



NORTHEAST JOURNAL

NOV/DEC 2018
St. Petersburg, FL
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

3 Daughters' Winter Wonderland a Holiday Tradition

Colleen Casey

It's only mid-October, but Bruce Harting already sits at a table at 3 Daughters Brewing fixing a Department 56 Tinkertown Toy Factory. Starting in mid-November, he'll be ready to display the factory and over 300 other collectibles from Department 56. The Christmas Village spans the length of the popular craft brewery's tasting room and sits on eight 4-by-8 tables. There are people, stores, houses, trees, a circus, the North Pole, three trains, ballerinas dancing the Nutcracker, Santa with his reindeer, and even a tiny replica of 3 Daughters Brewery.

When people see the display the first time, Bruce – a Shore Acres resident and father of



It's a lot of work, but Bruce and Pat love setting up the Christmas Village.

3 Daughters Brewing owner Mike Harting – says the reactions are “amazed” and “enjoyment.” Asked who is more excited, the kids or the adults, Bruce doesn't hesitate when responding: the adults. Since the brewery is a family-friendly environment, kids are as welcome to visit as adults to see the display, which stays up through early January.

Bruce's daughter-in-law, Leigh, points out that Bruce has handcrafted many of the pieces, like the figurines of people hiking up a mountain.

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Mark Rankin and Mac Wachtler share a unique bond.

A Life-Saving Gift

Janan Talafer

How far would you go to help a stranger? Old Northeast resident Mark Rankin didn't hesitate when it came to offering someone he didn't know the most generous gift one can imagine. He donated his kidney to give a Clearwater grandfather of four a second chance at life.

Mark is a criminal defense attorney and a partner in the law firm of Shutts & Bowen in Tampa. He's also a former assistant federal public defender for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa. Practicing law is a passion. “Few things are more important in a society than our legal system and making sure that the punishment is just and that everyone follows the law,” says Mark. “It's wonderful to sometimes help good people navigate what is often the most stressful event of their lives.”

That innate desire to help other people made Mark reach out to Mac Wachtler, a 68-year-old Clearwater resident in need of a kidney transplant. A former vice president of sales for a nationwide specialty insurance company, Mac had advanced kidney disease. Both his kidneys had failed and for the past two years he had been undergoing kidney dialysis three times a week to keep him alive.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

“I was standing in the break room at work and saw a flyer on the bulletin board about a local guy needing a kidney,” says Mark. “Over the years, I had seen news stories about a situation like this and always thought that some day I might do it. Then I'd get busy and forget about it. Seeing the flyer prompted me to call.”

It was early in the morning and Mark remembers having to wait a while to make the call. When he did, he reached Bonnie, Mac's wife. During their conversation, Mark was surprised to learn that a fellow lawyer in his firm – Mac's daughter-in-law – had posted the flyer in the break room. “I hadn't made the connection until then,” says Mark. “I simply called because I thought I might be able to help.”

Bonnie directed Mark to call Tampa General Hospital, the hospital where Mac was being treated. TGH has one of the busiest kidney transplant programs in the state and performs both living-donor and deceased-donor transplants, says Marjorie Murphy, RN., coordinator of the TGH living-donor program. She reports that in 2017, the hospital performed 243 kidney transplants; 59 of them were from living donors.

“A living donor offers better long-term success for the recipient and less chance of rejection,” says Marjorie. “One person can make a difference in someone's life. It's a very altruistic thing to do. God gave us two kidneys. If one is removed in donation, the

Continued on page 38

Suncoast Tiger Bay Club: Celebrating the First 40

Will Michaels

The Suncoast Tiger Bay Club is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The club is not just another civic organization programming speakers. Since its beginning in 1978, the emphasis of Tiger Bay – a non-partisan political club – has been as much on member questions, and speaker responses, as on the presentations.

According to charter member and former speaker Tom Dunn, the idea was to “ask penetrating questions, hold speakers accountable, and reinforce public ethical standards.” It was in part an early version of ‘Fact Check.’

Former Tiger Bay president Bob Stewart recalls the club began at a luncheon meeting held at Landmark Union Trust Bank in 1978. St. Petersburg attorney and gubernatorial candidate Raleigh W. Greene proposed establishing a Tiger Bay Club in St. Pete after being severely grilled while speaking



Former Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Pinellas retired Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Beach. Judge Beach was awarded Tiger Bay's ‘Common Sense Award’ recognizing lengthy and exemplary public service by people exhibiting extraordinary integrity, courage and achievement.

Continued on page 32

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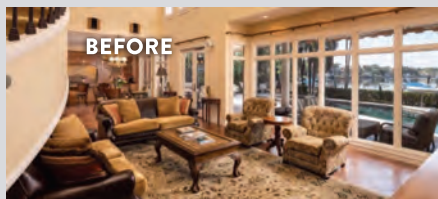
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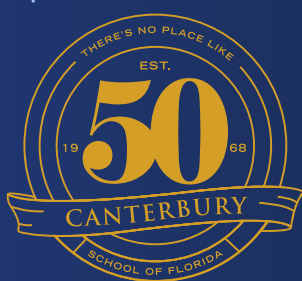
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Fall is my favorite time of year – the weather is finally getting cooler, and it signals that the holidays are right around the corner. The season begins with Halloween and no one does Halloween quite like the Historic Old Northeast, which hosts an estimated 2,000 trick-or-treaters and their parents each year. The candy is a draw, of course, but really it's all about the creative and sometimes downright spooky displays. It's the most amazing family-friendly, mini-horror show in town with ghosts, chain saws, guillotines, and more. When my children got too old to trick-or-treat there, I have to admit I was disappointed. I'll have to wait quite a few years until my granddaughter is ready.

I also love how many of our Northeast St. Pete neighbors go all out for the Christmas holiday. It's fun to drive around and view the beautiful lights and many festive decorations. A special thank you to the residents who open up their homes to the public during the HONNA Candlelight Tour of Homes and to benefit the Florida Orchestra Guild.



My granddaughter Ellie Talafer in the pumpkin patch

It's true that these next few weeks will be jam-packed with a level of frenzied activity that can be stressful. But it's also fun to celebrate with family and friends, co-workers, and neighbors. For many of us, it's also a time of reflection and a remembrance to be grateful for all that we have.

Thank you to Lily Liu for the beautiful photo that appears on the masthead of this issue. Here's what Lily wrote in her email: "I came to St. Pete on business travel and my friends took me by this iconic Banyan Tree. As we arrived, there was a middle-aged couple who had just tied the knot and were having their photo taken under this amazing tree. The symbolism of their new union being preserved in a photo under this tree really touched my heart. What a wonderful way for me to have a unique and special memory of your beautiful city."

For sending us these touching words and photo, Lily now receives a gift certificate from one of our local retailers. Do you have a photo you'd like to submit for our masthead? It must be horizontal-only to fit the space, and taken somewhere in St. Pete.

Email us at editor@northeastjournal.org.

Janan Talafer
Editor, Northeast Journal

NORTHEAST JOURNAL

is published bimonthly by
Village Green Publishing, Inc.
www.villagegreenpublishing.com

PUBLISHER
Jennifer MacMillen
(802) 698-8184, (888) 868-7192
publisher@villagegreenpublishing.com

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Susan Alderson archives, and the community at large

SPECIAL THANKS
Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association; Rick Carson, editor
Snell Isle Property Owners Association
Northeast Journal distribution crew

PRINTED BY
C&D Printing, St. Petersburg FL
Printed on recycled paper with the most environmentally friendly 100% vegetable-based inks in the commercial industry. Green-certified, Florida's first sheet-fed environmentally friendly commercial printer. All aluminum plates are recycled. Chemistry-free prepress. 100% recycling of paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastics. New Komori Lithrone LSX629/C press, the printing industry's most environmentally friendly press.

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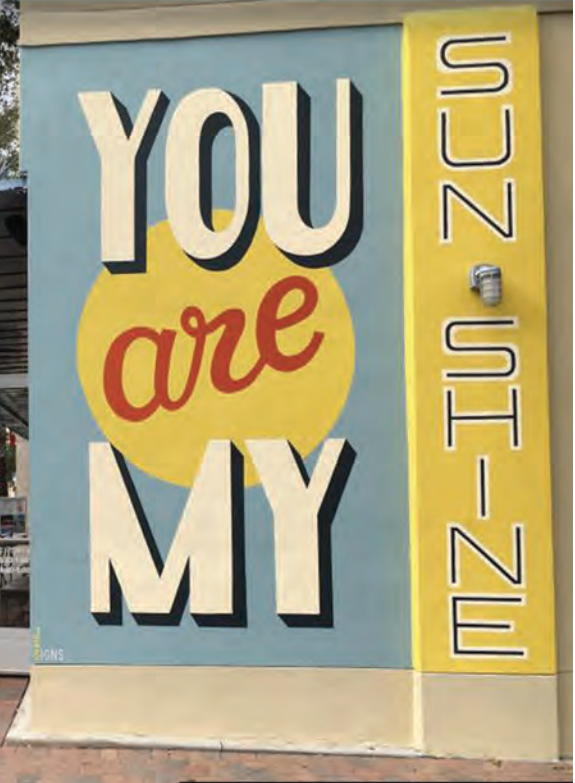
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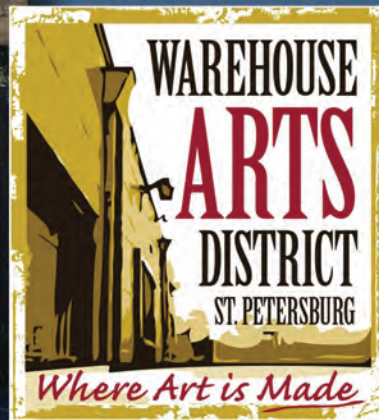
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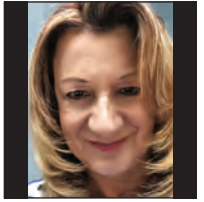
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MEET THE WRITERS

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.

Kathy Callahan moved with her family from Pennsylvania to St. Petersburg in 1974. After a 30-year sales career, her main interests now include cooking, baking, and entertaining. Her passion, however, is playing golf with her husband, family, and friends. Playing a round of golf at Augusta National would be a dream come true. [Kathleen.callahan@gmail.com]



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]



Colleen Casey is a freelance writer living in St. Petersburg. Originally from Ohio, she moved here from Savannah, GA in the fall of 2017. When she isn't writing, Colleen enjoys reading, visiting local coffee shops, and meeting new people.



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



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



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



Sylvia Raymond is a longtime St. Pete resident, currently in Crescent Heights. She's been a teacher, college administrator, editor, and most recently, an administrator at an international organization that accredits business schools. She enjoys biking, volunteering for Crescent Heights Neighborhood Assoc. & local organizations, painting and hiding rocks in area parks, and hanging out with family, friends and her two cats.



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



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



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



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A Salute to Women Marines

Gay Wasik-Zegel

It had been 100 years since the first woman became a Marine, and now our daughter was taking her turn as she reported to Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia on June 2. She and 66 other females were assigned to Delta Company, 1st Platoon. Ahead lay 10 weeks of some of the toughest mental and physical training that most would ever see. Stress would come from every direction as each candidate would be tested on physical endurance, academics, and leadership. There would be mud: lots of mud; and the heat would be stifling. Females would participate in field exercises along with males. Sleep would be interrupted by night watches and would be virtually non-existent at times. There would be inspections, and drills, and a rifle to carry and clean. Lifelong friendships would be forged through the trials and the need to push and be pushed. Injuries and fall-outs would take their toll. Not everyone would make it through to graduation.

The sun rose behind us as 500 new Marines ran in company on their traditional three-mile Motivational Run. It was August 10, Family Day. We heard the battalion running toward us in cadence, and then we saw her! She seemed taller than the last time we saw her in St.



In the pit



Pinning on the bars after commissioning



Delta Platoon members reunite at TBS

Petersburg. There was new pride in her steps. We shouted, waving homemade signs. Her sideways glance and almost imperceptible smile said it all: "I made it!"

We attended graduation, followed by the commissioning ceremony the next day. It was an experience I will never forget. Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of USMC, gave the speech. "I believe you are here because you want to serve your country... you are a man or woman of virtue and character... and you wanted to do something hard," he began. By the end of his speech, 515 new Marines had graduated. Following graduation, those returning to college stepped out of formation. Those left on the parade deck were ready for commissioning. Twenty-four out of the original 67 women in Delta Company remained.

"Our nation holds you to a higher standard. Our nation expects us to be different. Lead them in everything you do," admonished Gen. Neller. Following the reading of the warrant and taking the oath, our daughter became a Second Lieutenant. Considering that only 9 percent of Marines are women, and of those, 4 percent are officers, her accomplishment was ground-breaking.

THE FUTURE

Following graduation, new Second Lieutenants make the move to the next stage of

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training. The Basic School or TBS is also located in Quantico. Here, new officers receive six months of intensive training on how to be an officer and a leader.

For women, TBS is the first place where males and females train together, completing the same tasks and assignments side by side. Though there are some adjusted performance levels for females at TBS, this is a big jump from the training that enlisted females experience in segregation from males at Parris Island.

In December of 2015, the policy excluding women Marines from ground combat was rescinded. The former all-male positions in infantry, armor, artillery, and ground combat units are now fair game for females able to pass the necessary standards. At this time, two females have graduated from the very challenging Infantry Officer Course. "Although our daughter has a flight contract, she is excited by the possibility this opens for motivated females.

A LITTLE HISTORY

On November 10 of this year, the United States Marine Corps officially celebrated its 243rd birthday. Known as the most elite fighting force in the nation, the USMC was created by the Continental Congress in 1775. Through the years, the Marines have built a rich and cherished history as our nation's first responders.

For the first 143 years of its existence, the Marine Corps was an all-male force. World War I brought enormous changes to all branches of the military. Before this time, being a Marine was synonymous with the words: discipline, rifleman, elite, courage, sacrifice, and MALE. Then the paradigm shifted. In 1918, the Marines opened their doors to women. Of course, these positions were mostly clerical in nature, relieving more men to serve overseas.

Opha May Johnson is credited for being the first woman to join the Marine Corps. Already, a civil service employee, she was quick to take over her duties as a Marine at the Washington headquarters. By the end of the war, 305 females



Preparing for a night shoot on the range

had become a part of the USMC's pool of stenographers, bookkeepers, accountants, and typists. A few others had unique jobs such as keeping records of death and injury, or editing military film clips, which showed the grit of battle in moving pictures.

Though women were fazed out of active duty following World War I, they brought new dynamics into the US military that would have a lasting impact. Policies concerning women became necessary. The Marine Corps' Women's Reserve was formed, and soon approximately 18,000 women were ushered into service during World War II. It was during this period that the first women rose to the ranks of Marine Officer.

WOMEN IN COMBAT

When women were first initiated into the Marines, there was never the intention for them to fill a combat role. But times have changed, especially since September 11, 2001. In her book, *The Few. The Proud*, Sara Sheldon (age 70 at the time) describes her time in Iraq during 2009 as she shadowed and interviewed women Marines at Camp Fallujah. She witnessed the courage, strength, and determination they carried with them. She also saw the incredible difference they brought to the Iraqi women as role models and confidants. She concludes that "in this war, women have proven they can work side by side with their male counterparts and do the job, even under fire, as well as any of the guys. The bond, in most cases is between Marines, and there is no distinction as to gender."

The times are changing, and women who have the grit to serve in ways formerly reserved only for men deserve to train using the same standards and with the same rigor as the males by their sides. It's not for every woman, but it is for some. Policies and attitudes must continue to change if we are to develop the leaders our troops need and deserve. What a difference 100 years can make! ●



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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.

NICHOLE, AGE 16

Charismatic, intelligent and strong-minded, Nichole is happiest when she's able to bond with people, especially friends and those close to her. Nichole believes in the power of positivity, which is why one of her favorite things to do is smile. She says it's because "I know deep in my heart, if I start to smile, other people will smile with me." Nichole's charisma and ability to "find the light in dark times" is what she likes most about herself. She says, "I'm strong because I remember a time when being strong was all I had." For fun, Nichole likes to draw, sing, and dance. Though she likes a variety of music, Nichole's favorite genres are heavy metal and country, but there's a special place in her heart for classic rock and violinist, Lindsey Sterling. She's not one for television, but she loves all the Harry Potter movies. Her favorite animals are cats; she would like to have one as a pet someday. In school, she likes her English class, and one of her future goals is to learn Mandarin Chinese. Nichole's favorite foods are double fudge chocolate chip cookies and ice cream from Cold Stone. If Nichole could change the world, she would make sure every child in foster care finds a loving family so no is left behind or left feeling unloved. Nichole has no preference as to what her forever family looks like. "As long as they love and care about me, I'll be happy."



Photo courtesy of Base Camp Photo, YFA-100076540

A'MIRACLE, AGE 17

Caring and loving, A'Miracle says she's not like most teens, she's weird and that's what makes her unique. But what she's proudest of is her courage. A'Miracle is happiest when she's around confident, authentic people. If she could change the world, A'Miracle would put an end to racism. For fun, A'Miracle enjoys working out, reading, and shopping. She also enjoys watching her favorite show, *Vampire Diaries*. In school, A'Miracle's favorite subject is English, where she likes to write short stories. A'Miracle's favorite food is steak, but no bread and butter or beans, please. When she gets older, A'Miracle would like to be an actress and an entrepreneur. A'Miracle also hopes to have poodle one day. A'Miracle's ideal forever family would have a mom and dad. Siblings are also OK. Even though A'Miracle's 18th birthday is in January, she's still holding out hope to find a forever family.



Photo courtesy of Jonathan R. Photography, YFA-525931

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





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AROUND THE BLOCK

PRESERVE THE BURG'S FALL GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Now that the weather is finally cooler, Preserve the 'Burg has begun its popular bicycle and walking tours giving a great opportunity to see the architectural jewels of St. Pete's past and examples of local businesses reusing historic buildings, while learning about the city's early history.

Saturday, November 17: Visit Historic Gulfport. Stroll funky, artsy Gulfport for a look at this former fishing village on Boca Ciega Bay. See the collection of historic commercial and residential structures, including the National Register listed Gulfport Casino. With the introduction of the streetcar connecting it to St. Pete, Gulfport began to grow and to attract tourists in the 1920s. The tour starts at 3pm at Scout Hall (next to Gulfport Historical Museum), 5315 28th Avenue S.

Saturday, November 17: Take the African American Heritage Trail. This tour explores the 'Deuces' (22nd Street S.), the vibrant main street of St. Pete's African American community during the segregation era. Gwendolyn Reese, a member of the City's Historic Preservation Commission, leads the tour and offers personal reflections and experiences of growing up in the neighborhood. The tour starts at 10am from the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum, 2240 9th Ave. S.

Saturday, November 24: Westward Ho to Historic Kenwood. Tour Historic Kenwood, one of the country's premier bungalow neighborhoods and a National Register listed historic district. The tour is led by neighborhood residents proud to showcase their neighborhood and excited to explain how hard work changed a declining neighborhood into one of the 'Burg's most desirable neighborhoods. The tour will include a brief look inside one of the neighborhood's restored bungalows. After the tour, guests can choose to enjoy a drink or lunch on the wonderful front deck at the Craftsman House, the neighborhood's original model home and a locally listed landmark. The tour starts at 10am at Craftsman House Gallery and Cafe, 2955 Central Ave.

Sunday, November 25: Keep St. Pete Special Bicycle Tour offers participants a chance to learn the city's history and see some of the preservation success stories, especially historic buildings put back to use by local businesses. Starts at 10am in front of the Independent Bar, 1049 Central Ave.

For more information call 727-824-7802 or visit the Preserve the 'Burg website. Reservations are recommended and can be made online at www.preservetheburg.org/calendar. ●



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COMMUNITY INSPIRATION

St. Pete Rocks

Sylvia Raymond

I discovered St. Pete Rocks when I found a painted rock in Crescent Lake Park. On the back of this lovely little piece of art, it said, "Please post on FB @st.peterocks, then re-hide, or keep." I took the rock home with the intention of doing exactly that; take a picture, post it on Facebook, then re-hide it. Little did I know that this would be the start of a creative endeavor for me.

My first attempt at painting a rock was not successful, since I used what I had on hand, nail polish. Definitely not my best work. Within weeks after this failed attempt, I went to the Earth Day Festival in Williams Park and saw a booth with 'rock' artists painting up a storm, both adults and kids. That's also where I met Kim Laskey, the creator of St. Pete Rocks.

My stpeterocks painting started in earnest after I talked to Kim and she directed me to the group's website, stpeterocks.org, and to the Facebook page. I learned about what supplies to get and where to get rocks. I now had cheap acrylic paints in many colors



Lakeland who was a member of Lakeland Rocks. When she saw what was happening in Lakeland, she was inspired and thought "Oh, I would love to do that in St. Pete." Because of her own interest in art, and since St. Pete has such a vibrant arts community, with so much art on display everywhere, she figured that St. Pete Rocks would catch on and grow. But, it took a while. For four months, Kim painted 30 or 40 rocks each week. Then, every Sunday she would walk around downtown St. Pete and hide her rocks everywhere she went.

While she was painting and walking and hiding, she was scoping out other 'rocker' communities on

Facebook. It was there that she got the idea to hide the rocks in St. Pete area parks. It was a natural; people go to parks, take their kids, their families, have picnics, walk their dogs. They would see the rocks hidden in trees, bushes, by the lakes, on a bench and be delighted when they found these lovely, fun, silly, inspirational pieces of art, while enjoying nature. Hopefully, they would then be inspired to do the same – take the rocks home, post the pictures on Facebook, then re-hide



from Walmart, brushes of all shapes and sizes, and a bag of beach rocks from Home Depot. Since I've started painting rocks, I feel my creative juices starting to flow again. And I love the thrill of the hunt for rocks hidden in crevices and in plain sight all over St. Pete.

Kim started St. Pete Rocks in November of 2016, after visiting a friend in

them and paint some of their own. Channel 10 News heard about this creative community and aired a story about the group in March 2017. Since then it's just grown exponentially; first Kim and 100 of her friends, until there are now 32,000 members at last count. Why not join us? It's like a little treasure hunt, but without a map. ●



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Kathy Zimring

Beach Drive NE

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

I am born and raised in St Pete!

Best hidden gem(s) in St. Pete?

If I told you it wouldn't be hidden anymore! With social media and the internet, there are not many hidden gems left in St Pete... I can think of only one!

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Lizard Island and Fiji

A gadget you can't live without?

Unfortunately, my iPhone

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Too many to mention. We are lucky to have such a variety of restaurants in St. Pete.

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

I don't really have a desire to meet anyone famous past or present. When I was in LA, I did want to go to the Ellen DeGeneres Show... so I'd say Ellen.

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

Snow skiing in Colorado. Actually, anything outdoors and working out to stay healthy.

A great movie you'd recommend?

I like any action movies or comedies.

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

I like where I am now. Would never want to go back.

What are the most encouraging words you can receive?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

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

My old dog Picalina, a white cocker spaniel

Tell us about someone who has inspired you.

My mom and dad inspire me everyday! If you know them or ever get to meet them, you'd know why.

What St. Pete venues are on the must-see list for out-of-town guests?

Sunrise at Vinoy Park and sunset at St Pete Beach... best of both worlds.

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

My biggest accomplishment is being a mom. I have an awesome son, Kraye. I am proud to be his mother.

Something people might not know about you?

Most people don't know that I was a flight attendant for Delta airlines and a cheerleader at FSU back in the day.

What do you do for a living – what do you enjoy about it?

I am a Realtor with Remax Metro, known as the Z Realtor. I have a passion for my job. Every day is different. I get to meet sellers and buyers; most of them end up being my friend. Plus, I get to see some pretty amazing homes and condos in the Tampa Bay area.



Mark Rankin

Second Street N

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

I have lived in Northeast St. Pete since 2003 and Old Northeast since 2014. I grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Best hidden gems in St. Pete?

Black Crow Coffee and Jannus Live

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Iceland and Redrocks Amphitheater in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Red Mesa Cantina

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

Steve Martin. He's a comedic genius and true Renaissance man, yet humble and kind.

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

Playing guitar and seeing live music. And I share season tickets to the best game in town... Go, Lightning!!

A great movie you'd recommend?

The best movie of all time: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Great characters and writing. Steven Spielberg made the perfect action-adventure movie with no computer visual effects. Just good old-fashioned filmmaking. *Back to the Future* is a distant second.

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

I'd go back to the late 1960s and see some of the late great musicians that were before my time: Jimi Hendrix, the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, young Eric Clapton, the Grateful Dead, et al.

What are the most encouraging words you can receive?

I love you.

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

A greyhound: fast-moving, yet part couch potato.

Tell us about someone who has inspired you.

My late aunt, Dawnelle Cruze, was blind since birth. In a time before the ADA and other accommodations, she put herself through college and graduate school and lived a fiercely independent life. What she lacked in vision she made up for in determination and heart.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

The Winter Fortress by Neil Bascomb – the fascinating and improbable story of how British and Norwegian commandos defied great odds to prevent Nazi Germany from obtaining an atomic bomb. An example of how World War II victory was not inevitable and small victories by regular people saved the planet from true evil.

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

I recently donated a kidney to someone who was a stranger but is now a lifelong friend. Please consider being a live kidney donor!

Something people might not know about you?

I was a contestant on *Wheel of Fortune*. No, I didn't win and no, I didn't meet Vanna.



Ginger Lettelleir

1st Avenue S

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

I moved to St. Pete 12 years ago, but I originally am from a small town in Indiana.

Best hidden gem(s) in St. Pete?

The Woodhouse Day Spa is an outstanding luxury spa experience. If you want to catch a great sunset, check out the beach bar at The Dolphin Hotel on St. Pete Beach. There's live music and margaritas!

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Tahiti and somewhere where I can see the Northern Lights

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

This is such a tough one because there are always amazing new places popping up. But, my current favorite is Oak and Stone Pizza. Love the white pizza!

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

I would love to have met Mary Kay Ash. She started with nothing and built an empire that focused on helping other women feel more beautiful about themselves.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

I love spending time with my children and grandsons, going to the beach, watching sunsets, reading, and cooking for my family and friends.

A great movie you'd recommend?

Hands down *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. Thanksgiving viewing of this heartwarming movie has been a holiday tradition for almost 20 years.

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

I would visit the future to see the technological advances. The Jetsons was always a favorite cartoon and I wonder if we will ever have flying cars.

What are the most encouraging words you can receive?

For me, hearing from my former students and/or parents that I made a positive difference in their lives warms my heart. Now, I hope to do the same thing at my spa.

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

I would be a Yorkie, like my dog Missy. She loves everyone and everyone loves her!

Tell us about someone who has inspired you.

My friend, Donna Hutcherson, has always inspired me. She is intelligent, hard working, a great mother, wife, and friend. No matter what adversity she faces, she deals with it with her faith and grace.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Never Eat Alone by Keith Ferrazzi. It's a good read for anyone looking to build relationships. I tend to be an introvert, and as a business owner I know how important it is to develop relationships.

Something people might not know about you?

I'm a reality television junkie! I once was eating dinner at Sur in Beverly Hills and they started filming *Vanderpump Rules*. My husband and I are in the opening scenes of season 2!



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

A Tale of Buried Treasure at the MFA

Janan Talafer

As you drive down Bayshore Drive NE by Straub Park, the beautiful yachts in the Vinoy Basin and the twinkling lights on the trees at Straub Park catch your eye. It's easy to overlook the small fenced-in area at the back of the Museum of Fine Arts. But it's here in this small space just outside one of the museum's garden courtyards that an intriguing tale of buried treasure is unfolding.

In late summer, I stepped into the museum's outdoor enclosure and took a look around. Under a big white tent, there were what looked to be about a half-dozen tall, rough-hewn picnic tables set up on the grass. But what was on top of the tables took my breath away. There in front of me were enormous slabs of brightly colored mosaic tile in amazing geometric patterns. They were also priceless artifacts from antiquity.

ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN ART

Dr. Michael Bennett, the MFA's senior curator of Early Western Art, told me the mosaic tiles – more appropriately referred to as tesserae – were almost 2,000 years old, dating back to about 100-300 C.E. They were originally sections of floor from several private villas near the city of Antioch, a large multi-cultural seaport not far from the border of Southern Turkey and Syria. In case you were unaware, as I was, Antioch was one of the great cities of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds; a vibrant East-West crossroads. The



MFA mosaics are a visible connection to that intriguing era in world history.

"Wealthy merchants and traders would commission teams of craftsmen to create mosaic floors for their homes," says Dr. Bennett. "The craftsmen hand-cut the mosaics from marble, limestone, and sometimes cut glass. Thousands of them were individually cut by hand with bronze tools. Then they were graded by color and size to create a pattern with a kaleidoscopic effect. It was a very sophisticated process. They used advanced mathematics for the design."

According to Dr. Bennett, the mosaics were laid into position on the ground, grouted into place and most likely waxed since they were used in decorative floors and meant to be walked on. How the Museum of Fine Arts came to acquire them is a fascinating story.

During the 1930s, Princeton University spearheaded an archeological dig that uncovered the ancient villas buried under six or seven feet of silt. The walls and ceilings were collapsed but the foundation and floors remained intact, says Dr. Bennett. The mosaics and other artifacts were brought back to Princeton.

Some thirty years later, as St. Pete was getting ready to open its first art museum, Rexford Stead – the MFA's first director – wrote to the chairman of the art department at Princeton, asking

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if the MFA could acquire some of the mosaics for its new permanent collection. In 1965, five sections of mosaic flooring arrived. “Each one came from a different villa; one villa was named the House of the Drinking Contest so you can imagine these fantastic Roman feasts that took place there,” says Dr. Bennett.

Thought you might not have realized it, if you’ve ever stepped inside the MFA’s courtyard membership garden, you may have seen two sections of the mosaics; one added a decorative touch to the fountain and the other one hung on the wall. The other three eventually went into storage. A large section was placed for safekeeping under the stage in the Marly Room, says Dr. Bennett. In late 1980s, the two remaining pieces, along with a piece from one of the mosaics in the membership garden, were buried underground on the museum’s east lawn.

It’s hard to imagine burying a priceless treasure like that in the lawn, but Dr. Bennett surmises it was simply a matter of practicality. “The pieces were large and heavy,” he says. “The biggest one probably weighs 1,000 pounds. It would be difficult to move and store them in the museum itself. In the long run, art conservation work is better now, so it has turned out for the best.”

THE EXCAVATION

Earlier this year, the MFA went on an archeological dig of its own and hired renowned art conservation experts, RLA Conservation, to oversee the excavation and restoration of the mosaics. But first they had to find them. Although the museum staff knew the general vicinity, they weren’t sure of the exact location. “The excavators used a metal dowel to carefully press down into the earth and follow it the edges,” says Dr. Bennett. “It was very exciting when we found something.”

Heavy machinery carefully lifted the pieces from the ground and moved them to the outdoor conservation repair lab. They were joined by the mosaics that had been inside the museum – all except for one piece which was put on display near the museum’s front entrance to generate publicity for the massive project underway, aptly named *Antioch Reclaimed*.



At the outside repair shop, RLA Conservation’s team began the work of cleaning and repairing the mosaics, as well as restoring the colors, which had faded over time. “Every tessera had to be individually cleaned and checked for cracks,” says Dr. Bennett. “It’s a painstaking, meticulous process. The team used solvents and a special mechanical instrument that sends out a stream of fine particulates so precise that it could take the print off a card.”

They also had to chip away at a thick concrete backing that coated each mosaic section, a process which was typical practice back in the 1930s

when the tesserae were first excavated from Antioch. In early November, Dr. Bennett was waiting for delivery of specially engineered aluminum honeycomb panels that would provide a new backing for the mosaics, making them much easier to move and display.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Although the final completion and grand opening won’t take place until the fall of 2020, “there’s more than light at the end of the tunnel,” says Dr. Bennett. “We’ve successfully completed the first phase of *Antioch Reclaimed*.”

Now, the museum staff and board are in discussion about a longterm, permanent location for the mosaics. One idea, says Dr. Bennett, is to recreate the membership garden so it resembles an ancient Greco-Roman courtyard. To do that, the space would have to be ‘acclimatized’ to protect the tesserae from the weather.

In the meantime, to get a glimpse at how vibrant and grand the mosaics must have been in antiquity, one of the mosaic sections – the one that had been on the wall in the membership garden – can be seen by visiting the museum’s current antiquities gallery. It was the test case to make sure everything would go well.

“We really owe all of this to Kristen Shepherd (the MFA’s executive director),” says Dr. Bennett. “She’s the one who learned about the mosaics and decided to excavate. This is a big commitment for the museum. It’s about reclaiming our history and upholding the vision of the museum’s founders.”

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‘Macaron... S’il Vous Plait?’

Kathy Callahan

This past May, my family and I had the opportunity to experience one of the most amazing vacations together; a trip to Paris, France. Upon receiving the trip, we were excited and somewhat curious about what a week in Paris would entail. We knew it would be fabulous, but never dreamed it would become one of the best trips of our lifetime.

If you have ever visited Paris you would agree, it is a fascinating city. The famous cultural landmarks: The Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre Museum, the Chateau de Versailles, Notre-Dame, Sainte-Chapelle and the Eiffel Tower, which is absolutely stunning when lit up at night, are not to be missed.

But for me, there was another side of Paris I found equally amazing; the French cuisine and pastries. Every evening, after a full day of sightseeing French architecture and paintings, my family and I (all 15 of us) immersed ourselves in traditional French cuisine. Our meals ranged from casual French bistros, where such delights as steak frites, roasted chicken and croque monsieur were popular choices, to the very elegant LE39V Restaurant, where French dining intersects with a stunning rooftop view. The French pastries, desserts and chocolates that capped off each meal were unforgettable. Imagine a perfect Grand Marnier soufflé paired with the most decadent crème anglaise. I’m here to tell you, it will change your life.

Another treat for which Paris is noted are the French macarons. These are sweet billowy meringue confections with a smooth domed top and a crinkly bottom, known as the ‘foot’ or ‘le pied.’ To complete the delicacy, two feet are paired together with a dollop of sweet or savory filling.

These macarons (pronounced mak-a-rons) should not be confused with the American version of macaroons which are typically made with coconut.

The French macarons have gained popularity in America through the years. They are available in most specialty bakeries and macaron shops continue to pop up in shopping malls. Since macarons can be made to fit any color palate they are very popular at weddings, bridal showers, and birthday parties.

A stroll down the Champs Elysees offers many opportunities to experience French pastries and sweets. We were fortunate to have the Pierre Herme Paris Teahouse within walking distance from our hotel. Pierre Herme, once dubbed the Picasso of the patisserie, is said to have sold over 100 different macaron flavors. Upon entering the store your eyes are immediately drawn to the glass cases containing rows and rows of sweet and savory confections of every color. Sampling the expansive variations of macarons with coffee or cappuccino became an evening



ritual for my family with each member casting a vote for their favorite flavor that day.

It was on the long plane ride home that I decided I’d like to master the art of macarons, mainly to allow my friends to indulge in one of the experiences of Paris my family and I so enjoyed.

So, my journey began. I immersed myself in cookbooks researching macaron recipes, watching videos, and comparing methods and ingredient lists. I purchased the necessary supplies: a scale to precisely measure ingredients, parchment paper, and a piping bag with tips. Coincidentally – or sadly in my case – while browsing through the Food Network channels I came upon the *Kids’ Baking Championship*. I found myself amazed watching 12-year-old children successfully making macarons. I knew it was time to take the plunge.

My first recipe involved a rather large amount of dry ingredients, which I found difficult to incorporate with the egg whites. I folded and folded the mixture, per the recipe, until my arm was sore. Despite the fact I didn’t think the consistency looked correct, I piped them onto the sheet tray as directed. Thirteen minutes later my instincts were right and into the trash they went. I knew it wouldn’t be easy, but I didn’t think my first attempt would be that wayward.

Not one to give up easily, I was back in the kitchen the next day. This time I meticulously studied the video that accompanied the recipe and also watched the *Kids’ Baking Championship* several more times. This recipe had fewer dry ingredients and seemed more manageable. I followed the instructions to the letter and found myself peering through the oven door to see any semblance of a dome top with a crinkly foot. The finished product looked and certainly tasted much better, but I knew I couldn’t stop just yet; I knew the perfect macaron was ever so close. I wasn’t going to stop until I accomplished it. I am not ashamed to admit that my journey consisted of a few more tries until, to my amazement, I opened the oven door to find a sheet tray bearing 20 beautiful macarons.

Paris was a fabulous vacation for me and my family. Aside from the culture, the food and the great photo opportunities, Paris also pushed me try something new, something out of my comfort zone. I’ve been baking cookies and desserts for years, but the macarons challenged me in ways I never expected. I was very proud of myself for setting this lofty goal and not getting discouraged despite many unsuccessful attempts.

With my new-found ability to duplicate these treats, it’s for certain that my memories of Paris will never dessert me. ●

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Rick Carson, editor • nsnaeditor@aol.com



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

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

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

- Parties, Crime Watch). Contact John Johnson at jtj1sp@gmail.com.
- Follow Historic Old Northeast Forever at www.historicoldnortheast-forever.org. HONF works "to preserve and protect our special neighborhood" (HONF is not affiliated with HONNA).



HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

This is the 21st year for the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association's annual Candlelight Tour of Homes. It is a traditional holiday event during which gracious residents in our beautiful neighborhood open their homes to visitors on Sunday, December 9, from 3-8pm.

On this magical holiday tour, visitors can stroll the 100-year-old hex-block sidewalks, listen for bell ringers and holiday music, and enjoy new home renovations and festive decorations, plus pick up great decorating ideas. Bring friends and family. It's a great holiday gift to share with others!

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the tour. They can be purchased online or at one of these local stores (or at Westminster Palms on the day of the tour):
 Marion's: 1301 4th Street N
 Rally: 2131 4th Street N
 Sunken Gardens: 1825 4th Street N
 J.CON Salon & Spa: 5811 4th Street N
 Online: www.honna.org

On the day of the event, tour-goers must register at Westminster Palms (939 Beach Drive NE). They will



receive a wristband and tour booklet detailing the homes. Walk, take the car, or hop onto the free bright-red trolley to go from house to house. The proceeds benefit neighborhood improvement projects, with a portion going to the Sunken Gardens Forever Foundation.



SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

The September quarterly meeting took place at Westminster Church on September 17, and featured a presentation on housing development in St. Pete and affordability initiatives that are being considered by the city. Leading the discussion were Rob Gerdes (Neighborhood Affairs Administrator) and Derek Kilborn (Urban Planning & Historic Preservation Manager).

The subject generated a lively conversation about new zoning categories, land use, parking, population densities, rehabbing foreclosed properties, accessory dwelling units, federal and state funding sources, and working with existing typologies that have made St. Pete a unique city.

The report from our Neighborhood Police Officer indicated that criminal activity for August was considered normal for the period with only a few residential burglaries, mostly of unlocked garages and sheds.

Residents with security cameras on their properties are encouraged to register them with the Police Department's Eagle Eye program to facilitate monitoring of criminal activity in their area (<http://police.stpete.org/cache/Eagle-eye2.html>).

HONNA's final quarterly meeting of the year will take place on Monday, November 12 (6:45pm social; 7-8:30pm meeting) at Westminster Church at which HONNA Board elections for the coming year will be held. Featured guests City Council members Gina Driscoll and Darden Rice, who represent the Old Northeast neighborhood, will address city-wide issues and respond to your questions.

PRESERVATION UPDATE: 18TH AVENUE NE MINI-HISTORIC DISTRICT

In another late night meeting in August, residents of the mini-district (700 block of 18th Avenue NE) appeared before City Council to appeal the decision of the Community Planning and Preservation Commission (CPPC) to approve the new construction proposed for the block by developer Richard McGinniss.

Owners in the district as well as in HONNA argued that the mass and scale of the proposed structure was not compatible with the existing houses on the street.

In a 4-3 decision, Council rejected the appeal (a super majority is needed to uphold an appeal.) Following the Council's decision, neighbors adjacent to the project filed suit with the Circuit Court; targeting the city's acceptance of the substantially similar application without the prescribed 18-month waiting period.

~ Robin Reed, Chair, Historic Preservation & Planning Committee

SEECLICKFIX REMINDER

When you see buckled sidewalks, street lights out, trees being cut down, or any other activity or situation that you are concerned about, you can download the SeeClickFix app and report the issue to the City's Codes Department at www.seeclickfix.com/st-petersburg. (Another option is to call the Mayor's Action Line at 893-7111.) They will follow up and keep a record of all reports and respond when more information is needed, the issue is resolved, or the case closed. It



is a useful tool for all of us to use to help maintain the beauty, safety, and character of our neighborhood. A word of warning: Recently, in addition to reporting the issues, there have been comments containing misinformation about City actions as well as references to HONNA's assumed responsibility for development projects, tree removal, and other issues. If you have a concern about a project that goes beyond reporting, please contact the Association at www.honna.org to speak with someone about it. In most cases, a Board member will be familiar with the broader issues associated with your concern.

TRAFFIC & PARKING UPDATE: RPP EXPANSION REPORT WAS PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Following a vote by affected residents in favor of expanding the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) zone to 10th Ave N/NE, the City's Transportation Department has prepared a report that had its first reading before City Council on November 1, with the second reading scheduled for November 15. If the Council approves the RPP expansion, the City is on track to install signs, notify residents, and begin the parking permit cycle around January 1, 2019.

Kent Ulrich, Chair, Traffic and Parking Committee

CITY PRESENTS PROPOSED DESIGN FOR 1ST STREET N RAISED CROSSWALKS

In response to petitions from residents, the City has created a proposed design for the raised crosswalks on 1st Street N at 23rd Avenue and 28th Avenue N. The raised crosswalks will be built from asphalt and have been designed to meet ADA standards. They will be brick-imprinted and brick-colored. The HONNA Board approved the design at its October meeting, and the City is proceeding with the design of these crosswalks along with a raised hump on 1st Street N between 26th and 27th Avenues.



HONNA FIELD DAY

The third time truly was a charm. On Sunday, October 7 – after two rainouts – the Inaugural HONNA Field Day finally had its moment in the sun. Neighborhood families came out to Elva Rouse Park to show their competitive spirit in classic events like potato sack racing, three-legged races, pantyhose bowling, and water-balloon toss. The warm day brought out the best as the top five families ran a relay gauntlet of old-fashioned feats of athleticism.



While parents strategized on how to take home the Field Day trophy, the kids cooled off with snow cones. Volunteers may have had as much fun as the competitors, watching kids pelt their dads with cheese puffs and compete to see who could stuff the most marshmallows in their mouths.

Volunteer Emma Kornatowski, age 16, signaled her approval.



First place to the Conroys: Paige, Stacy, Jack, Will and Shea

“I really liked the variety of events and how adults and kids could have a fun time. The orchestrators of the event made the volunteers feel so welcomed. And who doesn’t like making their own snow cone?” Paige Conroy, age 7 and member of the winning team, added, “My favorite event was running the three-legged race with my mom. I can’t wait to do it again next year!”

HONNA Field Day was the brainchild of Joe Emerson. Special thanks are owed to his wife Marci as well as Whitney and Ben DeLozier, who organized this event three times before the weather cooperated. Sipping a cold beverage at the end of the day, Joe was already thinking of the next Field Day when, as he declared, “I think we’ll stick with October next year.”

~ Jonathan Kile

GOBBLE GOBBLE

North Shore Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is hosting the North Shore Elementary Coffee Pot Turkey Trot on the morning of Thursday, November 22. This all-ages 5K timed run/walk is open to the community, and aims to be a family-friendly event in celebration of our neighborhood school and in support of our healthy-school initiative. The selected route highlights some of the wonderful neighborhoods that make up part of the school zone, including Northeast Park, Snell Isle, and the Old Northeast. Register at www.runsignup.com/coffeepotturkeytrot.



This is not a HONNA-sponsored event though one the Board believes might interest Old Northeast residents.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY PARTY



Take time out of the hectic holidays to relax with friends at the annual HONNA holiday gathering at the Old Northeast Tavern on Monday, December 17 from 7-9:30pm.

The cost is \$10 per person for pizza, salad, and dessert (cash bar). Bring an unwrapped toy or book which we’ll donate to a local children’s charity.

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

In an effort to honor Old Northeast homeowners for preserving or updating their home or property – and investing the extra dollar to keep the character and history of their homes intact – HONNA has been recognizing them with the Neighborhood Star Award. Every month yard signs will be placed on properties to indicate an award. Here are the Stars for October: 940 3rd Street N (Alan Bath & Candace Stanlake) and 135 16th Avenue NE (Courtney & Adam Ellis).

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



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



OCTOBER: 940 3rd Street N “Before”



OCTOBER: 940 3rd Street N “After”



OCTOBER: 135 16th Avenue NE “Before”



OCTOBER: 135 16th Avenue NE “After”

On the Calendar

Check www.honna.org and watch social media for details on these and other upcoming events

- **Monday, November 12:** Quarterly Neighborhood Association meeting, Westminster Church; 6:45pm social, 7pm meeting and election of new Board
- **Friday, November 16:** Porch Party
- **Thursday, November 22:** North Shore Elementary Coffee Pot Turkey Trot
- **Sunday, December 9:** Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes; 3-8pm
- **Monday, December 17:** Annual HONNA Holiday Party, Old Northeast Tavern; 7-9:30pm

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Takes a Leap Forward

Janan Talafer

With this issue, the NEJ launches a new column that looks at the innovation, creativity, and talent that is changing St. Petersburg's culture and future.

The doll-like mannequin in the incubator was surprisingly life-like—warm to the touch with a small chest that expanded and contracted with every breath. Mannequins like this one, programmed to mimic actual human responses, are a core feature at the new Research and Education Building at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. The seven-story, 225,000-square-foot building represents a major milestone in the hospital's vision of becoming a premier academic pediatric hospital for the region and the state.



At the grand opening of the building in late September, Paul Rothman, MD, CEO of Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins Medicine, noted that "today we are writing a new chapter in Johns Hopkins Medicine history. This is a place for innovation and collaboration that will change the future of medicine."

The hospital's board of directors, as well as city and state leaders, hope the building – a \$95 million investment – will be an economic engine for the community. It's definitely another building block for the emerging St. Petersburg Innovation District which also includes the University of South Florida

St. Petersburg, the USF College of Marine Science, the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, and multiple marine-related institutions.

CENTER FOR MEDICAL SIMULATION

The new Research and Education Building showcases medical innovation on multiple levels. The Center for Medical Simulation, directed by Jen Arnold, MD, is the perfect example. It's a teaching facility that allows medical professionals to hone their skills and practice complex procedures on innovative high-tech simulation tools. It's much more than a computer-simulated experience. The lifelike mannequins offer a realistic experience that mirror real-life situations.

Johns Hopkins All Children's already had a simulation lab directed by Dr. Arnold, but the new one is significantly larger and more sophisticated. In addition to a dozen high-tech mannequins, there are 15 rooms set up to resemble a typical patient room, an operating room, intensive care unit, even an ambulance and a bedroom at home. An onsite shop repairs infant, pediatric and adult mannequins and keeps other equipment in top shape.

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Another highlight of the new building is an expanded 40,000-square-foot research center divided into five institutes focused on heart disease, cancer and blood disorders, neonatal medicine, neurosciences, and fundamental biomedical research.

Over the last year, the hospital's fundamental biomedical research program has ramped up significantly with the recruitment of six new scientists, including Timothy Osborne, PhD, who heads the team. The majority of the scientists, including Dr. Osborne, have relocated to Tampa Bay from Orlando's Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute. "We are all excited about coming here from Orlando and other parts of the country," says Dr. Osborne. "We



The Peabody

have had strong support and buy-in from Dr. Ellen and the hospital leadership right from the start."

The team's research activities target "the basic mechanisms that give rise to childhood diseases and how to prevent them," says Dr. Osborne. "We intend to meld basic and translational research, and hope to collaborate with Moffitt and USF to create a strong research corridor for this region."

An additional component of the research program is a pediatric biorepository which can store up to three million 'biospecimen' samples of blood, urine, and



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tissue to be used in future research. According to Johns Hopkins All Children's, it is one of the only accredited pediatric biorepositories in the United States for collecting and storing specimens for research.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Graduate medical education at Johns Hopkins All Children's has also transitioned to the new Research and Education Building. The program includes a pediatric residency for physicians training to be pediatricians, and post-residency fellowships for doctors who want advanced specialized education. In addition, medical students come to the hospital for short-term observation and training.

The inaugural class of pediatric residents came in July 2014. Since then, the program's reputation has grown considerably. "We have about 1,000 applicants a year for the 12 available spots," says Akshata Marballi Hopkins, the interim pediatric residency program director. There are currently 36 residents at various levels of their training based at the hospital.

What's different about Johns Hopkins All Children's residency program, says Dr. Hopkins, is the "focus on mentoring and coaching rather than the traditional model of relying on residents for service to run the hospital." Residents also provide outreach care through an adolescent health program at several local high schools.

THE PEABODY

The first floor of the building houses the 4,000-square-foot Peabody Restaurant, named after the George Peabody Library at Johns Hopkins main campus in Baltimore. It's a "sister" restaurant of Tampa's popular Oxford Exchange, known for its outstanding black-and-white tile floor. The hospital's version has floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and wood paneling. It will serve breakfast, brunch, lunch, and early dinner with a full-service dining room and full-service bar. It's definitely not your typical hospital café.

According to Sylvia Ameen – Johns Hopkins All Children's vice president, marketing communications and culture – about 300 clinicians, educators, researchers, and support staff are now working in the new Research and Education Building, with an additional 100 jobs expected to be added over time. The new building "presents a strong economic development benefit for St. Petersburg," says Ameen. "We'll have the opportunity to recruit the best and brightest in the medical field to our community." ♦

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3 DAUGHTERS' WINTER WONDERLAND *continued from page 1*

She says that every year Mike, 3 Daughters head brewer Ty Weaver, and logistics manager Brad Rice and his wife hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail. Bruce made the figurines to recognize their accomplishment.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ON TAP

Setting the display up is "a family thing," and Bruce says that all of his grandkids help out.

His wife Pat is in charge of organizing the Christmas Village people – all 442 of them. After dusting each one off, she arranges them in the village. If children are in the brewery while she's working, she lets them place a piece wherever they

Initially, the Hartings only received Department 56 pieces annually, as Christmas presents. But as people learned about the display, they started donating items as well. "We maybe only add five pieces per year at this point," Bruce explains. Bruce says the display makes people reminisce, especially the first time they see it. "It just brings back good memories." On top of the memories, he adds, "it's just fun."

When the season is over, the Christmas Village is stored at the brewery, and from January to November it is kept carefully wrapped in plastic among the kegs and cans in the back of brewery. When the display is taken down in January, pieces that need to be fixed are added to a list and marked with a piece of blue tape.



want. One year, a little girl wanted to put a figure on top of the motor that controls the tiny parachutists. That is exactly where the figure went and stayed.

The tradition of the display has family ties, too. The collection began in 1986. That year, Bruce's mother gave the family their first Department 56 piece. Every year since then, the collection has grown. At first, it was placed around the Harting family's Christmas tree, then when it got too big, it went on display in the garage. When Bruce's son, Mike, opened 3 Daughters with Ty Weaver five years ago, the Christmas Village came to the brewery.

Over the summer, they fix the broken items, ensure the lights work, and check all 88 mechanized pieces. On top of this routine maintenance, every year three tables are gutted, redesigned, and rebuilt.

Creating and maintaining the Christmas Village is Bruce's way of bringing a bit of the Christmas spirit to St. Petersburg. "In Florida, it's kind of hard to generate that interest," Bruce explained. Adding that there is no snow or cold weather, he says "it's hard to get wrapped into Christmas." The Christmas Village is a fun way to fix that. ♦

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AROUND THE BLOCK

FESTIVE HOLIDAY EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

Florida Botanical Gardens:

More than a million twinkling, colorful LED lights will turn the Florida Botanical Gardens into a fantasy winter wonderland during the annual Holiday Lights in the Gardens. This is the 18th year for the event, which takes place Friday, November 23 through Sunday, December 30. New this year is the recently created Wetlands Walkway. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. The gardens are located at 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo.



Florida Orchestra Guild's Holiday Tour of Homes:

Snell Isle and Coffee Pot Blvd NE homes will be decorated for the holidays as part of the Florida Orchestra Guild's 7th annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 1 from 10am-4pm. A variety of decorations from around the world will be on display, with one home featuring floral displays created by master artists from the Ichiyo School of Ikebana, Florida Chapter, coordinated by Ichiyo School master Jeanne Houlton.



Music will be a part of the day, as young musicians who have been finalists in Florida Orchestra youth competitions perform. In addition, there will be a holiday gift boutique with all proceeds benefitting the Florida Orchestra.

The event kicks off on Friday evening, November 30, with a cocktail reception catered by Parkshore Grill and entertainment provided by pianist, composer, and arranger Don Vincent. Advance tickets for the reception are \$90 and include a ticket for the Saturday tour. Send a check to the Florida Orchestra Guild, c/o C.E. Miller, 1440 52nd Avenue N, St. Petersburg FL 33703. Advance tickets for the tour-only are \$25, or purchase tickets for \$30 on the day of the event at 200 Brightwaters Blvd. NE.



Sunken Gardens' Jingle Mingle

The 3rd Annual Sunken Gardens' Jingle Mingle takes place Thursday, December 6 from 6-8:30pm at the Gardens with twinkle lights, holiday music by the St. Pete High Pitchforks, soft jazz renditions of holiday favorites by Henry Ashwood, and complimentary wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased through the Sunken Gardens Forever Facebook page. All proceeds will help fund the new Sunken Gardens' children's educational garden. Last year, the Sunken Gardens Forever Foundation raised over \$50,000 to 'restock the flock' of iconic flamingos at the garden.

Old Northeast Candlelight Tour of Homes

The popular Historic Old Northeast Candlelight Tour of Homes takes place on Sunday, December 9 from 3-8pm. Eight distinctive Old Northeast homes will be decorated and open for viewing this year. Proceeds of the event benefit projects like the acorn street lighting, tree canopy planting, and preservation of the Old Northeast monument signs, with a percentage going to a local charity. Purchase tickets online at www.honna.org.

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AROUND THE BLOCK

CANTERBURY SCHOOL OF FLORIDA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1968, Canterbury School of Florida was born. Its legacy is the product of passionate families of the St. Petersburg community over the past half-century. To commence a yearlong celebration, the Canterbury community came together on September 14 to rediscover its history and pay homage to its humble beginnings.

The party began on the Snell Isle Hough Campus for PK3-through-Grade-4 students. Head of School Mac Hall welcomed special guests Mayor Rick Kriseman; Deputy Mayor and Canterbury parent Kanika Tomalin; City Councilmember and Canterbury parent Brandi Gabbard; and Chamber of Commerce CEO and president Chris Steinocher. Students and teachers on the Knowlton Campus (Grades 5-12) watched a live streaming of events in the school's Dollinger theater.

Highlights of the event include Mayor Kriseman presenting an official proclamation stating that September 14, 2018 was Canterbury School of Florida Day in the city of St. Petersburg. Parents' Association president Jenna Worden-

Brooks presented commemorative bricks for beloved faculty members who taught at Canterbury's lower school for more than 10 years before retirement.

The Parents' Association also presented a \$5,050 check to the school to support professional development for Canterbury's current teachers. Lower School Principal Claudine Cieutat announced that the highest honorary award on the Hough campus, the Principal's Award, will be renamed the 'Jan Murray Principal's Award' in honor of retired principal Jan Murray who was present for the festivities. Canterbury alumni took turns helping unearth a time capsule that had been sealed 25 years ago. Unfortunately, the sealed container wasn't completely water-tight, but a few items survived due to enduring technology, like the laminating machine.

A second round of festivities took place at the Knowlton campus, where the Parents' Association presented commemorative bricks for retired teachers from the upper school. Guests also enjoyed presentations by student showcasing some of Canterbury's unique academic programs in Marine Studies, Technology, the Arts, and International Studies. ~ Amber Lavender



Canterbury School

ANIMALS RULE

God Bless the Animals



Julie Branaman

Gay Wasik-Zegel

Judging from his forlorn expression on Sunday mornings, Henry, our little mixed-breed Chihuahua dog isn't excited about church. It means we leave him behind while he sadly watches out the window for our return.

Animals are mentioned throughout the Bible, but rarely appear in worship services. Then at the end of September, it happened. Animals of all shapes and sizes were invited to church!

At St. Petersburg's First Presbyterian Church on Beach Drive, the first annual Blessing of the Animals was held on Saturday, September 29th. Led by Reverend Dr. Dawn Conti, the service was attended by a variety of dogs, two goats, and a pet squirrel. Three people brought their pet's cremains, and one little boy

presented his stuffed turtle for a blessing. A gentle breeze blew as the humans joined in a responsive reading, followed by the praise band's rendition of *All God's Critters*. Even the animals grew still as Reverend Conti offered a prayer, then invited the animals to the podium where she lovingly and patiently blessed each one. Meanwhile, community partners offered information and treats at their booths. The service culminated with the charge: "Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all of God's creatures. Amen."

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, is celebrated on October 4th. Many other services take place throughout St. Pete and worldwide.

Following First Presbyterian's ceremony, Henry took a long nap. He had a great day at church! ●

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Jeannie Carlson



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St. Pete Bicycle Mail Carriers “Painted” into History



Livia Zien

Well-known St. Pete artist Robert Holmes recently immortalized St. Pete’s iconic Open Air Post Office and its unique fleet of bicycle mail carriers with a beautiful watercolor painting. How that painting came about is an interesting story.

Besides a love for painting and an interest in architecture, Robert is an avid stamp collector – a philatelist. Some months back he met with Chris Garcia, customer service manager at the Open Air Post Office, to see about organizing a tour of the postal history museum for the St. Petersburg Stamp Club. During their conversation, Robert learned about the bicycle mail carriers and asked Chris about whether he might create a painting of the group. Chris agreed and the time and date were set for a photo shoot –

always the first step in the process Robert undertakes when creating a painting.

Robert says the painting took a total of 40 hours over a period of two weeks, a little more time than most of his other work. He debated how much background and foreground detail to incorporate. “I added a manhole that says, ‘St. Petersburg, Florida – 1917,’” he says with a chuckle. That was artistic license, as the manhole does not actually exist in that location, but Robert thought that it would add to the painting.

Once the project was complete, Robert and his wife Margot took 42 photos of it and gave a framed copy to each of the mail carriers during a special presentation at the post office. Then, a week later, he presented the original painting to Postmaster Jacquelyn Villemaire. Here’s what she had to say about it: “Mr.

Holmes has such amazing detail in the painting that it will forever imprint these folks at that time of their career. Truly a realistic, detailed, heartfelt painting that will be part of this historic office. The painting is being shared at other offices at this time, but will be placed in the lobby at the Open Air Post Office on an art easel for all customers to view and enjoy.”

Thanks to Robert’s generous donation of his time and talent, he has etched into history one of the city’s unique traditions. By the way, Robert is also the person who suggested the story on the mail carriers in the September/October issue of the Northeast Journal. Now he’s turning his attention to his next big project – once again celebrating HONNA’s Candlelight Tour of Homes with watercolors of select homes in the Historic Old Northeast. ●



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE NORTHEAST JOURNAL TEAM

The *Northeast Journal* team takes great pride in showcasing what makes our slice of St. Pete unique, vibrant, endearing, and a little bit edgy. It is with passion and delight that we share with you what makes our neighborhood a source of diverse talent, neighborly focus, and steadfast camaraderie, along with a slice of artistic excellence.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you our readers the very best the season has to offer. May your days be filled with the good cheer that comes from loving where we live, enjoying this beautiful weather, and celebrating the holidays in our own special way. May your evenings be filled with just enough events and get-togethers to make the season magical. We send you the warmest wishes for a healthy new year filled with friends, family, and 365 days of great memories.

We'd also like to thank our writers for the time and talent they dedicate to writing about good people, good places, and good things happening, which is what makes the *Northeast Journal* the quality publication our readers have come to expect and love. If you'd like to join our team of writers, please contact our managing editor Janan Talafer at janantalafer@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving. Happy Hanukkah. Merry Christmas. Happy Kwanzaa. Happy New Year. And Happy Birthday if we don't see you before then! ♦



Jen MacMillen (*publisher*) began her publishing business in San Francisco in 1988. Today, she publishes four print journals featuring communities in Vermont, New Hampshire, and here in St. Pete. Jen has two daughters, Dewey and Maisie, and enjoys being together any free time the three have. And she loves growing her good-news-only publishing business.



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



Susan Williams (*advertising director*) has helmed the ad sales of the *Northeast Journal* since 2005. A native-New-Yorker-turned-Florida-girl, Susan loves living in downtown St. Pete near her dear parents and friends. [727-259-3149, northeastjournal@gmail.com]



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



Jamie Mayo (*distribution/subscription mgr*) is from Strongsville, OH, came to Florida in 1979, and owns Wife – for hire. She partnered with the *Journal* in 2004, having many roles, currently distribution, door-to-door, and subscriptions. She has 6 amazing children including adopted and in-law. "My other love is Jesus, who gratefully gets me through each day."



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HISTORY *continued from page 1*

to the Tiger Bay Club in Miami. Others at the organizational meeting included banker Howard Nix, attorney Bill Davenport, former chair of the Chamber of Commerce Tom McLean, and Stewart. Mike Richardson of the *Evening Independent* soon joined in the effort.

The Union Trust meeting was followed up with a breakfast meeting on September 20th at which the club's formation was publicly announced. At the breakfast, McLean – who served as Suncoast Tiger Bay's first president – stated the fledgling club might start off with a “meow” instead of a roar. He added, “We want it to be truly wide-open and broad-based. The real value of a Tiger Bay Club is that a meeting becomes such a media event. We want to generate news. Questions are only allowed from club members, but these people should be able to ask some very pointed questions.” The club's famed ‘Fang and Claw Award’ soon evolved and was presented to that member asking the most penetrating question at each event.

The first Tiger Bay program meeting was held October 13, 1978 at the Hilton Hotel. Guest speaker was Wayne Mixon, running mate of Bob Graham in his race for governor. McLean's prophecy that the fledgling club might start off with a “meow” bore out. The *Times* covered this first meeting and noted the club was getting off to a “low-key” start with mostly “mushy, easy questions” from an audience of about 150. Club organizers downplayed that critique, but conceded the need for “a little more in-depth questions.” Over the years the club struggled with the sharpness of questions, or lack thereof. In 1999, Howard Troxler berated the club with a column entitled “Skip the Catnap, and Get Back on the Prowl.” After stating he had appeared twice before the club without the tigers “ever laying a claw on me,” he criticized the club for giving city councilwoman Kathleen Ford a free ride. This time the club was more candid. Tom Dunn agreed, “We were pathetic... There's a difference between being rude and asking insightful and incisive questions.”

A remarkable array of guests has addressed the club in the past 40 years. Names just come tumbling out: George H.W. Bush, Bob Graham, Lawton Chiles, Jeb Bush, Pat Robertson, John Glenn, Bob Martinez, Connie Mack, Bill Nelson, Paula Hawkins, Marion Hammer, Charlie Crist, Jack Eckerd, C. W. Bill Young, Paul Tash, Bill Foster, Rick Kriseman, Gabe Cazares, Scott Rose, J.W. Cate, Alan Harvey, Buddy McKay, David Fischer, Martin Dyckman, Doug Cook, Leon Russel, Harry Singletary, Calvin Harris, “Curt” Curtsinger, Doug “Tim” Jamerson, Linda Lerner, David Jolly, Darryl Paulson, Alex Sink, Rob Lorei, Jack Levine, Marco Rubio, and hundreds more. A pantheon of two generations... All have walked through the tiger's jaws and many have walked away marked by the tiger's fangs and claws.

Over its long history, the hundreds of Tiger Bay programs ranged from serious to comic, and the best were a mixture of both. Tom Dunn recalls a program featuring Betty Castor who at the time was running for state education commis-

sioner. The program was to be a debate between Castor and her opponent. But the opponent got sick and sent his mother to debate Castor instead. Club rules were that surrogates, including mothers, could not substitute for the invited speaker. Nevertheless, the club reserved an empty chair for the missing candidate, and Tom briefly addressed the empty chair when it was time for the missing candidate to present, or rebut.

Another charter member is Jim Gillespie. Jim served as president in 1987. At that time he recalls the club having approximately 800 members. Two programs stand out in his memory. One dealt with the ownership of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Times owner Nelson Poynter arranged for the Poynter Institute to control the future ownership and independence of the *Times* after his death. Texas billionaire Robert Muse Bass tried to challenge this and thereby open up the *Times* for acquisition. Jim recalls approximately 600 people attended that event. Pointed questions were asked reflecting public anger at the attempt to acquire a newspaper in which many in the city took great pride.

The second event of note was an appearance by then Vice President George H.W. Bush. Bush spoke at the Hilton Hotel before an even larger crowd than those attending the *Times* program.

Another Tiger Bay pioneer is timekeeper Lou Kubler. While Tiger Bay champions

pointed questions, it also champions short answers. Lou had the unpopular job of raising warning signs as speakers came to the end of their allotted time for answering questions. Many speakers willingly complied, but he remembers one in particular who was outrageous. After politely raising his hand to stop and getting no response, Lou then raised the ‘stop’ sign. Nevertheless the speaker continued to drone on. Some in the audience even began to get up to leave. Finally, Lou stood up, sign and all, only to be told by club leadership to allow the speaker to go on. A disappointment for Lou to be sure. Lou also later served a term as club president, strictly enforcing speaker time limits.

In 1984, comedian and perennial presidential candidate Pat Paulsen addressed the club. He stated that while he had announced three times that he would like to be president, he did not think he would ever launch a serious campaign. “I certainly wouldn't want the job, but I don't think things would break down if I was elected because I wouldn't do anything.” On a more serious note, as Rep. C. W. Bill Young was about to address the club in 1986, it was reported that Lt. Col. Oliver North and National Security Advisor John Poindexter had arranged transfer of profits from secret arms sales to Iran to the Contra insurgent force in Nicaragua. Young defended the sale of arms to Iran “as a way to better relations

with that country – whose vast oil reserves and strategic position on the Persian Gulf make it a desirable ally.” While he did not object to supporting the Contras, he did state the secret transfer was illegal.

One of the most contentious issues in the city in the 1980s was whether to build a stadium for major league baseball. Construction of a multi-purpose sports facility was approved by the city council in July 1986. At that time, there was no



Former Mayor Mitch Landrieu (center) with St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman (left) and Clearwater Mayor George Cretokos (right). Mayor Landrieu of New Orleans was the featured speaker at the recent Tiger Bay 40th anniversary celebration. Landrieu is the author of *In The Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History*, which recounts his removal of Confederate statues in New Orleans in 2017.




Former Tiger Bay president Jim Gillespie (right)

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THE REST OF THE STORY . . .

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commitment from major league baseball to provide a team to play in the new stadium, and that did not happen until five years after the stadium was built. Governor Bob Graham stated that the council vote demonstrated “a lot of optimism for the future of St. Petersburg.” In an appearance before Tiger Bay, he also got a laugh when he said he was bringing a baseball franchise to Tampa Bay, but there would be three drawbacks: the franchise would be awarded to the Tampa Bay Bucs; Lieutenant Governor John McKay would be the team’s manager; and Graham would be the relief pitcher. Twelve years later, Graham again addressed the club tongue-in-cheek about baseball, taking credit for the (at the time) winning record of the Tampa Bay Rays by doing a work day at the stadium helping to construct the bullpens, especially “using poor quality dirt in the visitor’s bullpen.”

In 1996, the city was rocked by the shooting of 18-year-old TyRon Mark Lewis, which ignited two nights of racially charged violence and civil disturbance. Tiger Bay squarely addressed both the shooting and other root causes of the disturbance. One of the speakers invited to the club was police chief Darrel Stephens. He said on that occasion, “Somehow, we have to learn greater tolerance so we can at least engage in healthy conversation without all the labels... We can all do better at seeking out opportunities to enhance understanding and sensitivity.” Stephens was shortly followed in another program featuring Mayor David Fischer. Fischer, speaking about a \$20 million federal-aid package provided the city to address root causes of poverty, stated “There are people who I believe can’t be helped, but at the same time there are a lot of people caught in a web that I believe can be helped. If you want to say nobody can be helped, you’re fooling yourself [and] winding up with a dangerous

community.” The club also invited Omali Yeshitela to reflect on the Lewis shooting and its aftermath. Yeshitela was chairman of the National People’s Democratic Uhuru Movement. Yeshitela said the city must commit to economic development for the African-American neighborhoods – not handouts, but capital – so the neighborhoods could rebuild themselves. He was asked what he would do if he were mayor? “First of all,” he said, “I’d call me.”

In addition to its monthly fare of programs, Tiger Bay also has an annual meeting where awards are presented and members kick back and have fun. On some occasions, entertainers such as Mark Russell and the Capitol Steps have appeared. In the mid-’90s, the club decided to provide its own entertainment and organized the Tampa Bay Players to compete with the Capitol Steps. Former club president Audrey Greenberg remembers the Players fondly. “It was one of the best parts of the club. We produced, directed, rehearsed, and acted. It really bonded many of the club’s members.”

What is the state of the Suncoast Tiger Bay Club on its 40th birthday? Jim Gillespie says, “I am pleased Tiger Bay has endured.” He states that the club has matured and adapted to changes in local culture over the last 40 years. “The club is now more diverse with a good mix of younger members, more women, and younger leadership.” He sees “time management” as a particular challenge. “Many people do not have the luxury of being able to take a couple of hours off to attend a luncheon meeting.” Tom Dunn observes, “Tiger Bay has contributed to a better, more ethical government because people are held accountable in a public forum such as this.” Suncoast Tiger Bay’s current president, Kelly Kirschner, adds that “one of the many 21st-century trials we face is to step out of the digital realm and reaffirm our commitment to building a stronger civic commons by being physically present and interacting with our fellow citizens in organizations such as Tiger Bay.”

Turning 40 is a big birthday in our culture, not just for people but also organizations. It’s a time for Tiger Bay to celebrate, and also reflect, recharge, and plan for the no-less-exciting years ahead. ●

Will Michaels is a longtime member of Tiger Bay and may be reached at wmichaels2222@gmail.com. An earlier version of this article appeared in the St Pete Catalyst (StPeteCatalyst.com).

WHAT SOME OF THE AREA’S FINEST ARE SAYING ABOUT THE SUNCOAST TIGER BAY CLUB

Suncoast Tiger Bay is important to us in St. Pete. I’ve always enjoyed my time in the Tiger Den and believe the civil discourse there serves an important purpose in the highly polarized, partisan environment we live in. It’s also sort of ‘old school’, a break from the debates raging on social media or with anonymous commentators.

~ Mayor Rick Krisemen

Over the past four decades, St. Petersburg’s Tiger Bay Club has been an invaluable venue for dialogue across ideological and partisan lines. The unscripted questions from club members are often refreshingly spontaneous and thought-provoking.

~Ray Arsenaault

Many of St. Petersburg’s great debates have played out at Tiger Bay. It’s not always fun for the ‘fangee,’ but is an important forum.

~ Rick Baker

As someone who was privileged to be at the table when the idea of forming a Suncoast Tiger Bay Club was discussed, I can say, 40 years later, this institution has grown to be recognized for its value and importance in providing opportunities to engage in timely issues with key leaders and decision makers, providing a valuable service to our community.

~ Bob Stewart

“Tiger Bay famously deserves its reputation as a “leave your guns at home but bring your facts” gathering. Speaking from experiences, the audience is pure delight. Democracy survives in St. Petersburg!”

~ Gary R. Mormino

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

History writer Will Michaels is now researching an article for an upcoming edition of the *Northeast Journal* on

**Mickey Mantle
in St. Petersburg**

Mantle played spring training in St. Petersburg for the New York Yankees from about 1952 to 1961

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stories, recollections, photos, or other information to share, please contact Will at wmichaels2222@gmail.com or 727-420-9195

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PEOPLE AND PETS

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Jessica Y with Autumn Walker-Lobster
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Katie Sebring and Gretchen Cooper with Tahulah
Michigan Avenue NE



Leyla Tremaine with Toby
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GOODNESS InDEED

Having Lunch and Making a Difference: Pinellas County Students Benefit from Having 'Lunch Pals'

Colleen Casey

On Diner's first Lunch Pal was a student at Mount Vernon Elementary school. The school described him as 'challenging' – Diner wasn't surprised. The 7-year-old lived in a group home at the Salvation Army with his 4-year-old brother. He'd go home, and "his mother was never there," Diner said. No wonder he was a little challenging.

At first, Diner's Lunch Pal would sit across the table from him. After a few weeks, the two were sitting side by side, and reading in the school's library during the lunch hour.

Lunch Pals started five years ago, after Raymond James partnered with Mount Vernon Elementary on an initiative that paired business executives with principals. Diner, the director of Strategic Community Partnerships at Raymond James, asked the principal what was needed. The response was simple: adults who can be a positive presence in student's lives.

"They had a lot of children who had challenges in their lives," Diner explained, adding that there are children in Pinellas County Schools who are homeless, living in group homes or motels, or have a single parent. They just need "someone to talk to on a regular basis," a responsible role model.

Mount Vernon and Raymond James continued talking and created a format. Program participants meet for 30 minutes during the student's lunch break. Meetings occur at the school in a safe, supervised environment. This might be in the lunchroom, outside at a picnic table, or in the library. There is no commitment beyond this weekly 30-minute lunch, and no cost to the schools, businesses, or individuals.

But before Diner would start asking others to join, he needed to sign up himself. He wasn't going to ask someone to do something he wouldn't do.

ANYONE CAN BE A LUNCH PAL

What started as a partnership between Raymond James and Mount Vernon has grown to a program that has nearly 60 local businesses and community organizations participating, and reached 1,000 students last year. Lunch Pals has a goal of reaching 1,500 this year.

More than 100,000 students are enrolled in Pinellas County Schools, and a little over half are categorized as 'economically disadvantaged,' meaning they are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Or, as Diner puts it, there is a "good chance a lot more kids could use a friend."

Lunch Pals pairs organizations and individuals with nearby schools, making it easier for participants to get to the school for the student's lunch break. Before meeting with students, volunteers attend a workshop. It lasts for approximately an hour and goes over rules and regulations, and offers ideas and resources.

Teachers identify students for the program, and their parents consent to participation. Parents and students also have a chance to sign up for a Lunch Pal. Diner says the Mount Vernon principal told him "every student" wants a Lunch Pal.



Lunch Pal mentors with their students



A close bond develops between mentors and students



"THANKS FOR BEING A COOKIE"

At 7:30am on a Tuesday morning at Raymond James, Celia Dubey thanked a room full of current and future Lunch Pals for "being a cookie." Dubey was at Raymond James along with Nikki Gaskin-Capehart to speak about leadership at the fourth Lunch Pals Summit.

Dubey's message about 'being a cookie' was a reference to her godmother, Cookie, who served as a positive force in her life.

Gaskin-Capehart struck a similar theme, stating that a simple conversation can have a major impact on someone, and you never know.

The leadership-development speakers series is part of the Lunch Pals program and open to the public. Although other themes were discussed, the simple act of being there for someone and having a conversation resonated with the core requirement for being a Lunch Pal: showing up.

Students in the program can be in any grade, but Lunch Pals focuses on elementary schools and encourages Lunch Pal relationships to last several years, not just one school year. This fosters consistency for the students, which may seem like a small detail, but goes a long way for children in the program.

In comments from an online survey, one participant noted: "My Lunch Pal told me that he knew

he could count on me to always show up."

Another said, "Seeing how excited my Lunch Pal gets when I arrive brings a smile to my face and lets me know even though it may seem like such a small contribution, I am making a difference in her life."

MAKING FRIENDS, MAKING AN IMPACT

From community development to improved employee engagement, there are a variety of facts and statistics that point to results and support the program's goals. However, the strongest case for being involved comes from the infectious enthusiasm of participants.

After the summit, Raymond James employee Michael Geller discussed his involvement in Lunch Pals. Geller heard about Lunch Pals on his first day of work at Raymond James. He was new to the area and eager to be involved, but had to wait for school to return from summer break.

The only requirement for Lunch Pals is a weekly lunch with a student, but through the program, Geller found an outlet for taking on other volunteer opportunities with the schools.

Regularly 'tackled' by the excited students when he visits the schools, Geller described the positive impact Lunch Pals has:

"For the kids – it's having a friend who is there for you," he explained. "For the Pal? It's a feeling that just makes your day, your week, that much better. I'm not quite sure who gains the most here, but at the end of the day, it's a win-win."

And at the end of the day, who doesn't want another friend? For more information, or to become a Lunch Pal, visit www.LunchPals.org and click "Become a Lunch Pal." ●

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A LIFE-SAVING GIFT *cont'd from page 1*
other will increase in size to compensate.”

SPREADING THE WORD

Mac’s two sons and his daughter, as well as his wife had tried to donate, but were not considered compatible donors. “We had exhausted all options,” says Mac. The family decided to take their cause public and began posting a flyer with the headline “Are You My Type?” in coffee shops, restaurants, and office buildings and putting bumper stickers on cars. The flyer included a photo of Mac surrounded by his children and grandchildren, and one of he and Bonnie, who met in high school and have been married 50 years.

“Within the first week the calls started coming in,” says Mac. “With all the bad things happening in the world, it was just amazing to me that people would do this for a stranger.”

It’s not necessary to be a relative to donate a kidney to a recipient; anyone can do it as long as they qualify. But according to Marjorie, most people who donate want their kidney to go to a specific person, either a family member or someone they’ve heard about. “With social media,

it’s opened up a whole new avenue of awareness about the need for live kidney donation,” she says.

To find out if he would be considered a good candidate, Mark underwent a series of tests over a three-month period to make sure he was healthy. The first step was to determine if Mark’s blood type was compatible with Mac’s. Then there were urine tests, a CT Scan and X-rays, as well as visits with doctors, social workers, and a psychiatrist. “It’s a very thorough process,” says Marjorie. “We need to make sure it is very safe for both the patient and the donor.”

MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME

During this time, Mark kept in touch with Mac’s wife Bonnie, but hadn’t yet met or talked with Mac. “I wanted to wait until I was fully approved,” says Mark. “When I had my surgery date scheduled, I called Bonnie and said that if Mac would like to talk with me, I’d love to meet him. And he said yes, definitely.”



Mac Wachtler's family



Mark Rankin's family



Mac and Mark day of surgery

The two finally met and hit it off instantly. They started talking and texting daily and met for breakfast weekly in Clearwater. Sometimes Mark would drive Mac to his dialysis appointments. “I’ve met a lot of people, and Mark is a very easy guy to get friendly with,” says Mac. Mark felt the same about Mac: “We have a special connection.”

On the other hand, it wasn’t surprising to hear that Mark’s wife Lauren and his dad, Steve, were supportive, but apprehensive. “They were concerned for me,” says Mark, who admits that he rarely worries. His philosophy? Everything eventually works out. A major

milestone took place when Mac invited Mark, Lauren, and Mark’s three sons – 11-year-old twins and a 9 ½ year old – for dinner. “It was good for my family to meet Mac and better understand the situation,” says Mark. “Mac’s children and grandchildren were all there and we had a really great time.”

In August, the transplant took place, with Mark successfully donating one of his kidneys to Mac in a minimally invasive procedure called laparoscopic donor nephrectomy. For Mark it was a quick recovery, and he was back to work within two weeks. Now he’s on a mission to spread the word. “For a long time, I felt self conscious or like I was bragging, so I didn’t tell a lot of people,” says Mark. “But now I want to get the word out. I’ve gotten so much out of this. If it was humanly possible, I would do it again. If one person reads this article and decides to donate I’ll be happy.” What does Mac have to say? “You have to be a special person to do that for a stranger, and Mark is a special person. I’m 68 and he’s in his early 40s, so I feel like I have another son now.”

To learn more about the Tampa General Living Kidney Donor Program, go to www.tgh.org/services/transplant/kidney-transplant/living-kidney-donor-program or call the voice mail line at 813-844-5669 and leave your name and contact information. The entire procedure, including testing, is free for the donor.

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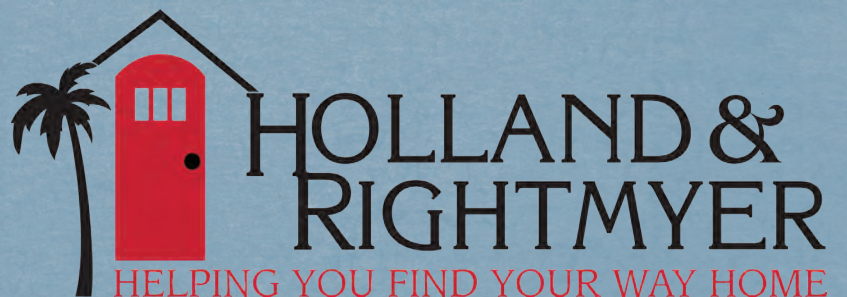
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