



NORTHEAST JOURNAL

NOV/DEC 2019
St. Petersburg, FL
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

Saving Tampa Bay Waterways One License Plate at a Time

Jeff Donnelly

Sometimes it's easy to tell why – out of the endless options available – the driver in front of you chose that particular specialty license plate for his or her car. They may support one of the branches of the armed forces, have graduated from that college or university, or are pledging loyalty to an athletics franchise. What isn't always clear is where that extra fee you pay for the license tag goes.

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Canterbury students Dallas Whiteman, Izzy Galati, Nia Tomalin, and Ty Wurtz restoring Tampa Bay.

Rotary Club Celebrating a Century of 'Service Above Self'

Will Michaels

The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg will be celebrating its Centennial on January 25, 2020. The club was founded by none other than William L. Straub, revered editor of the *St. Petersburg Times* and father of our downtown waterfront parks, among many other accomplishments. The St. Petersburg Club was 'installed' by the Tampa Rotary Club in a humorous ceremony at the Detroit Hotel on January 2, 1920. In this ceremony, the new St. Petersburg Rotarians played the part of infants being both 'weaned and baptized.' Bill Straub was garbed as the 'mother' and behind him came the new would-be Rotarians, each dressed in the flowing robes of an infant, carrying a rattle, and, according to the *Times*, rendering the air with 'balloon-made' cries.

The purpose of Rotary is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace worldwide. Rotary was founded in Chicago in 1905. The name came from the initial practice of rotating meetings among members' places of business. While this practice did not last long and regular meeting places were soon designated, the name stuck. The St. Petersburg Rotary Club was among the first 200 clubs. Today there are more than 35,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary's mantra is Service Above Self.

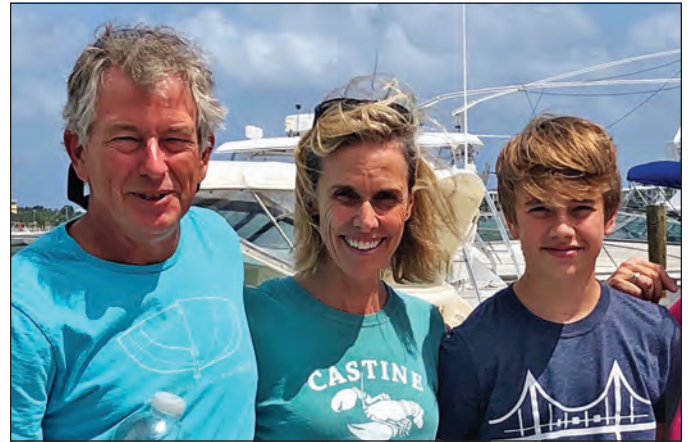
The first regular meeting of the St. Petersburg Rotary Club appears to have been held on February 20, 1920, at the

Continued on page 22

**THE ROTARY CLUB
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Student and Family Raise Supplies for the Bahamas



Shorecrest student Wilson Engleby (right) with parents, Will and Laura

Janan Talafer

In September, as Hurricane Dorian stalled over the Bahamas with devastating winds of 185 mph and a storm surge of up to 20 feet, Will and Laura Engleby and their son Wilson – a ninth grader at Shorecrest Preparatory School – were brainstorming ways to help.

The island's destruction was more than a news report for the Engleby family; it was personal. For more than 15 years, Will had made the trip back and forth from Florida to the Bahamas when he captained the research vessel *Stenella* for the Wild Dolphin Project, a nonprofit scientific research organization studying free-range spotted dolphins off the coast of the Bahamas.

Laura is the marine mammal branch chief in the Southeast regional office of the National Marine Fisheries Service located on Bayboro Harbor in downtown. But, at one time she did dolphin research on Grand Bahama Island and helped with the Wild Dolphin Project, too.

The couple had many friends and business colleagues in the Bahamas, and they wanted to help. So did their son Wilson. He set up a GoFundMe campaign, hoping to raise \$1,000. Through tax deductible contributions and the GoFundMe site, he's raised over \$8,500, and hopes to raise even more.

On his site, Wilson writes: I really want to help the Bahamas and I'm working with my parents to raise funds. My dad is in daily communication with people in the township of West End Grand Bahama so we can find out what supplies are most needed."

While Wilson's work on the project helped him earn community service hours at Shorecrest, he says his motivation was really to help the Bahamian people who were suffering. "I've always liked and wanted to go to the Bahamas, maybe

Continued on page 30

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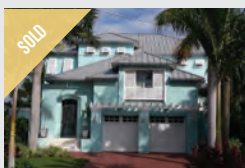
Completely renovated and expertly-designed home with high level of detail on every finish throughout.



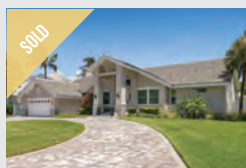
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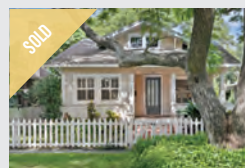
RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES



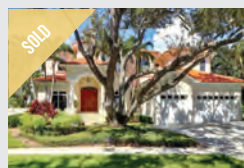
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EDITOR'S NOTE

IT'S THE SEASON OF FESTIVALS AND FUN

Most cities host back-to-back festivals in the summer. In St. Petersburg, it's the exact opposite. When November and December finally arrive and the weather cools a few degrees, it's possible to come out of the safety of air conditioning and brave the heat to participate in great outdoor art festivals, home tours, craft shows, holiday events, and much more.

We just completed the SHINE Mural Festival and now on the weekend of November 23-24, another equally impressive outdoor art festival takes place with the 22nd annual Florida CraftArt Festival, a prestigious juried show of beautiful contemporary fine craft art. Although it's not classified as a museum, Florida CraftArt, located downtown in the Central Arts District, should be on the list of venues to take out-of-the-town visitors. It's a beautiful gallery with both permanent and rotating exhibits. It's also free.



Then comes Thanksgiving, and a whirlwind of holiday-related activities. Saturday, November 30 launches the official St. Pete holiday season with the annual illuminated Santa Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony in North Straub Park. I've always thought the city does an outstanding job decorating the downtown waterfront park during the holidays with thousands of holiday lights and animated displays. I especially appreciate the charm of the eclectic larger-than life-size greeting cards along Bayshore Drive NE near the Vinoy. It's a testament to the small town charm that is still present in our fast-growing, fast-developing city.

One of my favorite activities is driving around our Northeast communities and seeing the holiday decorations on so many homes. A special thank you to the homeowners in the Old Northeast who open their homes for the HONNA Candlelight Tour of Homes on December 8, and to the homeowners on Snell Isle who participate in the annual Florida Orchestra Guild holiday tour of homes to benefit the Florida Orchestra. Recognition also goes to the board of directors of the Snell Isle Property Owner's Association for organizing the beautiful decorations and lighting of the park on Snell Isle Blvd. NE, and coordinating the visit with Santa in the Gazebo. These are special traditions that create beautiful memories for everyone involved.

During this holiday season, all of us at the *Northeast Journal* wish you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year.

Janan Talafer
Editor, *Northeast Journal*

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ADVERTISING
Susan Seta-Williams
(727) 259-3149
northeastjournal@gmail.com

EDITORIAL
Janan Talafer, *Managing Editor*
editor@northeastjournal.org
Julie L. Johnston, *Copy Editing*

ART DIRECTION/PRODUCTION
Julie L. Johnston, *Ad Design/Layout*
JohnstonGraphicDesigner@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION
Jamie Mayo, *Distribution/Subscriptions*
distribution@northeastjournal.org

WRITERS AND CONTRIBUTORS
Scott Brown
Jeannie Carlson
Rick Carson
Jeff Donnelly
Laura Duvekot
Will Michaels
Samantha Bond Richman
Janan Talafer

NEJ FACEBOOK REPORTER
Lynn Lotkowitz

PHOTOGRAPHY
Diana Krause Geegan
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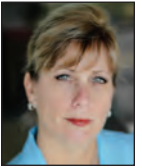
MEET THE WRITERS

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.

Scott Brown worked in the US Senate and for FNMA, Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers. He dodged the crash to start his own firm which he sold at the end of 2018 so he and Ellen, his wife of 37 years, could retire to Old Northeast. Scott and Ellen have three amazing children.



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



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



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



Jeff Donnelly is a writer, educator, and co-founder of The Cardboard Sea theatre company based in Asheville, NC. His plays have been widely produced and he has taught multiple styles of writing to kids, teens, and adults. He is the chair of the Social Sciences department and director of service-learning and character education at a local independent school.



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



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



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



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]



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GOODNESS INDEED

NeverAlone Tackles the Difficult Subject of Suicide



Rev. Dr. Temple Hayes and Michel Pascal
Janan Talafer

The statistics are alarming. Suicide is the second most common cause of death in young people ages 10 to 34, and the fourth leading cause for people ages 35 to 54. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council calls suicide “a major public health issue, and a tragic, but preventable event with devastating impact on families and communities.”

It’s not a particularly positive topic for a community magazine focused on good people and good organizations doing good deeds. But it’s an important one that affects people of all economic backgrounds, nationalities, religions, and ages. Fortunately, a local organization is stepping up to do something to raise awareness.

First Unity Spiritual Campus in St. Petersburg is a partner in the launch of NeverAlone, a global movement for suicide prevention and mental health. It was created by Deepak Chopra (a world leader in meditation, spirituality and integrative medicine), Michel Pascal (a French writer, musician, author, and spiritual documentary film director), in collaboration with Gabriella Wright (an international actress and humanitarian) and Poonacha Machaiah (a social entrepreneur).

I met with Michel and Rev. Dr. Temple Hayes, the spiritual leader at First Unity, to learn more about NeverAlone and what they hope to accomplish. Earlier this year they began moving forward on a new documentary film directed by Michel. The film, called

The Offering, stars Deepak Chopra, with Gabriella as the mother of a teenage son who has died by suicide, and Temple, the spiritual leader to whom Gabriella turns for support. The film has a planned release date of February 2020.

Michel said the idea for the film first came to him about 10 years ago after hearing a story about a child of seven or eight who had died by suicide. “I was shocked and thought there is no way this should be happening,” he said. “I thought a film could help create awareness. Gabriella, my partner in filmmaking, said yes, she would definitely support the idea.”

Initially Michel and Gabriella had hoped to find a producer for the film, but eventually began taking steps to produce it themselves. It took a while for everything to pull together – all the right pieces had to be in place first. Temple and Michel met several years ago when Temple interviewed Michel on her radio show, *The International Spirit*, which is broadcast weekly through Unity Online Radio. Then, more recently, Michel and Gabrielle had the opportunity talk with Deepak. “He told us he not only wanted to support the film, but to create a worldwide movement for suicide prevention and mental wellness,” said Michel.

On a GoFundMe site for NeverAlone, Deepak writes: “The NeverAlone movement aims to build communities to encourage and empower young adults to reach out to a friend who may be struggling with their mental health. The goal of the movement is to reduce the stigma, to allow people to know they are not alone, and to give them the tools to work through it.”

For both Michel and Temple, suicide prevention is not only about making sure people never feel alone, it’s also about calming the mind. That means helping people learn how to reduce their stress in today’s often crazy, fast-paced world. Of course, that can be easier said than done.

“We are way out of balance as a culture and as a society,” said Temple. “We need to be talking about what can be done to lessen stress and how we can change the direction of the world. It all comes back to calming the mind and then modeling that behavior with our families and our communities.”



Michel Pascal, Gabriella Wright, and Rev. Dr. Temple Hayes



Michel Pascal, Rev. Dr. Temple Hayes, and Rev. Kimberley Harrell



Michel Pascal singing with the First Unity choir

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Temple adds: “As simple as it may sound, there must be a willingness and a commitment to practice each day to change the habits of anger, rage, and stress. We did not get here overnight, and we must be willing to walk through the time that it will take to eliminate suicide, especially among youth.”

Michel agrees. “When we learn how to train the mind to be calm, we reduce the influence of cortisol and other stress hormones. We boost the immune system and we feel better.”

Michel knows what he’s talking about. Before coming to the US, he studied meditation for 15 years under the guidance of a teacher at Kopan Monastery in Nepal, where he was a Tibetan Buddhist monk. But, he’s not suggesting that you need to step out of the world to practice meditation. In fact, he’s suggests the exact opposite.

Michel points to the work that he’s been doing with parolees at the Amity Foundation, a therapeutic community based in Los Angeles, CA. Michel teaches people released from prison on parole how to meditate – not by going to a quiet place, but in the midst of the most stressful moments of their day-to-day lives.

“I teach people to calm the mind no matter where they are and what they are facing – relationship problems, financial difficulty, conflicts with people at work or family members, in the middle of rush hour traffic,” said Michel. His results with parolees at the Amity Foundation are impressive. “More than 80 percent never go back to jail,” says Michel. “They find a job, successfully reenter society and rebuild their lives.”

Earlier this year, Michel took those same meditation techniques to the general public through the creation of Mind Dive – a free app which offers guided meditations, music, yoga instruction, prayer, and short documentary films on topics ranging from the science of spirituality to suicide prevention. Temple, Deepak, and other spiritual leaders are featured on the app, along with Michel.

In December, Michel is planning two NeverAlone benefit concerts at New York City’s Carnegie Hall. First Unity will be participating. Rev. Dr. Temple is one of the keynote speakers. Rev. Kimberley Harrell – also a First Unity minister – will be speaking as well, and the First Unity Celebration Choir and First Unity musician Raihan Alam will join an impressive musical line-up which includes Myron McKinley of Earth, Wind & Fire, and Paul Pesco of Hall and Oates.

Michel hopes NeverAlone can play a major role in moving the world in the right direction. “We are healed by what we turn toward rather than what we turn away from,” said Temple. “We owe our society the attention and intention this will require, for it is certainly not within our innate selves to take our own lives.” ●



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ARTIST PROFILE

Craft Furniture-Maker and 'Phuddles' Photographer

Jeannie Carlson

Beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder when furniture-maker and photographer David Calvin is the beholder. David conceptualizes a prospective piece through a lens that captures a lifetime fusion of functionality, craft art, and the indefinable talent that runs through his veins.

"I look at a draft and see it in 3-D," said David during a recent interview in his furniture studio on 16th Avenue North. David and his wife, Amy, were both born in St. Louis, Missouri, where they lived most of their adult lives. They have been residents of the Old Northeast for the past five years.

From the time David was a child, he had a penchant for tinkering with things like his mom's typewriter, his dad's lawnmower, and his own cassette player. He would take things apart out of curiosity to see how they worked, but didn't yet have the wherewithal to put them back together.

In high school, David excelled at woodworking and metal shop. He admits he was not as adept at other academics. "Geometry was the only math class I was ever good in," said David who now integrates exquisite geometric shapes into many of his furniture designs.

His interest in design and construction led him to complete a degree in industrial technology where he put those skills to work for the next 20 years in the aquatics industry. While David was designing and building water-parks and large indoor swimming pools in the Midwest, he began to dabble in woodworking and making furniture in the late 1990s.

"I went to Maine for an intensive three-month program of furniture-making in 2013," said David. He wanted to hone his furniture-making skills and study from the best in the field, and the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship was the place to go. Later, he went to the Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Indiana for further training. He assimilated and perfected state-of-the-art techniques to bend wood, create fine veneers, and add colors and patterns comparable to the best furniture master craftsmen in the world.



Above: David and Amy Calvin with some of his artistic creations. A custom bunk bed designed and built by David Calvin. North Shore toward Coffee Pot. Below: Demens Landing, Downtown St. Pete, and the Truth statue at Vinoy Park

What started as a hobby making furniture for himself, his family and friends, eventually expanded into a full-time pursuit. Now David creates furniture for private clients, interior designers, and for display at the occasional craft art shop.

How David comes up with unique designs for his furniture is a wonder. "I like it when clients have vision," said David who gleans inspiration from his clients' input. In this way, the process is collaboration.

Sometimes a client brings in the remnants of a broken family heirloom piece of furniture and David transforms it into a new keepsake. Repurposing a defunct heirloom restores it to a useful and prominent piece for new generations to enjoy. It is not unlike the notion of putting heirloom jewelry gemstones into a vibrant new setting.

The exquisite intricacies of the furniture David constructs exhibit attributes not available in a typical furniture showroom. He built a crisscrossed queen-and-twin bunk-bed set which includes stairs and built-in cabinetry to rival the efficiency and space-saving features of IKEA or a 'tiny house' but with the grace and decorum fit for royalty. Another example of the uniqueness of David's furniture art includes a desk made out of cigar box lids. He also built a one-piece cabinet with dual window seats which incorporate a cat's litter box on each end. The entrances to the litter boxes are camouflaged in cat silhouette cutouts that would appeal to feline curiosity. Game tables, vanities, and trays are all in his bivouac.

The influences of the City of St. Petersburg and the Old Northeast in particular are clearly part of David's inspiration. The hexagonal bricks that make up the distinctive sidewalks of the Old Northeast have made their way into David's consciousness, and, as a result appear in some of the tables and trays he makes. Like the sidewalks, his furniture creations take the observer on a journey of discovery that leads to distinction and comfort.

David and his wife, Amy, had vacationed at many Florida beaches over the years, and decided to relocate permanently in 2014. As they were exploring potential locations in Florida, they knew St. Petersburg was what they were looking for as



soon as they got off the interstate downtown. "We fell in love with St. Petersburg at first sight," said Amy. Then, when they discovered the Old Northeast, they knew they had found "the ONE."

David, Amy, their two indoor cats, and one outdoor cat live in a historic home in the neighborhood. Legend has it that Bruce Watters, the famous local jeweler, built their home. "Tax records say the home was built in 1925, but just about everybody's home here says that. A fire destroyed a lot of original records back then," said David.

Amy is a successful business woman in her own right. She is the principal at Brightways Coaching and Consulting, helping executives navigate change. Her clientele include Jet Blue, Bayer, Hasbro, churches, schools (including Shorecrest Preparatory School), and regional banks. A member of the International Coach Federation, and the Public Relations Society of America among other professional organizations, Amy was recruited to be a speaker at a major conference in San Diego this past October.

When it comes to David's art, Amy is an enthusiastic cheerleader. The first time David crawled around on all fours outside to get just the right angle in front of a puddle to take a reflective photograph, another spouse might have raised an eyebrow – not Amy. She encouraged him and the results are stunning.

Amy and David came up with the term "phuddles" to describe the photographs David takes. "It combines 'puddle' and 'photography,'" said Amy, smiling. David takes 'phuddle' photos all around town, especially those which embody the spirit of the neighborhood. Some of the subjects have been the Palladium, Demens Landing Park, North Shore Drive, Downtown St. Petersburg, Truth Statue at Vinoy Park, and Sunken Gardens. The precise lighting and time of day are critical to the breathtaking reflections David captures from the puddles he photographs.

Recently, David made his first professional sale of one of his 'phuddle' photos. Undoubtedly, there will be others. He intends to make them into calendars and coffee table books, all featuring St. Petersburg and the Old Northeast. A Facebook page is also in the works.

Sometimes art can be functional and sometimes furniture can be artistic, but rarely do the twains consistently meet. A rare exception to this is David's work. Whether it is custom furniture or a phuddle' photo of palm trees, there is a blend of sophistication and sentiment that is an enduring expression of authenticity. For Amy and David Calvin, business is pleasure and pleasure is business. ●

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TAMPA BAY WATERWAYS *Continued from page 1*

the state. Yet it has managed to put \$1.8 million toward mini-grants for school, neighborhood associations and other organizations that are working to restore and protect Tampa Bay waterways.

Established in 1991 and administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program is charged with restoring and protecting one of 28 “estuaries of national significance.” To help raise funds for cleanup efforts, Florida Senator Jim Sebesta (R-Pinellas) and Florida Representative Bob Henriquez (D-Tampa) co-sponsored a bill to create the Tarpon Tag, which went on sale in 2000 after being signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush.

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program’s governing board voted to commit proceeds from the Tarpon Tag toward

Canterbury School of Florida has been the recipient of multiple awards over the years, with its Marine Studies Program using mini-grants for such projects as expanding a marsh grass nursery, and creating an

“grateful for the Bay Mini-Grant we received from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to do good things in Coffeepot Bayou.” He adds, “Funds support water quality monitoring, deploying, and cleanouts for a



Friends of Crescent Lake celebrate their success.



Canterbury students learn about environmental stewardship.

community-based restoration and education projects through its Tampa Bay Mini-Grants program. The idea was to make protecting the Tampa Bay Estuary a community effort, empowering citizens to take ownership of caring for their little slice of the bay.

LOCAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Since then, several local organizations in the greater Northeast communities of St. Pete have been active participants in this grant program, which offers funding of up to \$5,000 for projects that not only meet the Tampa Bay Estuary Program’s mission, but also educate the community on how to sustain the health and wellbeing of the bay.



outdoor classroom where teachers from several area schools can promote Tampa Bay awareness and education. “Part of our mission statement is making environmental stewards for the world,” says Jenna LoDico, director of marine studies at Canterbury, “and Tampa Bay Estuary Program makes that happen for us.”

Coffeepot Bayou Watershed Alliance (CBWA) used its mini-grant this year to support the purchase of water quality sampling equipment and to host cleanup events which included invasive-plant removal and planting of native plants. In April 2019, nearly 80 volunteers from nearby schools and neighborhoods put in close to 175 hours removing plastic bottles, styrofoam, and 100 pounds of cigarette butts from the bayou. As part of these events, Canterbury and North Shore Elementary School students conducted ecological surveys and learned ways to reduce debris entering Coffeepot Bayou.

Walt Jaap, a former scientist, Snell Isle resident, and coordinator of the CBWA, says that his group is



Canterbury teacher Jenna LoDico (right) instructs Chloe Nuss about water quality testing.

WATERGOAT trash containment net, cleanup events, removing invasive species, and planting native plants.”

Lucy Trimarco of the Friends of Crescent Lake (FOCL) asserts that funding from the mini-grant program has helped volunteers transform Crescent Lake “from a barren aquatic desert to a rich ecosystem.” When the group began 12 years ago, FOCL made an agreement with the city that its volunteers – which include motivated residents, scientists, planners, and educators – would plant and manage wetland marshes in the lake if the city committed to not spraying the marsh plants with herbicides.

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Coffeepot Bayou Watershed Alliance members work on the WATERGOAT project.



Friends of Crescent Lake have helped restore the lake.

Four grants later, a wetland ecosystem has evolved, which, according to Trimarco is “capable of assimilating nutrients, improving water quality, and creating a bird and wildlife habitat.” She goes on to add that, “Last winter there were 100 American White Pelicans at Crescent Lake, feasting on the small fish and little critters that the marshes provide.”

The results of these efforts are clear. “Water quality in Tampa Bay has improved steadily in recent decades due to pollution-reduction projects and restoration of bay habitats,” says Ron Hosler, program administrator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. He adds that Tampa Bay has “shown steady and consistent seagrass growth in recent decades,” nearly doubling the acreage mapped in the early 1980s after declining for years.

“No one project makes a big difference,” says Thomas F. Ries, president of the Ecosphere Restoration Institute in a short film documenting TBEP’s work, “but collectively, we have major improvement underway in Tampa Bay.”

KEEP THE SUCCESS GOING: HOW YOU CAN HELP

Maintaining the forward momentum requires more than cleanup and goes beyond even restoration. Coaching the public on how to keep Tampa Bay’s waterways from falling into disrepair again is vital. This is why TBEP – in addition to conducting research and implementing strategies for bay restoration – also develops programs to educate citizens about ways to prevent water pollution and protect Tampa Bay. Education initiatives include making free downloadable publi-

cations available on its website, as well as providing expert guidance to mini-grant recipients. Walt Jaap, of the CBWA points out, “The funds, expertise, and advice we have received from the TBEP are a huge reason for our success.”

The Bay Grants program supports community-based restoration and education projects focusing on the Tampa Bay Estuary. Empowering citizens through programs such as this helps foster an environmental ethic and promote community stewardship of the bay. The Tampa Bay Estuary Program is, as Hosler puts it, “an effective partnership of federal, state, and local governments, private industry, and our community.”

Across TBEP’s region, which encompasses Pinellas, Pasco, Manatee, and Hillsborough counties, as many as 19 community organizations were awarded \$77,000 in grants during the 2018-2019 funding cycle. But, that number is down significantly from the program’s peak year in 2010, when \$122,000 worth of grants were distributed. The reason is directly related to sales of the Tarpon Tag. Fewer Tarpon Tags have been sold in recent years, which means fewer community projects can be funded. “Dressing a vehicle up with the Tarpon Tag is a simple, inexpensive step that can contribute to healthier waterways,” says Hosler. Projects and organizations benefiting from the program vary greatly, but the common goal remains consistent: protect and restore Tampa Bay.

Learn more about the Tampa Bay Estuary Program Specialty License Plate and Bay Mini-Grant program at www.tbep.org. ●

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

I've lived in St. Petersburg a little over seven years. I grew up in Sarasota, then attended college at Western Carolina University and the University of Florida before settling into my career in the Gainesville area. I moved to St. Pete after retiring.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

Some friends treated us to dinner one evening at the Paradise Grille on Pass-A-Grille Beach. The outside dining experience was fantastic as we watched the sunset with the sand in our shoes and the wind in our hair. A tireless sailboarder kept us entertained and the food was great!

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

The Fiji Islands and New Zealand

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

C.S. Lewis... His writing style, intellect, and ideas on faith have always intrigued me.

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

At this time in my life, I would say yoga tops the list as my favorite recreational activity.

A great movie you'd recommend?

I was just talking about *The Jerk* with Steve Martin and Bernadette Peters and how much it made me laugh. We have plans to watch it again soon!

If you could have one super power, which would you choose?

I'd love it if all of the household chores could be accomplished with the twitch of my nose!

What are you watching/binge watching on Netflix?

Stranger Things

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Bongos on the Beach

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

I'd be a Black Lab so I could understand what our new puppy could possibly be thinking!

Tell us about a person who has inspired you.

As a very young child in Georgia, we had a neighbor who truly loved people. She was the most welcoming and loving person I have ever met. She was never too busy to spend time with me, even though she had four children of her own and a busy household. Her name was Mrs. Mallory and we stayed in touch for the rest of her life.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth

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

The James Museum, downtown waterfront, and the Saturday Morning Market

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

I was a school media specialist for many years. My co-worker and I transformed the media center into a place that we named Library Island. It was truly an oasis for students. We presented our ideas at the state convention one year and received incredible feedback from schools around Florida.



**Mary Jane
Park**

Snell Isle

photo by Rossie Newson

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

I moved to St. Petersburg in 1983 from Greensboro, NC. My hometown is Salisbury, NC.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

I love that we have a Carnegie library (Mirror Lake).

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Australia and Argentina

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

Journalist Nelly Bly, who traveled the world in 72 days and reported on abuses in a mental hospital.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

I love the Tampa Bay Rays, and I support St. Pete's museums, the Florida Orchestra, American Stage, freeFall Theatre, and other cultural entities. I'm an avid reader, and I enjoy cooking for family & friends.

A great movie you'd recommend?

Bull Durham

If you could have one super power, which would you choose?

Eliminating racism

What are you watching/binge watching on Netflix?

Stranger Things

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Too many to name...

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

Probably a German Shepherd. They make great detectives.

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

US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Current book you've read and would recommend?

The Gulf by Jack E. Davis.

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

The Museum of Fine Arts, the Dali Museum, the Warehouse Arts District, and the downtown waterfront.

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

I'm pleased to lead the committee to bring Icons in Transformation, an extensive art exhibition, to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg.

Something people might not know about you?

As a student journalist at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, I interviewed Muhammad Ali and Jane Fonda, and I went grocery shopping with Dick Gregory.

What do you do for a living?

I'm retired from the *Tampa Bay Times* and the Warehouse Arts District Association. As a journalist, I never had a boring day. The same was true as a leader helping to build the WADA.



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

I'm from Kauai and have called St. Pete home for 20+ years now.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

The boating access is amazing.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Himalayas and Machu Picchu

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

Eddie Aikau, because "Eddie would go." [That's a Hawaiian surfing phrase said of challenging surfing conditions, or a challenging wave, or challenges in general. It's used as an encouragement or as a general comment on difficulty or danger.]

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

Spearfishing

A great movie you'd recommend?

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy

If you could have one super power, which would you choose?

Flight

What are you watching/binge-watching on Netflix?

Bloodline

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Baytender's (lol)

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

Boxer

Tell us about a person who has inspired you.

Patrick Tillman, who left his NFL sports career to fight for our county after September 11th...

Current book you've read and would recommend?

'Pre' about the life of Steve Prefontaine

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

The St. Pete Pier if it's ever completed

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

My children

Something people might not know about you?

Old Yeller is a tear jerker

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

Love helping people buy and sell real estate. We live in an amazing place and I get to share that with people everyday.

*To be considered for our Meet Your Neighbor page,
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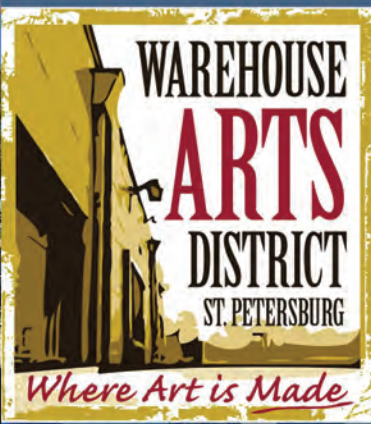
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ... 1911-2011

ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • rickcarson1@gmail.com

OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORLINESS



What greater an example of neighborliness in The Historic Old Northeast is there than the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes. Homeowners opening their homes to a thousand-plus guests, and scores of neighbors volunteering their time make it one of our most special occasions. Make sure to put in on your holiday calendar. We want to share our residents' thoughts about what it means to be neighborly in The Historic Old Northeast. Send your thoughts (200 words or so) to rickcarson1@gmail.com.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES: HONNA'S ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

Thanks to gracious homeowners and a devoted committee, HONNA's 22nd annual Candlelight Tour of Homes will take place on Sunday, December 8 from 3-8pm.

Visitors from near and far come each year to enjoy a late afternoon and early evening of holiday spirit in the

historic and captivating Old Northeast neighborhood, to explore a selection of beautiful homes ranging from traditional Craftsman bungalows to more modern architectural designs.

Strolling 100-year-old hex block sidewalks while listening for bell ringers and holiday music, visitors can enjoy new home renovations along with festive decorations – plus a great opportunity to pick up unique decorating ideas.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the tour. They can be purchased at these local stores: 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, or online at www.honna.org.

On the day of the event, visitors will register at Westminster Palms (939 Beach Drive NE) where they will receive a wristband and Tour booklet

detailing the homes and locations. Walk, bike, drive, or hop onto one of the three free bright-red trolleys to go from house to house.

Tour proceeds benefit neighborhood community improvement projects with a portion going to the Christmas Toy Shop. This local charity is in need of new toys, books, and batteries for kids ages 0-12 (no stuffed animals, please). We encourage attendees of the Tour to bring an unwrapped item, and we will collect them at registration.

Don't miss this magical holiday adventure. Bring friends and family – it's a great Christmas gift idea! As a bonus, take your group to dinner. Downtown St. Petersburg is packed with superb restaurants of all types. Enjoy the lights and decor of our vibrant city. The Candlelight Tour makes for a great holiday adventure.

~Ann Goldman



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

The final quarterly HONNA neighborhood meeting will be on Monday, November 18 at 7pm (with a social time beginning at 6:45pm) at Westminster Church (126 11th Avenue NE). In addition to the election of board members for the coming year, we will have a discussion of issues and concerns residents may wish to raise. One item surely will be the sale of the church property.

HONNA received notice from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay on October 17 that the church property has been listed for sale. For almost 100 years, the Westminster Presbyterian Church sanctuary hosted weekly congregations of churchgoers. The preschool was later added to educate hundreds of local children. As many of you know, the church and preschool were closed nearly four years ago. Since Westminster closed, HONNA has been able to use its Fellowship Hall and parking areas for programs and events, and has helped maintain the church and

grounds. HONNA has also been in regular communication with the Presbytery regarding future directions for the property. We will be sure to keep our neighbors informed as the church sale progresses.

The annual neighborhood holiday party is scheduled for the Old Northeast Tavern on Monday, December 16, from 7-9pm. Bring a new book or toy (unwrapped) for a child or teen. \$10/per person for a variety of tasty pizzas and salad.

At the September general neighborhood meeting, residents received a rundown on what the various HONNA committees do, assistance that is provided to homeowners (e.g., assistance with questions regarding codes and construction, traffic/parking issues) and specific items for which HONNA takes responsibility (such as roadway medians, maintenance of the Westminster Church grounds, acorn lighting on 1st Street, additional police security on Halloween). In addition, there are events like monthly Porch Parties, the annual neighborhood-wide yard sale, Easter Egg Hunt, Field Day, and the 4th of July Children's Parade. The report from the Police Department noted that criminal activity during the previous month had been less than normal, which means very low.



FIELD DAY A BLAST

Twenty teams composed of some 80 neighbors competed in the Second Annual Old Northeast Field Day on Sunday afternoon, October 6. The event, held in the Elva Rouse section of North Shore Park, featured more than 10 races and fun skill sets that summoned dexterity, precision, balance, speed and

“smarts.” A 10-minute rain shower at the outset didn't deter the kids and parents from enjoying the friendly competition, camaraderie, DJ, sno-cones, and bounce house. Thanks to all the volunteers and participants who made the afternoon such a cool experience.

~ Ben and Whitney Delozier and Joe and Marci Emerson, Event Organizers

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

- Friday, November 15 Porch Party; 7:30-10pm
- Monday, November 18 Quarterly Neighborhood meeting and election of HONNA Board; 6:45pm, social, 7pm meeting, Westminster Church
- Thursday, November 28 Third Annual Coffee Pot Turkey Trot benefiting North Shore Elementary School; 7:30am
(www.runsignup.com/coffeepotturkeytrot) [not a HONNA event]
- Sunday, December 8 Candlelight Tour of Homes, 3-8pm
- Monday, December 16 Neighborhood Holiday Party;
Old Northeast Tavern, 7-9pm
- Friday, January 17 Porch Party; 7:30-10pm



YOU HAVE A TREASURE TO SHARE

St. Petersburg has been designated a "Tree City USA," so it's no surprise that our neighborhoods are awash in greenery and shade, none more so than the Historic Old Northeast.

Each year, we are becoming more aware of how important trees are to us – more than just beauty, shade, lower temperature, and habitat for wildlife... as if that were not enough. New studies have shown that planting trees could



be a top contributor to a climate change solution.

Of all the things we do to be environmentally responsible, planting trees is a crucial tool, and – luckily for us – one of the easiest and cheapest, too. Scientists have said that planting billions of trees worldwide would go a long way toward reducing global warming by taking CO2 out of the atmosphere.

So – no surprise again – when we remove trees, we are producing a negative impact on our environment. And yet this is happening every day. Developers remove trees to make construction easier. Our state government is attempting to limit local tree protections. Some just don't want to rake leaves; others assure us that Laurel oaks are trash trees. This attitude must change.

As a neighborhood, a city, a community, we need to stop and think about the value of our tree canopy before we rush to call a tree company to remove a tree.

This past month a beautiful old Grand Oak Tree in our neighborhood was removed to make room for a swimming pool. A year ago, the City had met with the owner who was told that it was a Grand Tree and that removal would require a permit. In the end, there was no permit, only distraught neighbors and bad feelings all around. The City has taken note of this violation and will be considering punitive remedies provided for in our community's Tree Ordinance.

How Can We Stop This?

What can the City do? City staff needs to identify a person (and a phone number to call) who can be ready to quickly respond to situations like the one above. A person from one of the three tree companies on-site in the above situation, when asked, told an upset neighbor that there was no permit. But, when she began looking for City assistance, everyone who was called through the Mayor's Action Line was unavailable – from the City forester, to zoning, to permitting, to codes. The non-emergency police number brought an officer, but he said he had no authority to stop the work. By the time the City forester arrived, it was too late, the damage had been done and the tree was lost.

Unfortunately, enforcement often comes too late. But our City does care about our tree canopy, recognizes the importance of the Tree Ordinance, and is committed to finding ways to better enforce its provisions.

What can HONNA do? HONNA members have been participating with a group which advocates with the City for more trees, special tree programs, posted permits for tree removals, city tree surveys, higher fines for illegal tree removal, and other remedies.

HONNA has a tree-planting program which plants trees in the parkway every spring. An owner who agrees to water and care for a tree can request one, free of cost, from the Association. The Old Northeast is about 40 trees richer since the program began in 2016. And, by the way, our thanks to Carol and Burt Kline who coordinated HONNA's Tree Survey and have headed our tree program since its inception.

What YOU can do? You can request a tree through the HONNA Tree Program and agree to care for it. Email burtkline@gmail.com or carolkline1948@gmail.com with your request.

If you are planning a pool, investigate some of the very powerful pool cleaners that scoop up leaves and acorns like never before; they do work for pools located under or near a tree canopy. And if you are undertaking new construction, plan your structure as much as possible to protect the large shade trees on your lot. (Real estate experts agree that trees add value to your property.) The zoning department can often help with this.

Be mindful of your neighbors. Understand that they may appreciate the shade from 'your' tree. They may have learned to garden under that shady umbrella. It may be your tree, on your property, but it could be shading an area much larger than just your lot.

Get involved. If you are a part-time Northeaster or not yet a member of HONNA, join the Association. At \$35 per year, it's a bargain. Enjoy association-sponsored events, engage with the neighborhood, and get to know your neighbors. Participation will inevitably lead you to a better understanding of why our tree canopy matters. And if you have a big shade tree on your property, realize that you have a treasure to share; 'your' tree benefits our entire community.

~ Robin Reed, Chair
HONNA Preservation & Planning Committee



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/honna.org.

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 jj1sp@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). ●

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: 636 14th Avenue NE, Barbara and Jay Marshall (architectural design by John Barie Design); and November: 101 10th Avenue N, Peter Motzenbecker and Doly Barnard (Tim Rhode/Architect; Hern Construction).

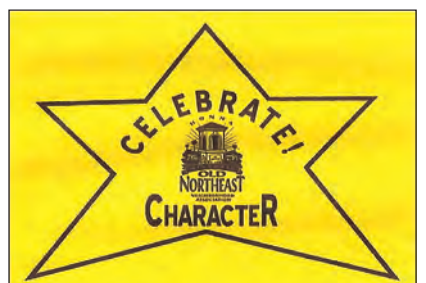
Watch for new Stars in the neighborhood monthly, and you'll be able to find them posted on www.honna.org in addition to HONNA's Facebook page. We invite you to be a part of this effort so please feel free to nominate a neighbor or a refurbished property in the Old Northeast. Have a home to honor? Send the information to Charleen McGrath at treasurer@honna.org.



OCTOBER: 636 14th Avenue NE "Before"



OCTOBER: 636 14th Avenue NE "After"



NOVEMBER: 101 10th Avenue N "Before"



NOVEMBER: 101 10th Avenue N "After"

Remember Honor Support: Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast



Janan Talafer

It's still early, before sunup, but there it is – an enormous, larger-than-life American flag, lit up in the dark with floodlights, and rising up over 4th Street North across the street from the historic St. Petersburg Coliseum. It's hard not feel awestruck by this amazing patriotic display. At the same time, there's a sadness remembering why the flag is flying so proudly this morning.

We're here to remember the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and to acknowledge the many brave men and women who sacrificed their lives and whose courageous actions will never be forgotten. We're also honoring our local first responders, law enforcement officers and firefighters, as well as active duty military and veterans.



Top left: Rough Riders give out teddy bears at the breakfast. Top right: Military honorees Colonel Cary Harbaugh, former USSOCOM Warrior Care Program and 2019 DoD Warrior Games Director; General Raymond Thomas III, former commander of USSOCOM at MacDill Air Force Base, and his wife Barbara; Gold Star father Craig Gross; and Lieutenant General Carl Mundy III, commander of the US Marine Forces Central Command. Left: Chamberlain High School ROTC students. Facing page: American flag suspended over 4th Street North.

Since 2012, Placido Bayou resident Jo Brower, executive director and co-founder of Remember Honor Support, has organized an annual Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast on the anniversary of 9/11. This year, a sold-out crowd at the Coliseum came to support the cause and hear guest speakers including General Raymond Thomas III, former Commander of US Special Operations Command at MacDill



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*Participated in sale.



Air Force Base; Lieutenant General Carl Mundy, commander of the US Marine Forces Central Command; and St. Pete Police Department Chief Anthony Holloway.

Proceeds from the breakfast and other year-round events sponsored by Remember Honor Support provide financial assistance to charitable organizations in the Tampa Bay area that directly benefit local first responders, veterans, wounded warriors, and their families. More than \$500,000 has been raised to date.

This year's 'spotlight' nonprofits are Wounded Warrior Abilities Ranch – founded in 2013 by US Marine Lance Corporal Mike Delancey, a Pinellas Park resident who was critically injured during combat in Iraq – and Heroes of the St. Pete Police and Firefighters, which provides assistance to law enforcement, firefighters, and their families during a crisis or tragedy.

As Jo wrote in the program for this year's Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast, "We honor the value of life, our country's resilience, and the strength of the American spirit. In remembering, we remain forewarned and forearmed; in honoring, we demonstrate respect for those who serve and protect us on the frontlines and the home front; and in supporting, we are resolute that those who sacrificed so much will be provided for."

For more information go to www.rememberhonorsupport.org. ◆



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In Celebration of St. Pete's Distinctive Architecture: Minimal Traditional

Laura Duvekot

St. Pete has many examples of outstanding grand architecture, from the beautiful Mediterranean Revival Open Air Post Office downtown to Bill Harvard's award-winning bandshell in Williams Park, which he designed in 1954.

Both landmark structures represent boom times for the city. The post office was built during the 1920s when the Florida land rush and real estate frenzy

were in full swing, and the bandshell is a product of the post-World War II era when the Sunshine City was expanding from the downtown core out to the suburbs, and new neighborhoods were being platted and streets paved.

But, too often we overlook the architectural styles during the time in between, from about 1935 – just after the depression, when conspicuous consumption was not an option for many builders and home buyers – and



119 26th Avenue North - 1940



118 26th Avenue North - 1938



228 27th Avenue North - 1940



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continuing up to about 1950 – before the onslaught of frenetic suburban development. These were lean years for both St. Petersburg and the rest of the country. In fact, during World War II, there was a moratorium on permits issued for private building construction.

Architectural historians have dubbed homes built during this time period Minimal Traditional, or ‘MinTra.’ These homes are truly a reflection of their times. They borrowed some of the design style from earlier eras, including Craftsman Bungalow and ‘Kit’ houses, mail orders homes that were popular in the first half of the 20th century. But, MinTra homes stripped these features down to the basics, driven by pure functionality and affordability.

The homes were small – usually under 1,000-square-foot – and they were largely built by local builder-developers rather than architect-designed.



303 9th Avenue N - 1937

Typically, they featured lower-pitched roofs, shallow overhangs, and combined living and dining rooms rather than formal parlors. In lieu of ‘breaking the bank’ on unnecessary ornamentation, the homes incorporated affordable materials such as inlaid stucco ‘shutters’ flanking windows and aluminum siding made to imitate the look of wood grain.

St. Pete has many examples of the simple, functional Minimal Traditional style in neighborhoods just north, south, and west of downtown. Unfortunately, their petite size and understated designs can make them vulnerable to redevelopment. In the eyes of this architectural historian, however, their understated tone and unapologetic functionality is their value. These home incorporated only the most essential elements of the home for family life, and serve as an interesting bridge between what is considered Pre-War and Post-War architectural styles. ◆

Sources: Arsenault, Raymond. St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream, 1888-1950. (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Co.). 1988. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf). 1984. Votolato, Gregory. American Design in the Twentieth Century. (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press). 1998.

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HISTORY: ROTARY CLUB *Continued from page 1*

Spa on the Approach to the Municipal Pier. Straub served as the club's first president. At that time, Straub was taking a hiatus from the *Times* to serve as city postmaster. Banker and city commissioner Alfred F. ("Ferd") Thomasson served as the club's first vice president, and L.A. Whitney served as secretary-treasurer. Whitney was the secretary of the Board of Trade who invested \$1,200 of his personal funds in 1914 to help underwrite and bring the World's First Airline to St. Petersburg.

Aside from these three officers, the club's charter members reads like a *Who's Who* of 1920s St. Pete. A few of the notable names include Lew Brown, editor of the *Evening Independent*; George S. Gandy, an investor and builder of the Gandy Bridge; Roy Hanna, a prominent Republican, conservationist, and city postmaster; Al Lang who brought Major League baseball spring training to the city and served as mayor; and Frank Fortune Pulver, owner of the Detroit Hotel and the city's flamboyant 1920s millionaire mayor.

The club promptly set about organizing educational meetings, supporting local charities, and having just plain fun. Weekly meetings were soon established at the First Baptist Church opposite Williams Park. One of the first programs was a fund-raising drive for Armenian relief. A weekly newsletter, the *Sunbeam*, was launched likely with the help of Bill Straub and the *St. Pete Times*. The club has faithfully kept an archive of these newsletters dating back to 1922. They provide a unique insight on life in St. Petersburg over the past 100 years. Space does not allow a recount of all the club's many decades of fellowship and service to the city, but a few examples from its earlier history follow.

The 1920s was a boom era for our city and this is reflected in the *Sunbeams*. Volume 1, Number 1 summarized the message of new President Charlie Carr who succeeded Bill Straub. Carr was also a principal at the *Times*, serving as manager. Quoting his predecessor, he embraced the slogan "Rotary is different" – meaning that Rotary was a service club as distinct from a social club – and also called upon the club to be "the vital force in the development of the Sunshine City." In that same edition of the *Sunbeam*, it was noted that \$1,653.80 had been given by club 'Rotes' (early acronym for Rotarians) for the benefit of county schools. This amounts to \$25,000 in today's currency. In the previous year, the club underwrote a baseball field for use of schools at Waterfront Park. The following year, the club boosted the city's economy by sponsoring the Rotary District convention attracting some 1,000 Rotes.

The 1930s Great Depression was tough for St. Pete, just as it was for the nation as a whole. This is reflected in the tone of the 1930s newsletters encouraging members not to be disappointed by poor economic conditions. As one newsletter began, "Smile! The world is blue enough without you feeling blue." But the Depression did not dampen club civic activity. A 1931 newsletter reported the sponsorship of bands in the school system. Among all the bands were some 200 harmonica players. The best players were selected for a special band made up of 46 students. They were given uniforms composed of white trousers, a coat of blue-trimmed gold, and a naval cap. The newsletter reported, "They're a snappy bunch and they know how to 'strut their stuff.'" Also the club was energized by a visit from Babe Ruth in 1935 arranged by Rotarian Al Lang, our great baseball mayor.

With the onset of World War II, the tone of the *Sunbeams* became more somber, as one would expect. Members began to volunteer or be called up for wartime service. The first member to be called was Russell Stratton, *Times* credit manager, joining the Navy, soon to be followed by Dick Carlisle, joining the Army. Club speaker topics such as "St. Pete's Civil Defense Program" began to appear. At that program, the Rotes were informed that in case of attack, the city was prepared to evacuate 60,000 to 70,000 people in six or seven hours.



One of the many volunteer projects of the St. Petersburg Rotary Club is reading to children at Happy Workers R'Club Day Care. Also, rather than present a club token to club guest speakers a children's book is given in their name to Happy Workers.

While the club's 1920 installation ceremony was unique with 'mother' Straub and his baby Rotes, the club achieved a new plateau in January 1949 when new members were inducted by telecast from Maas Brothers Department Store to the club's meeting at the Suwanee Hotel (now the County Building). This was the first actual television broadcast in Florida. The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) promotion manager commented on that occasion, "You people in St. Petersburg have the greatest weather and natural beauty in the world to sell. If you don't use it, your competitors will. Imagine what would happen now if the people of Denver could be shown a sample of the summer weather St. Petersburg is enjoying at this moment."

The *Sunbeam* summarized the club's history as of 1973: "The St. Petersburg Rotary Club was founded



Bob Carter – pictured with his wife Yvonne – was specially elected by his fellow Rotarians to serve as club president during the centennial year. He is the only Rotarian to serve as president twice, having previously served in 1990-91.

January 2, 1920 by the Rotary Club of Tampa. Being a tourist town, we soon adopted the name 'Winter Home of Rotary International.' The peak came in 1950 when we were host to 714 visiting Rotarians at one meeting, and we were glad to share this honor with Gulf Beaches, West St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Pinellas Park, and Sarasota clubs which we helped to charter. Our oldest active project is our service to handicapped children which consists now largely of dental correction. We sponsor three Interact Clubs and a Boy Scout Troop at Nina Harris School for Exceptional Children. We recognize leadership in speech and scholarship, and in the Police Department." Interact is a school-based Rotary service program for young people ages 12-18. Services to handicapped children included support of the American Legion Hospital for Crippled Children, now Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital.

The club began with a membership of 49 in 1920-21. This peaked at 240 in 1964-67. Current membership is 100. In the club's earlier years, attendance was taken particularly seriously. At one meeting in the 1930s, the attendance committee arranged for a corps of ambulance attendants with their ambulances and husky cops with a 'Black Maria' (a police vehicle for transporting prisoners) to be present to search out late and absent members. On occasions, the St. Pete Club held national records for 100 percent attendance. But, due to the demands of present-day business activity often requiring frequent travel, this standard has been relaxed. A major reason for membership decline is that the club sponsored formation of many other new clubs over the years in St. Pete and nearby. Rotary also assigns each member an occupational classification. At one time, in order to encourage occupational diversity in the clubs the number of members holding a particular classification was limited. While classifications are still assigned, previous restrictions on the number of members having them have also been relaxed.

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While the club maintained active women's programs from its inception, the first actual female member was Beth Houghton, who was until recently the executive director of the Free Clinic, and is now executive director of the Juvenile Welfare Board. Georgia Brandstadter-Palmer served as the first woman club president. The first African American member of the St. Petersburg Club was civil rights leader and educator Emmanuel Stewart, who joined in 1971. Educator Elliot Carr was the club's first African American president.

Over the past 100 years, the club has engaged in innumerable civic and charitable causes. Some of the more recent ones include helping to build Habitat for Humanity homes; supporting the Salvation Army's Sally House with volunteers; reading to children and providing books at Happy Worker's Day Care; mentoring young people through Rotary programs such as Rotoract, Interact, and Rojans; annually honoring local law enforcement through the Ned March and Bud Purdy award for outstanding service; providing US Constitution handbooks for school civic classes, and supporting summer camps for challenged children and adults. Annually, dozens of local charities are provided with financial support, and major fundraisers have generated as much as \$50,000. In times of crisis such as hurricanes Michael and Dorian, volunteer and cash support is provided. Internationally, the club participates in Rotary's Polio Eradication, Clean Water, Health Clinic, and Mini-Business Support programs.



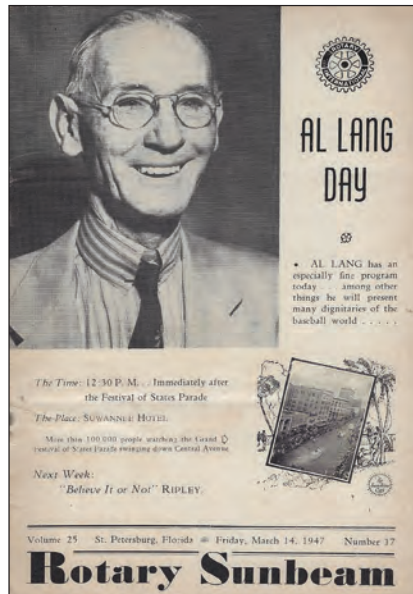
Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History

William L. Straub – with wife Sara and daughter Blanche, longtime editor of the St. Petersburg Times and champion of the Downtown Waterfront Parks – was the founder and first president of the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg. A monument to his legacy is located in South Straub Park. Circa 1899.

This year the club is all abuzz organizing its centennial. Club president Bob Carter notes that “the club has been exploring its unique history and legacy the past few months. The next six months will be devoted to determining future directions building on that legacy. Our club has been absolutely essential in the molding of our community and will continue to be the preeminent club for the next decades to come. I am very honored to be the only repeat president in the club's 100 year history.” One of the club's immediate goals is to highlight its community service by raising \$100,000 for the St. Petersburg Free Clinic “Pack-A-Sack Program” benefiting undernourished and hungry children throughout the city. Another project will be the total refurbishment of the monument to William L. Straub in the northeast corner of South Straub Park across from the Museum of Fine Arts. A Centennial Banquet will be held at the Yacht Club on Saturday, January 25th. Sponsorships are available.

Call 727-822-3277 for more information about the Centennial Banquet or Rotary Membership. ●

Will Michaels has been a Rotarian since 1989 and became a member of the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg in 1994. He is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg* and *The Hidden History of St. Petersburg*, both available at Haslam's Book Store. He may be reached at 727-420-9195 or wmichaels2222@gmail.com.



Left: Rotary Sunbeam newsletter cover from December 23, 1942. The club was then meeting at the Suwannee Hotel at First Avenue North and 5th Street, now the County Building. Center left: Charter club member Al Lang brought Major League Baseball spring training to St. Pete and served as mayor from 1916-20, the year the Rotary Club was founded. Center right: For decades the club has printed member's ads in its Sunbeam newsletter. These are from 1949. Right: Rotarian Dr. Emmanuel Stewart, former Gibbs High School principal, co-sponsored a club meeting with Gibbs principal Bruce McMillan where the entire Gibbs football team, the Gladiators, were honored guests. It was not a winning year for the team. Dr. Stewart closed the program with the comment, “For when the great scorer comes to write your name, he writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game.”

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AROUND THE BLOCK

VINTAGE FLORIDA AT THE HOLLANDER

With the Hot Rod Hornets playing rockabilly, and DJ Sugar Bear spinning tunes, the third annual Hollander Hotel Vintage Party was in full swing last month. "There was a great sense of community. A fun family-friendly event," says Juliana Villami, public relations director for the hotel. The



Vintage swimwear at the Hollander pool



Chad Mize cardboard cutout

dancing, clothing, cars, motorcycles, and music were straight out of the 1940s, '50s and early '60s. "Everyone seems to love that old vintage Florida feel," says Juliana. "People came from all over the state to participate."

About 400 people came to enjoy the fun. Emerald Anne MacAlpine came in first for the vintage swimwear contest, while Robert DeMoss came in first for his 1961 Meico West Germany Army motorcycle, and Thomas Paterek won second price for his 1964 Honda Benly. Hot rods from that era were on display, too, including a 1959 Ford Galaxie and a 1955 Mercury Monterey. Local St. Pete mural artist Chad Mize created a



Swing dancing to Hot Rod Hornets' music



Stylin' at the Hollander Vintage Party.

life-size interactive art piece, a throwback to cardboard cutouts at old Florida roadside attractions. More than three dozen local vendors donated prizes, from spa packages and yoga memberships to sunset cruises. ●

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ARTS IN THE 'BURG

OLD NORTHEAST RESIDENT BLENDS ART, MUSIC & SPIRITUALITY

Janan Talafer

Some people choose golf, travel or tennis in retirement. Alan Armstrong is continuing his life-long passion for art, music, and theater. Earlier this year, he was named artistic director of Arts 464, a unique new artistic collaboration with First Unity Spiritual Campus, where he has been a member for many years.

Alan says art, music, and theater have been part of his life forever, starting back when he was a student at St. Pete High School and was the lead singer in a rock 'n' roll band. Later, during his time in the US Air Force,

he had the interesting experience of organizing entertainment at bases around the world, and coaching Air Force members who were competing in music and theatrical competitions. After his discharge from the military, music continued to be a major interest, but he moved into the corporate world and for many years designed in-store shelving for major brand retailers through his business, The Professional Store Design Group.

Last year, he and his wife Lynn were married and moved to a new home in the Old Northeast. Originally from Winter Haven, Lynn is also a highly creative



person who has a background in dance and excels at costuming and stage design. She has played a key role in helping design many of the backdrops used for Arts 464 and costumes used in theatrical performances, both at the church and other venues.

Alan says he sees Arts 464 as the bridge between the vibrant Tampa Bay arts community and the vibrant spiritual community at First Unity. Named for church's location at 46th Avenue and 4th Street North, Arts

464 is an independent, yet integrated venue showcasing artists in all mediums, including music, dance, theater, storytelling, and art.

It was actually well-known St. Pete actor and singer Becca McCoy who conceived the idea of Arts 464, says Alan. Best known for her performances in American Stage's Theater in the Park productions, including Rosie in *Mama Mia*, Becca felt that "art born of inspiration and love is intrinsically spiritual in nature and becomes a spiritual practice that will ignite, invigorate, and inspire us as we elevate ourselves through music, dance, theater, meditation, and uplifting literature."

Initially, Arts 464 launched as a five-month pilot series highlighting local artists such as Old Northeast resident and dancer Helen Hansen French, who screened her new film, *The Motherhood Project*, and then performed live for the audience. A curated gallery exhibit was also held to showcase paintings by renowned St. Pete artists such as Carrie Judus, D. Yael Kelly, Nathan Beard, and Zulu Painter.

"The success of that series allowed us to take the next step and create a more permanent venue," says Alan. After upgrading the sound system and stage, adding theatrical lighting, and redesigning seating, the Arts 464 Center for the Arts at First Unity Spiritual Campus officially made its debut in January of this year.

Since then, Alan has coordinated performances with many local and national artists, including the O Som Do Jazz Quintet; A Night at the Opera with Cheri Jameson; Charlotte Johnson's Dance troupe; the Daniel Giron Flamenco Jazz Quintet, and the Take a Chance Dance Project with choreographer Paula Kramer and storytellers Bob Devin Jones, Maureen McDole, and Fanni Green.

Rehearsals are now underway for Alan's original play *Bethlehem the Beginning*, a musical theatre performance written from the animal's perspective. "It's the classic Christmas story with quirky twist – funny and poignant," says Alan. The show will be performed December 13-14. ●



Top right: The animals take the lead in *Bethlehem the Beginning*. Above: St. Pete jazz group, O Som Do Jazz, performing at Arts 464. Charlotte Johnson's Dance troupe in mid-air. Lynn and Alan Armstrong, Old Northeast creative couple.

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ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOSTS INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

Jeff Donnelly

St. Petersburg is not a place where one has to work hard to find great art. Urban murals adorn buildings. Galleries are located in every corner of the city, and museums are popping up everywhere. In November, you'll even find an internationally renowned art exhibit making its first appearance on Florida's West Coast at a church on Snell Isle.

Beginning November 24th and running through February 9, 2020, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at 1200 Snell Isle Boulevard NE will be hosting abstract expressionist artist Ludmila Pawlowska's works in a collection entitled *Icons in Transformation*. The Russian-born artist draws inspiration from her passion for traditional Russian icons to create dramatic contemporary art, both paintings and sculpture.

In honoring the source of her inspiration, the *Icons in Transformation* exhibit includes a collection of traditional icons alongside over 100 of Pawlowska's original contemporary pieces which make up the show. "The traditional icons are part of the genesis of the artist's works and her story," says Rev. Ryan Whitley, rector of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. "Her artwork is a meditation on those more traditional icons and their power in people's lives."

Already seen by thousands across Europe and more than 150,000 people here in the US, the exhibit is expected to be a one-of-a-kind experience. It's interesting to note that the show is being displayed almost exclusively in churches and museums rather than in art galleries. "I think churches are holy spaces, and it helps people understand the spiritual approach to contemporary art," says Pawlowska.

Rev. Whitley first heard about the *Icons in Transformation* exhibit when the artist herself reached out to ask if the church would be interested in hosting her work. Initially a bit daunted by the prospect of hosting an art exhibit of international acclaim, Rev. Whitley says that "after a period of prayer and exploration about whether we had the resources to pull it off, we decided this would be a great event for our church and for our wider community." Any proceeds will benefit the church's mission and outreach efforts.

The practice of Christian icon painting – characterized by the depiction of sacred personages or events in mural painting, mosaic, or wood – dates back centuries and traditionally was seen as a liturgical act. Artist-monks had a ritual

of fasting, penance, and consecration of materials before even proceeding forward with the creation of a piece. Patrons from the clergy and from the general population alike commissioned works of art that illustrated Christian themes as a means of reinforcing and demonstrating their faith.

Pope Gregory I cited such pieces as powerful teaching tools. He saw art as a means of communicating the word of God to the illiterate, of which there were many during the medieval period. In fact, the process of creating these pieces was referred to not as "painting" but as "writing."

The creation and display of icons has not been without controversy over the years. "During the Reformation, icons were often a flashpoint with some viewing them as idols and therefore blasphemous objects, and others viewing them as spiritual aids to deep prayer," says Rev. Whitley.

Rev. Whitley also points out that the "complicated relationship" with icons is part of the Episcopal heritage – and as a result, some Episcopal churches may have many icons, while others may have none. "I think of icons as part of one's personal piety," he says. "How one chooses to pray or not pray is ultimately up to them. Obviously, they have been a significant part of Ludmila Pawlowska's formation and healing."

Pawlowska's family experienced severe hardship under Stalin, with her grandfather sent to Siberia, and his children sent to homes for children of state enemies. Later, her father refused to join the Communist Party and was labeled a dissident. Art was Pawlowska's refuge beginning at a young age, she says. As an adult, she emigrated to Sweden where her art focused on the natural beauty of the landscape. But, the unexpected death of her mother, to whom she was very close, was a turning point in her artistic career. She returned for a visit to Russia, where she found comfort and wisdom in the traditional icons displayed in churches and monasteries. "Art helped me find meaning after the sudden death of my mother," she says. "I went back to the Russian churches, and the icons became my new way of seeing. They spoke to me in a special way."

Rather than simply painting in the style of traditional icons, Pawlowska interprets them in a contemporary style and uses a variety of materials – metal from old doors, locks, coarsely woven fabric, granite, metallic substances, fossils, and wood to convey a symbolic message. "I've been inspired by classical, original icons and they became a source of inspiration, of unconditional love," says Pawlowska.

The exhibition is open to the public and most works are available for purchase. For more information about the artist, go to www.iconsd.com. ●



Above: Rev. Whitley, Rene Clark, Mary Jane Park, and Alese Rocke discuss the upcoming exhibit of Ludmila Pawlowska's art. Below: The artist poses with one of her paintings



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ARTS IN THE 'BURG

THE INSECTS HAVE THEIR SAY

Samantha Bond Richman

Artist Jennifer Angus has a message, and says it in a most peculiar manner using insects as her primary medium. The insects are not alive, so there is no creepy-crawly aspect, relieving the fears of anyone suffering from entomophobia (a fear of insects). In fact, Angus uses and re-uses magnificent, exotic, sustainably produced dried insects that she orders from countries like Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos. Then she arranges them in beautiful, intricate repeating patterns that astound viewers.



A Canadian-born contemporary installation artist, Angus is also an author and professor of textile design at the University of Wisconsin. Her newest installation titled *The 'Grasshopper And The Ant' And Other Stories* has transformed the Hazel Hough Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg. It is the largest installation of her career. The exhibit debuted in October and will run through January 5, 2020.

Angus' work with insects is a uniquely different art form, to be sure, but the effect is wonder and awe, intertwined with revelation and contemplation. There is a method and an important message to her inspired six-legged artistry. Her installations tell important stories with thought-provoking themes about climate change, the importance of insects to the environment, the destruction of our natural resources, and life and death. She frequently uses memento mori – an artistic or symbolic reminder of the inevitability of death – as a remembrance of our mortality and to allude to the importance of insects in natural decomposition.

How did a professor of textiles become so enthralled with insects? Angus explained that a number of years ago she experienced an “aha moment” in Thailand while studying fabrics that used green beetle wings on the decorative fringe of a ladies' garment. She began studying and collecting insects, then using them to create an artistic expression that is also a form of social commentary.

To fully appreciate the new exhibit, start at the beginning by entering the Hough Wing through a hallway lined on one side with jars of insects suspended in a jelly-like material. It's meant to give the impression that you might be in the cellar of some strange collector, perhaps a reference to the ant's pantry full of grain in the classic Aesop's tale of *The Ant and the Grasshopper*. A painting illustrating this story is in the MFA's collection, and it inspired Angus who used it as a “starting point” for her exhibit.

For those who might not remember the story, the industrious ant collected food all summer, while the carefree grasshopper made music. Later in the year, the hungry grasshopper stopped by the ant's place hoping for a free meal and was turned away... presumably to die. The idea of preparing for the future rather than squandering all of our resources is the kind of message Angus hopes to impart in her art.

Each room in the exhibit is different. In the first gallery, visitors are greeted by gaily painted walls with wondrous designs replicating Victorian-style nature-inspired wallpaper. Look closely and the beautiful art is actually dried insects

affixed to the walls – a tribute to the 19th century Victorian passion for collecting things. A bit of history: the reign of Queen Victoria of England – from 1837-1901 – marked a time of great British prosperity. Collecting and displaying unique and exotic objects was a way to entertain guests while impressing them.

In the same room, Angus has created intriguing wax-covered doll houses on stilts. That message is not immediately clear, until Angus tells us that observers are invited to imagine everything from the insect's viewpoint, with its home on the ground and looking up to see thoughtless homeowners spraying gardens with insecticide.



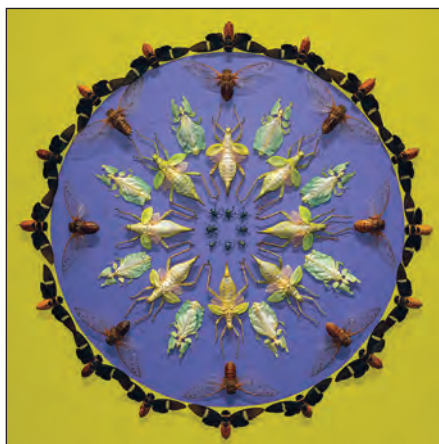
Another intriguing display is the cuckoo clock on the wall, at first seemingly random, except nothing Angus does is random. This is a nod to the Doomsday Clock, representing the likelihood of a manmade global catastrophe. She asks the viewer to ponder, “What if there were no more insects?”

Above: A memento mori display. Left: Animal dinner party. Below: Spectacular artistic designs using insects.

The Victorian-era theme is also recreated in an enormous room with all sorts of curiosity cabinets and glass cases. On

one wall, Angus has taken a giant apothecary cabinet with over 170 drawers and created intricate miniature scenes using insects. Around the room, vintage typewriter boxes depicting the Seven Deadly Sins have insects arranged in surreal scenes mimicking human behavior. The boxes give a whole new perspective to a morality tale and one that I'm sure Aesop would have appreciated.

In the last room, you'll come to a vivid, cotton-candy pink room. Inspired by the tea party in *Alice in Wonderland*, Florida animals from a taxidermy collection are enjoying a dinner party. The setup of the room is a wonderful take on our humankind tradition of coming together to break bread, as many of us are likely to do soon with family at Thanksgiving. “Given all the problems in the world, wouldn't it be good if we could all sit down over a meal and work things out,” lamented Angus.



Of course, this room also has a series of thought-provoking messages. A predominant theme is that animals should not be primarily viewed as food. The “bread” on the table is made from grain grown in farms where once forests grew and insects thrived. There is honey from the nectar collected by bees that are rapidly disappearing in the wild as their habitats are destroyed by development and other manmade pressures.

Jennifer Angus not only creates unique art, she is also literally and figuratively a decorative figure herself. She was sporting a blue-hued hair style and cranberry red patent-leather high-heeled Mary Jane shoes; she is quite striking. Did she ever feel “grossed out” working with her subject matter? Angus recalled being at a local market in South America before departing on a boat tour of the Amazon River. She watched as locals at a food stall prepared insects on a stick for a quick snack or to-go meal. The intended ‘food’ was not cooperative. Angus squinted her nose as she described how the insects were alive and moving around in a basin. “That was a bit much,” she said. Yikes. But even then, she turned the story into an opportunity to send yet another message: “I think this world would be a better place if we were all eating insects as protein... we wouldn't be burning down the rainforest for cattle.” Indeed. For more information go to www.mfastpete.org.



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Diana Geegan with Bentley
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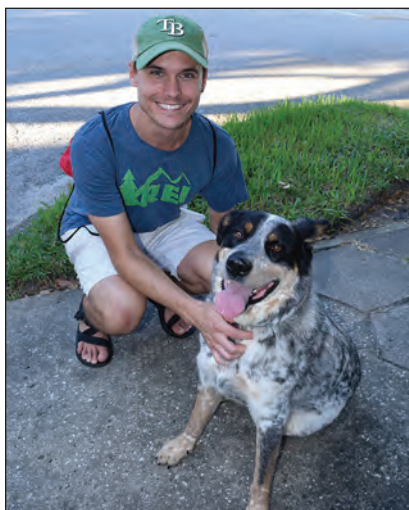
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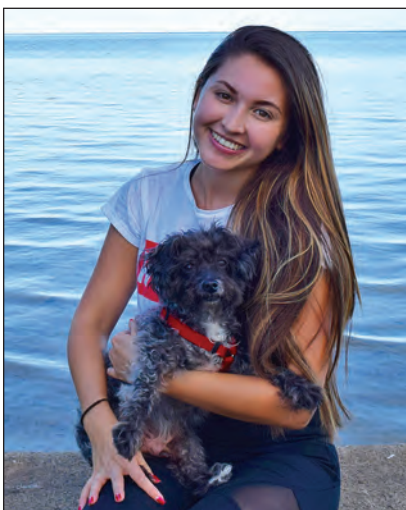
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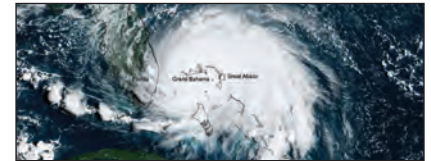
STUDENT AND FAMILY RAISE SUPPLIES FOR THE BAHAMAS *Continued from page 1*
 because both of my parents worked there,” says Wilson. “The site gives everyone a chance to help the Bahamas even if it’s just a little bit.”

Thanks to the funds raised, the family was able to purchase 42 sets of queen-sized air mattresses with sheets and pillows, each sealed into waterproof plastic bins, and 40 complete sets of personal hygiene products, as well as flashlights, dry goods, tents, water, tools, and building supplies.

Then, with their truck packed, the family took off across the state to Jupiter, home-base of the Wild Dolphin Project. In the meantime, the Wild Dolphin Project was busy with its own fundraising efforts, generating about \$40,000 to purchase 30 generators, compressors, roofing nail guns, cordless tools, plywood, and roofing material.

On September 26, the *Stenella* left Florida, bound for West End where Will and the crew of the Wild Dolphin Project hand-delivered supplies to contacts there. The supplies were then distributed by local officials to people in need on the far east end of the island, the area that got hit the worst, says Will.

During a news conference shortly after the Category 5 hurricane hit, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis called the storm “an unprecedented destructive force of wind and rain and sea surge never before seen in the history of the Bahamas.” Will saw the devastation firsthand. “West End



Top left: The research vessel *Stenella* at the dock in West End Township, Grand Bahama. Top right: Wilson takes a well-deserved break. Center: Unloading supplies. Bottom: Wilson, Laura, and friends load up the car. Facing page: Will holding the Northeast Journal on the deck of *Stenella* in the Port of Palm Beach. Will, the crew of Wild Dolphin Project, and colleagues in the West End.



flooded, but didn’t see the wind damage like the far east of the island,” says Will. “The east end looked like a bomb went off. The wind just blew homes apart.”

Now, nearly two months later, Will says the “whole island has pulled together in a phenomenal way.” But the restoration work is far from over. “The news cycle moves on, but the people there are still suffering,” he says. “The schools are now open and there is power on the island, but many people lost everything. At this point, you can’t drink the water unfiltered and ice is in short supply.”

In addition to serving as captain for the Wild Dolphin Project and other organizations, Will is also a boat builder and has restored several vintage homes in St. Pete. So, it was no surprise to learn that he was cleaning out his garage and asking friends for electrical wiring, saws, plywood, compressors, roofing nail guns, and similar tools for rebuilding homes. He was also focusing his efforts on getting supplies directly to a local taxi driver and his family, to help rebuild their home after it had been flooded with six feet of water.

But, his biggest dilemma was how to transport a large quantity of construction-related items if he were able to secure them through additional fundraising. He had been checking with cruise ships and talking with the



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owners of private planes and boats. Then he hit the jackpot.

At the end of October, he was able to secure access to shipping containers that will be sent over from the Port of Palm Beach. "It's a game changer for us as now we can actively start raising funds again and collecting materials knowing we have a way to get the supplies to the Bahamas," says Will. "I look forward to this next step in the process of helping the Bahamian people rebuild their homes and their lives."

For more information, email thanksmonislandrelief@gmail.com or check out www.gofundme.com/f/8ddg4-helping-the-bahamas. Thanks, mon! ●



AROUND THE BLOCK

WE LOVE ST. PETE: SHOP LOCAL

Ester Venouziou, the founder of LocalShops1, has done an amazing job of showcasing all the creative people in our city. This year's Shopapalooza Festival is the 10th annual event – the perfect local alternative to "Black Friday." Ester says it is the biggest local small business weekend celebration in Florida. Admission is free and open to the public. The festival runs November 30 to December 1 in Vinoy Park.



The festival moves this year to Vinoy Park and has expanded to two days. More than 225 local artists, makers and small businesses will participate. In addition to art and gifts, there will be live music, strolling performances by the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society, and Thrill St. Pete, a flash dance mob. Look for the all-age activity zone, kids' art activities, live art demonstrations and Christmas Tree contest sponsored by the Council of Neighborhood Associations. ●

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Changes in Latitudes Create Changes in Attitudes

Scott Brown

Since we moved to our new home in Old Northeast, a persistent discussion between my wife Ellen and me has involved the inadequacies of our little kitchen here. We should have seen this problem coming. Our Long Island home in New York had a great kitchen. It was big enough to have couches and a television along with a nice fireplace. There was no better place to be snuggled



Scott and Ellen on the new front porch, with Ana (right), their nephew Jeff's wife, and her daughter Avia

After about three months we broke down and visited a kitchen designer. It took him a few weeks to prepare detailed plans. The problem was, he couldn't do anything about its size. After all his work, what we had was a design that gave us the same tiny kitchen with fancy new cabinets and a huge price tag to boot.

We did a lot of our kitchen fretting while sitting on our Key West-style front porch. We discovered that – even on very hot days – the porch with its big ceiling fans was pretty tolerable. Sitting on the porch, we could see our neighbors working in their yards, walking their dogs, or riding bikes. It was nice. By just saying hello to people as they passed, we became much more engaged with our neighbors than we ever were on Long Island.

I found myself spending a lot more time on the porch than Ellen did. I always knew Ellen was a much sweeter person than me – apparently mosquitoes shared that opinion. Actually, it was better for me to be on the porch with Ellen, since the mosquitoes would completely ignore me and flock to her. If we were going to achieve porch-time parity in our relationship, we would need to think about screening the space.

First step was to replace some rotted wood railings. I also wanted to expand the top rail to make it more like a countertop surrounding the outside of the porch deck. That way, if we were entertaining out there, people would have a place to set a dish or a drink, or just have something to lean on. As we started the process, it began to dawn on me that we were creating an entertainment space on the front porch that, though very different from our Long Island kitchen, might be just as appealing and far more appropriate for Florida. It was also a tiny fraction of the cost of a kitchen redo.

The result was exactly what we had hoped for. We now have a comfortable, bug-free screened-in space big enough to hold the whole family or a decent-sized



The porch is now screened, with a door, plus a wide railing ledge.



A view of the street from the new front porch



Porch carpentry underway

up looking out through the French doors at the winter snow, a fall sunset, or to watch the spring cherry blossoms wafting down onto the deck. When we entertained, the kitchen was where everyone would hang out. The whole family could get involved in our meal preparations and clean up. Many of our fondest holiday memories happened in that kitchen.

If you've followed my previous columns in the *Northeast Journal*, you know we made the big move from Long Island to St. Pete in January of this year. With each passing week in our new hometown, we discovered new people, new things to do, and new places to eat. We were really enjoying St. Pete. In fact, I was enjoying it so much that my doctor informed me that I had gained 20 pounds since coming to Florida. Yikes!

Despite all of our good experiences, the inadequacies of our little kitchen continued to nag at us. Storage and counter space was a fraction of what we were used to. The range was smaller. We only had one oven. As for couches and a fireplace – *fuggedaboutit*. We made a conscious decision to live in the house for a while before deciding what to do about the kitchen. But we saw a kitchen do-over as a 'when' rather than an 'if.'

gathering of neighbors and friends. When the weather is nice, we can leave the front door open so the house can get fresh air without bugs. The porch ceiling is high enough that on chilly nights we can set up our little fire feature on the porch deck.

We will get the chance to fully experience our porch in action over the next several months, especially as our northern friends and family make their way down for a visit. Ellen suggested that the porch might be a good place for the Christmas tree. Christmas on the porch on a chilly December morning warmed by our little propane fire pit sounded good to me. I also looked forward to our first neighborhood porch happy hour. We were beginning to see the possibilities.

As a space for entertaining, reading a book, or just watching the world go by, I think we nailed it. Our yearning for our Long Island kitchen has been replaced by our enjoyment of our panoramic porch. As Jimmy Buffet put it so well in his classic song, *Changes in Latitude – Changes in Attitude*: "Oh, yesterdays are over my shoulder. So I can't look back for too long. There's just too much to see waiting in front of me. And I know that I can't go wrong." ●

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LAWSON, ERNEST & ELIJAH

Ages 1, 2, and 3

Lawson, Ernest, and Elijah are a bonded set of brothers! The boys enjoy playing and laughing with one another.

These siblings also have a cute way of making sure one another is okay by comforting when one is crying and making each other laugh.

They enjoy playing with toys and watching cartoons. They also enjoy playing with blocks and trucks. The brothers are friendly, sweet, and affectionate! They love cuddles!

The boys are looking for an energetic family who will accept them with open arms and are willing to give them the love they deserve.

ID: LSF-105162687, LSF- 106009629 & LSF- 106727223 • Photo courtesy of Johnathan R Photography



RYAN, AGE 14

Now a freshman in high school, Ryan gets himself ready for school and completes his chores daily, and he is known as a nice person who gets along with others.

Always humming or listening to music, Ryan is accepting and affectionate. He also enjoys water balloons, puzzles, and playing Candy Crush and Sonic on his iPad. He likes baseball and shooting hoops. He would love to eat pizza, chicken nuggets, and lasagna every day if he could.

Ryan does best with consistency, close supervision, and guidance. He likes reptiles and household pets like cats and dogs, but if there is a bird in the house, he might just leave the cage open. Ryan needs a family that can help him continue to thrive.

DFL-11959367 • Photo courtesy of Sean Woods PicsandFlix.com



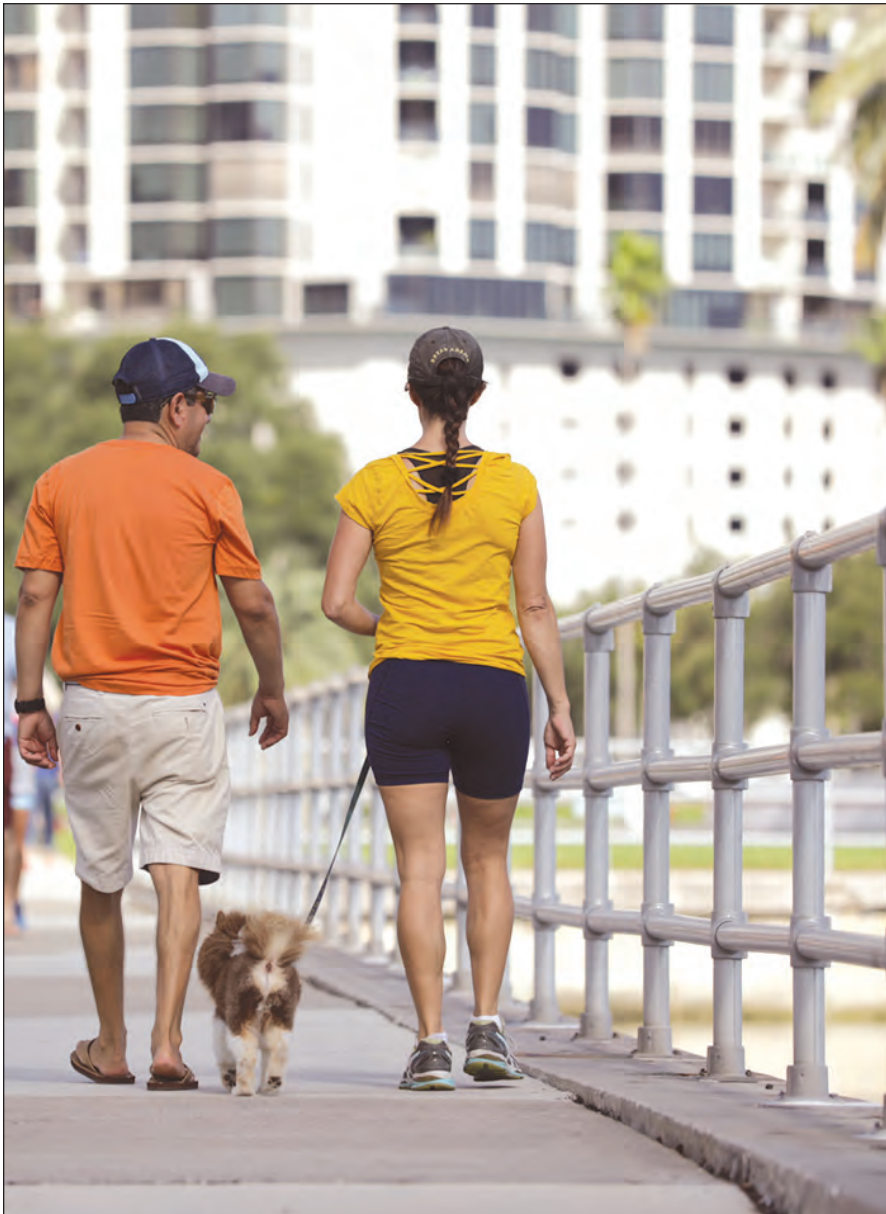
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