



# NORTHEAST JOURNAL

SEP/OCT 2017  
St. Petersburg, FL  
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

## St. Pete Stamp Club Collects History

Jeannie Carlson

One of the hidden treasures of St. Pete lies in the catacombs of Trinity Lutheran Church on Fifth Street North: the St. Petersburg Stamp Club Library. The library is

one of the largest stamp libraries in the Southeastern US, and is the largest of its kind in the country south of Atlanta. Volumes of books date back to the early days of stamp collecting and documenting in America in the 1800s. Researching amongst the stacks like monks reverently cloistered amid illuminated manuscripts are the members of the St. Petersburg Stamp Club.

However, the club members are neither quiet nor stuffy, and exude an enthusiasm for their philatelic pastime that stems from an insatiable curiosity about both history and geography. The club itself was founded in 1923 by ten charter members while Roy S. Hanng was the postmaster of St. Petersburg. The club began meeting in room 122 of the Central National Bank Building and the handful of enthusiasts grew until they ultimately relocated to Trinity Lutheran Church in 1981.

Today, the non-profit organization has about 35 active members, ranging in age from young people in their twenties to their most senior member, Felix Jaworski at age 93. Jaworski is a US Navy veteran of World War II who served on the USS *Portland*. He is a retired mail carrier from

Continued on page 20



Stamps and stamp collections come in all variations of subject.

## The Kids and Kubs: Play Ball!

Will Michaels

The Kids and Kubs slow pitch senior softball club's first game was May 30, 1931. The club is the oldest continuous soft ball club in the United States. In the early years the club played most of their games at Waterfront Park, generally where Al Lang Stadium is now located. Today they play at Northshore Park, at a dedicated field next to the Northshore swimming pool.

The club has played exhibition games against local teams around the area and especially 'ladies' teams for more than 50 years. According to the club's official history, the club has played before an estimated half-million fans since 1930. In the 1939-1940 season alone, an estimated 50,000 people watched the games. One game drew 8,500 fans. Exhibition games were played in the early years throughout Florida and even in Cuba. In the 1980s, games were played in California, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the club enjoyed the on-field participation of baseball legends Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bob Feller, Hank Greenberg, Lefty Gomez, Pepper Martin, and Connie Mack. Babe Ruth occasionally volunteered as a base umpire.

The Kids and Kubs played their first Senior Softball World Series National Softball Tournament in 1992

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Babe Ruth visits the Kids and Kubs, 1933. Ruth and many other major league stars have visited Kids and Kubs games. Ruth spring trained in St. Petersburg with the New York Yankees from 1925 to 1934, and again with the Boston Braves in 1935.



UN fundraising and events director Robbie Kruithoff at the UNIFIED event

## The United Nations Finds a Place Here

Linda Dobbs

How does an Old Northeast resident – who is an Aussie immigrant with an acclaimed tenor voice, but who only sings as a hobby – bring the United Nations to Tampa Bay? Well, Robert Kruithoff, who has only lived here for three-and-a-half years, has done all that and then some.

A Melbourne native, Kruithoff (or Robbie, pronounced Rowby, as everyone knows him) is the fundraising and events director for the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Tampa Bay (UNA-USA TB). Wow! And he's not even a citizen yet.

Robbie spearheaded the UNIFIED event held recently at the Morean Center for Clay. This gender-equality, live-art experience raised \$10,000 for the local non-profit Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA). Naturally it was that successful since Robbie is a 15-year award-winning hospitality manager excelling at event management – from intimate dinners with celebrity chefs to national product launches – throughout Australia and the United Kingdom.

He also enjoys volunteering his time serving food to the needy with St. Vincent DePaul in St. Petersburg. "I grew up working with charities and homeless people," he notes. It must be that influence from his parents, who are both church ministers in Australia, which brought him to strive for a local and international focus on helping the less fortunate.

"I came here on a green card, which means I couldn't seek employment," Robbie explains. "So, I found myself in a lucky position where I didn't have to work – I just wanted to give back. I looked online for globally focused and local non-profits. I applied as an intern with the United Nations organization and in two weeks I was the fundraising director!"

"There are over 2,000 chapters worldwide and everyone is 100% a volunteer," adds Robbie stating, "I am in a position to volunteer full-time so I also work with refugees. The organization has 17 goals to transform the world, with the motto of advocating, educating and implementing these goals. (Read about the goals at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment).)

So, Robbie approached the chapter with the idea of an eight-week refugee program for youth from the ages of 12 to 16 with a focus on therapeutic photography, called *Picture My Life: A Refugee Story*. It is now organized under the local organization,

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

**Life happens in abundance and the pursuit of normal.**

While Irma is top-of-mind for everyone around here, what I would like to focus on are not the details of the hurricane or even the various consequences in its aftermath, but St. Pete on Friday and St. Pete today.

As cliché as it might sound, I think life as we know it flashed before everyone's eyes this weekend. Some people don't let little ole weather events get in their way while others board up their homes and run for the hills (literally and figuratively). Either way, I am guessing that every one of us imagined what would happen if Irma really did destroy much of our beloved city and our personal property. I kept thinking about the waterfront... would the Banyans remain? What about the MFA? The Dali? My favorite eateries and watering holes?

What makes this community (and all resilient communities) so special is that while life does happen in abundance, we all rise to the occasion and meet it there, braced and ready for anything!

And then, life goes back to "normal."

And by normal, I mean the everyday stuff that makes St. Pete interesting, kind, compassionate, intelligent, artistic, athletic and compassionate. Read this issue and realize that these articles were written before Irma was a tiny swirl out at sea and that the stories remain timeless – and would remain timeless – no matter what Irma decided to dish out.

The St. Petersburg Stamp Club has survived for 94 years, and some of its members for almost as long. They've seen a lot of life and will continue on. The Kids and Kubs slow pitch softball club has been going strong since 1930 bringing joy and entertainment to generations of St. Pete residents through this everyday pastime.

And who desperately needs a normal life? Refugees around the world are trying to rebuild a sense of normal life wherever they land. Read about Robbie Kruthoff and his work with the United Nations Association and the refugee kids using photography to bring peace and perspective to their lives and to the lives of the viewers.

While it's important not to take anything for granted, it's good to remember that life does get back to normal and that's a good thing!

*Jen*

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# ONE Inspires

Jeannie Carlson



## BANYAN SOULMATES BY THE VINOY BASIN

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 Shedding what used to be the self,  
 Absorbing the liquid thoughts between them,  
 Resurrecting and rooting,  
 Seeking the supple soil below.  
 Trunks develop and thicken downward,  
 Fostering figs and fusing as they cross each other,  
 Languishing in a lustful latticework.  
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 Still he left a memory on my pillow.

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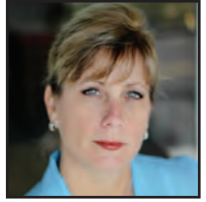
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## MEET THE WRITERS

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.

**Samantha Bond Richman** relocated to the Old Northeast in 2014 after living in Tampa for 28 years. She owns Sam Bond Benefit Group, a downtown insurance agency. She and husband Tim enjoy fishing, golf, and supporting family-oriented charitable causes.



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



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



**Linda Dobbs**, 12-year ONE resident; lived/worked in 10 states and three continents; a journalist/editor for 40 years; member of City's International Relations Committee and Dali Guild; Tai Chi enthusiast; docent-in-training at Sunken Gardens. Husband Bob, 3 children, 3 grandchildren. [linda\_dobbs@yahoo.com]



**Brian Fernandes** is originally from New York City and was raised in North Port (Sarasota County), Florida. Brian loves learning about people and staying up-to-date with politics and foreign affairs. He lives in Tampa, loves jogging, and is an avid reader. [brianfernandes941@gmail.com]



**Sara W. Hopkins** is enjoying her fourth year in St. Petersburg. She is a former literary agent and journalist and currently works for a leading solution provider in business acumen and strategic alignment for Fortune 500s and 1000s.



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



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



**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]



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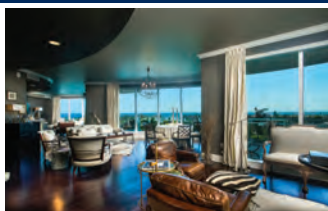
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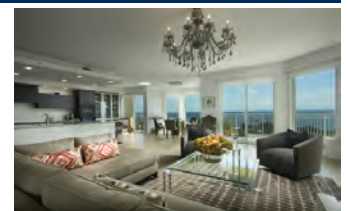
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# The Great Cupcake Extravaganza



Sofia Chapman entered Chocolate S'more cupcakes.



Fluffermutter was one of many creative cupcakes at the contest



Shannon and Kenny Sullivan competed in three categories.

Janan Talafer

Near bedlam greeted us the moment we stepped inside the Morean Center for Clay, where hundreds of eager cupcake enthusiasts were experiencing a major sugar buzz after overindulging in a dizzying array of sweet treats.

It was the 7th annual Great St. Pete Cupcake Contest in celebration of the Morean Arts Center's 100th birthday. An amazing 82 different types of cupcakes were lined up on tables across the cavernous room in the Clay Center, once a station

for the 1920-era Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, and now an historic landmark in St. Pete.

In the past, the contest has been held at the Morean Art Center, but having it at the Morean Center for Clay was an innovative idea. Located at 420 22nd Street South in the Warehouse Arts District, the center is a cool historic brick building with enormous floor-to-ceiling windows that look out over the former CSX railroad line, now the Pinellas Trail for bicyclists and joggers.

The clay center has a reputation for being one of the largest working potteries in the Southeast. There are working studios for area clay artists, as well as space for a gallery and educational classes for kids and adults of all skill levels. In addition, the clay center hosts an artists-in-residence program with applicants coming in from all over the country.

One of the most interesting features of the clay



More than 1,000 people attended the 7th annual cupcake contest at the Morean Center for Clay.

center is the wood-fired 16th Century Japanese-style anagama kiln which measures 22 feet long, five feet wide, and five feet high. It's located outside near the front of the center's property along with various other kilns clay artists use for firing their work. According to the Morean, firing pottery in an anagama kiln allows ashes from the wood to settle onto the ceramic piece, creating a unique, natural glaze. In January, during the Florida Heat Workshop, participants spent three days loading about 1,000 ceramic pieces into the kiln and another four days firing around the clock.

But in August, cupcakes were top-of-mind for more than 1,000 people who lined up for a sample of Boozy Margarita, made by Charlene Mangialardi; Maple Bacon and Peanut Butter Cupcake, a creation of Laura Cipriani; Hailey Cherry's Cinnabunana, and dozens more. Shannon Sullivan, a Crisp Park resident, had submitted three entries: Hummingbird, a tropical

cupcakes and the contest is a great idea, but I have serious sugar load," joked Kathy after we had tasted about eight or nine cupcakes – at least that's the number we're admitting to. It was hard to stop when each table promised something different and creative. We even spotted a couple of adults with telltale signs of a cupcake frosting mustache – hard to avoid since sampling the bite-size cupcakes was done fork-free and the icing was piled high.

Over 70 people from throughout the Tampa Bay area had signed up to compete in the contest, which helped raise funds for the Morean Arts Centers' educational programs and scholarships.

One of my favorite contestants was Sofia Chapman, a sixth-grader in an adorable rainbow-colored ballerina tutu. By the time I got to her table, all 260 of her Chocolate S'more cupcakes were gone. A triple-tiered cake display she had brought with her

cupcake recipe; Beer and Pretzel, made with a stout beer; and Golden Cookie Butter. It was Shannon's first year entering the contest. She was there with her son Kenny. "I've always been an avid baker and it seemed like a fun idea to enter the contest," said Shannon. "I already have some great ideas for next year."

My Snell Isle neighbor and friend Kathy Cadwallader came with me, along with sisters Vicky Turnage and Cindy Burnside. "I love

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Michelle Saxton and her Pick of the Patch Pumpkins



Kathy Cadwallader samples some of the dozens of cupcakes on display.

was completely empty except for a couple of wrappers. "People loved them," said her mom Gina Maniaci.

"Sofia had been attending the summer art camp at the Morean and when we learned that they was a youth category for the cupcake contest, she decided to enter," said Gina. "She loves to bake and has been creating recipes since third grade. She's even put together a business plan for a future bakery she wants to open."

We later learned that Sofia's cupcakes – a Girl Scout S'mores blend of marshmallow, graham crackers, lots of butter, sugar, and chocolate chips, came in fourth place in the People's Choice category. First place in that category went to Michelle Saxton for her Pick-of-the-Patch Pumpkin.

In addition, to People's Choice, there were four categories: novice, professional, specialty (gluten-free and vegan), and youth all judged by a Morean Art Center-selected panel representing local media outlets, restaurants, and professionals chefs.

Congratulations to winning entrants Alexis Blanton, first place in the professional category for Pancake Breakfast at Tiffany's; Michael Ash who won fist place in novice for Samoa; Vincent House for first place specialty for Black Bean S'mores; and Rachael O'Brien, for first place in youth for Chocolate Chip Carrot Cake. ♦

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**THE UN FINDS A PLACE HERE** *cont'd from page 1*  
 the Refugee and Migrant Woman's Initiative (RAMWI) and was held for the first time this summer. All the children received high-quality cameras to keep as their own and were taught the basics of the photographic arts.

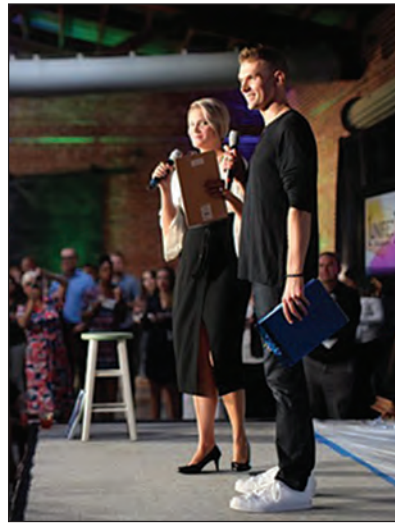
An exhibition of the children's photos, *How I See the World*, will be held later this year at the Florida Museum of Photographic Art in Tampa. This summer program is now a permanent project for the initiative, according to Robbie, at first funded by his organization but now getting community funding. He also initiated another program called *Dream Day Out* for refugee families from Afghanistan.

How did the UNA come to St. Petersburg? It was the Rowdies! Apparently soccer is universal – even in poverty-stricken desert refugee camps. Robbie contacted for help a fellow Old Northeaster and Rowdies center back, Tam Mkwandire (see the cover of the July/August NEJ). Could Robbie bring some refugee kids to a Rowdies game... meaning complimentary tickets? Yes, and then some! The kids (boys and one girl) went early to the stadium to meet all the players, got free Rowdies' shirts and soccer balls, and then were treated like VIPs for an entire practice game.

The second Dream Day Out event was to take the refugees for a shopping spree at HSN's consignment shop. "They got eight trolleys of basic necessities like sheets, towels, pillow cases..." Robbie explains adding, "One woman with four



Tessa Moeller painting life at 'UNIFIED #GenderEquality' event



Robbie spearheaded the UNIFIED event at the Morean Center for Clay.

kids – they only had two outfits to wear each and not having any sheets, they used one outfit for sleeping!"

We probably aren't aware how difficult it is for these refugees. Robbie explained that refugees have to pay back to the UN their airfare here. One woman got a job cleaning offices at night. "We organized to pay her rent from local donors for two months," he noted.

Having a green card is certainly better than being a refugee or an immigrant, but Robbie wants to become a citizen. After traveling from Australia throughout Southeast Asia and India for two years, Robbie ended up in London where he met his husband, Ryan Ross, who was chief creative officer at Stylus Media Group. They were married there and Ryan's next job was as executive vice president of HSN in St. Petersburg.

Ryan is originally from Portland, Oregon. Now the two will be going there for their next adventure. Ryan will be president of Rejuvenation (part of William Sonoma) and Robbie will be involved with charity work for that organization (no surprise). "Maybe I'll join up with the UN there, too," notes Robbie. "Fundraising is my forte!"

And Robbie the tenor will probably do some singing, too – after all, with two years at St. Pete College studying opera, he had an audition and got a scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Maybe later. But we surely will miss him in the Old Northeast and so will those kids from Afghanistan. ●



Kids taking part in the Picture My Life: A Refugee Story program

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# Treasure Hunt Winners



Linda Dobbs

The winners of last edition's *Through the Looking Glass – a Treasure Hunt* are Alex Millman and Amy Krusemark. They found the three secret places and emailed me the answers right away. In their own words: "We enjoyed the adventure of your *through the looking glass* treasure hunt. We love traveling and really enjoyed discovering new areas in our own backyard. We liked finding all

three places equally, and found your directions and clues fairly straight forward. If we had to pick our favorite, it would probably be the Oak Brook Place. We are only saying that because it was neat to learn something new about our own neighborhood. It was a place that we drive by almost every day, but never knew existed. We really liked the other two locations as well, and enjoyed exploring them."


**ANSWERS:**


First location: 'The Historic Hideaway' was the neighborhood of Driftwood, along the water in the Old Southeast. It is between 2nd Street South and Beach Drive SE, and is bordered by 24th Avenue South on the upper side. Driftwood was the easiest and most well-known place. Information is found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1-s7Zjuiqa](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1-s7Zjuiqa).

Second location: 'The Highly Unlikely' neighborhood was Bayou Highlands. It is bordered by 45th Avenue South and 54th Avenue South on the north/south. The east/west borders are 4th Street South and 9th Street South (Martin Luther King). Bayou Highlands' main road is Lake Maggiore Blvd., so it would have been a dead give-away if I had mentioned it!

Third location: 'Circle in a Square' was Oak Brook Place, located at 3950 3rd Street North. This is an office complex planned by Dr. Bonnie Drake, MD, according to Dr. George Stovall. The architect was the award-winning J. Howard Audibert, and the contractor was Dick Veltman. Dr. Stovall and his wife, Jane, jointly own two of the offices and until his recent retirement, Dr. Stovall used one for his chiropractic office. ●


Submit any ideas or suggestions for future local secret places to highlight to [linda\\_dobbs@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_dobbs@yahoo.com).


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# St. Pete's Agent for Change

Brian Fernandes

For years, television viewers have marveled over shows that focus on the duties of Navy and FBI officers. However, it's different when one has lived that life in reality, and so it has been for St. Petersburg's own Robert K. Cromwell.

Bob, as he likes to be called, has spent over 30 years in federal service to the United States. It was his humble beginnings in Princeton, New Jersey, though, that helped launch him into his extensive career.

"I did not know I was growing up in a unique place," said Bob as he reminisced about the town in which he was born and raised.

While he had a strong relationship with his parents, he couldn't help but have a deep admiration for his older brother, David. "He's been a really big influence on me," Bob explained. "If he had gone into real estate, I probably would have gone into real estate."

After high school, David joined the Navy and then became a police officer. Bob soon followed that trajectory. Upon high school graduation in 1970, Bob went into the Navy and spent the next six years as a cryptological technician.

During and after his naval service, he received degrees in police science and criminology from Yakima Valley



Community College and College of New Jersey.

Continuing in his brother's footsteps, Bob then became a police officer, serving the Montgomery Township Department in New Jersey for more than three years.

Joining the force was more than a mere family tradition for Bob. It reflected his own ideologies as an individual. "Number one and foremost is public safety," he explained the role of a police officer. "I came to the job strongly believing in justice."

After leaving the force, he would carry that belief system with him as he joined the Naval Criminal Investi-

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gative Service (NCIS). Like the famous CBS show, Bob's duties gave him the opportunity to investigate matters of fraud, drugs, violence, espionage, and foreign counterintelligence.



He served three years in the NCIS and then joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He was first assigned to Houston, Texas, where he spent eight years in the bureau's SWAT team and as a trained hostage negotiator.

In 1991, he became a supervisor in the bureau and was assigned to Washington DC in the Violent Crime Section.

His service has taken him cross-country to places like Washington state where he met his wife, Maine, Arizona, Mississippi and Florida.

During his time in Phoenix, Bob led a task force in investigating the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. In fact, he was granted a fragment of the building in commemoration of his service.

Bob likens the FBI to that of any other kind of customer service. "If we reflect the customer base – the citizens that we serve – we're going to be better." He has put this approach into practice with how he as an agent has interacted with civilians.

While assigned in Jackson, Mississippi, during the late 90s, Bob met an African-American man named Arthur who was a custodian in a government building. Bob began to build a strong rapport and friendship with Arthur, learning about the racial tensions that had long lingered over the South. It was quite the education for Bob, as he himself had grown up in integrated schools and saw diversity as something healthy.

"I never would have known this stuff if I had just stayed a cop in New Jersey," he said. "I never would have been exposed to this."

Although he retired from the FBI in 2005, Bob still offers himself as a civil servant for the public. Since retiring, Bob has joined the board for the Innocence Project of Florida (IPF). This program is focused on exonerating wrongfully convicted prisoners in Florida with the use of modern-day science.

Every year, the IPF receives almost 1,000 requests from either inmates or their family members seeking help. Bob and the staff of IPF have not only been successful in helping free falsely accused prisoners, but they have helped them in readjusting to life as civilians. Bob says his inspiration for joining the program was years of witnessing a justice system where everyone is not treated on a level playing field.

IPF has helped inspire his book, *Fugitive Man: Hunting Violent Criminals for the FBI and Searching for Justice for the Innocent Convict*. Released last year, the book delves into Bob's life as an FBI agent, including various cases he was involved in, plus the people he has encountered throughout his career. It also speaks of the consistent work being done at IPF. "I wanted to try to convince people that some changes needed to be made," explained Bob.

He and his wife of 42 years enjoy a big extended family with three sons and five grandchildren. In his free time, Bob enjoys the scenery of St. Petersburg, and he credits his son for convincing him to move here. "It's just a comfortable small-town feel," commented Bob on living in St. Pete.

He likes to frequent various eateries such as the Greek restaurant Spiros (owned by his in-laws), the Red Mesa Cantina, Bella Brava, and The Moon Under Water.

While he admits he still misses being an agent in the bureau, he has found happiness as a civilian dedicated to helping other civilians. He is St. Pete's very own special agent. ●

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# THE HEART GALLERY

## Heart Gallery Exhibit Opening at Great Explorations Children's Museum

Great Explorations Children's Museum opened the Heart Gallery's newest exhibit, aptly called *Home for All*, on August 30 with a private ribbon cutting for sponsors, community partners, and media. The exhibit is brought to you by Heart Gallery of Pasco & Pinellas, Duke Energy, and Hobbs Foundation.



*Home for All* is an interactive wall of a village filled with tiny houses. Guests will be able to build families with wooden dolls of varying cultures and abilities. There will also be books about what makes a home a home, the makeup of your family, and foster care.

"We are so grateful to Great Explorations Children's Museum for working with us to put on the *Home for All* exhibit," said Jennifer Nance, executive director at Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco. "And we can't thank our community partners – Duke Energy and the Hobbs Foundation – enough for their support. This is a great opportunity for children and families to learn about adoption and open a dialogue about the many diverse makeups of families," Nance added. "We know the community is going to love this exhibit."

Inset into a house façade, guests will find a television where they will be able to push buttons to see different videos featuring story time with the Heart Gallery's staff, and portraits and stories of current local children in foster care who are hoping to find their forever family.

"Duke Energy has been a supporter of the Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco since its inception eleven years ago," said Jeff Baker, government and community relations manager at Duke Energy Corporation. "We are happy to sponsor the *Home for All* exhibit at Great Explorations Children's Museum because educating the community is the best way to raise awareness about the great work our partners are doing for the community."

If you go: 1925 4th Street North, St. Pete, Mon-Sat 1am-4:30pm, Sun 12-4:30pm - 4:30 p.m. Admission: Museum admission is free for children under 1 year, \$10 for ages 1 to 54 years and \$9 for ages 55 and up. Admission is always free for museum members. Call 727-821-8992 or visit [www.greatex.org](http://www.greatex.org).

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

### AUTUMN, AGE 15

Autumn describes herself as artistic, creative, and fun. If Autumn could change the world, she would put a stop to all negativity. Autumn's humanitarian spirit doesn't stop there, she also wants to help people has a registered nurse someday. Autumn's ideal forever family is kind, loving, and would treat her like their own. Having a dog would be a bonus!



LSF-12079164

Photo by Megan Slaughter of the Heart Gallery

### JAMES, AGE 13

Though quiet and shy, James is known for being very intelligent, sweet and kind. James love books, electronics and playing video games. But he's mostly passionate about books. James' ideal family will be loving, understanding and accepting. DFL-101699146



Photo courtesy of SNI Photography

View photos from the Home for All exhibit now open at Great Explorations Children's Museum! [picsandfixs.com/Heart-Gallery-Ribbon-Ceremony](http://picsandfixs.com/Heart-Gallery-Ribbon-Ceremony)



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# A Tale of Two Cupolas



J.A. Wood's Old Northeast cupola



J.A. Wood at the helm of his yacht

Jeannie Carlson

Cupolas in the Old Northeast are as scarce as hen's teeth. Even so, close to downtown there are two houses only a block or so apart from one another that are crowned with these adornments. Neither cupola is original to its house's construction, but each is an addition that reflects the individual owners' connection to both New England and the sea.

According to various dictionaries, the very name 'cupola' is 2,000 years old and is derived from the Latin for an overturned or upside-down cup. In residential architecture, the cupola is a structure that protrudes from a main roof to provide light, ventilation, and/or an elevated vantage point from which to use as a look-out.

In New England, these cupolas are particularly common in coastal towns and villages where shipping and whaling were the mainstays of commerce

dating back two to three hundred years. A belvedere or 'widow's walk' style of cupola made for an overlook that made it possible for a woman to look out to sea in the hope that she would glimpse her husband's ship returning from its voyage, a voyage that might last up to three years. Sometimes the ship would not make it home due to the perils of the sea, and, thus, the name 'widow's walk' reflected the dangers of the seafaring life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

James A. Wood bought his home in the Old Northeast in 2004. Wood – who likes to go by "J" or "J.A." – is a designer and builder originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. When he gutted the house, he found newspapers in the walls dated 1905 and believes the house was built that year as well. The house had a skylight in the roof at the structure's core, and it was in that location that Wood constructed and seamlessly integrated a cupola which looks like it was part of the house's original construction. The skylight is still part of the cupola and aids in air ventilation. "There is a double bed up there, but I've only slept in it once," said Wood.

Wood, who studied design at the University of Cincinnati, topped off his cupola with a flying pig weathervane which reflects his Cincinnati roots. The flying pig is a symbol of Cincinnati's past as the center of pork slaughtering in the United States.

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Wood spent summers in Vermont and Long Island, and his father owned a house in Maine. Exposure to New England architecture – and specifically to the cupola – made an impact on Wood.

The final component of the sea in Wood's life has been as a yachtsman and yacht builder. He has owned his current boat for 30 years and sailed around the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico in it. His cat, Trixie, who died some years back, was his first mate on board the boat for his seafaring adventures.

Now Wood has a 6-year-old English Bull Terrier named Tucker that he takes for walks around the neighborhood. Wood still works designing and rehabbing historic homes in the Old Northeast. Wood – an expert in what he calls 'vernacular architecture' – has had a love affair with St. Petersburg since he first came here in 1992. "I love St. Pete and working on historic homes," said Wood.

Just around the block from Wood lives another gentleman he barely knows who has added a cupola to his bungalow as well: Tim Burns. Burns moved into his 1925 bungalow in 2000 and purchased his cupola a few years later ready-made from a company in New England, complete with copper roof and whale weathervane.

Burns' cupola sits above the house's original blocked-off chimney. As a belvedere with windows, Burns' cupola has a colonial-reproduction-style lantern which beams at night. He loves to decorate for every holiday, so it is not unusual to see Uncle Sam, the Easter Bunny, Halloween goblin, or Thanksgiving turkey looking out into the neighborhood from the cupola.

Burns grew up in Massachusetts, south of Boston, and is a graduate of Stonehill



Ensign Burns, 1960s naval aviator in Pensacola



Tim Burns, influenced by New England life, added a cupola a few years after he bought his house.

College. He and his wife of 20 years, Jeannie, spend vacations on Cape Cod every year. He is, of course, a Red Socks fan, so New England is in his blood.

Burns' father had an old wooden fishing boat with a cabin, making going out on the water at Old Quincy Harbor a frequent family event. In the late 1960s, Burns joined the US Navy as an officer, serving as a navigator in the Naval Air Corps stationed in Pensacola. While working in insurance in the 1980s, he was transferred from Boston to Tampa, and bought a boat while living in Apollo Beach. "I've always lived near the water," said Burns who works in insurance and cell tower inspections.

New England, proximity to the sea, and a fondness for the Old Northeast led two neighbors to create individualized cupolas on each of their historic houses. It is a far, far better thing they did to add to the eclectic nature of the ONE. ●



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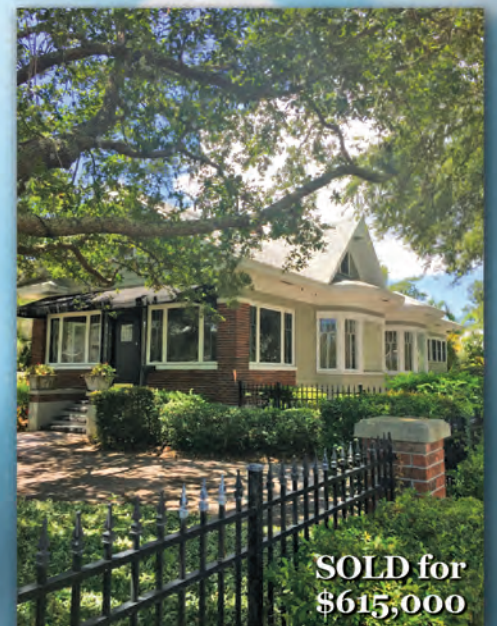


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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ... 1911-2011

## ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • nsnaeditor@aol.com



We want to share our neighbors' thoughts about what it means to be neighborly in The Historic Old Northeast.

Send your thoughts about The Historic Old Northeast (100 words or less) to nsnaeditor@aol.com.

Won't you join us?



Some of the most neighborly ONE residents are not only friendly and supportive, but are great stewards of their homes, yards and trees.

Many of us own distinctive homes – ranging from modest to grand. Serving and sensitively maintaining these houses and their sites helps makes the neighborhood special.

Sharon Winters



Your Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association invites and encourages you to stay connected and on top of programs, events and other happenings in our neighborhood. Want to learn more about the neighborhood, become involved, share ideas, learn about

events and dates of Porch Parties, and provide feedback? Use social media and 'Like' and 'Share' our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/honnaorg](http://www.facebook.com/honnaorg).

### WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

- Visit the HONNA website. [www.honna.org](http://www.honna.org)

- Become a HONNA member . You'll receive periodic informative email announcements. [honna.org/get-involved](http://honna.org/get-involved)
- Volunteer for a project, program or event (Trunk or Treat, the Candlelight Tour of Homes, Porch Parties, Crime Watch). For more info contact Nikki Taylor at [volunteers@honna.org](mailto:volunteers@honna.org).



### ADDING TO OUR TREE CANOPY

Preserving and maintaining our neighborhood's tree canopy is a high priority for your neighborhood association. Studies have shown that trees add value to homes as well as providing much-needed shade and beauty to our walkable

streets. Each spring for the past two years, HONNA has planted 12 shade trees – like Sand Live Oaks, Winged Elms, Eagleston Hollies and Ilex (Yaupon Hollies) – in the parkway at no charge to homeowners (with several residents accepting one tree and purchasing a second).

This year trees were planted by Lesli Larmon Landscape Design on the following streets/blocks:

- 9th Avenue NE: 100 block
- 13th Avenue N: 100 block
- 15th Avenue N: 100 block (2)
- 16th Avenue NE: 200 block
- 16th Avenue NE: 700 block
- 19th Avenue NE: 400 block
- 26th Avenue NE: 100 block
- 1st Street N/NE: 800, 1200, 2300 and 2900 blocks

If you would like to add your name to the list for next spring's tree planting, please contact Carol Kline at [carolkline1948@gmail.com](mailto:carolkline1948@gmail.com). More evidence of your HONNA membership dues improving the quality of life in The ONE!



Homeowner Frank Biafora watering his new Eagleston Holly

### CITY COUNCIL VOTE FAVORS TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOODS

In July, residents won a huge victory for St. Pete's traditional neighborhoods. After 18 months of review, the City Council voted unanimously to utilize a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to help control the size, mass, scale and design of new construction. FAR for traditional neighborhoods like The Old NE (NT-2 and NT-3) will be a base .40; bonus options to encourage better design will be available for up to .20 FAR.

HONNA would like to thank the many residents who came out for the two Council meetings and wrote heartfelt e-mails in support of lower FARs. Young and older, new residents and long-timers all told their stories; all were different, but the message was the same – help us protect the character of what brought us to our charming, eclectic neighborhood.

### THE REAL LOWDOWN ON MINI-LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

With residents' increasing interest in creating mini-Local Historic Districts--like the one block LHD recently approved by the homeowners on the 700 block of 18th Avenue NE--it has come to HONNA's attention that a letter has resurfaced written by a small group of real estate professionals in 2015 containing erroneous information. Fortunately, the economic impact of historic districts is one of the most studied aspects of historic preservation. The conclusion by scholars and economists is nearly unanimous: Local Historic Districts are good for property values and good for communities.

HONNA would like to address several of the points in the 2015 letter that show a lack of understanding of Local Historic District designation.

- Local Historic Districts do not increase the cost of maintenance. Designation does not require any additional maintenance for your home.
- You will be able to renovate your home and your renovation will not cost more because you are in a historic district.
- New construction is allowed and continues in Local Historic Districts.
- There is no evidence that property owners in Local Historic Districts have trouble obtaining insurance.
- The ability to sell property is contingent upon a variety of factors. Some buyers actively choose to purchase homes in Local Historic Districts because of certainty that new development will not detract from their investment.
- Façade Easements are private charitable donations and are not related to Local Historic Districts.

For more information, see My Florida's study: [www.dos.myflorida.com/media/32433/economic\\_impact\\_summary-of-benefits\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.dos.myflorida.com/media/32433/economic_impact_summary-of-benefits_pdf.pdf)

Q&A from St. Pete Preservation (see section 5): [www.stpetepreservation.org/FAQ-Local-Historic-District-Designation](http://www.stpetepreservation.org/FAQ-Local-Historic-District-Designation)

### PARTY TIME AT THE GARDENS

Sunken Gardens was the location for the annual summer Porch Party on Friday, July 21. Upwards of 150 residents and guests enjoyed strolling the Gardens at dusk and sampling foods catered by Harold Seltzer's Steakhouse (Harold

### Sound Familiar?

"Tree-devouring 'White Boxes' Invade Lush Coconut Grove, and the Locals Revolt." This was the headline in an article by Andres Viglucci, writing about real estate news in the July 21 *Miami Herald*. In it he quoted two residents of Miami's Coconut Grove about what developers were doing to the neighborhood. Here is what they said:

"I'm not against contemporary architecture. But when they suck up the entire lot, that's another matter... There's no yard. There's no privacy. There's a pool the size of a tub."

"What they're doing is hollowing out parts of the Grove, lot by lot... But at some point the Grove won't be the Grove anymore. They're parasites. They're sucking the life out of what makes the Grove special. And they're profiting from what they're destroying."

Another Grove local calls it the "Attack of the White Boxes." Substitute "Historic Old Northeast" for "Grove." Sound familiar?





Mayor and Mrs. Rick Kriseman were present to send off a fire engine from nearby Station #4 and the Florida Fife & Drum corps as they lead the contingent of children, parents and friends up and back down a couple blocks of Coffee Pot Boulevard. Later, for those who were interested, kids checked out the fire engine and equipment and sat in its cab while members of the Fife & Drum corps gave a brief history lesson about a dozen or so of the early American flags they brought to display. Handouts of small flags, popsicles, cookies, cupcakes and bottles of water guaranteed smiles all around. Special thanks are in order for HONNA Board members Natalie DeVicente, Kris Hibl and Troy Taylor for organizing the morning's festivities. PHOTOS #4 & 5 (6 if room)

**HONNA BOARD SUPPORTS NEW VINOY CONSTRUCTION**

The HONNA Board has voted to support the request of the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club to build a privately-financed one-story parking garage with tennis courts atop. The construction does not involve taxpayer funding, will not change the hotel's footprint and will add about 270 new parking spaces. The project is unanimously supported by the City Council, mayoral candidates Rick Kriseman and Rick Baker along with many community and business groups.

being an Old NE resident) in the welcoming a/c space off the gardens. Neighbor Jeffrey Wolf and his band provided the music that further enlivened the evening. Kudos to Porch Party organizer Susan Arsenault and Board member Natalie DeVicente for making this happen!

**4TH OF JULY FUN**

Scores of kids garbed in red, white and blue rode decorated bikes, trikes, scooters, wagons, buggies and strollers, bringing lots of color and energy to HONNA's traditional 4th of July Children's Parade at Coffee Pot Park.

In endorsing the request, which will be voted on in a City-wide referendum on November 7, the HONNA Board repeated its on-going call to the Vinoy that it create parking options for its employees and discourage their use of on-street residential parking spaces in The ONE.

The always highly anticipated Candlelight Tour of Homes—HONNA's twentieth for this annual event—is set for Sunday, December 10. If you have a house (your own!?) to nominate or if you'd like to volunteer for the planning committee, contact Melissa Clark at [mkclark06@yahoo.com](mailto:mkclark06@yahoo.com).

Little Libraries can be found throughout the City, including in The ONE (pictured is the one at 125 13th Avenue N). If you have a LL in your front yard or know of locations, please share this with HONNA so we can create a map and post it on our website; send the addresses to [communications@honna.org](mailto:communications@honna.org).

**VISIT THE HONNA WEBSITE**

HONNA has updated its website to include helpful information about: becoming a member and signing up, Land Development Regulations, historic preservation, contacting City government offices, upcoming events like the Candlelight Tour of Homes and more! Go to [www.honna.org](http://www.honna.org).



Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association  
**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES**

**ON THE CALENDAR**

Check [www.honna.org](http://www.honna.org) and watch social media for details on these and other upcoming events

Monday, September 18 @ 6:45pm: Neighborhood meeting "A History of The ONE," Westminster Church

Sunday, October 29: Trunk or Treat, Westminster Church parking lot

Monday, October 30: Halloween House Decorating Contest

Monday, November 20 @ 6:45pm: Neighborhood meeting/election of HONNA Board, Westminster Church

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**ST. PETE STAMP CLUB** *cont'd from page 1*  
Massachusetts and currently resides on Seventh Avenue in the Old Northeast.

The club's secretary, Robert Holmes is retired from retail and is a talented painter who crafted an acrylic portrait of his friend and fellow member Jaworski that admirably captures the gentleman's vitality and character.

The club meets weekly on Saturday mornings, some Wednesdays, and for special events like auctions which they hold once a month. Dues are \$12 a year for adult members over 18, and \$6 a year for junior members ages 12-18 usually accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Applications and details about joining are on the club's website: [www.stamps.org/St-Petersburg-Stamp-Club](http://www.stamps.org/St-Petersburg-Stamp-Club). Incorporated back in 1955, the club is affiliated with the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs as a member club and is Chapter 157 of the American Philatelic Society.

The club buys stamps in bulk from dealers, online, and at auctions and also accepts stamp donations. Then the club sells the stamps to its club members for 3¢ each. Club members have won hundreds of competitions, and some of the trophies are on display in the library. Most recently, Phil Stager, the club's first vice president, won a Champion of Champions competition in Richmond, Virginia this past August for his collection, the History of Coconuts in Stamps.

According to Ray Murphy – who serves on the club's board of directors,

is auction chair, and the club's representative for the American Philatelic Society – the highest award a member of the club has received is International Gold for a collection in an international competition. Murphy is co-author of the book, *The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately, Vol.9, Military Mails* along with Paul Farrimond, and is working on a book to be published later this year on Irish Official Mail, 1922-1983. Murphy is a retired major from the USAir Force. Stamp collecting is a "knowledge-based hobby that focuses on history," said Murphy.

"...And geography," added Lee McConaghy who serves as editor of the club's monthly newsletter. "You've got to be curious," said McConaghy.

Members develop a specific geographic and/or historical topic or context for each of their stamp collections. Gathered in a particular grouping, the stamps tell a unique story. Club members pour over stamps with a magnifying glass to see if the stamp they are inspecting contains characteristics that will contribute to the story he or she is trying to tell in a philately.

Sometimes there are errors or peculiarities – even dead bugs pressed into stamp imprints – that make a stamp or stamp grouping more valuable. Club members put select stamp collections out on display for visitors to observe these anomalies. A series of German propaganda forgery stamps,



Ray Murphy is on club's board, is auction chair, and their rep for the American Philatelic Society.



Robert Holmes shows off some of the club's trophies.

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stamps promoting Panama as a preferable location for the original building of the canal, Princess Diana stamps in the uncommon language of Welsh, and many other topical presentations spotlight these idiosyncratic stamps. Some stamps honor history or historical figures, and others promote places and events both real and imagined. There are stamps that recognize black history and civil rights activism, and others that highlight fictional characters and cartoon superheroes. Themes for stamps are only limited by a stamp artist's imagination.

Stamp collecting is a worldwide avocation which attracts devotees primarily from "first-world countries with populations that have disposable incomes," said Holmes. According to Holmes, stamp collecting is a billion-dollar industry in Europe alone. and that in a recent magazine article in *The Economist*, it was reported that stamp collecting has an average 118% return on investment (ROI), making the pursuit an even more attractive diversion.

Some members have just begun their journey into the philatelic world, whereas others like Holmes began their fascination with stamps as children. Holmes originally collected marbles as a 'military brat' growing up in post-World War II Japan. Then one day, he bought a



Robert Holmes' painting of oldest club member, Felix Jaworski

collection of marbles that also included stamps. He got hooked, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Walking around in a pirate bandana is the club's auctioneer, Stephen Lowe. Lowe is a retired grower from California and a perfect example of how eclectic the group is. "Every member (of the club) can submit a collection for auction," said Lowe. "We actually converse," said Holmes with a wink, making reference to the frequent exchanges between members. There is clearly a camaraderie among the members.

Murphy enjoys explaining the prestigious history of stamp collecting. Post offices formally began in England in 1840 with America not far behind in 1847. "Actually, [founding father] Benjamin Franklin started the first post office in the colonies [Philadelphia] in the mid-1700s; although there were no stamps yet," said Murphy. If Franklin could see this present-day library and club in action, an offspring derived from his postal inclinations, it's likely he would give it his stamp of approval. ●



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# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

To be considered for the Meet Your Neighbor page, contact [editor@northeastjournal.org](mailto:editor@northeastjournal.org).



**Joyce  
LaFray**

3rd Street North

**What is your favorite commercial?**

T-Mobile commercial with a man at a lemonade stand and a little girl advertising \$1 lemonade. "I'll take a lemonade." "That'll be \$2.37." "But Your sign says a dollar!" "Yes, but that doesn't include..."

**A gadget you can't live without:**

A very sharp chef's knife. I'm a food writer and critic, so I need to test a plethora of recipes.

**Using only one word, name something significant about your life today.**

Free

**Best thing about living in this day and age:**

My career as a book publisher, author, and radio salesperson – where women's rights were far less than acceptable. It's exciting that our rights are beginning to be fully recognized and we can participate in events like the incredible women's march in St. Pete.

**Favorite childhood book:**

*The Little Engine That Could* is a book that helped prepare me for a future of hard work and optimism.

**What is something funny that has happened to you?**

The exploding egg episode: At a local restaurant noted for their Eggs Benedict, I forked one of their well-poached eggs it exploded all over me!

**If today were your last day, who would you call or want to see?**

Daughters Christy LaFray and Julie Groth; granddaughters Alex and Haley; lifelong friends Henry Little (always there), B.J. Burns (raised our kids together), Barb Maher (grade school buddy), Joellen (adventuresome roommate at Loyola in Rome).

**If your house was burning and all family and pets were safe, what one thing would you grab?**

My laptop with all my writing files and photos

**What is your idea of exercise?**

Swimming laps at an outdoor pool. Traveling the world non-stop.

**Best thing about living in St. Petersburg:**

The friendly people; the rapid growth of our vast variety of restaurants; its wonderful museums, especially the Dali.

**Best hidden "gem" in St. Pete**

The Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum

**What or who inspires you?**

William Shakespeare. I love the Bard's exquisite writings. Also, my dad's encouragement who was an optimistic entrepreneur and great cook.

**What's your favorite place to meet new people?**

The Renaissance Vinoy for breakfast in a rocking chair on the front porch. Folks are there from all over the world, including celebrities like Harrison Ford who I was lucky to see there one day in May.

**Favorite restaurant in St. Pete:**

Sea Salt at Sundial. Fabrizio Aielli from Italy, is a master chef with an artful approach. His lovely wife Ingrid from Czechoslovakia adds a grand slice of hospitality. Best happy hour, and the décor is tops.

**What is your favorite movie?**

*Gone with the Wind*; seen it at least 20 times.



**Mike  
Murphy**

14th Avenue North

**If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?**

Yosemite National Park

**What decade/place would you like to visit for a day?**

2050 St. Petersburg, Florida

**What were you good at when you were 11?**

Running

**Tell us about a significant mentor in your life.**

Dr. John O'Donnel was a professor at the University of Dayton who knew how to put me in positions that were out of my comfort zone. His insights and expectations stretched my imagination, knowledge and ambitions. He inspired his students and transformed me.

**Using one word, what's significant about your life today?**

Energizing

**What is the most encouraging word or statement you can receive?**

Keep going!

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I would have strong knees.

**What's the best and worst part of your average day?**

The best part is waking up. The worst part is going to sleep.

**What do you love most about living in this country?**

Having many natural and wild places to explore.

**What is your idea of exercise?**

Moving in any way that is possible, preferably hiking.

**If your house was burning and all family and pets were safe, what one thing would you grab?**

My binoculars

**What is your first thought in the morning?**

Is everyone ok?

**What or who inspires you?**

People who want to do something good for others.

**If you were elected mayor of this city, what would be your first improvement?**

Provide public transportation on par with Berlin, Germany

**Ginger or Mary Ann? Pepsi or Coke? Cats or dogs?**

Wine

**Best thing about living in this day and age:**

Great opportunities!

**Best thing about living in St. Petersburg:**

Beautiful natural places, combined with great place to eat.

**Best hidden gem in St. Pete:**

Water fountain behind the ranger's house at Ft. DeSoto

**Your favorite childhood book:**

*The Hobbit*

**Your favorite quote:**

Never, never, never give up.

**Your favorite movie:**

*It's a Wonderful Life*



**Jennifer  
Boyd**

12th Avenue NE

**If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?**

Barcelona

**What decade/place would you like to visit for a day?**

St. Petersburg in the 1920s when the whole area boomed and everything was built pre-depression.

**What were you good at when you were 11?**

Cello

**Tell us about a significant mentor in your life.**

My Aunt Blythe who shares similar passions with me and mentored me through my journey into the medical field.

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

Australian Labradoodle

**Using one word, what's significant about your life today?**

Family

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

Thank you for saving my child's life

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Wish I was more artistic.

**What's the best and worst part of your average day?**

Best part is mornings with family... worst is working overnight in the ER

**What is your idea of exercise?**

Running, paddle boarding, and yoga

**If your house was burning and all family and pets were safe, what one thing would you grab?**

My cell phone

**What is your first thought in the morning?**

Who's doing preschool drop off?

**What or who inspires you?**

My son with his fearlessness and willingness to try anything

**What's your favorite place to meet new people?**

The Vinoy pool

**If you were elected mayor of this city, what would be your first improvement?**

Historic preservation and preventing developers from tearing down our historic homes.

**Ginger or Mary Ann? Pepsi or Coke? Cats or dogs?**

Mary Ann, Cokes and dogs

**Best thing about living in this day and age:**

Smart phones

**Best thing about living in St. Petersburg:**

Downtown's walkability

**Best hidden gem in St. Pete:**

The Brocante Vintage Market

**Your favorite childhood book:**

*Eloise*

**Your favorite restaurant in St. Pete:**

Brick and Mortar

**Gadget you can't live without:**

My commercial espresso machine





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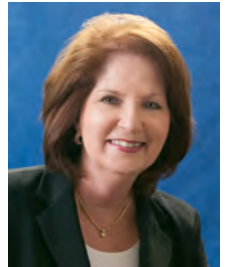
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# Who Are the Friends of North Shore Elementary?

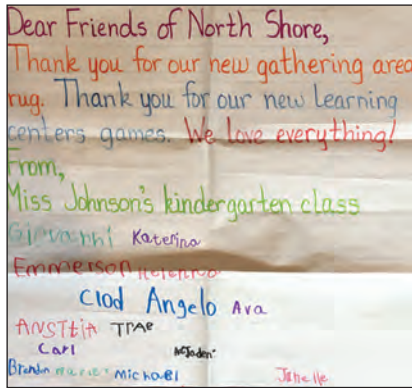
Samantha Bond Richman

Who are the Friends of North Shore Elementary? Good question, though *why* is there a group called Friends of North Shore Elementary is a more telling introduction. Whether your children are grown, or your children have four legs and a cold nose, the state of our public school system should concern you. Children are the future, and while adults may sometimes behave like children, public school education continues to serve as the roots of many generation's successful adults. For many, growing up in the US and attending the local public school was a given and a comfortable state of affairs, delivering a somewhat homogenous experience with regional variations.

Today's schools are different, and with new choices for parents, it becomes a much more complex decision-making challenge of where to send children. Parents today have school choice, and it is exactly as it implies. Parents can choose from public magnet schools, charter schools, and fundamental schools, or from a long list of private schools. This leaves the schools that are community public schools in competition for their neighborhood students, and for resources.

One of our local community schools – probably the name is familiar to you in passing even if your kids are grown – is North Shore Elementary School. The school itself is a classic red brick structure, shaded by century-old oak trees, located at the north end of Coffee Pot Bayou in a quiet residential setting. Two years ago, some of our local neighbors decided to partner with the school with a vision to make it a “dynamic, engaging and successful school” and the first choice of parents in our zoned district.

The Friends of North Shore Elementary is a 501(c)3 entity, and has



a \$0 administrative cost. That means every dollar raised provides funding for the programs it supports. Marci Emerson, director and vice president, discussed some of the ways the Friends have transitioned good intentions into demonstrable completed tasks. She explains in a recent newsletter, “To date, our accomplishments have included:

- Completed \$1,500 in classroom boosts to all kindergarten, first and fifth grade classrooms for supplies and educational tools to enhance the classroom experience and directly benefit the students
- Sent two additional teachers to participate in specialized training for a project-based learning curriculum that was implemented for a portion of the school year in 2016-2017, and will be rolled out



- school-wide for the entire duration of the 2017-2018 school year
- Recruited volunteers for various areas including daily recess monitoring, front office, and conducting school tours
- Crafted a Uniform School Dress Code policy which was implemented starting the 2016-2017 school year
- Hosted events to bring in the community and prospective families including various town halls and a round table discussion with the superintendent
- Facilitated after-school programming including foreign language, drama, yoga, soccer, and a MakerSpace, as well as educational

- field trips for various grades
- Engaged with the Pinellas County School Board for infrastructure improvements to the campus which grew from an initial \$50,000 enhancement to a \$500,000 expansion already in progress and smart growth planning
- Shared in appreciation days for the staff
- Nominated as a small business partner of the year by the Pinellas Education Foundation.”

The executive team of the Friends of North Shore should be congratulated for their tremendous success in such a short period of time. The team includes Kenneth Strickland, president; Laura Hine, founder (and now PTA president); Marci Emerson, vice president; Robin Leavengood, secretary; and Anne Vaurie, treasurer.

North Shore Elementary School is celebrating its 90th year of serving our local community's students K-5. According to Marci, the Friends of North Shore Elementary (online at FNSE.org) will continue to serve in providing advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and outreach. Kindergarten enrollment is up and the word is getting out about our excellent elementary school celebrating its 90th year. More support is needed! Contact Ms. Valerie Gervais, family and community liaison, to learn of ways you can be directly engaged. Email GERVAISV@pcsb.org or telephone 727-893-2181.

They say giving is not done for the recognition it provides, though you may receive a genuinely heartwarming “thank you” for your contribution. Go Knights! ●

*Marci, her husband Joe and 5-year-old son live in the 17th Avenue area of the Old Northeast. When asked what they enjoy about living in the area, Marci exclaimed, “What don't we enjoy!? There are parks, sports, parks, and travel when we're able.”*

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**HISTORY** *continued from page 1*

in Detroit, Michigan. They won the World Championship in 1998 at Chicago, Illinois in the 80-and-older division of play, and two National Titles since then. Seven Kids and Kubs players have been inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame since 2002: Ray Bosetti, Delphine (Del) Bowyer, Andy Devine, Paul Good, Ethel Lehmann, Larry McCurdy, and Hal Oliver. In 2005, a marble bench monument honoring past and present Kids and Kubs members was erected at North Shore Field. The monument includes capsules of historic documents to be opened in 2030 for the 100th anniversary of the club.

Evelyn Barton Rittenhouse was the co-founder of the Kids and Kubs along with Dr. M. H. Emory. Evelyn herself served as a base umpire. Like so many early residents, she came to St. Petersburg for her health, from New York City in 1918. Evelyn fell in love with the climate and eventually became owner and operator of the Hibiscus Hotel at 106 3rd Street South. She was a whirlwind of civic activity, organizing the Grandmother's Club, the Three-Quarter Century Club, the Show Biz Club, and the Senior Citizens Club. The latter organization is believed to have been the largest of its kind in the world, having at one time more than 5,000 members.

Her most enduring accomplishment was initiating what came to be known as the Kids and Kubs. The Three-Quarter Century Club was a social organization which mostly engaged in sedentary activities. Some members demanded more robust challenges and so the Kids and Kubs was born. In the early years, members would be divided into two teams, one called the Kids, and a second called the Kubs.

Before organizing the Kids and Kubs, Evelyn and her friend 'Doc' Emory conferred with John Lodwick, Chamber of Commerce publicity director. She noted, "Mr. Lodwick was of course enthusiastic about the publicity slant of the plan, but feared that some of the players might drop dead running the bases, and so expressed himself, suggesting that we think it over seriously before launching the scheme... It was first suggested that players walk to the bases, but later it was decided to run..." (To be precise, it was decided to run in the third inning of the first game.) Over the years, the club members' famed healthy longevity has been documented in film by the American Medical Association, and Bay Pines Veterans Hospital even examined team members seeking to learn "what makes us tick at our age." In 1959, one player celebrated his 80th birthday by standing on his head at home plate before the game began. The Club minutes for 1956-57 commented that of the



*Kids and Kubs at summer pick-up game, 2017*



*Maynard Saugstad's "All Japan Softball Championship" ring.*

club's twenty nonagenarians to that date, 13 passed away at the average age of 93.9 having played an average of 7.3 years. The remaining 7 were still living at the time, having played an average of 9.1 years.

The league made its mark not only in St. Petersburg, but also nationally and internationally. The club has been chronicled in such national publications as the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Reader's Digest* and *American Magazine*. The Kids and Kubs was one of St. Petersburg's foremost early tourist attractions along with the Waterfront Parks, Million Dollar Pier, the Green Benches, spring training for major league baseball, Sunken Gardens, Webb's City (touted as the World's Most Unusual Drug Store), and of course our paradise climate and location.

The City Council and the Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically sponsored the Kids and Kubs along

with major league baseball each spring. Mayor Al Lang and Philadelphia Athletics manager Connie Mack were big boosters. Numerous major league baseball stars had their pictures taken with the Kids and Kubs, and umpired many games. Babe Ruth, Casey Stengel, and later Don Zimmer became honorary members. As historian Ray Arsenault observed, the Kids and Kubs became a "symbol of the city's energetic approach to retirement living."

In December 2007, the Kids and Kubs played in Hawaii, not far from Pearl Harbor, against a team from Japan. The event was held to commemorate the end of World War II, and honor both Americans and Japanese who fought and especially those who died in the Pacific. Two years later, five members of the club who were World War II veterans that served in the Pacific were invited to play in Japan in an extension of the 2007 event in Hawaii.

Maynard Saugstad, a former club president and pitcher, was one of those who played in the 2009 games in Japan. He was 82 at the time and played as pitcher. Over the years, Maynard has been to Japan five times

to play senior softball. Maynard moved to St. Pete in 1987 from Wisconsin, where he was a high school business teacher and coached JV football and basketball. He joined the Kids and Kubs in 2000 at age 75, but had previously umpired games. His wife Joyce also was a member as a batgirl.

The games in Japan were played at Honkawa School in Hiroshima, one of two cities in Japan that was devastated by atomic bombs in 1945. Maynard witnessed the carnage at Hiroshima himself in 1946 as a naval serviceman aboard the USS *Duluth*. Honkawa School was the closest school to ground zero and an estimated 400 students and ten teachers fell victim to the atomic bombing. On a related note St. Petersburg has had a 55-year Sister City relationship with Takamatsu, Japan, another city devastated by bombing in World War II.

Maynard and Joyce had previously hosted many international students as part of a program called Youth for Understanding in Wisconsin. One student was from Japan. In addition to receiving red-carpet treatment from Japanese baseball officials, the trip was an opportunity to reunite with his former Japanese student guest. Maynard particularly remembers the student addressing Joyce as 'mother,' reflecting the close relationship developed with the Saugstad family during his year's stay in the States.

On a previous trip at a game in Taiwan, Maynard was walked to the bus by a host player. When the player was asked by a teammate what he was doing he said, "I am walking my father to the bus. This man is as old as my dad so I am walking my dad to the bus."

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American and Japanese Senior Softball players near Mt. Fuji, Japan. The games in Japan were played at Honkawa School in Hiroshima, one of two cities in Japan that was devastated by atomic bombs in 1945. Courtesy of Maynard Saugstad



At age 82, Maynard Saugstad pitched in the 2009 games in Japan played at Honkawa School in Hiroshima. Maynard witnessed the carnage at Hiroshima personally in 1946 as a naval serviceman aboard the USS Duluth. Courtesy of Maynard Saugstad

“We were really accepted,” says Maynard. “There is great respect there for older people.”

Maynard remembers the trip fondly. “Hiroshima has been totally rebuilt and is now a beautiful, beautiful city.” The trip also had its humorous moments. One of the US players had been a member of the Hollywood ‘Harmonicats,’ a harmonica band. On the trip, he brought with him 26 mouth organs to use entertaining the Japanese. Needless to say this slowed things down going through airport security.

The highlight of the trip was the installation of a baseball themed ‘peace and friendship’ granite bench monument at Honkawa School with the names of team members inscribed upon it, both US and Japanese. Maynard considers having his name on the monument just as much an honor as being in the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Maynard says, “I like Kids and Kubs for several reasons. I like how anybody who likes to play ball can keep playing indefinitely. The only thing that’s going to stop you from playing is you. This might be the only thing you have in life now that’s enjoyment. And I feel it’s unfair to take that away.” Maynard is now 92. He says that if he cannot play this year for reasons of health, chances are he will umpire the first game on Tuesdays and Thursdays. “I can stay involved umpiring.”

Once a year, the Kids and Kubs play the St. Petersburg Mayor’s Team in what one member describes as a ‘blood game.’ The winner is inscribed



Evelyn Barton Rittenhouse was co-founder of the Kids and Kubs along with “Doc” M. H. Emory. Evelyn coached first base, image circa 1932. Courtesy of Kids and Kubs

on a perpetual trophy. Also at this game, donations are distributed by the club to charitable organizations. Since 1949, they have donated approximately \$200,000 to charitable causes. At Thanksgiving and

Christmas, club members serve dinners to needy seniors at the City Sunshine Center.

The club now consists of four teams of 56 active players. Dues are \$100 a year. Persons are eligible to join after their 74th birthday. Players sport white or red shirts, and white or blue pants, and a black bow tie worn on ceremonial occasions. The club is open to both men and women. While a few members have played serious baseball at the AA and AAA level, many have played little, perhaps some while in grade school or high school or on a church team. Accommodations are made for persons physically challenged.

The current club president is Jon Wilkinson. He has been a member for eight years. Previously he played with Three Score, a club for persons in their 60s, and has extensive experience as a recreational team manager. He is retired from United Airlines.

The Kids and Kubs are now considering new members for the fall season beginning November 1st. Also needed are volunteers for various tasks. Practice and games are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and some Saturdays.

Call 727-893-7108 or email kidsandkubs@verizon.com. More information may be obtained on the website at kidsandkubs.webs.com. ●

Sources: Raymond Arsenault, St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream: 1888-1950 (1988/96); George A. Bakewell, “The History of the Kids and Kubs ¾ Century Soft Ball Club” (1975); and conversations with Maynard Saugstad, Jon Wilkinson, Peter Calabrese, and Basil Whiteford.

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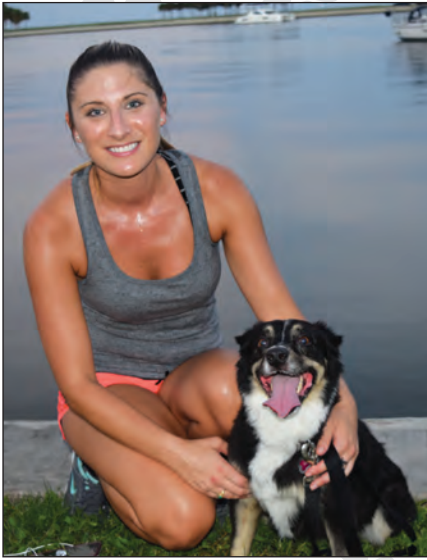
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# AROUND THE BLOCK

## ST. PETERSBURG/TAKAMATSU STUDENT AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE

In the beginning of July, St. Petersburg's Student Ambassadors Zachary Blair-Andrews, Chloe Johnson, and Deaja "Jenae" Henry spent ten days sharing American culture with their host families and city leaders in Takamatsu, St. Petersburg's Japanese sister city. They were able to spend time in a local high school, learn to do some Japanese cooking, and of course do a lot of sightseeing. One memorable experience was their visit to Hiroshima. They made a presentation about St. Petersburg to Takamatsu's Mayor Hideto Nishi and city council. At a future date they will share their experiences at a St. Petersburg city council meeting.

Two weeks after the St. Petersburg Student Ambassadors' return home, it was time to welcome their Japanese counterparts, Miho Samitsu, Misaki Nishizaka, and Motoki Hase, who were hosted by the St. Petersburg Student Ambassadors' families. They in turn made several interesting presentations about their home town and were able to tour several of St. Petersburg's museums in addition to enjoying our beaches and parks and other local attractions.



An arrival in Japan

Since becoming a Sister City in 1961, St. Petersburg Student Ambassadors have learned about life in Takamatsu by living with a host family, going to high school, sightseeing and sharing cultural experiences about life in the United States. Former Ambassadors have used the visits to further their cultural education by studying international relations, international business or Japanese studies. For more information on the Student Ambassador program and an application for summer 2018, visit [www.stpete.org/irc](http://www.stpete.org/irc) or contact Lotta Baumann at SPIFFS, 727-552-1896 or [folkfair@ij.net](mailto:folkfair@ij.net). ◆



Chloe Johnson in a kimono



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

# Three Amigos: Storytelling Through Jazz

Sara W. Hopkins

When three jazz amigos met at USF, they had no idea what their future together would hold. Awarded Creative Loafing's Best of the Bay Best Jazz Ensemble for three consecutive years, the trio called La Lucha is comprised

of John O'Leary on piano, hailing from Mexico; Alejandro Arenas on bass, from Colombia; and Mark Feinman on drums, from Clearwater, Florida.

Community involvement has been a priority for them from the beginning. All three musicians have served on the board of the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association, a local non-profit that promotes, preserves, and presents jazz in the Tampa Bay area. Part of the organization's community outreach is sending jazz musicians to perform in area schools and mentor high school students.

The three musicians encourage students to be open-minded and enthusiastic like they are. "At first, we would take any gig offered to us," Arenas says.

Even the name, La Lucha, carries symbolism for perseverance. It's a Spanish term that means 'the fight' or 'the struggle.' The musicians chose it as a positive reminder of the hard work necessary to achieve any worthwhile goal.

Pianist John O'Leary came from a musical background and learned the value of perseverance early on, when his mother was a concert pianist in Mexico. "I tagged along with her everywhere she went," O'Leary says. "She taught lessons and performed on her own, with orchestras, even for ballet studios. But when I moved here, everybody said music was a hobby and to get a real profession. Luckily, I ignored them and listened to Mark and Alejandro."

O'Leary also pursued neuroscience at USF, earning a PhD in biomedical science/neuroscience. Over the years, he's brought these interests together with La Lucha.

One such project was a collaboration at The Studio@620 with photographer Rossie Newson and local poet Gloria Muñoz called *See. Hear. Feel.* The group wrote original music and paired it with poetry and photography creating a multi-sensory experience, all while promoting awareness of Alzheimer's and raising funds for USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute. "This project was a catalyst for what we're doing today," Arenas says, "splitting from being jazz majors into being music innovators."

While O'Leary still maintains a strong interest in science, he's clear that his career is in music. "I wish there was a better perception of music as a serious career," he says. "At the end of the day, La Lucha is a business – and we're all business owners. We have to balance the transactional side with the artistic side. We all have families that we support, and we get to do that through what we love. I wish our culture had a greater respect for that."

Feinman adds to that, "This is a key point of La Lucha: balancing the integrity of the music with what's best for the community, and with what we can do as artists to help promote a cause. It's not just about us – it's about something bigger than us."

Though they've toured internationally, won awards, and recorded three albums,

performing in Tampa Bay holds much more appeal to them than anywhere else. As Feinman says, "We love to play internationally, but we have so much pride in this city. We love our audiences here."

With mentors in St. Petersburg like bassist John Lamb and the late Buster Cooper,

a jazz trombonist, who both played with Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington, perhaps it's not surprising that the musicians of La Lucha are so accomplished.

These young musicians have built up serious credibility over the past years, as music legends in the area continually ask them to collaborate and trust them to bring their own personalities into the music. One of them is the Emmy award-

winning composer and pianist, Dick Hyman, who composed the music for eleven of Woody Allen's films and played with Benny Goodman and Charlie Parker. "We're playing in a concert of his latest original composition soon," Feinman says, "which will happen just before his ninety-first birthday."

Other collaborators include Jeff Rupert, Marty Morell, and Michiquita, with whom they recently performed at the Palladium. Marty Morell has had a storied career, performing with the Bill Evans trio and Stan Getz.

"These are history-book guys who still want to grow as musicians," O'Leary explains. "It's amazing to work with them. And then they say they find inspiration in our work! It's mind-blowing!"

One of La Lucha's upcoming performances will be at the Clearwater Jazz Holiday this October. Feinman has been attending the Clearwater Jazz Holiday since infancy. In high school, he saw Herbie Hancock perform there. This year, he's proud that La Lucha will be following in the footsteps of many jazz giants.

"It's a gift to be able to tell stories through music," O'Leary explains. "We want to entertain and challenge."

La Lucha is known for their innovation, diverse musical compositions, and variety in their approach to performances, playing everything from traditional jazz to their interpretation of '80s music. Their music is fresh and original, pushing the envelope of artistic expression – and fun. Even when they perform in suits, they always wear

colorful, eclectic socks. O'Leary, Arenas, and Feinman laugh about this, yet it's also a clear point of pride for the group. Eclectic socks are also their trademark thank-you gift to their collaborators.

Their friendship and support of one another has created an impressive dynamic within the group, and they're serious about innovation and challenging themselves to grow. Each year, they generate ideas for new performances and seize opportunities with the same vigor as when they first started performing.

"We realize that doors open when you least expect them to," Arenas says. "Every performance is an opportunity. We take each day like jazz musicians do... we're just improvising!" He adds with a laugh, "But we practice."

You can find La Lucha at the Clearwater Jazz Holiday on October 21, performing with collaborators Jeff Rupert, Marty Morell, and Michiquita. ◆



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4 BR • 4 BA • 3,194 Sq Ft • 2 CG • Last Offered for \$899,000



**525 20TH AVE NE**  
3 BR • 2.5 BA • 2,721 Sq Ft • +1 BR 1 BA Guest Cottage • \$799,000



**546 15TH AVE NE**  
4 BR • 3.5 BA • 2,919 Sq Ft • Last Offered for \$649,000



**826 39TH AVE N**  
4 BR • 4 BA • 2,827 Sq Ft • 2 CG • \$799,000



**1008 23RD AVE N**  
2 BR • 1.5 BA • 1,361 Sq Ft • Last Offered for \$285,000