearts that belong to those reading them. We will miss her and look forward to reading the stories she will submit as a contributor in the near future (after all, she can't stop writing!).

As one door closes, another opens. And, to this end, we open a new door and happily welcome Shelly Wilson to our fold. She has been the editor for the Gulfport Gabber, a weekly community-focused print publication. Shelly understands the importance of focusing on what is happening in our neighborhood and on featuring good news only! And, since we publish bi-monthly, putting heart-based stories out every other month will be a piece of cake!

Please thank Janan for sharing her gifts with us over the past four years, and welcome Shelly to the family. (Read about them both in *Meet Your Neighbor* on page 33.)

We wish you a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2022!

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NEJ contributors and the community at large

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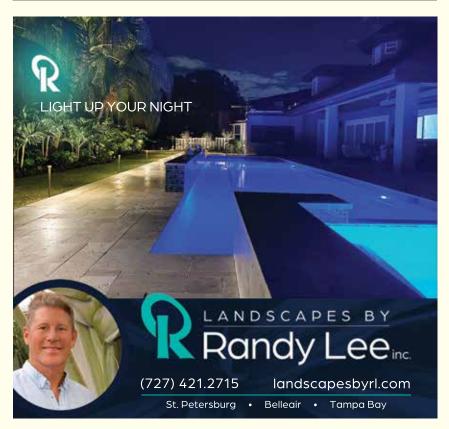


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MEET THE WRITERS

We would like to sincerely thank and introduce our contributors. The time and talent they dedicate to writing about good people, good places, and good things happening is what makes the *Northeast Journal* the quality publication that our readers have come to expect and love.

Jeannie Carlson is a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. as seen in *Tampa Bay Times, TBNWeekly.com* and *Beach Beacon;* an adjunct English professor; and a writer at Examiner.com ("Swedish Cooking with a Southern Accent"). She has been a resident of and inspired by the ONE since 2000. [www.JeannieCarlson.com]



Rick Carson has lived in St. Pete since 2001, after a career journey that took him from national 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]



Jonathan Kile moved to St. Pete in 2001. A rare genetic condition forced him to give up a career in sales in favor of a full-time position as father, husband, and writer. He blogs about his family travels and advocates for awareness of vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome at dontmakemeturnthisvanaround.com. He's on the board of literary nonprofit Keep St. Pete Lit.



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*.



Victoria Rogers and her husband Patrick moved back to Florida after 25 years in New England. She worked in outside sales, fundraising, and event-planning while raising her daughter Allison. These days, she describes herself as mostly a "victim of my enthusiasms!" [victoria.spofford.rogers@gmail.com]



Brandy Stark is an artist, writer, and educator who lives in Crescent Heights. She is known for her hand-wrapped wire metal sculptures, fascination with local ghost stories, lore, and legends, and her immense love of all things pug. When not working, she spends time with her pug pack, pocket pets, and bearded dragon.



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.



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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568 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD N Edgemoor \$320,000 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,448 SF Chmura & Meyer 813.380.5465



Post-Covid Dress Code, St. Pete Style

— Howard Pollack —

The workplace environment has changed quite a bit due to Covid-19, and now that people are leaving their home offices and venturing back to actual offices, I began to wonder about whether the dress code had changed. It was so nice and easy working from home, lounging around in pajamas all day and if you did have to participate in a video conference you could just put on a nice shirt and still be underdressed below the waist. Just don't forget and accidentally stand up while in the middle of a meeting.

Now, even before Covid, I noticed after moving from New York to St. Petersburg, that a laid-back business attire 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.

Post Covid, 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 still work from home and have not put on a tie since I moved. 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. And emerging from the pandemic, perhaps that's a good thing.

So, I began to wonder if the level of dress had any impact on productivity or performance, 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 September. 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 cafés 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 to me. 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 very stuffy and everyone looked extremely busy. I suppose that meant they were being productive.

From there, I found my way back to one of the cafés 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 overdressed 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 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 ratty 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. lacksquare







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535 18th Avenue NE, Historic Old Northeast | \$1,150,000 Off-market property

12935 Gulf Lane #203, Madeira Beach | \$875,000* Gulf beachfront | Won bidding wa

1785 72nd Avenue NE, Harbor Isle | \$815,000°

900 Eden Isle Drive NE, Eden Isle | \$650,000

1401 Highland Street North, Crescent Lake | \$600,000°

1153 40th Avenue NE, North East Park Shores | \$530,000°

2200 14th Street North, Woodlawn Circle | \$510,000

4510 Helena Street NE, Shore Acres | \$420,000

707 27th Avenue North, Crescent Heights | \$377,600 Sold for 97% of asking | Investment property Fourth real estate transaction with customer



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AROUND THE BLOCK



Largest Boat Show on Gulf Coast January 20-23

The 44th annual St. Petersburg Power and Sailboat Show on January 20-23 is expected to be the largest display of boats and marine products in the region. The event takes place at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts Mahaffey Theater Yacht Basin and Albert Whitted Park.

This year's boat show represents the merger of the Progressive Insurance Tampa Bay Show with the St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat, a decision that Andrew Doole – president of the US Boat Shows division of Informa Markets – said is part of a long-term strategy to establish one premier boat

show on the Gulf Coast. Complimentary sailboat rides will be available, and the popular Kids' Fishing Clinic – presented by the non-profit Hook the Future – will be offered for children ages 4-16. Advance tickets are required and can be purchased online at www.stpeteboatshow.com.

The Northeast Journal Team wishes you a healthy and happy New Year!





Judy Sells St. Pete!



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Laugh, Drive, Eat, Sleep, Repeat

— M. Shackelford Burns —

T's been said that perhaps the ultimate test of a relationship is 'the road trip.'

Not just your run-of-the-mill, drive-three-hours-to-visit-the-in-laws type of thing. Oh no; I am speaking of "The Road Trip," the one you've always wanted to do yet didn't have the time or the money or the guts to take.

When the catastrophic and global pandemic event of Covid-19 occurred, my wife Megan and I found ourselves jobless. No warning, no severance, and no apologies... just a total and complete annihilation of our primary income sources, much like countless of thousands the world over.

Having no mortgage and an unrequited dream to travel far and wide, we enthusiastically took the plunge. We bit deeply into our nest egg and – after much research and several test drives – bought ourselves a 1997 Dodge Leisure Travel Van, a veritable 'house on wheels' complete with kitchen, shower, toilet, bed, tons of storage, AC, and a bulletproof 360 V8 5.9-litre engine.

At the time our journey began, Megan and I were living on the west coast of Canada in Vancouver, BC. We had just returned from a six-month stint in the Central American country of Belize. The plan was to head east across Canada and then down into the US and return Megan to her homeland after spending the past seven years with me in BC. Personally, it was a double daydream-come-true. One, to drive across the country, and two, to return to the US to live where I had spent my formative high school years and had a fair number of family and friends, some of whom I hadn't seen for decades.

We had absolutely no idea of what we were doing as far as the 'house' part of the unit goes. Propane? Furnace? Boiler? Sani-dump/black/grey water systems? Clueless. With only two months to prepare for our departure, we never got down to the nitty-gritty details of how to use these systems.

Our time was consumed with packing two portable storage units to be held in a facility until we decided where we were going to end up and create a new home. We also had two cars to sell, and a slew of furniture and household items to sell or give away, as well as many farewells to be had with friends and family. We definitely learned the hard way when it came to the day-to-day dealings of living in a tiny space.

On that note, I'd like to make one thing perfectly clear. All those ridiculously gorgeous videos and photos about 'Van Life' that you find on social media – the ones where the 20-something model couple lounge and laugh with their coffees and perfectly balanced laptops on their knees, while their immaculately coiffed golden retriever frolics next to the placid lake setting with kite surfers skimming across the water silhouetted by the setting sun... That was not our reality.

Reality is getting splashed with muck at the sani-dump station (a true initiation), or finding yourself lost in the middle of nowhere because your GPS fails and you have neither a paper map (remember those?) or a compass. So, before I go on, first consider these questions before embarking on the Van Life adventure.

- Do you enjoy endless hours spent behind the wheel in search of appropriate camp sites? (ie: safe, secure, available)
- Do you enjoy driving an oversized vehicle that wobbles every time a semi passes you by on the interstate?
- Do you enjoy cooking dinner or any meal for that matter in a galley kitchen so small that elves would balk at it?

If you answered in the affirmative, then you are to be applauded... or committed; I'm not sure which makes more sense. Caffeine is key to this equation, as is a very flexible and open mind. Sense of humor is mandatory, and appreciation for your spouse/travel mate/co-captain is inevitable, if not demanded.

Pro tip: Be sure to enjoy as many sunsets as possible from your campsite. Seeking your home for the night after a long day of driving is not fun.

When you're beyond fatigued and making your way into the coffee joint drive-thru, please ensure you have an awareness of your overall height, otherwise you'll end up snapping off your antennae much like we did. Oops.

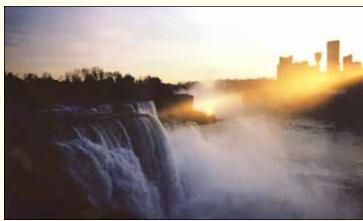
When you are burning incense to quell the increasingly dank aromas that build up during your travel (no one ever mentions this in social media sites), there is the remote possibility that you will be pulled over by law enforcement. Yes, this actually happened. Someone reported us to the police stating that they witnessed us passing an illicit smokey substance back and forth! Nothing could be proven of course, it was just a stick of sage! And so we were sent on our way.

In a nutshell, "road life ain't for sissies!" We laughed a lot on this trip, and mostly at ourselves. One might say it was the overarching soundtrack to our adventure. When we crossed the border into the US, I felt an immediate relief, and a realization that the simple idea that we conjured up earlier in the year was now becoming a reality in 3D.

We had no set schedule and took as much time as we wanted visiting family and friends until the cold weather of the northeast began to set in. We left upstate New York post Thanksgiving and set our sights south to warmer climes. New Mexico was up for consideration.

Then a dear friend in California phoned. Her family home in St. Petersburg was in need of some winter caretaking as her parents would not be making the trip this year due to the pandemic. We had been on the road for four months, and after clocking nearly 7,000 miles, we were ready to take a break.

That was back in January. Since then, Megan and I have completely fallen in love with St. Pete. We have been welcomed with open arms into the community, found our own house, had the containers delivered and secured employment. We relish the abundance of fresh fruit available and the weather – summer notwithstanding – is a dream. I understand now why so many Canadians come down. The beaches here are incredible; a new friend took us kayaking on the Weeki Wachee; we've seen manatees and turtles like never before! We are so very grateful and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. What a time in our life and what an incredible roadtrip!



A visit to Niagra Falls on the U.S. side looking toward Canada



Megan and Miko in the midst of their travels



Stopping for the night in Walterborough, South Carolina



Have road, will travel



Another glorious St. Pete sunset

BOSTON TERRIER TEA PARTY PARADE Continued from page 1



We love our 'Bostons'



Dr. Elena Foley of St. Petersburg Veterinary Hospital at the Boston Terrier Tea Party

World Record next year, which will be the group's 5th annual event.

"Boston Terriers are known for their black and white tuxedo coloring, although there are brindles and other colors," says Jim. "They're happy, energetic breeds but typically not barkers, so they are great for apartment or condo living. They've earned the nickname of the American Gentleman." Jim's dog, Woody, spent a lot of time at City Hall when he was a puppy due to Jim's job, and he made a lot of friends there. "Mayor Kriseman joked that if St. Petersburg had an official dog it

would be Woody. He has his own Instagram page and a big following," says Jim.

The Boston parade begins at Pioneer Park—chosen for its historic significance—and continues to the Museum of Fine Arts, and then back to the park. "It's really enjoyable for people who are downtown dining at one of the sidewalk tables to see the Bostons on parade," says Jim. "St. Pete is such a pet-friendly city."

To follow the group's antics or to participate next year, go to www.facebook.com/groups/1825157590961914.



An adorable Boston Terrier at the parade



Rosie Harvey Meyer and Bo along with Jim Nixon and Woody

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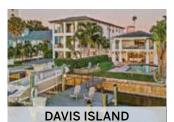
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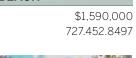
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St. Petersburg's Native American Indian Mounds



Shell Mound at Mound Park Hospital

— JON KILE —

Before St. Petersburg was the Sunshine City, some early promoters tested a less beachy moniker: The City of Mounds. It might be surprising to learn that the area was dotted with Native American mounds of all sizes and shapes, most notably a complex of a least a dozen mounds close to the Tampa Bay shoreline around the vicinity of Booker Creek, Bayboro Harbor, and Mound Park Hospital, better known today as Bayfront Health St. Petersburg.



Baywood Park site of a former shell mound

According to Robert J. Austin in an article published by the Florida Anthropological Society, the Shell Mound at Mound Park Hospital – estimated to be about 20-25-feet tall with a diameter of 90-feet – was one of the most photographed mounds in Florida and a prominent tourist attraction for the growing City of St. Petersburg. In fact, at one time, there was even a staircase for visitors to climb to the top.

To get a sense of what the shell mounds might have looked like, take a short drive to the Pink Streets in South St. Pete and see what is left of the Pinellas Point Temple Mound. This prominent mound rises above the rooftops of nearby homes. It is also said to be the location of the fascinating tale of the explorer Juan Ortiz, who was sent to find his missing contemporary Panfilo de Narvaez. Distrusting of the Spanish, Tocobagan Chief Hirrihigua condemned Ortiz to death. His daughter, Princess Hirrihigua intervened, sparing Ortiz, setting off a series of close calls until Ortiz was rescued by Hernando de Soto. We can say these events literally happened in our backyards.

The story of the city's mounds has been told and retold so often, to varying degrees of accuracy, that it's hard to separate fact from legend, especially since

nearly all of the mounds were leveled over the years, including the Shell Mound, which was demolished in the 1950s as part of a hospital expansion project. How the mounds came to be here and what they represented is still subject to the shifting sands of history.

Early settlers told wild stories of a society of extremely tall and docile people. "Tall" tales aside, we know that the mounds were the work of indigenous cultures that lived in the area starting as far back as 5,000-to-7,000 years ago. The Tocobaga, who were living here when Spanish explorers arrived in the 1500s, had been occupying the Tampa Bay area for around 1,000 years. Their villages stretched from Port Charlotte up to Pasco County.

Most of St. Petersburg's shell middens were primarily composed of piles of discarded oyster shells (a main part of the Native American diet) and other byproducts of daily life. But some were burial sites or ceremonial temple sites. Unfortunately, before they could be examined, the majority of them were destroyed, their materials used to fill in the ruts from wagon wheels of horse-drawn carriages. Later, the shells served as fill material for city streets. No one gave much thought to preserving them until there were just a few left.

Fortunately, there are still a few remaining mounds that can be seen. In addition to the Pinellas Point Temple Mound Park, there are mounds at Abercrombie Park (Park Street and 38th Avenue North), Jungle Prada De Narvaez Park (Park Street and Elbow Lane North), and Maximo Park (Sunshine Skyway Lane South and Pinellas Point Drive South). The city's park and recreation department preserves and maintains each of these sites. A few years ago, the city partnered with the University of South Florida to document the mounds using 3D survey technology. Go to www.stpeteparksrec.org/historicsites for a virtual tour and more information.

There are even remnants of a mound right here in the Old Northeast neighborhood. Behind the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel is Baywood Park, along Beach Drive between 6th and 7th Avenue. Look closely and the undulating land hints at the fact that what looks like a vacant lot is in fact, an historical site. Early accounts mention a "natural ravine" and a spring on the land that stretched all the way from Beach Drive to the water and includes the area that we know today as Vinoy Park.

Weedon Island is yet another area of historical





Left: Take the steps up to the top of Pinellas Point Temple Mound located in the Pink Streets of South St. Pete. Right: Tourists climb up to the top of The Shell Mound at Mound Park Hospital





Signage at Abercrombie Park tells the story of early indigenous people.

interest. Today, Weedon Island is part of a 3,700-acre nature preserve on Old Tampa Bay. But between 1,000 and 1,800 years ago, it was the site of a flourishing Native American village with extensive shell middens and temple-mound formations. Portions of the preserve are now on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2011, an ancient dugout canoe dating back to between 690 and 1010 CE was excavated from the area. The canoe is on display in the Weedon Island Preserve Welcome Center.

But, not all of the artifacts found on Weedon Island artifacts have remained in St. Petersburg. In

the early 1900s, archeologists from the Smithsonian Institute studied Weedon Island's mounds and recovered the remains of over 400 Native Americans, along with ancient indigenous tools and pottery. In accordance with the practice of the time, these artifacts – including the remains – were boxed up and taken for study in Washington, DC. The vast majority of these remains are still in their custody.

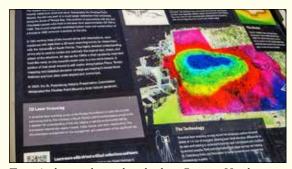
Present day Florida Native Americans have been fighting a battle to recover the remains of those ancestors unearthed a century ago by archeologists. Efforts to repatriate the remains of America's first people have been ongoing for a generation. The Seminole Indians in Florida found that the repatriation process was stacked against them for a few reasons. First, the Seminoles are a rare example of a tribe that never signed a treaty with the US. Second, the Seminoles are a mix of Creek Indians from Georgia and the Carolinas, runaway slaves, and any remaining descendants of the Tocobaga and other indigenous tribes. The US government denied the Seminoles cultural affiliation, which meant any artifacts from early Native American Indian culture could be held by the Smithsonian.

But, in keeping with their unconquered reputation, the Seminoles persevered. On October 5, 2020, after decades of pressure from the Seminoles and other tribes, the Smithsonian announced a major policy change and will accept requests to repatriate remains, even if they don't fit the museum's long-standing definition of "cultural affiliation." With thousands of unaffiliated remains in their possession, it will still take time for remains collected by the Smithsonian at Weedon Island and other locations in Florida to make their way to their descendants. But there is a day within sight that these remains will be released from bureaucratic limbo to a burial consistent with their culture.

THE HISTORY OF PRINCESS HIRRIHIGUA

IN 1528 JUAN ORTIZ, A MEMBER OF THE EXPEDITION SENT FROM
QUAR TO FIND PANIFLO DE NARVAEZ, WAS CAPTURED BY TINDCAN
INDIANS, CHIEF HIRRIHIGUA THEIR RULER, HATED THE WHITE
WEN RECOUSE GUT HIS VIJLENCE OF NARVAEZ JUAN ORTIZ WAS
CONDEMNED TO DEATH BUE PRINCESS HIRRIHIGUA, ELDEST DAUGHTER
OF THE CHILD PLADS DIWITH HER FATHER AND SAVED HIS LIFE
PRINCESS HIRRIHIGUA TAVED ORTIZ FROM DEATH THREE TIMES.
AND WHEN HIS LIFE WAS ACAIN IN DANCER SHE NELPED HIM
ESCAPE TO THE SUF-TIMUCAN TRIBE OF CHILE MUCOSC, HER
BELTROTHED CHIEF HIRRIHICUA WAS SO ANGERED BY THE ESCAPE
OF ORTIZ THAT HE REJUSED TO ALLOW PRINCESS HIRRIHIGA TO
MARRY CHIEF MUCOSO IN 1339 HERNANDO DE SOTOR RESCUED
ORTIZ WHO BECAME HIS GUIDE AND INTERPIETE

LECTE D BY THE PRINCESS HIRRIHIGUA CHAPTER
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
TO COMMEMORATE THEIR PITIETH ANNIVERSARY
1910 — 1966



Top: A plaque relating the tale about Princess Hirrihigua. Bottom: Signage at Pinellas Point Mound.

Whetherthemoundswerestudiedbyarchaeologists, shoveled into a muddy swale, or spread beneath red Augusta Block on city streets, St. Pete's early indigenous residents are still making history.

For more information, view The Weedon Island Story, Third Edition at www.weedonislandpreserve.org/pdf/WIBookWeb.pdf; "Its Origin is Steeped in Mystery: The Sorry Saga of St. Petersburg's Shell Mound Park" by Robert J. Austin, The Florida Anthropologist, June 2020, Vol. 73, Issue 2; Weedon Island Preserve, www.weedonisland-preserve.org/prehistoric-canoe.htm.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

Two Creative Career Paths: Art & Psychotherapy



Painting by Leigh O'Rourke



Leigh and her adorable buddy, Molly Rose

— Janan Talafer —

Then Leigh O'Rourke closes the door to her art studio, pulls on her painting smock, and turns up the music, it's easy to let the world outside slip away. Depending on her mood, there might be Rachmaninoff, country, or even classic rock playing in the background as she slips into the creative mode.

"It's wonderful, like being up in a treehouse," says Leigh about the second-story garage apartment that she converted into her own private art studio. Big windows

let in lots of natural light and there's plenty of room for the dozens of canvases and other art supplies. "Best of all," she says, "is that it's right here in my own backyard."

The studio is just a few steps from the Old Northeast home that Leigh and her partner Stephen Keller – a retired certified financial planner – completely renovated three years ago when they moved here from Sarasota. Stephen is now a realtor with Coldwell Banker, and Leigh divides her time between painting and a 43-year career as a psychotherapist. She has a master's degree in social work from the University



of Texas at Arlington and counsels adults, couples, and families, seeing patients in person once a week in Sarasota, and over the phone or online by appointment.

"I feel very fortunate to have found something that I love to do," says Leigh. "It feels like two careers, really. There is some overlap as both are very intuitive and tap into the creative side, which I really like."

Leigh's artwork is on display in almost every room throughout the house, although there is one special wall in the kitchen reserved for an amazing colorful, abstract painting done by her young granddaughter Maeve, who is only



Leigh in her painting studio

two-and-a-half. Creativity runs in the family. "My great grandmother and mother were artists, and so are my two sisters and a niece. My grandmother was a wonderful home interior decorator," says Leigh, who grew up in Memphis in a neighborhood full of older homes much like the Old Northeast.

It's not surprising to hear that Leigh started painting at a young age, with her mother guiding the process. "My mother didn't have her own studio, we just painted at the house," says Leigh. "I worked on small canvases and my mother helped me. My first painting was a clown." But it wasn't until much later in life that she actually began painting more seriously. In her late 40s, she enrolled in some art classes at the University of Memphis, and loved the experience and the fellow artists she met. "They nicknamed me Pigpen because at first I made such a mess, with paint everywhere," says Leigh. Later she took lessons from a private teacher who held small group sessions in her home.

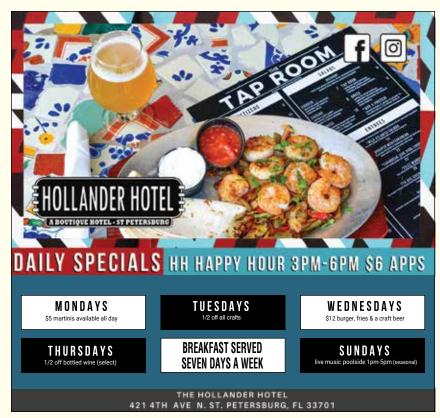
Today, Leigh is a prolific painter with a style that is quite contemporary. She enjoys working with mixed media, oil, and acrylics. "I often start with the theme of birds and take it very abstract," she says. "I don't know exactly what I will paint – it usually happens in stages. Often there is a stage where I think it's not working, but I just keep going and it becomes something I like. It just evolves. It's a process I like – it uses a different part of the brain."

On her website she writes: "When I stand before a blank canvas, I try to suspend chatter in my head and allow the beginnings of the work to present themselves... the process of painting feels expansive and freeing to me and is reflected in the looseness and joy in my work." Leigh feels fortunate to have sold many of her paintings over the years, including to some of her neighbors in the Old Northeast. To see a photo gallery of her work, go to www.LeighORourkeStudio.com.











NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • rickcarson1@gmail.com



The Passing of an Icon

Back in the 'old days' – like 20 years ago – when The Historic Old Northeast was still a vague notion or glimmer in the eyes – for many of us who are now delighted homeowners here, Homes by Helen were about the only real estate signs you'd see in front yards. [Full disclosure (as they say): I'm the owner of a Homes-by-Helen-listed house.] From 1988 until her retirement in 2014, her signs were ubiquitous. Declining health took Helen on November 11 at age 93.

But, those who are aware of her legacy know that Helen Torres was much more than Homes by Helen.

Beginning in 1994, Helen provided the funding to establish the Florida Orchestra's annual fall Pops in the Park

(or Concert in the Park) free concerts, initially in Straub Park and then Vinoy Park as the audiences grew to upwards of 20,000. Her commitment: \$20,000 every year for its first 20 years. For thousands from across the Tampa Bay region, it was an evening of picnicking, great music and fireworks - and what could be better than a finale of Souza's Stars and Stripes Forever with fireworks exploding overhead? Although the concerts were free, Helen requested that attendees bring donations of canned goods to benefit Tampa Bay Harvest, resulting in several thousand pounds of donated food every year. In 2013, she was awarded a Heart of Gold award by the Orchestra Guild, and the orchestra also honored her by having her take the baton and maestro's podium to conduct a selection at one of the Pops concerts. And she also sponsored annual scholarships for student musicians.

Opera fans were grateful for Helen's role in bringing grand opera to the Bay area in the late '90s, generously sponsoring productions for both St. Petersburg Opera and Opera Tampa for

more than 20 years. Her philanthropy also extended to Florida Poodle Rescue, which included her own rescued miniature poodle, Lucky.

Helen was a dedicated ONE resident and gave to the neighborhood her time, energy, and dollars to help make it what we enjoy today. She contributed \$1,000 to HONNA for the Souvenir of St. Petersburg, Views from the Vinoy book project and was nominated by HONNA for inclusion in the St. Petersburg Senior Hall of Fame at the Sunshine Center.

In recent years, Helen was in an assisted living facility, missing the neighborhood she so loved and where she had been such a larger-than-life figure. Her obituary in the *Tampa Bay Times* noted: "Helen's approach to life was exemplified by a custom she observed in Italy where a little wine would be poured onto the ground before drinking from the glass, to give back a little of one's good fortune to the earth which provided it." Thank you, Helen, for all that wine you poured out. *Salute!*









A Wondrous Candlelight Tour

ONNA is pleased to have delivered another successful **▲**Candlelight Tour of Homes our 23rd! - in the Historic Old Northeast on Sunday, December 12. The annual event was back in full swing with trolleys running, and close to 1,000 'masked up' people strolling our brick streets on foot (or in cars, on bikes, scooters and golf carts) and touring the beautiful homes on this year's lineup. Thank you to gracious homeowners Nick Bell and Devin Carrillo; Felix and Donna Fudge; Hyla Griesdorn; Drs. Joe Hatala and Jeff Bush; Maureen Robertson and Rick Call; George Smith and Jim MacKillican for opening your warm and inviting homes to our guests with all your holiday decorations, festive music, and special touches. The home tour selection included an array of architectural styles from American Foursquares, a newly

renovated Contemporary, and the ever-popular Craftsmans from the

A special thank you as well to all of our volunteers who helped make the event happen, and to our hospitality sites — Westminster Retirement Community and the Old Northeast Tavern—for serving drinks and cookies. We are also grateful to our ticket outlets (ARTICLES, Marion's, Rally, and Sunken Gardens), booklet advertisers, Robinson Brand Builders, Bill Reeves, Doug Gillespie and Robert Holmes.

Proceeds from the event will go toward a beautification project (tree planting in the parkways to enhance the canopy) and a 20% donation to the





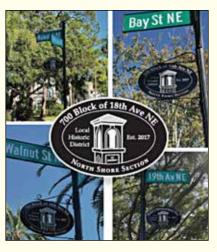
SPCA Veterinary Center in St. Pete. If you feel led to make a donation to the SPCA, go to spcatambay.org/donate, and if you would like to receive more information about Westminster Retirement Communities, visit WestminsterPalmsFL.org.

~ Sharon Kantner

New Historic District Signage

ecorative signs recognizing HONNA's three newest Local Historic Districts were installed in November. The districts and locations for the new signs are:

- 200 Block of 10th Avenue NE (Bay Street NE & 10th Avenue NE)
- Welch's Mediterranean Row (1st Street NE & 19th Avenue NE)
- 700 Block of 18th Avenue NE (Walnut Street & 18th Avenue NE)



HONNA was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. This designation is largely honorary but affords the neighborhood some benefits such as hex-block sidewalk protection. Local Historic District designation offers more protection for the exterior of historic properties, but requires an additional level of responsibility for homeowners. Additional benefits of designation include financial incentives and grant programs.

Find A Resident's Guide to Researching Historic Property and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties at www.stpete.org/business/planning__zoning/historic_preservation.php.

~Robin Reed





November Neighborhood Meeting

s part of an effort to provide additional housing units, the City of St. Petersburg is considering increasing density along high-frequency transit routes and future major streets. At a recent Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting, the four City Council members on the committee voted unanimously to pursue zoning changes which would allow duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, row-houses and townhouses up to ½ mile into neighborhoods adjacent to these high transit routes. According to a map included in the presentation, a change of this magnitude would allow multi-family units (up to four units) to be built almost anywhere in the City, which could significantly alter the look and livability of neighborhoods across the City, including in the ONE. For more detailed information on the proposal, see Will Michael's excellent article on the front page of the November/December Northeast Journal.

In consideration of the enormous impact on the character of our neighborhood, HONNA invited key City staff – Liz Abernethy (director, Planning & Development Services) and Derek Kilborn (manager, Urban Planning & Historic Preservation) – to present at our quarterly meeting on November 15. The gathering was held in Westminster Palms' new spacious, high-tech equipped auditorium. Derek led the audience of about 80 (plus a couple dozen following online) through an informative presentation that elicited a lively Q&A discussion.

Keep in mind that Derek (derek. kilborn@stpete.org) and Liz (elizabeth. abernethy@stpete.org) are available for questions. They have asked for feedback, so emails to them and Council members with your questions and opinions are welcomed. HONNA's Council representatives are Darden Rice (Darden.rice@ stpete.org) and Gina Driscoll (Gina. driscoll@stpete.org).

HONNA is following this zoning issue closely and will keep you informed as the discussion continues with City staff and Council. A committee is being formed to plan a response to the City zoning proposal that was presented at the meeting. If you would like to be on the committee or just receive updates, contact HONNA president John Johnson at honnapresident@ gmail.com.

The election of four members to the HONNA board of directors was held with the re-election of April Cabral, Charleen McGrath, Doug O'Dowd, and Eric Wallens.

Annual Holiday Party

s a thank you for members for their support and involvement, HONNA invited members to its annual holiday party on Monday evening, December 20. The all-you-can-eat pizza fest at the Old Northeast Tavern was also an opportunity to drop off donations for the SPCA of Tampa Bay, adding to that collected from tour-goers at the Candlelight Tour of Homes earlier in the month. Kudos to Bob and his team at the Tavern for their hospitality.



A Holiday Treat

hanks to Running for Brews St. Pete for their 8th annual holiday night bike parade on Friday evening, December 17. The music and festive lights were appreciated as they pedaled their way through the neighborhood, ending on Beach Drive on their way downtown.



First-of-the-Year Porch Party

The upcoming Porch Party is set for Friday, January 21. Start the new year off right meeting some

new neighbors and catching up with friends. Find details at www. honna.org/ honna-events/ january-2022porch-party.



HONNA'S SHINING STARS: **'Before"** and "After"



n 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 Neighborhood STAR Award. Going forward, every month a STAR yard sign will be placed on properties to indicate an award. Here are the STARS for January and February (307 25th Avenue N: David and Terri Buckel; 176 25th Avenue N: Bryce and Melissa Unruh). Please take note of the teardowns on this street!

Watch for new STARS 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.



January: 307 25th Avenue North "Before"



January: 307 25th Avenue North "After



February: 176 25th Avenue North "Before"



February: 176 25th Avenue North "After"

What We Do

We are a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization focused on our community interests:

- Represent Neighbors' interests before City Council and Departments
- Beautify Old Northeast public spaces, monuments, and tree
- Promote the historic character of the Old Northeast
- Provide and promote neighborhood events
- Inform residents on day-to-day interests, issues, events
- Assist with the safety and security of our residents and community
- Support Community and City strategic goals

Representing over 2,500 residents, HONNA's diverse leaders, members, and volunteers serve as custodians of neighborhood resources and are stewards for the local area.



ONNA invites and encourages you to stay connected and on top of Lprograms, events and other happenings in our neighborhood. It's a great way 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/honna.org.

Visit www.honna.org and become a HONNA member to receive periodic informative email announcements. Volunteer for a project, program or event (such as the Candlelight Tour of Homes, Trunk or Treat and Porch Parties).

Ways To Stay Connected:

- Visit www.honna.org
- Become a HONNA member. You'll receive periodic informative announcements. email honna.org/get-involved
- Volunteer for a project, program, or event (the Candlelight Tour of Homes, Trunk or Treat, Porch Parties, Crime Watch). Contact Anna Broshears at abroshe56@ gmail.com.
- Follow Historic Old Northeast Forever at www.historicoldnortheastforever.org. HONF works "to preserve and protect our special neighborhood" (HONF is not affiliated with HONNA).
- HONNA offers a variety of flags that you can purchase to display your love for the Old Northeast. The four choices come in several color combinations: hunter green, burgundy, patriotic, and diversity. You can find them at honna.org/ shop.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

Come for the Architecture, Stay for the Art

— Brandy Stark —

t. Petersburg can now lay claim to having the only museum in the country dedicated to the Arts and Crafts movement. The new \$90 million Museum of Arts and Crafts Movement, or MAACM, officially opened last September. It represents the vision of Tarpon Springs resident Rudy Ciccarello, who first began collecting decorative and fine art in 1997. By 2004, he had amassed one of the largest private collections in the country. The Two Red Roses Foundation now safeguards and maintains his collection of more than 2,000 objects, while continuing to acquire rare, one-of-a-kind pieces that represent the movement.

The five-story museum showcases only a portion of his artwork, which includes everything from furniture, metalwork, lighting, textile and ceramics to paintings and photographs by well-known Arts and Crafts movement artisans such as Gustav Stickley, Charles Rohlfs, the Byrdcliffe Society, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Tiffany & Company.

The Arts and Crafts movement, which lasted from 1890 to 1930, emerged from Victorian England in a response to the anxieties of industrial life. As machinery took over manufacturing, new interest emerged in handmade craftsmanship that was equated to a simpler time. Founders John Ruskin, an art critic and designer, and William Morris, a writer, believed that industrialization alienated labor and made inferior objects. The cure: handmade objects inspired by nature and designed with clear, simple forms to create a therapeutic result for creators and consumers.

The British philosophy made its way to the US, where the American Arts and Crafts Movement flourished in places like Boston, New York, Pennsylvania, and Chicago, which established thriving Arts and Crafts societies. The American movement was also tied to teaching women craft-working skills in wood, pottery, textiles, and metal. A good example is The Saturday Evening Girls, a reading group for young immigrant women who worked at the Paul Revere Pottery in Boston.

Wayne Atherholt, director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, assisted with the development of the new St. Petersburg museum. He points out that not only does it house the best collection of art work from the American Arts and Crafts Movement in North America, but the museum itself is probably the most significant to open in the US this year. He notes that at 137,000-square-feet, it is the largest of St. Pete's 12 museums, and it adds significantly to the city's reputation as an arts destination. "It's an amazing destination for visitors as well as adding to the quality of life for residents," said Atherholt. "The Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement is an incredible vortex where art, artifact, and architecture intersect with a collection focusing on the Arts & Crafts Movement that is stunningly broad as well as deep."

Well-known Tampa architect Alberto Alfonso worked with Ciccarello to design and build the museum. The careful attention to detail is evident as the building alone is a work of art. To reach the main entrance, visitors walk through a lovely garden area complete with the white noise produced by elegant fountains. Inside, the Grand Atrium greets visitors, offering a sense of the building's enormous scale. Inspired by the works of Frank Lloyd Wright,

it is topped with skylights that allow Florida's best natural resource – light – into the building.

Oak-wood flooring – commonly used by early 20th century American artisans – is found throughout the building, as are tiles inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement. Most notable is the sea-shell inspired spiral staircase coated in Venetian plaster. It was created in homage to the Glasgow Rose, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, an influential Scottish architect, designer, and water

colorist who was an important figure in the Modern Style of British Art Nouveau.

The museum also has ample windows spread throughout the building. Walking past each allows glimpses of downtown that are picturesque. Snippets of blue sky, treescapes, and buildings create a calming effect – each with view is unique and attractive. The windows also allow the exhibit to be viewed in the manner which the designers intended – through natural light.



The exterior of the new Museum of American Arts and Crafts Movement



The main interior staircase



One of the spectacular MAACM galleries



A collection of furniture on dislay at the new MAACM



Beautiful artwork at the new MAACM

The first floor houses a gift shop, a lobby café, and the Ambrosia Bar and Restaurant. The permanent collection begins on the second floor. One of the first displays that caught my attention was a wooden staircase from the Chicago Stock Exchange. Made in 1893 and designed by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, the staircase combines function with ornamentation. It is a mix of cast iron, patinated wrought iron, oak, and marble, with ornately decorated handrail stands and wooden steps with light circular etchings.

Around the corner are works by Frank Lloyd Wright. Perhaps best known for his house made of stone over a river in Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, Wright also created several buildings on the campus of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. On display at the museum is a beautiful stained-glass window, created from a mixture of minimalistic glass and a grid of lines, as well as several outstanding



Bedroom vignette, an example of the American Arts and Crafts Movement

pieces of furniture, including a sturdy work table.

The third floor is reserved for rotating visiting exhibits, while the fourth floor showcases tile and pottery. As with the furniture, windows, and stairwells, these handcrafted clay pieces have lean lines highlighted by earthy colors. A favorite work of mine is a Redlands Pottery piece, Crab flower bowl, by Wesley H. Trippett. As the title suggests, the bowl features a beautiful crab delicately extended across its rounded surface.

There is an extensive exhibit of furniture on the fifth floor, including an eight-foot wide Arlyn Table made by master craftsman and artist George Nakashima, who used a cross-section of Redwood trees found buried in California's Muir Woods. The table's name is derived from the syllables of the owners' first names – Arthur and Evelyn Krosnick. It is one of the few remaining pieces by Nakashima as a fire destroyed many of his original works.

Also on the fifth floor is a "mock up" of a typical bedroom with furniture from the Arts and Crafts Movement. A pair of glass windows adorns a wall framing a beautiful oak and chestnut turn-of-thecentury bed. A writing desk, bedside tables with accompany lamps, and a full-sized mirror complete the look, allowing visitors a first-hand experience with the crisp, cool lines of this functional art.

Downtown resident, Eileen Stafford, recently toured the museum and was enthusiastic about the visit. "I am a very visual person, and I loved the building inside and out. It's too much to take in with just a few hours," said Stafford. "I never knew much about this movement until now. It reflects the nature of handmade items, just like we find with our local St. Petersburg artists."

The museum is located at 355 4th Street N, and is open daily except Monday. For more information about the museum, go to www.museumaacm.org/index.html.

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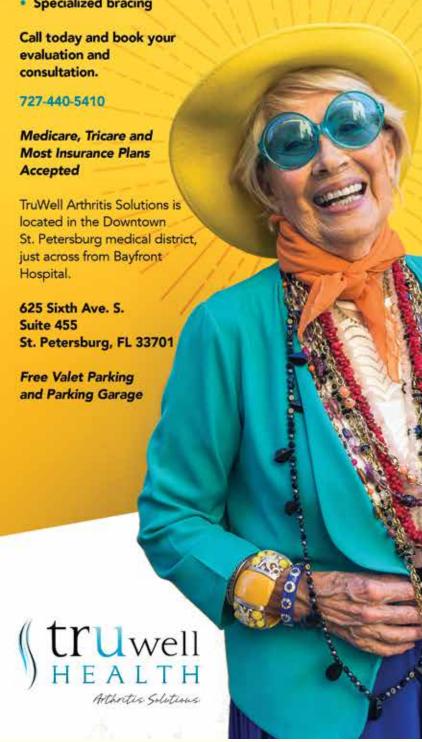
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HAVE YOU ALREADY ADOPTED? We'd love to hear how the Northeast Journal has inspired you to find your forever family.

Email your story to heartgallerykids@gcjfcs.org today.

AROUND THE BLOCK

Sacino's Supports the Community

udo's to Sacino's for reaching out to support people in need in the St. Petersburg community. Sacino's is offering Pinellas County residents who are unemployed the opportunity to get ready for a job interview by having one suit or dress cleaned for free.

"We know the holidays can be a tough time for many people and with rising costs of food, gas and other essentials, we wanted to help our neighbors who are looking for work in the New Year," said Ron Sacino, team leader and owner of the

formalwear, men's suits and dry cleaning business. "From December to February, we will be helping people out of work take a step closer to acing their next job interview."

The family-owned business has been in existence since 1916 when patriarch John Sacino, a master tailor, opened a shop on Central Avenue downtown. For more information go to www.sacino.com.





The Sacino family's third and fourth generation

PEOPLE AND PETS

Calling all residents of the Old Northeast, Snell Isle, Venetian Isles, Crescent Lake, Crescent Heights, and Downtown! Email your HIGH-RES digital photo to Victoria Rogers at victoria.spofford.rogers@gmail.com.

Please include your name, address, phone number, and pet's name.



Susan Betzer MD with Griffin Crescent Lake Drive



Marie Verbrugghe with Mona 9th Avenue North



Mervat and Ross Gelfand with Peanut and Scooter ONE St. Petersburg



Tim Linton with Murphy 12th Avenue North



Amanda Haddad with Wrigley 12th Avenue NE



Jon Decker and 'Perry the Panther' dressed in a costume from the movie Frozen, Monterey Blvd. NE





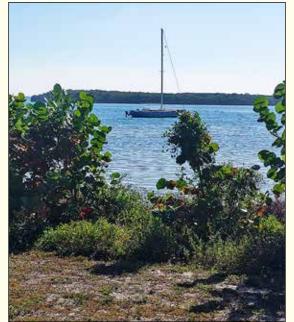
INDIAN KEY BIRD SANCTUARY Continued from page 1

early 1900s. As late as 1916, it was reported that plume hunters had shot up Alligator Bay near Port Charlotte and then burned the trees there to force the birds to nest in more accessible areas in the future. At the time Alligator Bay was considered the most important Egret rookery in Florida (and the US). But, despite the carnage caused by Chevelier and his cohorts, the wild areas near St. Petersburg eventually recovered. Bird Key became the major rookery for pelicans. Cormorants and blue heron were also abundant.

The exploitation of wild birds of course was not just happening in St. Petersburg. It was a matter of national concern, and one of those most concerned was President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt – known as the 'Great Conservationist' – was fascinated with wild birds from his youth and most keen to protect them. Another area ransacked by plume hunters was Pelican Island on Florida's Indian River. In 1903, Roosevelt designated Pelican Island as the first federal Bird Preservation Area, forerunner of today's National Wildlife Refuge System.

Roosevelt's designation of Pelican Island as a Bird Preservation Area on Florida's east coast struck a chord with folks in St. Petersburg. In particular, it got the attention of Roy S. Hanna, St. Petersburg's postmaster. In addition to his duties as postmaster, Hanna was also a city activist helping to boost the city as a natural paradise attracting tourism, and he was a conservationist, helping to found the Audubon Club. The earliest account found of the origin of the Bird Key federal sanctuary – now called Indian Key – is provided by historian Hampton Dunn (1973). "The wanton destruction in the 1890s had been witnessed by Roy S. Hanna... Hanna thought up the idea of a sanctuary. So he took steps to buy a small island, Indian Key, which belonged to the State of Florida. In 1902, he learned that the federal government wanted the island as a bird reservation. He corresponded personally with President Theodore Roosevelt and turned over all his rights to the island – which is now appropriately called Bird Key..." However, federal designation of Bird Key as the "Indian Bird Key Reservation" did not occur until 1906. In 1921, the keys known as Cow, Calf, and Bush also were made a part of Indian Key Bird Preservation Area by executive order of President Warren G. Harding.

In 1909, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society was established with conservationist Katherine Bell Tippetts as first president. Roy Hanna is reported to

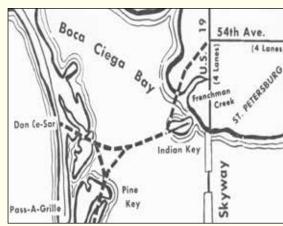


Indian Key as seen today from Maximo Park.

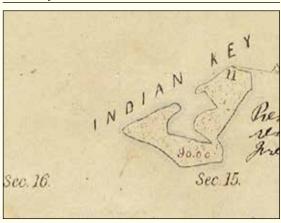


Satellite image of Indian Key today. Note the protected inlet and rookery in the center of the Key.

have also been prominent in the Society's formation. The Society was active in promoting protection of Bird Key, and also used the Key as a way of educating the public regarding the importance of bird wildlife. Frequent excursions were made to the Key. An account of one such excursion held in 1915 reads, "boats were taken by the party which was rowed around inside the amphitheater-like home of the sea fowls. As the sea birds arose from the mangrove trees, snap shots were taken of them in flight." Prominent ornithologists were brought to Florida by the Audubon Society. One was Herbert K. Job, State Ornithologist of Connecticut. In 1915, he visited Bird Key, after which he went to Breton Island, Louisiana, where he joined former President Theodore Roosevelt for a tour of another bird reservation there which Roosevelt had created.



Map of proposed causeway across Indian Key to Tierra Verde in 1956. In addition to the causeway, the developer Hyman Green proposed an African American beach on Indian Key.



Map depicting Indian Key as shown on 1876 survey map. Interestingly the key is identified as Indian Key on this map. By 1925, it had commonly become known as Bird Key.



Map depicting Indian Key as shown on 1925 city Chamber of Commerce map. By then, the former Indian Key had commonly become known as Bird Key. In 1950, the federal government reaffirmed the name as Indian Key, although Bird Key continued to persist in common usage for many years.



What Heart & Hammer Team Did Over the Holidays...

The Kind Mouse:

Conducted three Food Drives at three different locations and dates where our team collected 1,300 pounds of food (4,786 individual items).

Homeless:

Assembled and distributed 60 Homeless Care Cases in Williams Park on 12/26/21. Each case contained a pair of socks and a pair of gloves along with bottled water, a can of soup, Slim Jims, apple sauce, pudding cup, Vienna sausage, breakfast bar, granola bar, and peanut butter crackers.





Mouse!

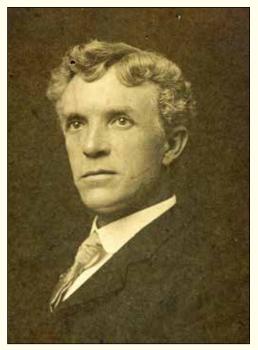


Designating Indian Key in 1906 as a federal bird reservation was not in itself sufficient to protect the wildlife. For example, in 1919 the Times reported, "With a stringent law against killing birds, the rookery at Bird Key has recently been depopulated nevertheless. A schooner loaded with sportsmen landed there the past week and about completed the job. Bird Key should be carefully protected from these depredators." Exactly when game wardens were first appointed to guard the Key is unknown. However, it was reported in 1922 that Captain B. F. Pacetti, "inspector of federal migatory [sic] and preserves" posted Indian Key and other nearby islands closing them until after the nesting season. The appointment of reservation wardens was also noted.

It was not until 1950 that the Key became officially known simply as Indian Key. That year, the US Board of Geographic Names declared the island was to be known as Indian Key,

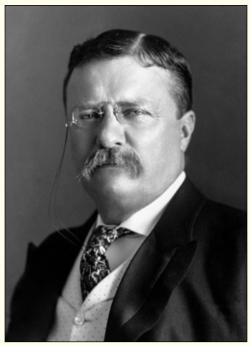
"not Big Bird Key, Bird Key, or Little Bird Key."

In June of 1955, developer Hyman Green and his associates proposed a toll road and causeway to run from Maximo Point to his proposed development at what is now Tierra Verde. The causeway would be anchored midway at Indian Key. As historian Dennis Whelan recounted in his new book *The*



Roy S. Hanna – along with Katherine Bell Tippetts – was a leading St. Petersburg conservationist. He purchased Indian Key and in 1902, he offered it to the federal government as a bird sanctuary. Image 1900.

Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History



Theodore Roosevelt had studied bird life since his youth and was enthusiastic about the protection of birds and other wildlife. In 1903, Roosevelt dedicated Pelican Island on Florida's East Coast as America's first Bird Preservation Area. Indian Key was designated in 1906.

Image circa 1904, Patch Brothers

Pine and Cabbage Keys into St. Petersburg's city limits, thus increasing the city tax base. However, at that time, Indian Key was owned by Pinellas County. In 1955, the state had conveyed Indian Key to Pinellas County as part of 5,000 acres of submerged lands and uplands to be used solely non-commercial recreational purposes. At what point federal ownership had been conveyed to the state is unknown. The Indian Key bridge and causeway proposal was shortly replaced with the Bayway Plan which led to today's Bayway access to Tierra Verde and Fort DeSoto Park.

But, it was not until 1964, at the request of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society, that the Pinellas County Commission voted to rededicate Indian Key and also Bush Key to their original status given them by President

727.522.8331

Roosevelt. The *Times* noted, "They are the last remaining wild islands in Boca Ciega Bay, and almost the only ones on this part of the Gulf Coast. Without them as nesting sites, entire flocks of the unusual and exotic birds, such as the white and brown pelicans, white ibises, egrets and spoonbills, must be lost to the entire county."

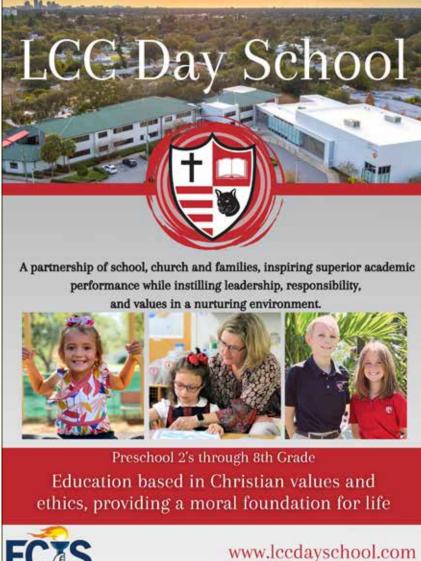
Will Michaels is the author of The Making of St. Petersburg and the Hidden History of St. Petersburg. He may be reached at 727-420-9195 or wmichaels2222@gmail.com.

Pinellas Puzzle, Green proposed a segregated African American beach to be located on Indian Key. He made his pitch to St. Petersburg city government, in return asking them to obtain release of Indian Key from the federal government. (Interestingly, the proposal for an African American beach at Indian Key was made at the same time that segregated beaches in St. Petersburg were being contested by civil-rights advocates.) Green also promised to bring his proposed development on









GOODNESS INDEED

Giving Back to Support Families in Need

On these four pages of Goodness InDeed, we are highlighting the urgency of food insecurity in the Tampa Bay Area, as well as the 'Good People, Good Places, Good Things Happening' who are making a difference for our neighbors in need.

— Livia Zien –

The spirit of giving was in full swing in December when hundreds of volunteers gathered at Tropicana Field to deliver a little Christmas cheer to families in need with children. It was the second annual Meals on Wheels for Kids 'Holiday on Wheels,' an event designed to bring food and toys directly to children whose families are 'housebound' and do not have access to transportation, which prevents them from driving to one of the holiday meal distribution sites. Over 1,000 households -4,500 people in total – in the tri-county area of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties received assistance to help celebrate the holiday season.

Volunteers helped unload trucks filled with turkeys, hams, and other food items and then loaded up everything in vehicles sent out on one of 350 designated routes in the area. Some volunteers were seasoned Meals on Wheels helpers. For others it was their first experience. And many had been regular volunteers with local organizations and schools when the



Executive director Caitlyn Peacock (right) and a volunteer pose with a car loaded with deliveries for families

pandemic put a hold on 'life as usual,' and now they were eager to get back to helping out in the community. Energy and spirits were in high gear as Liz Ardeljan, the Tropicana Field site director, organized volunteers in Lot 4.

To understand how Meals on Wheels – a program traditionally focused on the homebound elderly – expanded to include children, we have to rewind to 'pre-Covid' times. Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger – an umbrella organization supporting several private and public charities – focuses on data

analysis and research to efficiently use the resources of a community and to provide services to fill in hunger gaps. They created Florida's first hunger map, identifying areas of deficit by zip code, and networking those areas with retailers, farmers' markets, and other assistance programs.

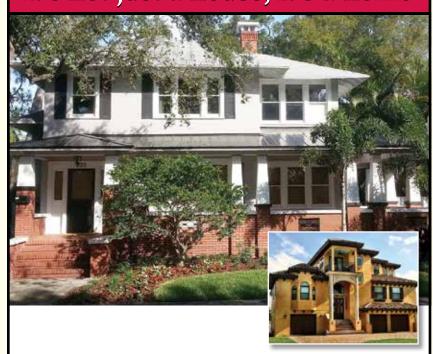
When executive director Caitlyn Peacock first joined Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger, she was given the task of studying local trends of the federally funded Summer Food Service Program, which provides healthy meals

and snacks to kids and teens. While the National School Lunch Program was widely used during the school year, Peacock said, "less than 20 percent of those kids were participating in the summer program."

After creating focus groups and talking to parents, Peacock and her team realized that while there were a variety of issues that were creating a barrier to full use of the summer program, the primary issue was accessibility. She explains, "Even if the food distribution sites were a mile-anda-half away, if you don't have a car, have three small children, and lack access to public transportation, it might as well be 11-and-a-half miles away." Another obstacle for some families was the congregate dining requirement mandating that children had to eat their meals at the distribution site.

In December 2019, Peacock and her team began developing a pilot program to deliver meals to families with children that had transportation hardships. They worked with Steve King of Meals on Wheels of Tampa for the homebound elderly, making minor modifications to an already robust program. The official Meals on Wheels for Kids program was scheduled to pilot in the summer of 2020, with plans to deliver weekly meals to 20 children

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(From left) Annie Beesing, Tara Augustine, Cathy Saenz, Liz Ardeljan (site coordinator), Lilian Naranjo, Judy Cote gather early to receive meals for delivery

while school was out. But in March, Covid hit, and everything came to a screeching halt and schools were closed indefinitely.

In Hillsborough County, thanks to a special feeding task force, schools were able to continue providing meals to families. The Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger was fortunate to benefit from that program. Peacock explains, "With the schools providing those meals, we got a bunch of waivers. One of those waivers allowed those summer food-service-program meals to be delivered to children without having to meet the congregate dining requirement." That was a significant change. Now Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger had access to food provided by the federally funded programs.

Working with Hillsborough County, they launched what Peacock refers to as a "pilot of a pilot" for their meal delivery proposal. The pilot was a success. The next step was to expand the service area and reach out to the community for donations to help grow the program. By the end of 2020, they were serving the tri-county Tampa Bay region and had served over a million meals to more 20,000 kids and families.

They also entered into a partnership with Metropolitan Ministries, adding a new twist to the program and launching Holiday on Wheels, which would provide full meals for the holidays in November and December to families in need, in every zip code. The effort



Cornelius Rowell and Asianna Lotito

required hundreds of volunteers, but the community did not disappoint. And in 2021, the support was even stronger as volunteers came to distribution sites in St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Dade City to help unload trucks and pack up cars for delivery.

Among the volunteers who at Tropicana Field were Asianna Lotito and Cornelius Rowell. Lotito was mentoring kids in public schools when the pandemic struck and was looking for socially distant volunteer work. She dove right in with Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger, helping to raise over \$60,000 and joining as a new board member. "I love being able to help our community who aren't able to help themselves, especially the children," says



Sandra Smith and Chew Chew

Lotito. "When I was a child, my mom worked hard to put food on the table. She struggled raising twins on her own. This program would have been helpful to us during those difficult times." Lotito recruited Rowell, who was also looking for ways to help out in the community. The couple are now weekly Meals On Wheels volunteers, delivering meals to homebound seniors on Mondays, and kids and families on Wednesdays.

Despite all the progress Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger has made with the home-meal-delivery program, Peacock is still cautious. She stresses that the pandemic unveiled the need for home-meal-delivery, but that the need will not end with Covid. The need existed before Covid. Peacock reflects, "Honestly, I thought I knew about food insecurity, but I did not realize that there were so many kids and families that lacked access to a food pantry. Hunger is not food insecurity. Food insecurity is an economic indicator. Hunger is a physiological sensation." In interviews conducted with families, Peacock found that often, members would eat less to make the food last longer. They relied on unpredictable sources of food coming into the home, like a neighbor bringing a leftover dinner or somebody providing them a ride to the grocery store. Some families requested shelf-stable food because they could not afford the utility bills to guarantee electricity for the refrigerator.

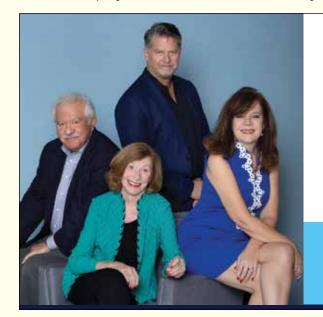
"These are the true issues families are facing," says Peacock. "Nobody wants to think of a child in the family unable to access a food pantry half a mile away. It's not like they live on Mars. They're in our backyard or right next door."

Right now, Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger is the only organization offering meal-delivery organization. Peacock emphasizes that there is a need for more help.

She's passionate about her work. With the continued help and support from the community, she hopes we can establish food security, meal by meal, for all families and children in need in Tampa Bay.

For more information, please visit www.networktoendhunger.org.

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GOODNESS INDEED

A Healthy Meal as a Pathway to Success





Left: Trinity Cafe Pinellas volunteers Brenda Breslow, Siena Arsenault, Gabriel Potrero-Luna and Alex Bossert. Right: Trinity Cafe Pinellas chefs prepare meals.

— JANAN TALAFER —

ast year, Lynn Lotkowictz – one of the *Northeast Journal* writers and a resident of downtown – was shocked to see hundreds of cars line up on a Saturday morning at Tropicana Field. Families were waiting to receive a box of groceries to help them get through the week. "I thought, right in our own backyard, people are going hungry," Lynn recalled. "I had no idea."

The Pinellas County Drive-Thru Mega Pantry at Tropicana has been providing much-needed food to local St. Pete residents since 2020. The drive-thru pantry is a program of Feeding Tampa Bay, a private nonprofit organization that is an affiliate of the national Feeding America, one of the largest hunger-relief nonprofits in the country.

Feeding Tampa Bay is a bit of misnomer as it provides services not just to neighbors in St. Petersburg and Tampa, but also residents of Manatee, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Pasco, Hernando, Sumter, and Citrus counties. Last year, the organization served 95 million meals in the 10-county service area – 18.4 million in Pinellas County.

"Going hungry is not a new public health issue, but during a crisis like the pandemic, it brings a spotlight to the problem," said Thomas Mantz, president and CEO of Feeding Tampa Bay. The need certainly seems to be at an all-time high. Every hunger-relief organization in Pinellas County reports that the number of people turning to them for food assistance has skyrocketed since Covid.

Nationally, the US Department of Agriculture reports that 38 million Americans, including 12 million children, are food-insecure. Here in Pinellas and the other counties served by Feeding Tampa Bay, one-in-four children and one-in-six adults is considered food-insecure.

What exactly is food insecurity? It's having to skip a meal or two because there isn't enough money left after paying the rent and utilities. It's buying whatever food is the cheapest rather than going hungry. And it's losing your job and turning to a local food pantry to meet your family's needs.

"I view it as we are all one terrible accident away of being in need," says Antoine Everett Guzman, the volunteer manager for Trinity Café Pinellas, a new Feeding Tampa Bay program that opened last November at 6330 54th Avenue North. Although there are two Trinity Café programs in Hillsborough County, this is the first one in Pinellas. And it's the first to be open for dinner from 5:30-6:30 pm Monday through Friday.

"There is a stigma with soup kitchens and we are hoping to change that with Trinity Café," said Ragan McGillis, empowerment center manager for Feeding Pinellas. "We are targeting working families in need, especially families with children. The idea is that the parents can get off work and the family can join us for dinner, like going out to a restaurant."

Healthy three-course meals are prepared fresh onsite by a chef. The food is delivered to the table by a team of volunteers of all ages. The dining area is brightly lit, colorful, and attractive. There are coloring sheets and crayons to keep kids entertained. Outside is the Tranquility Garden, a beautifully landscaped meditative space with a fountain.

Alex Bossert, Gabriel Potrero-Luna, and Siena Arsenault – seniors at Hollins High School – were volunteering for the first time at Trinity Café a few weeks after it opened. One of their teachers had suggested the program as a good opportunity to earn volunteer credits for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. "It makes you feel good being here, like you accomplished something," said Siena. "We get so caught up in our own lives. It makes you grateful when you volunteer at a program like this."

For Lynn Lotkowictz, volunteering at Trinity Café Pinellas was only natural after seeing the line-up of



Trinity Cafe Pinellas Food Pantry



Ragan McGillis, Feeding Pinellas Empowerment center manager

cars at Tropicana Field and learning more about Feeding Tampa Bay. Now she and her husband Bill are regular volunteers, helping out during the dinner hour several times a month.

Although the program is non-denominational and not affiliated with any religious organization, it occupies a portion of space that Northwest Church rents to them. According to McGillis, the partnership with the church "was a natural fit for us as they have been doing outreach to the homeless for more than 20 years."

Healthy meals are only one aspect of what Feeding Pinellas and Trinity Café hope to achieve. The organization's mission is: "Food for Today, Food for Tomorrow, and Food for a Lifetime." The café provides food for today, while food for tomorrow is offered through an onsite food pantry that is open twice a week and set up like a grocery store with food, frozen

meals to-go, and select household items. Unlike some food pantries, people are invited in to shop for what they need.

Rounding out the idea of food for tomorrow, individuals and families have the opportunity to receive what McGillis calls "wrap-around services." This can include everything from learning how to sign up for SNAP benefits (the government-sponsored supplemental nutrition assistance program), to finding assistance for housing, or other supportive services. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is taught in an onsite classroom and discussion is underway about the possibility of adding GED classes They also plan to offer job training through their FRESHforce workforce development program.

As president and CEO of Feeding Tampa Bay, Mantz hopes that the concept of Trinity Café can serve as a model for the country. He points out two important outcomes for the program: improved health – which comes from people having access to healthy, nutritious food – and providing families with the resources they need."

"What we know is that when someone comes in for a hot meal, most likely they have other underlying conditions they are facing," said Mantz. "If we can address those conditions and get them the support they need, that will allow them to flourish. "Come for a hot meal, walk out with other services — it's the pathway to success and the right answer to the problem. We want our communities to be as well and healthy as they can be."

The addition of Trinity Cafés in both Pinellas and Hillsborough seems to be a step in the right direction. ●

For more information, go to www.feedingtampabay.org.



The dining hall at Trinity Cafe Pinellas

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AROUND THE BLOCK

St. Anthony's Auxiliary Celebrates 72 Years of Service

s the St. Anthony's Hospital Auxiliary celebrates 72 years of service, it's the perfect time to reflect on all that has been accomplished and to look forward to a bright future. While St. Anthony's Hospital has been serving the community for over 90 years, the Auxiliary was started in 1949 by a group of doctors' wives with Mrs. Alfred Bergman serving as the first president.

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany were the original owners and staff of the hospital starting in 1931. Today, St. Anthony's is part of a network of 15 hospitals owned by BayCare Health System in the Tampa Bay and surrounding areas. There are still three Sisters working at the hospital, including Sr. Mary McNally, vice president of Mission Integration.

"St. Anthony's has a long heritage of working to provide high-quality compassionate care guided by the mission and values of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany," says Sr. McNally.

In the early days of the Auxiliary, members would push traveling carts within the hospital to deliver books, magazines, and often treats to the patients. They also worked on the obstetric floor, and gave 'Mommy Classes' to educate new mothers.

Today, the Auxiliary is a diverse group of caring men and women seeking an opportunity to volunteer throughout the hospital, or to just be a social member enjoying the monthly meetings and offering financial support. The group runs the hospital gift shop, helps guide patients to the right department, and answers phones at the front desk. During the pandemic, members helped to fund and assemble thousands of snack bags for staff, and this fall the Auxiliary funded and put together snack bags for the housekeeping staff and other hospital workers.

In addition, every year, a needy family is selected for the Auxiliary to support with holiday gifts.

One of the Auxiliary's main missions is to raise funds for the hospital. Through their many fundraisers, they donate over \$100,000 worth of equipment to the hospital every year, based on specific requests from hospital staff.

"It is very rewarding to see the money we raise go to so many worthy causes," says Auxiliary president Phyllis Powell. "The requests we receive are for needed equipment and services that are in addition to what is covered under the hospital budget." Representatives from various departments bring requests to Auxiliary members for things such as portable respirators and a vein finder, as well as expanded services at the Breast Center. For the past six years the heads of the doctors' and nurses' groups has received a large check to be used as they see fit for their departments.

"The Auxiliary puts the 'fun' in fundraising," says Phyllis. Twice a year Dillard's brings merchandise to sell at the hospital, where employees can make four payments for any purchases. The sale is also open to the public. A percentage of the proceeds goes to the Auxiliary, and members help out at the sales. A Linen/White Elephant Sale will be held on January 25 and 26 in the hospital auditorium and there will be a Jewelry Sale in February or March. On March 23, the annual Bridge Card Party and Luncheon will take place at the hospital, and you won't want to miss the Bingo/Fashion Show and Dinner at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on March 10 from 4-7pm.

A celebration of the new 90-bed tower being built is planned for April 2022, that will also relocate several hospital services including cardiology, inpatient dialysis, pre-admission testing for surgical patients, new educational classrooms, a new electrical plant and an expanded loading dock.



St. Anthony's Auxiliary members

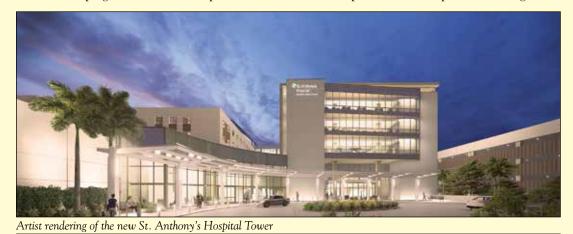
Auxiliary members will be there for the celebration as observers or assisting the hospital staff.

The Auxiliary meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 11am at the hospital. Lunch is provided. "Each event provides opportunities for new friendships and taking time to help give back to our community," says Phyllis. The February meeting will feature the topic, "A Heart Focus for Women in February." Phil Graham, president of the Downtown Waterfront Parks Foundation, will be the featured speaker in March.

April Gausman joined the Auxiliary about 10 years ago after a friend suggested she attend a meeting. "It was a wow experience when the Auxiliary approved a \$90,000 donation to buy a special instrument that was not in the hospital budget," April recalls. "I so enjoy working with other Auxiliary members who work endlessly to make a real difference."

~ Suzanne Driscoll

St. Anthony's Auxiliary always welcomes new members. For more information contact Sara Gallagher, membership chair, at saragaliger15@gmail.com or Phyllis Powell, president, at jpowell205@yahoo.com.



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Kaitlyn Kellin

20th Avenue North

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

I am a proud third-generation St. Pete native; I've lived here my whole life! My grandparents, Toby and Carole Krayer, lived in Old Northeast for over 55 years, so this neighborhood holds a very special place in my heart.

Favorite place to visit in St. Pete?

I love being downtown and supporting our local businesses! My favorite place is the Pier. I enjoy taking sunrise walks there with my dog Millie!

Most interesting, enjoyable or exotic vacation you've taken?

I love to travel and have been fortunate enough to visit some incredible places! It's hard to pick one place... Swimming at the drop-off in Hawaii to listen to the whales. A private tour to Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany where it started snowing when we got to the top. Exploring Dubrovnik with the locals during off season. Taking a small plane to the remote island of Culebra in Puerto Rico. Traveling is something I'm so passionate about and makes me appreciate home even more!

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

There are so many places! But two would be Iceland to see the Northern Lights and Greece.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

I was a competitive swimmer when I was younger and grew up boating so I love anything on the water!

A great movie you'd recommend or current TV series you are watching?

I love Ted Lasso on AppleTV!

If you were a dog, what breed would you be? I would be a cockapoo like my dog Millie. She is sweet, cuddly, and so loyal!

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

My Pop-pop is my inspiration for everything I do. He was so hardworking and kind. To honor him and all he taught me, I work tirelessly for my clients and treat everyone I meet with kindness and warmth.

Current book you've read and would recommend? Glennon Doyle, Untamed.

Tell us about an accomplishment, current or past, of which you are proud.

I am most proud of my career and the relationships I've built. I started my journey right out of college and am still as passionate now as I was a decade ago. I am so fortunate to have continued business through referrals from clients who have become friends. This job gives back in more ways than I can count!

Something people might not know about you? I'm an identical twin!

What do you do for a living?

Realtor

Tell us something about your family and pets.

I recently became an aunt! My sister welcomed her son on November 8th, and becoming his aunt has been the best thing to ever happen to me.



Shelly Wilson

28th Terrace North

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

I moved to Gulfport from Santa Rosa, California when I was eight. I have lived in St. Petersburg off and on many years as an adult, from Kenwood to Northeast Park area, and now on the west side.

Favorite place to visit in St. Pete?

I'm a huge fan of the waterfront and the new Pier for walks with the dog and picnics in the park. I also love exploring the quirky shops, coffee houses, and breweries. Every day there's something new.

Most interesting, enjoyable, or exotic vacation you've taken?

I lived in Europe for three years and got to see so many inspiring places. My favorite side trips were to Prague, Berlin, and Barcelona.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list? Japan and Argentina

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

There are too many, but Shakespeare comes to mind. I have a lot of questions for him.

Favorite sport, recreational activity,or hobby?

We bought kayaks during the pandemic and I am now addicted to kayaking.

A great movie you'd recommend or current TV series you are watching?

I just binged Dickinson, and it's a revelation.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be? Probably a Saint Bernard because I like the cold and they also sleep a lot.

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

My grandparents – still active and youthful in their 80s – have always inspired me to live life with gusto and integrity, no matter what. They are my heroes.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

I just bought Mary Oliver's *Devotions*. She is a master of nuance, of nature, and human connection – one of my favorites.

Tell us about an accomplishment, current or past, of which you are proud.

Still in progress, but so far successful: This will be the year I keep all of my plants thriving!

Something people might not know about you?

I collect rocks from most places I visit. Someone once stole my work bag (with my laptop inside), and the thing I was sorriest to lose from it were the stones I collected from Scotland.

What do you do for a living?

I am a writer and an editor – and the new editor of the *Northeast Journal*. I've had a lot of odd jobs over the years, but I've never truly 'been' anything else.

Tell us something about your family and pets.

I live with my wife – who is a water resources engineer and a brilliant cook – and our dog Maui. He is a French Bulldog and will tell you this is why he needs cheese daily.



Janan Talafer

Snell Isle Blvd. NE (shown with daughter Laura)

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

My husband and I moved from Connecticut to St. Pete in 1988, but we grew up in Bay Village, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio on Lake Erie.

Favorite place to visit in St. Pete?

I love the parks: Sunken Gardens, Boyd Hill, and Abercrombie Park are at the top of my list.

Most interesting, enjoyable, or exotic vacation you've taken?

Barbados on my honeymoon when it was still very British, and a month in Italy two years ago.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list? The British Isles, followed by Iceland.

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

Elizabeth I, a brilliant, shrewd queen who ruled England for almost 50 years.

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

Yoga, gardening, kayaking, and east coast swing dance

A great movie you'd recommend or current TV series you are watching?

The Queen's Gambit was fantastic, but I have a weakness for animation and love Happy Feet.

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

There is no question that I would be a cat, preferably an orange tabby.

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

My husband Mark, who decided to go to nursing school at age 49.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. It's historical fiction about the Dust Bowl. I was horrified by the desperation and starvation of the people and the terrible treatment they endured after migrating to California to pick crops.

Tell us about an accomplishment, current or past, of which you are proud.

After a 20-year career in hospital public relations, I had my own freelance writing business for 23 years. A highlight was flying on a KC-135 out of MacDill Air Force Base and helping refuel a fighter jet mid-air over Baton Rouge – then writing about it.

Something people might not know about you?

As the managing editor of publications for Yale-New Haven Hospital, I was in the operating room during the first heart transplant in Connecticut.

Tell us something about your family and pets.

My husband Mark and I met in high school. Our son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters live in St. Pete. Our daughter and her husband live in Rome, Italy.

INDIE LOCAL BOOKSTORES Continued from page 1

over the big box stores," she says, adding that used books are important to families on a budget. "We love to help people find that obscure title from their childhood and bring the joy of books to future generations."

It's a common refrain: Independent bookstores offer what the internet can't: a personal touch, whether it's a one-on-one connection, local business support, or a sense of community.

"Bookstores are known for the community we create," says Alsace Walentine, founder and co-owner of Tombolo Books on 1st Avenue South, whose shop name honors that very concept. A tombolo is a sandbar that connects an island to the mainland; it's a metaphor, Walentine explains, for community connection.

"Unlike big box stores where the products are similar from store to store, every indie shop has its own character. The inventory is developed and managed not by an algorithm or an out-of-town executive, but by the booksellers who live here," says Walentine. "We get to know our customers, our friends and neighbors and what they like to read – and we try to find other interesting books that will delight them."

Local author Tamara Lush, who writes cozy mysteries under the pen name 'Tara Lush,' released the second book in her coffee shop series in December: Cold Brew Corpse. Lush held her book launch at Tombolo Books, as well as other events at Books at Park Place in South Pasadena and the Oxford Book Exchange in Tampa.

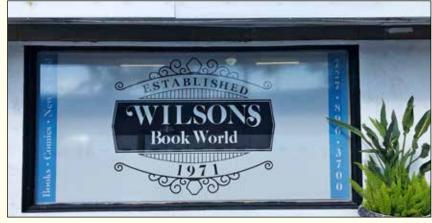
As a writer, says Lush, local, indie bookstores are a lifeline. "You're a member of the community," she says, "and [as a writer] if you're looking to sell books, start where you live. You start local."







Wilson's comics section



Local book stores can offer unique cross-promotional opportunities, Lush says, adding that Tombolo promoted her book in connection with Black Crow Coffee, which is next door; pre-ordering Lush's latest cozy mystery through Tombolo also snagged the reader a Black Crow Coffee bundle.

"Inclusiveness is really essential," says Lush, who adds that with indie bookstores, you're not only supporting local business, but perhaps a minority- or woman-owned, LGBTQ-friendly space. "It's really nice to say to readers, 'Go to a smaller bookstore," says Lush. "It's that personal touch."

New Models & Pandemic Pivots

Even with the potential loss of Haslam's, traditional booksellers are not the only game in town. Non-traditional shops find new ways to bring books to the people. Tombolo Books started as a pop-up in the Bay Area before it found a brick-and-mortar home; it's a model that trades overhead for flexibility.

Hybrid businesses like St. Petersburg's Book + Bottle – which bills itself as "a bookstore with wine and a wine bar with books" – offers more than a literary experience, with food, drinks, expanded event options, and robust websites with locally curated online book selections.

Cultured Books Literacy Foundation – an arts and cultural nonprofit dedicated to children's literacy – runs a pop-up bookstore for kids to foster "a love of self by showing positive images and sharing great stories about people of color." Sales from the pop-up space and an online store powered by bookshop.org help Cultured Books host story times and kids' literacy events to 'broaden world views.' "Books have the power to change lives," says Cultured Books founder and St. Pete native Lorielle J. Hollaway via the org's website. "Books don't just change mindsets – they empower children to go farther, and to see more."

Social media is another vital tool for indie bookstores. The ability to connect easily with local customers through social media and digital programming made a big impact in the pandemic. Says Lush, "People now follow bookstores on social media," which — in addition to keeping folks up-to-date on offerings like book club picks, author signings and myriad events — also helps smaller independent shops reach and inspire a wider audience.

Jenquin – whose shop Wilson's Book World might just be the new 'grandaddy' of local bookstores – says, "After 50 years in business, we have not changed much... other than incorporating social media," which, she says, "plays a big part in community engagement."

"During the beginning of the pandemic, we were nimble enough to personally deliver book orders to our local customers," says Walentine. "We shifted our



Tombolo Alsace Walentine

in-store programming to virtual programming... We are successful because of the support of the readers in the St. Petersburg area. They kept us going even while our sales floor was shuttered for two months."

When you build on community engagement, Walentine offers, it's a two-way street. "That," says Lush, "is the personal touch a local book store can give."

While it's great to support a mom-and-pop where you live, many local, indie shops also give back. "We assist local businesses, nonprofits, and schools by making books available for their programming," says Walentine. "We've 'popped up' at events at the Mahaffey, the Palladium, at the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, at libraries, and festivals... We partner with the African American Heritage Association for a monthly Community Conversation."

In November, Tombolo asked customers to contribute toward a bulk purchase of books for a local Title 1 school. "Our wonderful customers bought books for



Book + Bottle

children they don't even know!" says Walentine.

"I think bookstores like Tombolo, they're not operating in a vacuum," says Lush. "There's definitely a sort of ripple effect... It brings the community together."

Wilson's Book World has been providing books for the Pinellas County Jail for "many, many years and usually send them about 1,300 books every three to four months," says Jenquin. "We work with a number of foundations that provide books to families in need. We donate about 50-plus books a quarter to these foundations."

It's a small example of how local, indie bookstores don't just target customers, but offer a vital, organic means to nourish the community in their own backyard. "When people decide to spend their money at fiercely independent local shops, they are strengthening the local economy," says Walentine. "We all want to live in a unique, vibrant place, and by supporting our neighbors' businesses, we keep the creativity alive."



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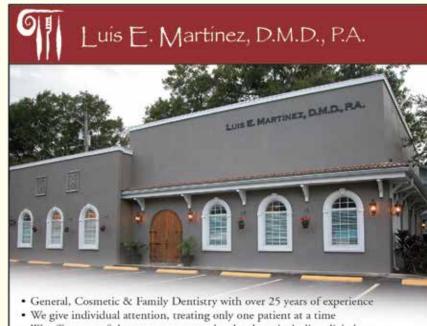
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AROUND THE BLOCK

Queen's Court Named for 63rd Queen of Hearts Ball

he Queen's Court will hold its 63rd annual Queen of Hearts Ball on Saturday, February 19 at the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art. The festive black-tie event is the Queen's Court's only fundraiser. Since the Queen's Court is a nonprofit organization and operated solely by volunteers, 100 percent of all proceeds raised by the ball are distributed directly to the two selected charities. This year's charities include The Moran Arts Center's Operation: Art of Valor, and Ready for Life Skill Center.

The 2022 Royal Court will be presented at the ball, which this year includes Candace Scherer, who was named Queen of the Ball; and Julie Cline, Aria Garling, Brenda Griffin, Marie Hartney, Elizabeth Hendricks and Laura Liebel, who were named Princesses of the Ball.

Sixty-three years ago, Mrs. Alicia du Pont MacGregor had a wonderful vision: a Queen of Hearts Ball benefiting the American Heart Association with a Queen and her Royal Court of Princesses to be presented in pageantry at each ball. The Royal Court was to be selected from the names presented by clubs and civic organizations dedicated to supporting the cultural, charitable, and civic projects in the St. Petersburg area. In 1959, Mrs. du Pont MacGregor's vision became a reality, and the first Queen of Hearts Ball was held at the Coliseum with Mrs. R.W. Roberts crowned as the first Queen of Hearts.

Today the tradition continues with the Queen of Hearts Ball each year in St. Petersburg. The Ball is held to honor women who exemplify service, leadership, and the spirit of volunteering in Pinellas County. Remarkably, well over \$2,600,000 has been raised by the Queen's Court over the years in support of a variety of organizations.

For information, including tickets or sponsorships, go to www.queenofheartsball.org or email info@queenof-

ONE Inspires



Snowbird Gnome

A tomte came for the holidays Her departure delayed So she stayed ~ Fractious flicka from colder climes Found a flower, a hot tub, a ray of sunshine So sublime ~ It warmed her cockles To munch grouper knuckles "Goodbye" she said To her pallid complexion And red raw frost-bitten cone ~ "A straw hat, shorts and a T

Will be good for a gnome Like me'

She smiled and made St. Pete Home.

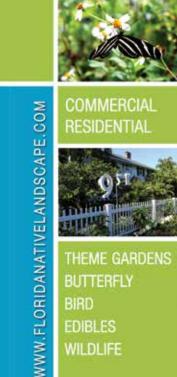


Fourth Street Mooring Buoy

Chained to the Shrimp Store In the shade of a palm tree The rusted out mooring buoy Holds it together, an island With gregarious green And brazen brown bird droppings ~ Once solid in the sea Neptune's bowling ball Now transforms into jewelry, Gargantuan antique locket Filled with see-through Dingy memory residue That keeps downtown anchored To the briny and the shore ~ Like a marvelous metal egg In a nest of grass, shells, sand, more About to cue Quintessential quiet's centerpiece

~ Jeannie Carlson

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The Last Word: Around the Block

Saddle Up! The St. Pete Shuffleboard Club's Tweed Rides Again

— Martha Reed —

ust off your velocipede! The historic St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club – founded in 1924, the oldest and largest shuffleboard club in the world – will host its 10th Annual Tweed Ride on Saturday, January 22 from 2-8pm. The public is cordially invited to attend.

But first, what on earth is a Tweed Ride? It's only the most fashionable cycling event on two wheels. Sporting participants will pedal through downtown St. Pete dressed in their finest knickerbockers, bloomers, and tweeds (and other fantastic vintage outfits) during a leisurely bike ride past the new Pier, escorted by a safety team and the St. Pete Police Department. More than 450 participants are expected to join in the fun. The Tweed Ride is the Shuffleboard Club's annual fundraiser.

"Our annual Tweed Ride is such a fun, quirky community event. It embodies the playful spirit of St. Pete and of our shuffleboard club members," says Christine Page, executive director of the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club.

On Saturday, January 22, event registration kicks off at the Shuffleboard Club's historic Mirror Lake location with tea and scones at 2pm. Riders leave the club at 4pm to start the ride. Once they return, they'll be treated to a concert by Junco Royals, a swing dance party, and a gourmet boxed meal, all covered by the ticket price. Tea and non-alcoholic beverages will be available prior to the ride. Cycle Brewing is the generous event sponsor, and they'll be serving their craft beer post-event during the evening's festivities. A participant group photo is also planned.

On Tweed Ride Day, the club will be closed to anyone who is not a ticketed guest. Street parking is available around Mirror Lake, but feel free to ride your bike to the club.



Stylin' for the Tweed Ride

In our post-Covid world, people are actively seeking outdoor entertainment venues and the Shuffleboard Club's membership is growing. One main attraction is a Friday Night Shuffle from 7-10pm. Free to members, the club is opened on Friday nights to non-members and their guests for only \$10 per person. Kids play

> for free. The fee includes the equipment you'll need, and friendly club volunteers are on hand to explain the game and offer strategy tips. Bring your own picnic cooler filled with food and beverages, and enjoy a very affordable night out. Even well-behaved dogs are welcome.

> With over 1,700 members, the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club is still going strong. In October of 2023, the club will host the International Shuffleboard Association's 40th World Championship, an event drawing participants worldwide. In 2024, the club plans to celebrate its Centennial with even more member parties, get-togethers, and Sunshine City community outreach events. So join now to get in on the fun.

> Visit the club's Facebook page www.facebook. com/StPeteShuffle, website www.stpeteshuffle.com or email info@stpeteshuffle.com for more information.



Dressed for the Tweed Ride, from a previous year's event

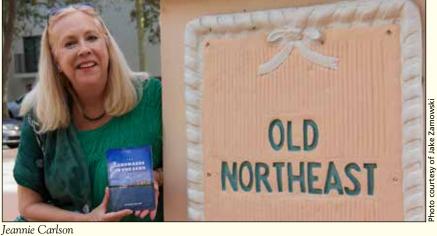
NEJ Writer Publishes Poetry Book

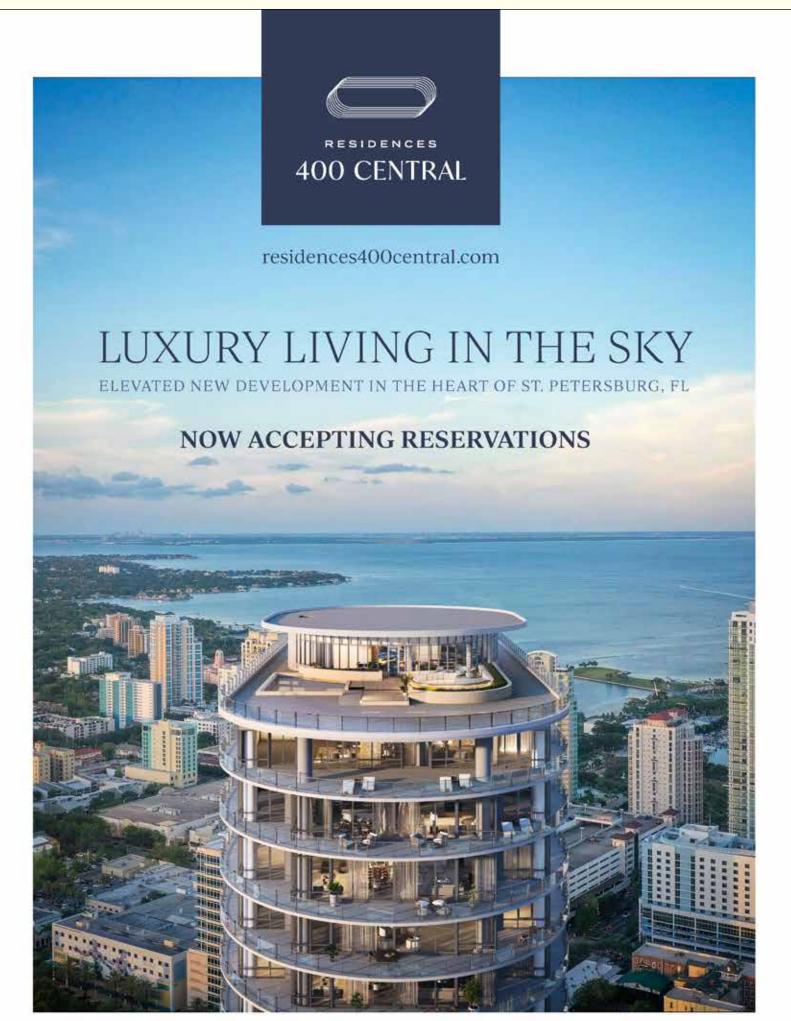
ack in 2016, Jeannie Carlson began writing feature articles for the Northeast Journal. Then in 2017 she also started her column, "ONE Inspires" for the NEJ which evolved from pairing her poems and photos inspired by the eclectic beauty of the Old Northeast and Downtown St. Petersburg. By the beginning of 2020, Jeannie had accumulated 44 poetry-photo sets. As 2021 came to a close, this collection of poem-photo combos was published by St. Petersburg Press as the full-color book, Landmarks in the Sand.

The book's first review, "Jeannie Carlson explores St. Pete with the soul of a poet," is in St. Pete Catalyst's November 2 issue (www.stpetecatalyst. com/jeannie-carlson-explores-st-petewith-the-soul-of-a-poet). One of the poems in the book, "Sunken Gardens Flamingo Conference," (first published in the Sept-Oct 2019 edition of the Northeast Journal) won a poetry award at the 2021 Florida Association of the National League of American Pen Women biennial conference. She also won a journalism award there for her article, "Through a glass lightly: St. Pete's hidden glass art treasures" published in the April 2020 edition of Tampa Bay Business and Wealth Magazine as well as first place award for her online lecture, "Setting the Table for Your Story" created for the online writing courses library at the non-profit Keep St. Pete Lit.

The official book launch took place at the Hollander Hotel on December 27 and included book sales as well as the author signing and reading

excerpts from her book, which is available from Amazon, St. Petersburg Press, Tombolo Books and other retailers.





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Thank you,

to all my buyers, sellers & referrals this year. I look forward to assisting you with all your Real Estate needs in 2022. Selling over \$20 M year to date.



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Statistical data provided by Stellar MLS as of 12/21/2021. Prices reflect the last listed price. 176 4th Avenue NE #1801 sale price is listed. *Represented buyer

