

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS



December 2014

Published Since 1968

Only Good News for 46 Years

Volume 46 No. 12

## Santa will be joined by Princess Ella Bella for Sunday-in-the-Park holiday special

By John Koning

Santa is not the only celebrity who will be visiting On Top of the World this Christmas season. We are excited to announce the arrival of Princess Ella Bella, the tiny international advocate for peace and goodwill!

Why should we be so lucky?

It's because the author of the Princess Ella Bella book, Irka Kniec, recently moved to OTOW and has agreed to share her time and talent with us.

It all happens during Santa's visit to Sunday-in-the-Park on Dec. 21.

I have it on good authority that the princess will make her appearance some time after 2 p.m.

Irka is an established author and visitor to libraries in our area. She has lent her talent and vision to All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg and to various Cancer Society fundraisers. She has a standing invitation to

the Sugar Sand Festival on Clearwater Beach and is a regular at Pier 60 on Friday evenings.

Through the character of Princess Ella Bella, Irka encourages young readers to love, care and help others. She hopes the message will permeate to every child and adult who reads her book and sings along with a Princess Ella Bella CD, performed by the Clearwater Academy International Children's Choir.

Irka wrote and published the original Princess Ella Bella book two years ago. Since then it has been picked up by Tate Publishing and Music Group.

The launch of this re-publication is set for Jan. 13..

Hand-sewn Princess Ella Bella dolls are also sold.

Mark your calendars for Dec. 21 and be sure to bring along any youngsters, or any oldsters who are still young at heart!



On Top of the World resident and author, Irka Kniec, will be reading to children during Sunday-in-the-Park on Dec. 21. Irka will be reading from one of her own books, featuring a character she created, Princess Ella Bella.

The Entertainment Committee has been presenting Santa for more than 30 years. This year, the event starts at 2 p.m. with singing Christmas carols and dancing. At about 2:30, Santa is expected to land at OTOW and will get introduced to the children.

There will be a fireplace with stockings hung and a decorated Christmas tree nearby. Each child receives a present and sits on Santa's lap for pictures.

Afterwards, there will be more Christmas carols and refreshments provided by the Good Neighbors Association and volunteers.

**With much appreciation  
we wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy Holidays**



For Special Offers, see ad in Section 2, Page 29

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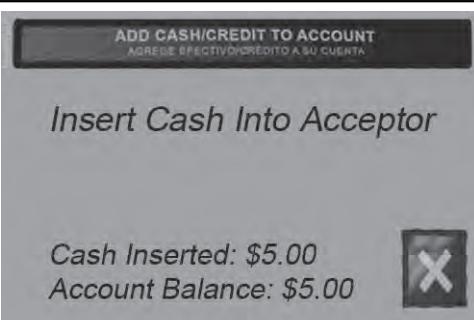
## PAY BY CASH AT GOOD KARMA



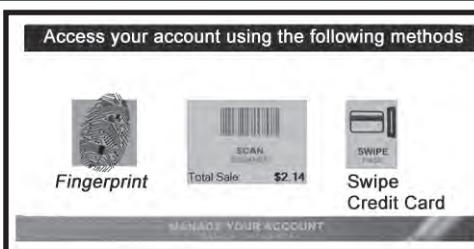
1. Learn the new kiosk.

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Unique ID:     | create name for account |
| First Name:    | DOUG                    |
| Last Name:     | KATES                   |
| Account PIN #: | ****                    |
| Card ID:       |                         |
| Scanner ID:    |                         |
| Thumbprint:    | Captured                |

2. Create a new account or use an existing account. For a new account you need an account name and your actual name. This is all done at the kiosk and the ladies will assist you.



3: Put cash into your account. As is the case above, \$5 was deposited.



4: Make a purchase then decide - use your account to deduct funds from your balance or use a credit card.



5. If you choose to deduct from your account, all you have to do is allow the kiosk to scan your thumb. The money will automatically be deducted from your account. Change will remain in balance.

## Your account keeps a cash balance

# New kiosk allows residents to use cash at Good Karma Cafe

Great News!

The Good Karma Café accepts cash!

There is now an updated kiosk that is easier to use, with modern features such as a printable receipt option and finger print scan.

This new kiosk provides immediate access to your account so there is no need to remember long or complicated passwords.

When using cash you will need to have an account established, but creating one is quick and easy, and café workers are available to assist if needed.

If you have an existing account, there is no need to worry because your account information, and any remaining balance, was transferred over to the new system already.

You would only need to update your new account, which is a quick process, but must be done from the kiosk located in the cafe.

Additionally, the cafe will soon be offering milk, eggs, bread and butter, so watch for notices to be posted.

### Senior EXPO

The Senior Expo, OneBlood blood collection, and Helping Hands food drive, all held on Saturday, Nov. 1, were all great successes.

We had more than 700 residents and more than 40 vendors in attendance, which included The Home Depot, Walgreens, 1-800-Got-Junk, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, SHINE and the FLOW bus. Also there was Sunset Grill, which provided more than 500 samples of their award winning key lime pie.

OneBlood registered 16 donors and collected 13 good units; that means they were able to save 39 lives!

USPS was also in attendance and will soon be coming to On Top of the World with their Village Post Office, to be conveniently located in the Community Service Office. Watch for notices and mailings soon.

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated blood and/or donated a food item. Your contributions are appreciated particularly to those individuals in need.



### Front Garden Fountains

Work to the front garden cloverleaf fountain is now complete, but work will continue on the Globe fountain through part of December. We thank you for your patience during these renovations and ask that you pardon our dust.

### Lawn Bowls Courts

Repairs to and renovations at the lawn bowl court will continue through December.

Due to safety concerns, repairs were necessary before play could continue in this area.

The new fence, shade and seating will be installed and completed during this month.

Residents who had anything stored at the courts will need to contact Barbara Thompson with the Lawn Bowl Club to make arrangements with SCA for those items to be picked up.

As a reminder, do not enter the work area unless you have permission to be on site.

We appreciate your patience as we are working diligently to complete the project as quickly as possible.

### Haz-To-Go

Haz-To-Go collections will take place at the West Activity Center parking lot on Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the East Activity Center north parking lot by the pool on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please do not bring air conditioning units, appliances, biological or infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, garbage, gas cylinders larger than one pound i.e. propane tanks, medi-

cine, radioactive waste or tires.

### AAA Driving Course

The AAA driving course will be held in the East Activity Center Starlite room on Thursday, Dec. 18 and Friday, Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The cost is \$15 and registration forms can be found on page 52 of this On Top of the World newspaper.

### F.L.O.W Bus

The Florida Licensing on Wheels bus will be on property on Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Activity Center north parking lot.

### SCA Shuttle Bus

As a reminder, there will be no bus service on Friday, Dec. 26. Service will resume on Dec. 30.

### Suncoast Hospice Golfing for A Cure

On Jan. 13, 2015, save the date for Golfing for Suncoast Hospice.

The Ladies Golf Club says to wear your best golf attire and join everyone for a fun-filled day of helping others.

Hospice is a new charity, replacing Rally for a Cure. The event takes place in a new month and has a new format.

### Reminders

Please remember to bring your recreation card with you when using the SCA facilities and plan to show it upon staff request.

Please remember that a designated "smoking" area has been established at the back of each swimming pool with the intent that non-smokers will not have to walk through smoke to reach their destination at the pool.

Once again, I would like to thank the SCA staff for their hard work and assistance in maintaining our beautiful facilities. We think they do a great job and if you think so, too, please write a note and drop it off at the Community Service Office.

Let us know so we can share your good comments with the staff.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

# On Top of the World

This past year, your Board has received many positive comments on its attempt to enforce standards and ensure a well run and fiscally stable community for all residents.

Without your support, the Board could not function.

The business of managing a community the size of a small city is very difficult. There are so many moving parts and pieces. The point of all the effort is to give you the type of community and quality living environment you deserve.

The members of the Board thank you for your support.

A tremendous amount of work has transpired in the calendar year. Regularly scheduled work completed to date includes: eight buildings have new roofs and two have new shingle mansards. New gutter installations accompanied these roof improvements where they were previously installed, as well as bringing the roofs up to the current wind code.

There have been three elevator equipment replacements and six elevator interiors were remodeled. Eleven buildings had their front elevations painted, while 11 back elevations were waterproofed.

Twenty-seven parking areas were resurfaced during the calendar year.

New walkway and emergency lighting fixtures were purchased and are currently being installed across property. Eight buildings had new walkway railings systems installed in 2014 as well.

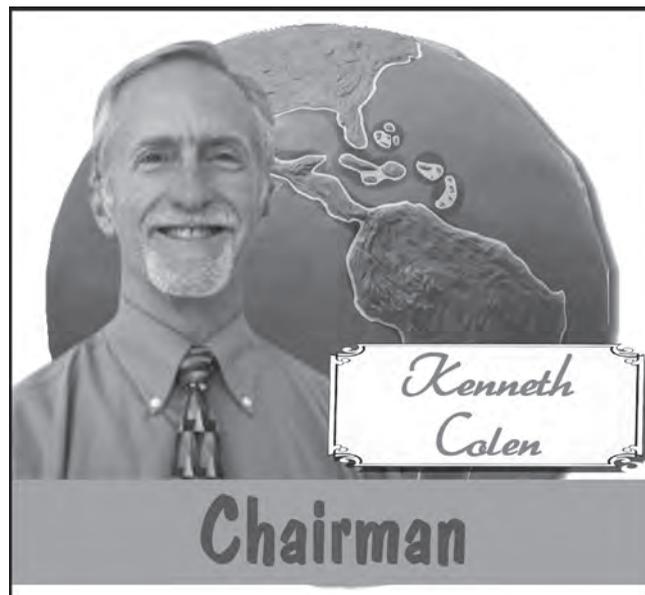
Your Board pays attention to and analyzes service requests. We look for patterns of problems, ask why, and take steps to prevent further problems based on the outcome. To that end, we have been able to identify improperly caulked window replacements as a source of interior leaks. HVAC units that have not been serviced are also a major source of leaks and water intrusion into adjoining units. This problem is costly both for owners and for the Association.

## Upcoming Projects

**Painting/Waterproofing:** Building 11 and building 15 are scheduled to have new waterproofing membranes applied in the month of December. Please keep in mind that all start dates are approximate and inclement weather can affect scheduling.

**Flooring Projects:** There are no flooring replacements scheduled for the month of December. Regularly scheduled maintenance (striping and sealing) will be occurring for the majority of the month. Please remember that this work is affected in the overnight hours to minimize any inconvenience to the community. Please exercise caution if you find yourself in proximity to these posted work areas.

**Construction, roofing and large scope projects:** The maintenance project along the roofline of Building 84 will continue through the month of December. These repairs will require the temporary relocation of resident's vehicles as the project moves from the south to north sides of the building. Notices will be posted on bulletin boards to keep the



occupants of the building abreast of the project's progress. The completion estimate for this work has been updated to the first week of January, weather permitting.

Building 61 will also see restorative work being performed in the winter months beginning in December. The work will affect the outside stairwell tower features and will involve the use of various equipment. Temporary parking space closures may be required while the work is underway. The management company will post updates to Building 61's bulletin boards to keep residents informed as the project progresses. Please exercise caution in and around these work areas.

Building walkway repairs will continue through the end of the year and into the spring as construction crews perform maintenance to the second- and third-floor walking surfaces. These small scale repairs require the use of specialized power tools and may cause a temporary inconvenience in the form of noise and dust. Repair crews will do their best to limit the inconvenience during this necessary work. These small repair areas will also be coated as a future preventative. As always, we ask that residents please limit any foot traffic in and around any work area they may encounter.

The patching and painting of all building common areas is continuing across property. Progress is being made, but the management company is asking for the community's residents cooperation in not drilling into or attaching any un-approved fastener to the structure. With the holidays usually comes an influx of unapproved permanent attachments, so please bear in mind that ALL additions to the common element require a modification permit. If residents are not sure about what items (like wall mountings) require a modification permit, please stop by the Community Service Office at the East Activity Center and a representative will be glad to assist you.

The structural inspections and correction program (an inspection process by which the management's construction and roofing departments affect repairs on headers, tower elements, walkways, sidewalks, parapets, columns, railings, center core doors, etc.) continues to be an effective preventa-

tive in the ongoing practice of structural maintenance. As building's age, more detailed inspection and assessments are required. Timely reporting of maintenance matters by residents is helpful to the continuing success of this program.

**Inspection Services Division:** Boat compliance is another area where residents will see an increased presence by the inspection services division. With the yearly return of our Snowbirds, the management company is asking that residents take a minute and make sure that their boat registrations are current, as well as ensuring that their watercraft is seaworthy. Many of the vessel storage spaces are already occupied by registered owners, so those residents looking to inquire on space availability should direct their inquiries to the Community Service Office before they relocate their boat to the designated storage area. Boats considered to be in disrepair will be noticed for non-compliance and ultimately impounded if measures are not taken to correct the issue.

The Inspection Services Division continues to work in tandem with community residents to get building storage and bike rooms in compliance. Many times residents move and leave unwanted items, use more than their allotted space causing an inconvenience for other residents, or store prohibited items in these areas. Residents may request a storage room inspection through the Community Service Office if they believe they have an issue.

Parking and vehicle registration enforcement continue to be a focus item for the management company. Many illegally parked or stored vehicles are located and tagged for compliance each month. The management company asks that all residents make sure that they keep their vehicle registrations up-to-date to avoid any issues, and report any noted violations to the Community Service Office.

The removal of plantings located above and around the potable water meters that service the individual units is also ongoing. The management company is asking that all residents comply and not replant the areas.

Plants or other items found in these areas will be removed without notice and disposed of as they hinder the proper maintenance of these meters in the future. Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations. Many times decorative rocks or landscaping is installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator. Please, always apply for approval before you install.

Clutter enforcement is another item which requires constant monitoring by the management company. This includes the tagging and removal of excessive furnishings placed in the center core, walkways and end stairwells areas. Building walkways in particular continue to be an area of violation, as many residents leave chairs, plants and other obstructions that block egress and impede the emergency activities of first responders.

# 2014 Year in Review

Please help make your community safer by complying if you receive a violation tag/door hanger. Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Awning inspections continue to take place by the Inspection Services Division of the management company. The Clearwater area has seen an increase in storms and rainfall the last few years, and as a result, many of the awning attachment points have been weakened to the point where the "clamshell" style awning must be removed to halt any further damage to the structure.

The management company continues to contact owners regarding their compromised older style awnings in disrepair or with weak attachment points. As noted in prior articles, the "clamshell" awnings do not meet building code for wind resistance. Fortunately there are new products that do. If you have an awning, please arrange for its inspection through the Community Service Office at the East Activity Center.

**Landscaping Projects:** Regularly scheduled maintenance will continue during the month of December as crews have now transitioned to their fall/winter work routines.

Leaf removal and disposal, the simplification or elimination of overgrown or un-maintained plantings, and roadside maintenance (the cleaning

and clearing of china curbs and parking lot entrance/exits) will be taking place.

For safety's sake, we ask that residents slow down, obey posted speed limits and be aware of crews working in close proximity to roadway traffic. Their safety depends on your cooperation.

Landscape teams will also be performing their normally scheduled shrub trimming activities over the winter months. We ask for all resident's compliance in removing any holiday lights from shrubs by the conclusion of the New Year's holiday. Failure to do so may result in damage to equipment and personal property. Thank you for your cooperation concerning this matter.

**The Importance of Insurance:** I cannot stress the point loud enough or long enough that it is the responsibility of each individual owner to make sure they have adequate insurance on their property. For OTOW Condo owners, adequate insurance includes personal property and on the portion of the unit not insured by the Association's master policy. Generally, property coverage policies are written on the interior components of the home and on your personal property. Proper insurance coverage will help save you many out-of-pocket dollars if or when the unexpected happens.

While the Association takes the lead in the recovery and reconstruction process, a failure of

any owner to carry insurance on their contents will inevitably leave a significant gap in the final completion and ability to reoccupy the home. In the case of negligence by an owner, the Association will also attempt to recover the insurance deductible cost. Being penny wise and pound foolish by "saving" the nominal cost of insurance, is really no savings at all!

The HO6 rider covers the insured owner for a portion of the deductible the Association maintains. Currently, your association maintains a deductible of \$10,000 per occurrence to property damage from any peril such as fire, lightning, vandalism, etc., and other than wind and named storms. Speak with your insurance agent to make sure you have coverage in place and that it is adequate.

If you are an owner that rents your unit, make sure you have business (rental) interruption coverage. In the unlikely event the renter would need to vacate the unit for a period of time due to some unforeseen catastrophe, you would be compensated by the carrier. Interrupted rent is not something the Association can, or would, reimburse. Renters are also advised to carry a "renter policy." This not only covers their personal property, but may also cover living expenses in the event of the need to vacate for a period of time.

## PLEASE VOTE ONLINE!

### 2014 OTOW Holiday Lights Contest

Sponsored by Safety Harbor Resort & Spa and Sunset Grill

[ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php)

- See pictures of all the contest entrees
- Vote for your four favorite units
- Only four votes per computer accepted
- Polls open 3 p.m., Dec. 19. Polls close 11 a.m., Dec 21.
- Results will be posted in the January 2015 newspaper

# Holiday Lights Safety Notice

Welcome to another holiday season at On Top of the World!

Parkway Management would like to remind residents of a few Safety Rules:

- All outdoor lighting should be plugged into GFCI receptacles.
- Each building is allowed one common area Christmas tree. Each tree may contain up to 300 lights. Please limit cords to two UL approved cords.
- Extension cords should not cross ANY walkway in or around any building.
- Please do not obstruct your unit numbers with decorations as this information is critical to first responders.
- If you are using a lighted candle for an indoor decoration, never leave the candle unattended and always extinguish it before going to bed. OTOW does not recommend lighted candles at all.

**Please:**

- Do not hang or wrap decorations or cords from building lights. This includes: emergency signs, exit signs, center core, walkway, end stairwell and pole lights on all floors.
- Do not hang or wrap decorations or cords from ANY building railings. This includes: All stairway and walkway railings. All wrapped decorations or cords will be removed without notice.
- Do not place screw in extenders with plugs in any building lights or tap into the building power at any controller or light.
- Do not create penetrations into the common structure for the purpose of hanging holiday lighting.
- Do not wrap garland around the poles at the end stairwells on any building.

**As always:**

- ALL ELECTRICAL ROOMS, ELEVATOR ROOMS, TELEPHONE ROOMS AND ALARM ROOMS are RESTRICTED AREAS. These areas are not accessible to residents or the building maintenance worker - only by management.

Please help make this a safe and happy holiday season!

## Holiday Lights Contest important dates, see page 13

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- Tampa Bay Times



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Saturday, Dec. 13 (two shows) 2:00 and 7:00 All Seats Reserved \$15.25 Ticket Office 733-5475



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The holiday season is a time filled with social gatherings, family meals, and time with friends. But for those with difficulty hearing, the festivities aren't as joyful as they should be. Let us help you enjoy the sounds of the holidays this year.

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Lights Contest

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# Holiday Lights Contest entries will be accepted through Dec. 17

By Doug Kates

The 2014 Holiday Lights Contest is here!

This year, for the first time, there are two divisions. One division will be for residents who own condos on the ground floor and the second division will be for residents who own condos on upper floors.

Anyone who wants to enter their decorated unit in the contest must call the On Top of the World newsroom to set up a photo. Before calling, make sure your decorations are up and completed. The photographer will visit your condo between 6-7:30 p.m. any day after your phone call. You will not be notified when the photographer is coming. Please have your lights on until at least 8 p.m.

Photographs will be taken until Dec. 17.

Next, all decorated-condo photos will appear on the Press Association's Website. Look for the Holiday Lights Contest link.

At this Website, viewers will be able to see all the units entered in the contest.

From 3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19 through 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, anyone in the world will be able to enter the Holiday Lights Contest polling booth and vote for their two favorite ground-floor units and two favorite upper-floor units.

Only four votes per computer will be accepted.

Once you have entered the polling booth, you will not be allowed to leave and return.

There is no cost to vote.

The condo unit which receives the most overall votes will win a two-night, two-day stay at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, complete with two complimentary breakfasts and free use of the basic amenities.

The other first place unit will receive a \$100 gift certificate from the Sunset Grill restaurant.

The second place units for both divisions will receive \$75 gift certificates from the Sunset Grill. All three gift certificates do not have to be used at one time.

The only unit not eligible to compete this year is last year's winner.

Everyone else is welcome to try it. Last year there were 31 entries.

Any residents who decorate their condos this season are asked to please follow all On Top of the World decoration guidelines. This includes not using screws or nails, not putting decorations on handrails or stairs, not interfering with lawn maintenance and

using proper outdoor lighting.

Once the four winners are declared, the OTOW Inspection Department will visit each unit to make sure all rules were followed. Once given the OK, the contest will be declared official.

Final results will be posted in the January edition of OTOW News, which will be distributed to residents on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Good luck to everyone who enters. For the rest of us, enjoy the light show at On Top of the World.

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Sunday, Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Play  
"Christmas Eve on the Poor Farm"  
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Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.  
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**Merry Christmas**

# What happens to annuities after death?

Q. Some time ago, I saw an advertisement for a seminar that claimed that I should not die owning a deferred annuity and that the speakers at the seminar would tell me how to eliminate the problems caused by owning an annuity. Would you comment on this?

A. Yeah, well, look: if you die owning an annuity, then there will be income tax consequences for the persons named as beneficiaries and those consequences will be that all of the income (that would be everything over and above the original investment plus any additional investment) will be taxable to the beneficiary.

With regard to the specific advertisement you mentioned, I haven't seen it so I cannot comment on it; other than to say that it's a reasonable bet that the solution you will be offered will be to exchange your existing annuity for a new one that is in what is known as an immediate pay mode.

Immediate pay mode means that within a month or two of when you



buy the annuity, you will begin to receive both interest and principal payments from it. So the income (that's the interest you will receive) from the annuity will not be taxed to your beneficiaries. It will be taxed to you. You will be told that the exchange is tax free and that is probably true, but in my humble opinion, misleading nevertheless.

It might be tax free, but I betcha it isn't COST free.

There will be new commissions owed (which you will pay) and new

surrender charges (which you will have to accept.).

It is also my opinion that it is rarely, if ever, a wise idea to exchange one annuity for another.

Q. Why do I need title insurance?

A. Oh, gee!  
I get this question a lot.

(Fair disclosure: I am a title insurance agent for Old Republic National Title Insurance Company which is a very large title insurance underwriter. Also, I have a minority interest in a title insurance agency.)

I believe that everyone who purchases real property should have title insurance issued in their name(s).

I've bought title insurance and I always get it or I won't purchase the property. There can be various liens or encumbrances that pop up unexpectedly. There can be possible forgeries in the chain of title. There can be wild deeds filed of record that need to be cleared away. There can be mortgages of record that were not properly satisfied. There can be Internal Revenue liens or state of county liens. There can be other liens or encumbrances as well.

So, it's my view, everyone should have title insurance and I don't care if the seller is your best friend or someone of impeccable integrity. It's not necessarily your seller that is the problem. It could be a lien or encumbrance that was created before his/her/their ownership.

Q. Is a limited liability company a sure way of protecting my assets from a lawsuit? I am not talking about Medicaid issues.

A. No one should be deceived about asset protection methods. There is no one sure way of protecting ones assets from litigation.

The truth is that asset protection planning is a VERY complex area of the law and to suppose that one approach, such as a limited liability company, will solve asset protection problems is an illusion.

I ought to know because I do a lot of asset protection planning for various clients of mine.

It may be sufficient in one instance and insufficient in another instance even though on their faces they appear to be similar. It all depends on the particular facts and the specific way that the LLC is created, what is contained

in its Operating Agreement, how title to a property was conveyed to it and who conveyed into it and why.

Sometimes a "basket" of methods may help. Other times, nothing will help.

What I can tell you is that a limited liability company is presently one approach that has found favor with a lot of attorneys and financial planners. However, don't expect those attorneys or financial planners to "guarantee" that an LLC will stand up against a creditor attack.

Q. My son and his wife live in (a Midwestern state). They are getting divorced and my son plans to have his girlfriend move in with them until their divorce is final. They only have a one bedroom apartment. I think there's something wrong with this and wonder what your thoughts are.

A. Yes. Well. Um. Hmm.

My thoughts range from Wow! to Oh My! to plenty of interesting thoughts in between.

Gerald R. Colen is an attorney and member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Attorneys. He concentrates his practice of law in the areas of elder law, wills, trusts, probate, real estate, title insurance, asset protection planning, business law, and simple and complex estate planning. This column is not intended to provide legal advice. You should always consult your own attorney for all your legal advice. Mr. Colen and his associates, Attorney Rachel Wagoner and Attorney Jennifer Cooley, are available for conferences at their law office at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, FL, 33777. You may call them at (727) 545-8114. They also meet clients at On Top of the World, in Clearwater, FL and at OTOW in Ocala, FL. In Ocala, Mr. Colen, Rachel Wagoner and Jennifer Cooley are available, by appointment, for legal conferences, at the former sales office of On Top of the World Real Estate Company. In November, they will have a separate office in the Circle Square Commons area. Call or email for directions. Visit Mr. Colen's Website at [www.gcolen.com](http://www.gcolen.com). He may be located on Twitter at @jerrycolen. Feel free to email him at [Jerry@gcolen.com](mailto:Jerry@gcolen.com). Rachel Wagoner's email address is [Rachel@gcolen.com](mailto:Rachel@gcolen.com). Jennifer Cooley's email address is [Jennifer@gcolen.com](mailto:Jennifer@gcolen.com).

## NOTICE

### Important bulletin for all On Top of the World residents

A new standard has been implemented for sealants that will affect window, awning and air conditioning contractors performing work for OTOW residents.

Residents should be aware that due to an extremely high failure rate, silicone sealants are no longer approved for use as a caulking and weatherproofing product within On Top of the World.

Failure of the silicone sealant bond has resulted in water intrusion into units. This has resulted in significant water damage and costly repairs. WATER INTRUSION is a serious issue that may damage belongings and lead to mold growth.

Protect yourself by asking your contractor in advance if they are using an ACRYLIC URETHANE or POLY URETHANE sealant recommended for use by your Association. Applying the proper sealant, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, may prevent water intrusion.

Detailed information is available at the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

Only Good News for 46 Years  
Published Since 1968

Kenneth Colen, Publisher • Doug Kates, Editor • Dave Hart, Asst. Editor

**Press Association Officers**

Yvonne Courtney, President

Jackie Dooley, Vice President • Arlene Bergen, Secretary

To advertise in our January edition, checks must be received by Dec. 15\*

\* Be aware, we may sell out all our ad space before the deadline!

**NEXT DELIVERY DATE**

January newspapers will be delivered on Dec. 31

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

On Top of the World News is a community organization for the benefit of the residents of On Top of the World.

On Top of the World News does not accept advertisers solely for commercial purposes or income. This newspaper will be published on its regular schedule whether there are advertisers or not.

On Top of the World News reserves the right to reject any advertiser within its sole, absolute, and unfettered discretion. Not every advertiser is acceptable. If you, the resident of On Top of the World, have had a justifiably bad experience with an advertiser and if we have had previous complaints that are justified, we will not accept future advertising from them.

The News endeavors to keep the standards of this paper at a high level. We do not, however, endorse advertisers or knowingly accept objectionable or fraudulent advertising. On Top of the World endeavors to publish only good, informative and worthwhile happenings of life. This newspaper will leave the daily news of life with all its strife, struggle and turmoil to commercial publications. On Top of the World News does not strive to be a profit-making entity. We take pride in the fact that the On Top of the World News staff is entirely made up of volunteers except for two professionals to coordinate the operation of this paper.

On Top of the World News does not accept an advertiser solely because it is willing to pay to advertise. Trades and services regulated by the State or County must all be licensed in order to advertise. In some cases, background checks are required. All advertisements must contain a local address or a local telephone number.

The submission to OTOW NEWS of any photo, artwork or other form of copyrighted material authorizes OTOW News to use and/or print the image at later dates and in other forms in such ways as OTOW News, in its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion deems appropriate.

The OTOW News may not be reproduced in any way, in any other media, except in print and on the official OTOW Website.

On Top of the World News Inc., 2069 World Parkway Blvd. E., Clearwater, FL 33763. Phone Number: 727-799-3216. Online newspapers and advertising rate information are available at [www.ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/news.html](http://www.ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/news.html).

**This month's volunteers:**

- Barb Sundberg
- Arlene Bergen
- Theresa Kawalec
- Gloria Clifford
- Cele Radeloff
- Esta-Lee Schwartz
- Jackie Dooley

**Newsroom Hours**

**9:30-6 Mon-Thur, 9-2 Fri**

**The newsroom will be closed**

**Dec. 22-30**

**\*The normal deadline for purchasing ads is the 15th of each month, but our color ad space will likely sell out before the 15th.**

**Black and white ad space could also sell out before the 15th.**

## Around The World

**COLUMNISTS**

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- 3 ..... Dessa Barabba
- 4-5 ..... Ken Colen
- 6 ..... Holiday Lights Safety Notice
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**CLUB NEWS**

- 17 ..... Baby Boomers
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- 74 ..... Englander
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# Press writers continue to improve writing skills

Imagine the thrill if you were a teacher, and during a difficult quiz, your students repeatedly blurted out correct answers to several challenging questions.

This is what happened during the Press Association's annual Writers Workshop in November.

Editor Doug Kates put together a 30 minute presentation, which included a short review of basic journalism guidelines and On Top of the World newspaper rules.

Then, 35 newspaper writers in attendance were asked to take a quiz. Some of the questions were simple and some needed some thought.

Overall, Doug said he was pleased with the entire staff when they con-



stantly gave correct answers out loud.

"It was very rewarding," Doug said. "We have had five Writers Workshops now and you can tell that certain staff writers are in attendance to learn

and improve their writing skills.

"Some of the questions were tough, but the answers were always on the nose."

This year's attendance was a significant drop from the 70 people who attended last year's Writers Workshop. Adjustments will be made to try to bring up attendance for next year.

A reminder, the Press Association meeting in December will be a holiday luncheon at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. Reservations were required by November, but 30 people did sign up.

Staff may arrive at 1 p.m. with lunch starting at 1:30 p.m.

Please note, the January 2015 regular meeting has a special time, date and place. The meeting will take place

11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 8 in the East Activity Center Veranda Room.

The date had to be switched because the first Thursday of the month falls on New Year's Day.

At the January meeting, staff will be asked to vote on a new Press Association rule. Doug has asked to approve a rule which would declare a building open for a new writer if that building has not had an article submitted in the past 12 months.

"We need a written rule that states a new reporter can take over duties of building if it appears a specific building has been abandoned as far as reporting is concerned," Doug said.

The vote will need to pass by a two-thirds vote.

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*presents*

### Holiday Lights Contest

**This year - two divisions**

**First-floor units and Upper-floor units will compete in their own divisions**

*Dec. 1-17: Call the newsroom (799-3216) and set up a date and time for your condo picture to be taken at night. Please do not call until all your decorations are in place. Please follow all OTOW decoration rules. Prize winners will be disqualified if a rules violation is discovered.*

*Dec. 19-21: Online polls open. Anyone in the world can go to the voting Website, see photos of all the entries and vote. You are limited to four votes per computer (your 2 favorite first-floor units and your 2 favorite upper-floor unit). Once you vote, you cannot return. Polls close at noon on Dec. 21.*

*Dec. 31: Winners will be announced in the January edition of OTOW News, which will be distributed to residents on New Year's Eve day.*

[ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php)

# Everyone remembers actress Eunice Quedens - except you won't know her by this name

If you desired to pursue a career in show business, how important is your name?

Eunice M Quedens quit high school, in Los Angeles, at the age of 16 and joined a stock theater company. But she had a problem. No one could remember her name and it wouldn't fit on the marquee.

In 1938 Eunice was signed for a comedy sketch in the Ziegfeld Follies. Her name became a big problem. Eunice and her director were sitting in her dressing room and hoping to come up with a new name.

On her dressing table were two



**Walter  
Balderson**

## Inside Showbiz

bottles of perfume. Evening in Paris and Elizabeth Arden. From those two bottles came, Eve Arden.

Eve signed with Columbia Pictures, but her big moment came when CBS TV brought her show, Our Miss

Brooks, to TV.

Most people will remember Eve's character, Connie Brooks, as an English teacher at Madison High School. The show ran for nine years.

Even though the show was a huge success, Eve did not like the role. She said the character was not at all like her.

Eve's portrayal of Connie Brooks was so popular that she was made a Honorary Member of the National Education Association.

She was a life-long Republican.

Her closest friend was Jane Wyman. During the Reagan adminis-

tration, Eve was invited to the White House many times.

Her parents were divorced when she was a child. She declared, later in life, she was very insecure and needed therapy.

In the '60s, she took time off to raise a family, only making a few guest appearances on TV. She later returned to full-time TV in the Mother-In-Laws, which ran for two seasons.

Eve was very secretive about her age and often disguised it. However, her tombstone, engraved by her family, reads: 1908 – 1990. She was 82.

## November Photo Search Answers

1. Outline color of heart

2. Upper left picture switched

3. Brown box missing

4. More table placemats

5. Outline around eyes

6. Design on little pillow moved down

7. Flower on pillow changed color

8. Picture becomes vertical

9. Bear missing bow tie

10. 3 pendants instead of 2

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Must be present for water turn ons.

Did you know there are 4 ways to turn your water on or off?

(1) CALL: 727-799-3417 (Option 6)  
Messages are retrieved Mon-Fri, 8-3:30.

(2) Visit the East Activity Center Community Service Desk from 8:30-3, Monday-Friday.

(3) Go Online to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and fill out a service request.

(4) For service after 3 PM call 799-1115. A \$35 payment (by check) will be required at the time of service.

\* For timely service, please schedule a request a day in advance.  
Your water will be turned on within a two-hour window of requested time.

Have you ever been told that restoring your teeth was hopeless?  
 Have you been led to believe that costly implants or uncomfortable dentures were your only option?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, I have good news.



I'm Dr. Austin Sampson. I have 40 years experience in reconstructive dentistry.

My professional accomplishments include:

- Post graduate training in bite-related disorders and TMJ
- Membership in the Heritage Registry of Who's Who
- Recipient of the Top Doctors & Dentists, Florida Doctor Awards

I can't tell you the number of times I have spoken with patients with complex dental problems who believed that their teeth could not be restored. Thanks to my training and experience, I have been able to successfully treat hundreds of such patients, many of whom are your neighbors at Top of the World. In many cases this can be done more affordably than you might imagine.

So if you think that dentures or implants are your only options, come in for a complimentary consultation. We are conveniently located just a short drive from the west entrance to Top of the World.



Call for a complimentary consultation today!

**Austin H. Sampson, DDS, PA**  
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Phone: (727) 796-8891



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- Larry (On Top of the World resident)

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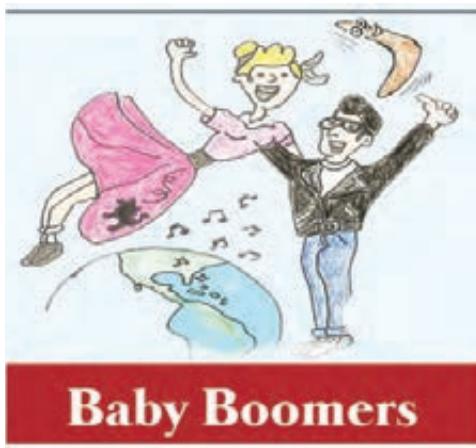
Kenneth D. Colen, Licensed Real Estate Broker



# ACTIVITY REPORTS



## Baby Boomers want everyone to realize the thrills of kayaking



By Dan Burnstein

The Baby Boomers have come on-board the kayaking movement with a passion.

We have taken about 10 trips in the past few months.

We've visited Honeymoon Island off of the Dunedin Causeway, Wikki Watchee River, Coopers Bayou (south of Safety Harbor Park), Weedon Island (St Petersburg) and Crest Lake Park.

We've also been to Alligator Lake (didn't see any), Double Branch Creek, Warner Boyce Park, Cotee River and Withlacochee River.

Our trips are typically 2-3 hours.

We are not gym rats or endurance racers, so anyone can become a kayaker with a little energy and flexibility - the hardest part of kayaking is not the paddling.

The Boomers might make a movie of us getting in and out of the kayaks ... if we do this, we can charge big bucks to promote world peace and general hilarity.

Most of the places we kayak have a rental facility nearby - and there are short classes given by local kayak companies that introduce you to this new and fast-growing sport.

All and all, there is no better way to see Florida than one foot off of the



Baby Boomers take a break from a morning of kayaking.

water.

Take an intro course and join us sometime.

The end of the year draws near. Christmas parties are abundant, including the Boomers' membership dinner party, which is being held on Dec.10 at The Beachcomber Restaurant in Clearwater Beach.

It was a good year with many activities, including festivals, cruises, picnics, kayaking trips, sailing trips, golf outings, dances and day trips.

A big thanks to all members who gave their time and energy to create or research activities for all of us to enjoy.

We will start 2015 with a Sock Hop on Jan. 17, 6-9 p.m., in the West Activity Center Sunrise Room. Music will be by At Large. See Mary Skaarer at our meetings for \$10 tickets.

In February we will have our Super Bowl party.

Our meetings are the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, at the East Activity Center

Starlite Room, 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining the Baby Boomers Group, everyone is welcome to the meetings and should bring their current On Top of the World Recreation Card. There is no membership fee.

Meetings usually consist of everyone participating in creating weekly or monthly social activities. After meetings, we usually continue with a fun-filled activity, such as dining out, dancing or visiting a local club for additional socializing.

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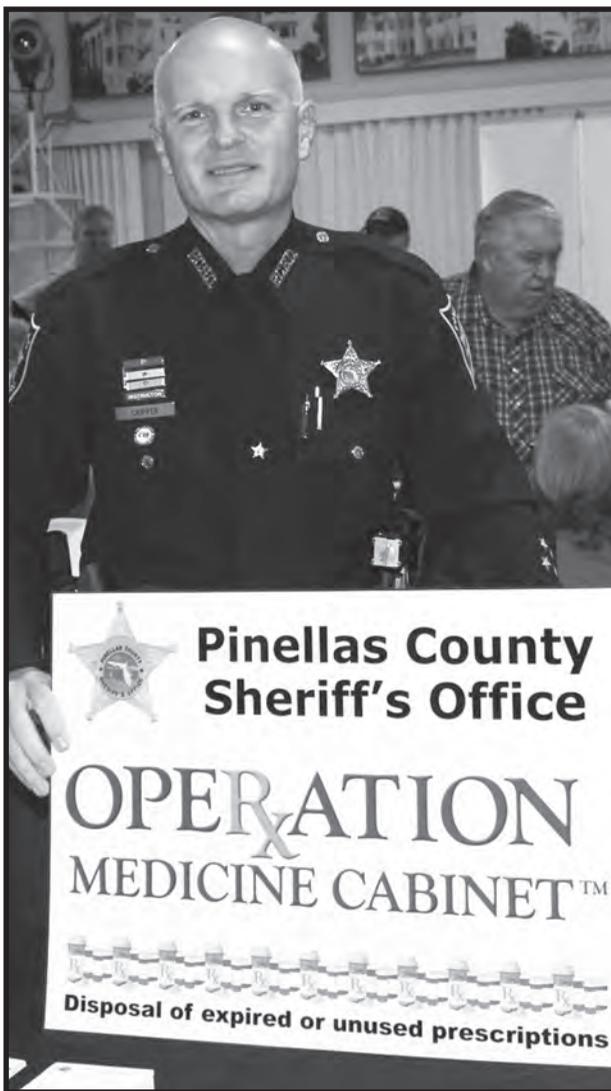
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Watch for other Safety Harbor businesses on future "Visit Safety Harbor" ads



Vendors filled up the East Activity Center auditorium for the Senior Expo. The event was organized by Good Neighbors and the Community Service Office

# 2014 Senior Expo



Overall, more than 40 vendors attended the Senior Expo on Nov. 1. Some of them are pictured on this page, including Midway Services, Got Junk?, Bay Area Heating and Cooling, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Operation Medicine Cabinet, Tardif Electric, Home Depot and KAS Construction. (OTOW News photos by George Swiderski)

# New training program set to start in 2015

By Doug Erickson

We are extremely pleased with the membership of our club.

The talents and experience that we share has made us a very cohesive group. One hundred and thirteen people from our community enjoyed the shop this year. Thirty-five were new members.

With that interest in wood working there is a need for continuous instruction on how to use tools and equipment. A program to provide that training is being developed. We plan on showing the first segments at our annual general meeting on Jan. 8, 2015, in the East Activity Center Large Card Room, at 9 a.m. We urge all members to attend.

The election of officers for 2015 will take place. Jim Calamas becomes president. Positions to be filled are president elect, secretary and treasurer. Candidates are Lee Catalfomo president elect, Doug Erickson secretary,



## Fixers Club

Henry Santos treasurer. Nominations are still open.

Lee has an extensive background in electric power production in coal-fired and nuclear plants. He was involved in research, training, personnel supervision and management. His talents will certainly benefit the Fixers club.

Henry worked as a quality control engineer for a large residential lighting manufacturer, and although being

a Fixer for only a year and a half, he is looking forward to being part of the group for many years to come.

I (Doug) have an automotive background in collision damage repair, apprentice training and insurance cost management. I have been a member of the Fixers since 1998 and have been pleased to witness improvements each year.

We have had rotating leadership for five years and the results have been better than expected. Each president has focused on an aspect of the club that is keeping us up to date and making needed improvements.

We invite you to enjoy involvement in this aspect of the club with us.



Joanne Marik, left, and Phyllis Brooks, right, show off two costumes donated by On Top of the World resident Ken Roland. Also pictured is Jesters member Peg Nowak.

## Jesters' show will feature some new costumes

By Donna Ryan

On Top of the World resident, Ken Roland, has donated some of his amazing costumes to the Jesters.

Before coming to the United States in 1990, Ken, who is English born, was active in the United Kingdom and Europe making good use of his talents, both as an entrepreneur producer/director, or as an all-around performer.

A few of his achievements include writing and directing "Mardi Gras" in Orlando and "Stage 16" for Warner Brothers at the New Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

We are so fortunate to have him here at OTOW.

A reminder, our holiday dinner is



## JESTERS

Dec. 10 at the Countryside Country-club. The dinner will replace our December general meeting.

Tickets for our February show "Celebrate America" are on sale every Monday and Thursday, 9-10:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center.

Any questions, call Donna Ryan 797-5341.



## On Top of the World Computer Club

[www.otowcc.com](http://www.otowcc.com)

### Classes, Presentations, Problem Solving One-on-One Assistance

We hold a business session, presentations, and advanced and beginners classes every Saturday morning from 8:30-10 a.m. in the East Activity Center main card room.

We help members with hardware and software issues from 9-10 a.m., Monday mornings, no appointments necessary, or you can schedule an appointment from 9-10 a.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

We will help any member with Windows XP or Windows 7 instruction from 9-10 a.m., on Fridays.

Our club offers free Wi-Fi in the EAC, and a computer equipment recycling service to members for a small, modest fee.

The computer lab is located opposite the large card room. By joining our club, you can ask all your computer questions in a relaxed, friendly environment, and your questions may help others with similar situations. You are also encouraged to share your own past computer experiences - both good and bad.

# Before the traditional holidays started, line dancers were partying in costumes

By Julie Narancich

The Line Dancers potluck luncheon was held on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at noon followed by line dancing.

Our hostesses, Lynn Anzalone and Loni Bentley, did a great job in organizing the event. There were so many wonderful costumes. It was difficult to find a winner. However, the top three winners were Cele Radeloff, Sheila Bonomo and Lynn Anzalone. Marion DeLucia from the Good Neighbors Gift Shoppe was our judge.

Cele Radeloff and Ednamae Jordt ran the raffle and our lucky winners were Lynn Anzalone, Ednamae Jordt, Anne Adams, Chris Nason, Maria Scheibe and Jung Dinello.



## Line Dancing

The Line Dancers held an annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18 to accept new bylaws and elect new officers. The new line dance officers are Chris Nason, president; Ellen Gilbert, vice president; John Koenig, secretary; and Mary Becker, treasurer.

Special thanks to Pat Van Hise for heading up the nominating committee.

In addition, we are all so grateful to Ellen for stepping up and taking charge for the past few years as acting president. Thank you Ellen.

Mary Becker is collecting the annual membership fee of \$5. Please present your On Top of the World Recreation Card along with \$5 to Mary, who is easy to spot as she usually wears a great hat.

We welcome full-time residents here at OTOW and welcome back our Snowbirds. The Line Dance Club dances two times a week all year in the EAC ballroom. Therefore, please join us as any time is a great time to learn line dancing.

We have wonderful individual in-

struction and provide patience and moral support, so please join us every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. for two hours of fun and fitness in the East Activity Center auditorium.

Beginner lessons start at 1 p.m. on Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday for 30 minutes. The beginner lessons are extremely helpful.

We welcome everyone and invite you to bring your friends. Line dancing is great for men and women of all ages. For any questions regarding Line Dancing Club, please contact Mary Becker at 253-4874. Hope to see you soon! Wishing you many blessings this holiday season and good health in the New Year.

# Vote for a new board at Jan. 28 meeting

By Sue Fleming

A new year, a new president and a new board.

But only if members show up and vote.

The first New York-New Jersey meeting of the new year will be 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the East Activity Center Starlite Room.

Elections will be held for all new officers for the club.

The following is a list of potential board members: Sue Fleming, president; Mike Mikulski, vice president; Jane Lee, secretary; Laura O'Connor,



## NY / NJ Club

treasurer; Terry Mikulski, hospitality and Sally Shevlin, membership.

Membership dues of \$5 will be collected at this meeting and refreshments will be served.

# Stamp Collectors starting up

Get ready for a new year and the beginning of Stamp Collectors meetings starting January and running through April 2015.

Come see how informative and entertaining it is to talk about our hobby. Don't miss these dates. We will meet Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3 and April 7 in the West Activity Center Sunrise Room from 1-3 p.m.

For more information, call Jim Sundberg at 847-951-2284.

## Join the OTOW Jam Band

Jam Band is a group of residents who get together in the EAC Large Card Room just to play music. We are currently looking for new residents to join.

Whether you currently play an instrument, or once upon a time played an instrument,

let's get together and have some fun. Call 726-6301 for more information.



## Volunteers Needed For



## Meals on Wheels

Two hours a week is all it takes.

For more information,

contact Sandi at 573-9444



## POLAR BEAR

## AQUA CLASSES

Starting Nov. 3, 9-10 AM, EAC Pool

Healthy, fun water exercises with a friendly group of people. Everyone is welcome. Classes are free. If outdoor temperature is above 62, we will be there.

For more information call 797-1168

# Let the research and history tours begin again!

By Anne B Watkins

We began the year with the “usual suspects,” the bunch that has been loyal to the group for more than a decade, as well as Shirley Perry, a newcomer to On Top of the World.

Shirley is especially interested in DNA, so we’re looking forward to hearing from her on the subject when she leads our program in January.

Our other programs this season will be on a variety of topics.

Bennie Gresham will be showing her collection of early Clearwater postcards in December. She has been in this area for more than 50 years, so



## Family History

Bennie has a perspective on our home here that most of us lack.

In February, Edie Ryczek and Anne Watkins will tell of their ad-

venture in getting Edie accepted to Daughters of the American Revolution. It was a two-year journey, with many twists and turns along the way.

In March, we will have either a potpourri general question and answer session, or we may take a field trip to a nearby historical museum, location yet to be decided.

Then in April, the last meeting of the season, Dan Hooper will tell us about going with the Sons of the American Revolution to the dedication of a Revolutionary War monument at Thomas Creek near Jacksonville, Fl.

We decided to drop the May meeting this year, since we have found that, most years, our Snowbird members have already left and gone back up north by that time.

We meet the second Monday, November through April, 1-3 p.m., in the East Activity Center computer room for a program and help with research.

Guests are always welcome.

The Family History Group has no dues, but we are an interest group of the Computer Club, so we support them by joining their club individually.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Dec. 8.

## Thank you Julie!



They say it's not where you go, it's who you travel with. So when traveling with Julie Narancich, you just know you are going to have a great time. Pictured above is a group of gals from the morning exercise class, which had a great time enjoying brunch with Julie (back row, second from left) at First Watch. Julie announced last month she is leaving our community. For those of us who are fortunate to know Julie, we are truly going to miss her. The exercise class has enjoyed its morning work outs with Julie, including her Zumba classes. Her energy has been an inspiration to all of us. She has also been a long-time writer for this newspaper. Although under contract, we have to let her go.

## Christmas Dinner Dance comes with food and music

By Rose Mulhall

Great to see so many of our members back On Top of the World and we have some exciting entertainment booked for the new season.

Our annual Christmas Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, Dec. 12, and for your dancing pleasure music will be provided by Terry Connolly. We will be serving turkey and ham with all the trimmings, including dessert.

Then on Jan. 9, we have Ken McBride in concert. Ken has been a mainstay entertainer at Harrah's Casino/Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., for more than 19 years and has also performed on many luxurious cruise lines and showrooms throughout the United States.



## Irish Club

His expansive repertoire extends from classical selections to the contemporary style of Frank Sinatra, Englebert Humperdink, to Billy Joel and from the favorites songs of his native Ireland, to Broadway Show tunes.

Tickets are available Mondays and Thursdays 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the East Activity Center.

## Welcome back to shuffleboard

By Kasy Linkewich

I know everyone is enjoying the cool weather. It is a nice change of the season.

Welcome back to all of our seasonal visitors. The Shuffleboard Club invites all new and experienced players to join us. We meet every Monday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The shuffleboard courts are located behind the tennis courts in the east side.

For more information, call Bob at 729-7970.

The following residents won three games in October:

6: Elaine Langford.

12: Bob Rittner, Jean Rogers.

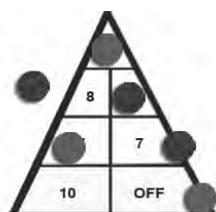
16: Marge Sivek.

20: Bob Rittner.

23: Ray Scott, Jean Rogers, Dave Williams.

27: Angela Helton, Howard Wilson, Bob Rittner.

30: Bob Rittner.



Shuffleboard

## Christmas brunch Dec. 14 at Safety Harbor Resort

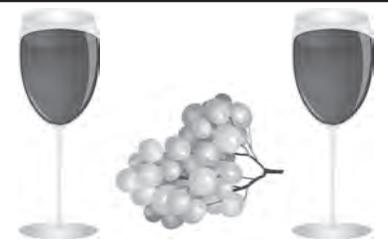
By Jerry Kaplano

Our “Welcome Back” spaghetti dinner on Nov. 19 was a huge success.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

On Dec. 14, the Italian-American Club will host a Christmas brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. Cost to members is \$30 apiece. Cost to non-members is \$35 apiece. Cost includes tax and tip, one mimosa and all-you-can-eat.

On Jan. 21 we will have a pulled pork dinner, along with dancing. Cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.



## Italian American

The goal of our club is to provide fun, social activities to members. Come and join us.

For more information, call Jerry at 723-2475.

***They are one of us!***

# Don't swat someone wearing a Love Bug T-shirt

By Lillian Scheifen

Did you notice the T-shirts worn by the members of Theater Workshop?

Director Will Peterson had his friend design that darling little Love Bug that adorns the front of the shirts. I do not think anyone will mind being bitten by that cute little creature, but you will have to come to our show in March to see who will be the recipients of the bites.

What happens then?

Thanks to our resident painters, John Fier and Bruce Bandini, who created two great posters advertising our shows. You can see them at the



East Activity Center on Monday and Thursday mornings at our table.

We had a fun and lively meeting in November and we were happy to see

so many of our friends and acquaintances join us. A special "Howdy and welcome back" to our roaming troubadour, Ron Holiday. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him, and so many of our members echoed my sentiments. Hope you brought your "geetar" with you, Ron.

Everyone at the meeting had a chance to pick out the proper size for a T-shirt. They are fun to wear and great way to bring attention to our show, "Sailing with the Love Bug."

It is not too late to sign up for Theater Workshop, as we welcome one and all. Rehearsals begin in January 2015.

You may sign-up Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m., and the first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the EAC.

We are eagerly anticipating our Christmas/Holiday party Dec. 3 at the Beachcomber. Hope you have your tickets, as the cutoff date precedes this memoir.

On behalf of our entire club, have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

If Santa has been spying on you, we hope he finds few "naughties" and many nices. You can't fool old Santa, you know. So, enjoy your holiday time and remember it will be work, work and more work after the holidays until our show opens March 13.

## Club discusses goals for next year

By Charlie Christ

At the Democratic Club meeting in November, returning Snowbirds were welcomed and minutes were read from our October meeting.

Treasurer Jim Schelling reported a balance of approximately \$900. Dues of \$12 for the 2015 year may be paid any time.

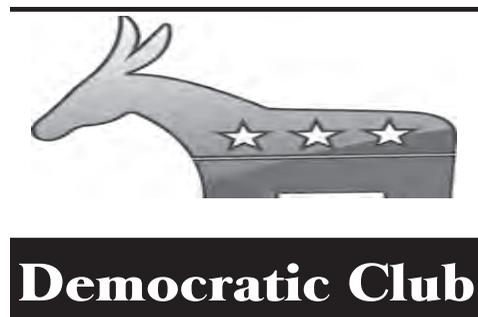
The Bylaws Committee reported that elections for 2015 will be held in March with ballots being distributed at the January and February meetings.

Our Nominating Committee is composed of Donna Lucas and Mac McGuire. Nominations also may be made from the floor.

Betsy Ripson would like to schedule speakers on various topics for a six-month period in advance and will advise us on this as soon as possible.

November election results were discussed. Charlie Crist won for Pinellas County, but lost the election because of very low turnouts in districts with heavy minorities.

Some club members said our meetings should include more interac-



tion from members in topics related to democratic concerns. One suggestion was to break up into various discussion groups, relating to various topics, and then report back as a group.

Each person was encouraged to write up their vision of what the Democratic Club should be and we'll share results at a future meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. Come and bring your favorite hors-d'oeuvres along with BYOB. We'll share our experiences, joys, and whatever in light of the holiday spirit.

Questions or comments, call 754-6749.

## Coming in February



Mark your calendars. The On Top of the World Ladies 18-Hole Golf League is sponsoring a Jack and Jill Tournament scheduled for Feb, 10 (rain date Feb. 17). Good news! The wonderful committee who ran the event last year will run the event again in 2015. Last year's winners are pictured above. Plan to join us and have a great time. You might be in the next winning picture!

## Election Results for Governor

### How On Top of the World voted

**East Side**  
Rick Scott (R) 830  
Charlie Crist (D) 1014

**West Side**  
Rick Scott (R) 498  
Charlie Crist (D) 564

**OTOW TOTAL**  
Rick Scott (R) 1328  
Charlie Crist (D) 1578

**COUNTY-WIDE**  
Rick Scott 144,271  
Charlie Crist 183,930

# Before Christmas officially gets here, Travel Club is going to relax at Disney World



## Travel Club

By Pat Zorland

The Travel Club meeting on Nov. 7 had a great turnout with more than 40 members in attendance.

The new board was presented and the officers for the next two years were announced: President Terri Mikszenas, Vice President Marilyn Whelan, Secretary Trudy Willis, Treasurer Dick Mikszenas, Assistant Treasurer Charlin Miller, and Second Assistant Treasurer Kay Tenuta.

Our next meeting will be 2 p.m., on Dec. 5 in the Starlite Room. There will be a vote on a few changes to the bylaws. Come and cast your vote for these changes.

Our club took a trip to the Gamble Plantation and the Ellenton Mall, which was a great success. I believe all who went had a wonderful day.

On Nov. 30, we took a trip to Asheville, N.C., and the Biltmore Estates.

Next, on Dec. 18, we will have a day trip to Disney World in Orlando. There will only be a maximum of 25 seats available. Come to the East Ac-



A group of On Top of the World residents recently visited the Gamble Plantation in Ellenton. Behind the residents in the picture above is the Gamble Mansion. (OTOW News photo by Jackie Dooley)

tivity Center on Mondays to sign up.

Next on the calendar will be our Christmas Party on Dec. 17 at the Island Way Grill from 4-6 p.m. There are a few seats available.

Last, but not least, Claire and Tom Mauro and myself went on a day trip

to Fort Meyers to the Off Broadway Palms Theater for lunch and a production of the Buddy Holly Story. This was my first trip on a bus that can accommodate people in wheelchairs. At a previous meeting I had stated that I would not recommend a trip with

this company until I had tried it myself. Now, I can say the bus ride and presentations along the way made the time fly.

The show and performers were very professional and the food was excellent.

*Membership cards just \$2*

## More than 15 new books on our shelves

By Katy Gerritt

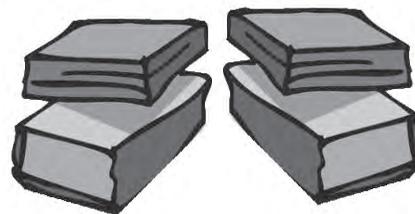
The Snowbirds are returning! We have seen a flurry of activity at the library with old friends returning and new friends joining us!

It sure is great to see everyone.

We have added several new books this fall, including "The Heist" by Daniel Silva, "A Perfect Life" by Danielle Steele, "The Girls of August" by Anne Rivers Siddons, "Cut and Thrust" by Stuart Woods and "Remains of Innocence" by J.A. Jance.

Also, "Bittersweet" by Colleen McCullough, "Private Down Under" by James Patterson, "Love Letters" by Debbie Macomber and "Mean Streak" by Sandra Brown.

Some others that have just made the shelves are "Burn" by James Patter-



### OPEN HOURS

**Mondays 9 am-noon**  
**Wednesdays & Fridays**  
**Noon-3 p.m.**

## Library News

son, "Festive In Death" by J.D. Robb, "Lost Key" by Catherine Coulter, "Bones Never Lie" by Kathy Reichs,

"Somewhere Safe With Someone Good" by Jan Karon, "China Dolls" by Lisa See and "A cup of Friendship" by Deborah Rodriguez.

We are now open on Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m.

Our sales specials continue on Fridays with paperbacks 5-for-\$1 and hardbound books 3-for-\$1. Sales books include fiction, large print and even some non-fiction and biographies.

Also, it's time to renew your membership for 2015. For only \$2 a year you can be a member and borrow up to six books at a time for a two-week period.

So stop in and pick up something good to read!

## ENTER THE 2014 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Call the newsroom at 799-3216 and tell the news staff your condo is ready for a picture. Photos will be taken Dec. 1-17. You need not be home for pictures. There is no entry fee.

# Snowbirds begin the season with theater and dance



## Snowbird Club

By John Koning

With Halloween out of the way, all sights are now set on the holidays.

Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater is offering a delightful way to get in the holiday spirit with dinner and a show called "Miracle on South Division St." Here's what Daniel M. Gold, of the New York Times says about the show:

"Miracle on South Division Street is a sprightly, gentle comedy, where revelations that might remake a family's sense of itself are each rolled out in the service of laughter."

If that doesn't interest you, we're going to Ruth Eckerd Hall on Dec. 14 to see the Florida Orchestra present a holiday classic, "Home for the Holidays," a contemporary mix of popular and traditional Christmas favorites.

Why not join us as we head out for lunch at the races Dec. 17 at Tampa Bay Downs? Racing excitement never tasted so good!

With all of the good holiday food and entertainment, there is a chance you might gain a couple of pounds, so we have just the answer to that eventuality. It's our brand new "Salsacize!"



Sheila Bonomo, center, leads a new 'Salsacize' exercise class.

It is rigorous exercise and a whole lot of Latin dancing to a variety of video programs. Warning! If you don't like to sweat, "Salsacize!" is not for you.

Is cruising on your bucket list?

Join us Jan. 10, 2015, as we sail

the Caribbean for seven glorious days, all for under \$100 a day! We will visit Roatan, Honduras, Belize City, Costa Maya and Cozumel. Line dancers will enjoy Dolly Foland's instructional class and "Salsacize!" fans will follow Sheila

Bonomo's lead. It's all included!

You can check out these events, as well as our comprehensive dance programs, at our Monday and Thursday morning sales desk or by visiting [www.snowbirdstow.com](http://www.snowbirdstow.com).

## This month features a holiday brunch and ice sculpture-viewing road trip

By Walt Copeland

Last month, the Pennsylvania Club enjoyed a fun Welcome Back party and then Thanksgiving at the Early Bird Dinner Theater.

Our December meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Starlite Room of the East Activity Center.

Thereafter comes our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. We will be dining at the Island Way Grill, featuring their famous Champagne brunch. After brunch we will distribute a gift for each household. We have arranged for an excellent entertainer and we are quite excited.

On Dec. 17 we will travel to the Gaylord Palms Hotel to view the mag-



## Pennsylvania

nificent ice sculptures. The \$69 cost includes a round trip bus ticket and a shopping stop in Orlando. Lunch is on your own. Please dress warm. No open toe shoes are allowed.

As the first Thursday falls on New Year's Day, we have moved our meeting to Tuesday, Jan 6, 2015, in the Starlite room at 10:30 a.m.

We have arranged a trip to Tampa Downs horse racing track. The cost of

the Jan. 9, 2015, trip is \$22 and includes admission, a program and a buffet luncheon. Transportation is not included.

From Jan. 15-18, we will set sail aboard Carnival Cruise Lines to Nassau departing from Port Canaveral for four days and three nights at a cost of \$349 per person, double occupancy, including transportation.

Ground Hog Day will be celebrated on Jan. 29, in the EAC, with a catered dinner, door prizes and entertainment.

Future events are included on our 2014-2015 itineraries at our table in the EAC on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Important: You do not have to be from Pennsylvania to join our club. Dues are \$5.

## VOTE ONLINE

for the best decorated units at On Top of the World.

Visit:

[ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php)

4 VOTES

PER COMPUTER ALLOWED

POLLS OPEN

3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19

POLLS CLOSE

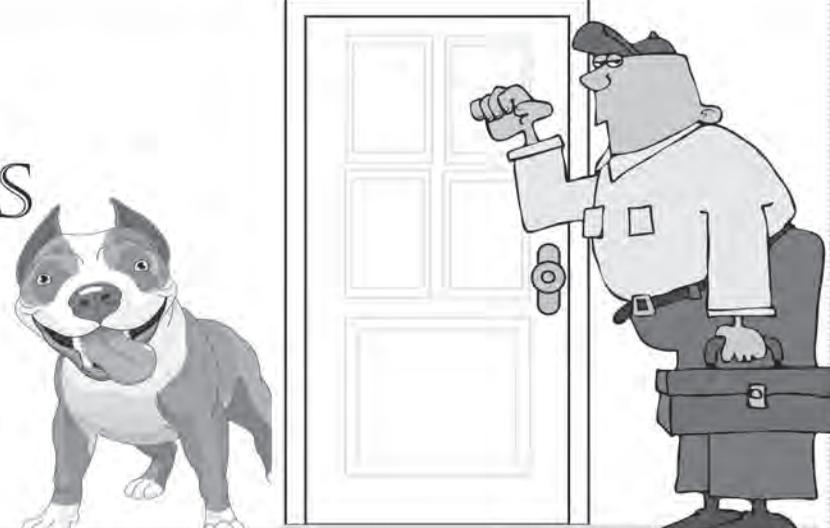
11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 21

See page 9 for details



# OTOW NEWS PRIVATE BUSINESS PAGE

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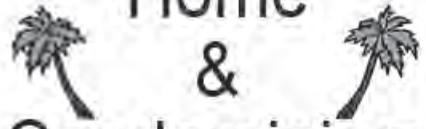
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**OTOW-TV  
SPECIAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

(\* about 8 p.m. \*\* second show about 9:30 p.m.)

Dec. 5: Carpenters Tribute Show  
Dec. 12: 2013 Chorus Christmas Concert\*  
Dec. 19: 2013 Chorus Christmas Concert\*  
Dec. 24: 2014 Chorus Christmas Concert\* & The Carpenters Tribute\*\*  
Dec. 25: 2014 Chorus Christmas Concert\* & The Carpenters Tribute\*\*





Opera Tampa performed here on Nov. 13. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

## November was very busy for Good Neighbors

Well folks - my term is almost up. It has been an eventful and interesting three years.

I want to thank the volunteers who have helped me through my term.

I will still be involved with the Gift Shoppe. If I can answer anyone's questions, feel free to ask.

Have you seen Gift Shoppe photos on the Box Office Website? Check them out.

I also want to personally thank Hee Young Ryu for a generous donation to the Good Neighbors Association. She made a very kind gesture.

The Senior Expo was a great success. We had more than 500 people attend. I look forward to next year's event, which will be even better.

The On Top of the World Community Service Office did a wonderful job.

November was very busy for Good

### Good Neighbors



**President Doris Paino**

Neighbors. Not only did we have the Senior Expo, but we also held a Flea Market and Craft Show.

All the tables for the Flea Market sold out and as of press time, almost all tables were sold out for the Craft Show.

This is the first year I can recall selling out both events. What an experience - and what a lot of work.

At the next Good Neighbors meeting, I will introduce our new president.

Have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

## Newcomers

(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)



Rebecca and Steve Bernai of Colorado

# Lambdans have a ton of festive plans for this month

By Dave Beaven

The Lambda Club wishes happy holidays to all our neighbors at On Top of the World.

We have a busy schedule for December. We start with our monthly club social which will have the theme of Toyland. The setting is the Large Card Room (Santa's Workshop) on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. There will be Christmas decorations and lights and a gift exchange to add a festive touch.

Christmas carols will be playing and candy cane punch will be served.

As usual, our Lambda elves will prepare tasty eats for our attendees. Dress code: wear red or green or both!



## Lambda

The following Friday, Dec. 12, at 8 p.m, the club will be carpooling down to the Palladium for the Florida Men's Chorale Christmas concert – Broadway Lights, Holiday Nights.

This ought to help everyone get in the holiday spirit.

This month's schedule also in-

cludes a Christmas Eve potluck and a New Year's Eve party. Both will be in the Large Card Room as well. And that's not to mention individual parties that our club members throw in their condos.

All in all, there will be plenty of cheer in the Lambda Club during December.

In case you don't already know, Lambda is a social club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) residents of OTOW. We are an informal group that gets together for various activities.

Regular events include monthly socials, dine-outs, game nights, etc. Also, we have a group, the Mall Walk-

ers, which meets weekly to walk at Countryside Mall for an hour.

We look to expand our circle to all LGBT residents in the OTOW community, and we also welcome participation by other OTOW residents who would like to meet their gay neighbors. There are people from many different backgrounds and areas here at OTOW. Lambda Club is just one more reflection of that fact.

If you are interested in finding out more about the club, visit our Webpage:<http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com>.

You can contact us by e-mail at: [lambdaclw@yahoo.com](mailto:lambdaclw@yahoo.com) or call Dave at 727-410-7566.

## OTOW newsroom will be closed Dec. 22-30



**KARAOKE CLUB** w/Lenny and Kathy

**Sunday**  
**Dec. 21 from 5-8 pm**  
**EAC Auditorium**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Snacks, BYOB**



**OTOW Chorus Winter Concert**  
**Presents**  
*Christmas is....*

**Saturday, December 13, 2014 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2014 3:00 p.m.**

**East Activity Center**      **Open Seating**  
**Donation \$5.00**

Tickets are available Mondays and Thursdays at the EAC or from a chorus neighbor. Just call Maryann at 797-3269.  
You can also buy them at the door.

**Wednesday morning Zumba classes**

Zumba is an international rhythm-inspired dance/fitness class and is being offered right here at On Top of the World.

Cathy Caceres, a certified Zumba instructor, has been teaching at the North Pinellas YMCA since 2009.

Her basic class here is 8:30-10:15 a.m., Wednesdays in the EAC auditorium. A 30 minute toning class follows.

There is a fee for each class.

**Free Basic Italian Class**



Do you want to learn some basic Italian conversation and grammar rules? Would you like to learn the history, geography and culture of beautiful Italy? Want to listen to Italian music?

**Basic Italian Classes will take place once a week starting Thursday, Jan. 8 and going through Thursday, April 24. Times are 3:30-5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Computer Room.**

For more information, call 669-2512 or 286-6051.

**Oil Painting Workshop**

**1 p.m.**  
**Mondays in the Art Room**  
**All experience levels welcome, including beginners.**  
**There is a fee.**  
**Call Sharon for more information, 727-442-6404.**

# Four workshops and special presenter set for December

By Judy Mills

Our first meeting of the season was very well attended. There were lots of familiar faces and a few new ones too, which is always nice to see.

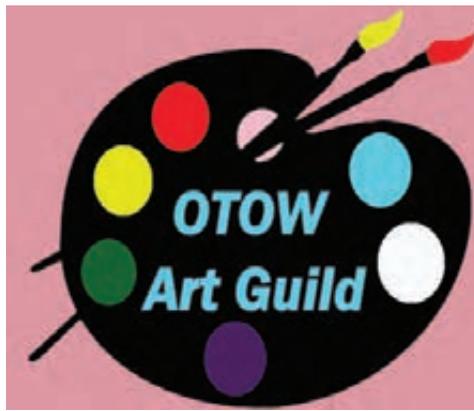
We had our general meeting, enjoyed a beautiful spread of refreshments, and voted for Artist of the Month. Congratulations to Rosanne Moon!

Our next meeting is Dec. 12, followed by a pastels demonstration and our holiday potluck.

We have been keeping very busy these last few weeks with all of the different art class options:

On Mondays, Sharon will be giving oil and acrylic workshops for beginner and experienced painters from 1-3 in the Art Room. Sharon attended the University of Maryland and is a graduate of Eckerd College. She has been teaching since 1980 in the Clearwater area and at Top of the World since 1984 and has been a winning participant in many art shows in the area. Call her at 727-442-6404 for more information. Lessons are \$5 for members.

On Tuesdays, Wendy will be teaching Chinese Brush Painting, which is a beautiful ancient Asian art. These



classes are also in the Art Room from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. The cost of this program is \$5 for members. Please call her in advance so she brings enough supplies. Her number is 723-7504.

On Wednesdays we continue to have Painting Pals/Open Workshop, which meets from 1-3 p.m. in the Art Room. All are invited and encouraged to join us with your current project.

On Thursdays, John Fier will continue giving his popular drawing lessons from 1-3 p.m. Classes are \$3 for members. Bring your own paper and pencils.

Our presenter for December is Karen Baker. She will be doing a pastels demonstration right after the December monthly meeting. Karen has been a professional artist and instruc-



Artist of the Month, Rosanne Moon, left, presented by President Margie McClure.

tor for more than 30 years. She has won numerous awards from magazine competitions, as well as national and regional shows.

For all the Art Guild members at OTOW, we hold an annual art show towards the end of February or first part of March, which gives our mem-

bers the opportunity to show and sell their work. Start assembling your collection now!

Club membership is \$15 a year, which starts in November. Dues are used to pay presenters, expenses of the annual art show and refreshments at our meetings.



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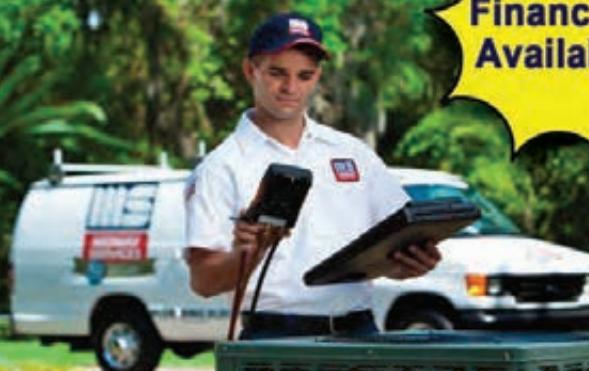
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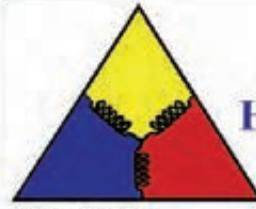
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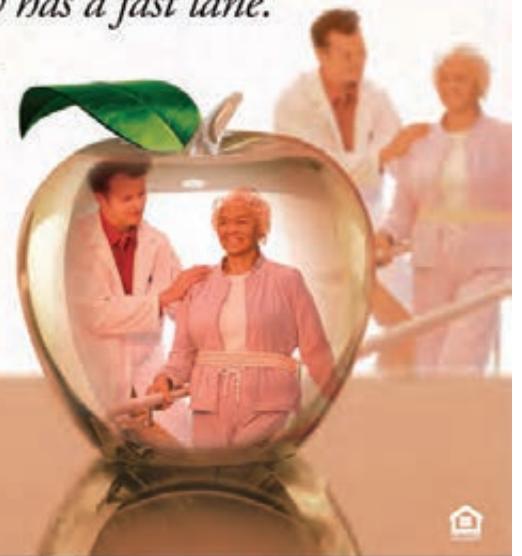
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# Merlyn and Raymond Cooper march on in love and faith

If you were to meet the Coopers in person, you might remember them as winners of the On Top of the World Holiday Lights Contest last year, but it's unlikely that you would recognize them as soldiers.

That's because public perception of soldiers has been shaped and characterized by the wars and battles that dominate human history.

So how could this friendly, musical couple possibly be soldiers?

Merlyn and Raymond Cooper do not bear arms and they are decidedly non-confrontational, but, make no mistake, they are immersed in a struggle of epic proportions and have been for a long time.

It's a struggle against oppression and poverty. Their ammunition is faith, love and music. You see, they are both Officers of The Salvation Army.

Raymond first fell in love with the girl he calls his North Carolina sweetheart with the voice of an angel 58 years ago. At the time, Raymond was on the faculty of The Salvation Army College in Atlanta, and Merlyn was a student. Since then, for 55 years, they have been a tag team of husband and wife, and mom and dad, to Major Raymond Cooper III, who also serves in The Salvation Army at its National Headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

Mom and dad couldn't be more proud of their son.

Commissioners Raymond and Merlyn Cooper served in The Salvation Army for a combined total of 91 years before retiring in 2002. At the time of their retirement, they were the leaders of all Salvation Army personnel and services in the 15 Southeastern States. However, that doesn't mean they quit serving. They have crisscrossed the globe for the Army since then, in ministry and music. They serve the active Salvation Army Officers in Florida as Pastoral Care Officers. You could call them ministers to the ministers.

For the Coopers and The Salvation Army alike, music is a large component of their ministry of Christian love and public service.

On Tuesday evenings, the Army conducts character building activities for children of our area, many of whom are disadvantaged. The kids are picked up and brought to the Belcher Road facility and are given a hot meal



Commissioners Raymond and Merlyn Cooper  
wish you a merry Christmas!

**Last year, in upper Pinellas County alone, almost 30,000 people were helped by The Salvation Army. More than 9,000 meals were served, plus 1,200 more meals during the holiday season.**

and nourishment for their souls.

On Wednesdays, the School of Music welcomes many of the same kids for a meal and musical instrument instruction. Some kids continue through an advanced program with the possibility of college music scholarships.

The good works of the Coopers and The Salvation Army are too numerous to do justice in these few words, but try to absorb these statistics from a year ago. In upper Pinellas County alone almost 30,000 people were helped. More than 32,000 cash grants were given, 9,000 people were visited in hospitals and nursing homes and 9,000 meals were served, plus 1,200 more meals during the holiday season.

Thousands of our future builders and leaders have attended character building activities conducted by The

Salvation Army.

The Army is focused on assisting with or providing some of the most basic of human needs like rent, clothing, food, furniture, housing and medication, and even human trafficking intervention, to name a few. They provide prevention and development opportunities for youth, women and men through music, worship, counseling and even probation assistance.

Those recognizable white cargo trucks with the iconic red shield represent a branch of The Salvation Army that is separate and self-sufficient. The Adult Rehabilitation Center, as it is called, specializes in alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs. Its self-sustenance is due in part to the generosity of donors, like you, and also to thousands of volunteers, many of whom

**Getting  
to  
Know  
You**

A monthly  
feature  
about the people  
in your  
On Top  
of the World  
community

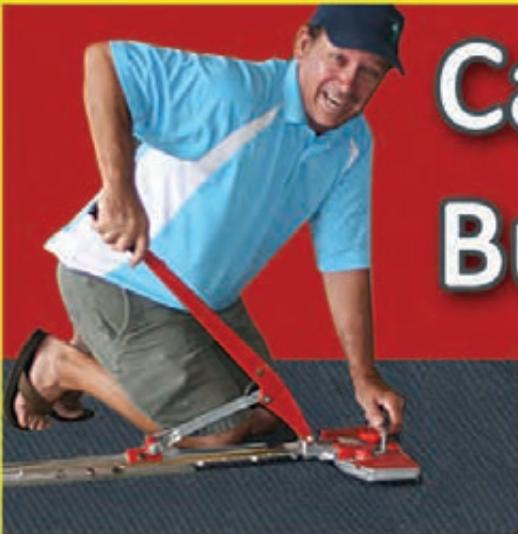
by  
**John Koning**

were beneficiaries of its programs and services.

Whichever part of The Salvation Army you encounter, their motto remains the same, "Heart to God, hand to man."

The fact that Raymond and Merlyn Cooper call On Top of the World home is not luck or accident. They heard about OTOW from friends years ago. They were attracted to the services and amenities our community offers as well as our proximity to The Army's Center for Worship and Service, on Belcher Road. In turn, they now bring OTOW to the attention of friends and colleagues who are moving to this area.

So the next time you pass someone by the pool or on the street, remember that they too could be a soldier on a march of love and faith.



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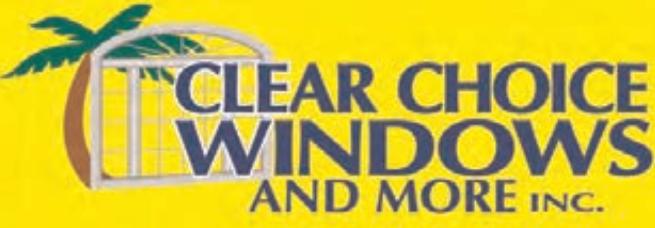
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# Knitting group makes delivery to veterans



## Knitting

By Phyllis Butler

Fall is in the air and the weather is definitely cooler. Some of our Snowbirds have returned, and we are very happy to see them.

We are still waiting for others to arrive. We have also welcomed several new members to our knitting group. We hope they will enjoy themselves.

We made a delivery to Bay Pines Nursing Home last month, taking about 60 lap robes and 40 walker caddies to our veterans. We send all the red, white and blue ones, plus various others that we think they might enjoy. They are all received with enthusiasm.

Our group, under the leadership of Helen Du-



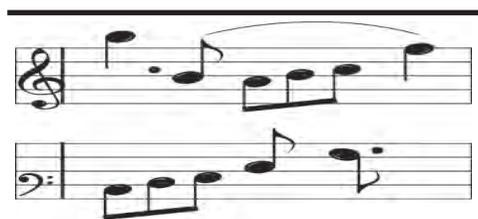
Frances Cichanski and Catherine Gray with some of the lap robes to be delivered.

ranti, meets every Wednesday morning in the Veranda from 9-11 a.m. We both knit and crochet, and, while we don't teach, we do help each other with problems. We make lap robes and shrugs, which are distributed among several nursing homes, and of course, the VA

hospital. We provide yarn for our projects, which is donated from several organizations, as well as individuals, and is greatly appreciated.

If you knit or crochet, come visit us and consider joining in our efforts.

# Santa brings us three new singers for this month's holiday concert



## Chorus

By Ilene Bargerstock

What do On Top of the World Chorus members enjoy even more than singing?

If you guessed having new singers blending their voices with ours, you are right!

Vonnie Oto moved to OTOW from Tampa in August and decided to join the Chorus after reading about us in the OTOW News. Her singing experience includes high school and church choirs. She joins our alto section.

Cindy Cheung moved to OTOW in March and also came to Chorus through the newspaper. She sang in her college choir for three years and in church and community choirs in Canada. She is now one of our sopranos.



Chorus Director Beth Kendall enthusiastically distributes Christmas music to new members, Vonnie Oto, Cindy Cheung and Lavonia Angelbeck.

Lavonia Angelbeck is a Clearwater native who came to OTOW in 1999. Two of our current members sing in the same church choir with Lavonia and invited her to join us. She was a member of her high school glee club and is now part of our soprano section.

We are delighted to welcome these

ladies to the Chorus.

As I opened my front door, recently, after a vigorous morning walk around our beautiful west side lake and ponds, I heard the strains of "Oh, the weather outside is frightful..." and I was once again thankful to be living at OTOW.

However, if that is one of your

favorite holiday songs, you will hear it in its entirety, as well as many other wonderful songs of the season, at our "Christmas Is..." concert on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are now available on Monday and Thursday mornings in the East Activity Center and from chorus members.

Whatever Christmas is to you, come and listen, sing along and have a good time with your friends and neighbors!

Hopefully, our news articles and personal invitations from members will entice some more of you singers to give us a try.

Tenors and basses heed the call! We need you.

Rehearsals for the spring concert will begin Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, from 7-9 p.m. in the EAC auditorium and continue weekly on Monday mornings from 10-11 a.m. in the EAC Large Card Room and Tuesday evenings in the auditorium.

# Seats open for Jolly Trolley ride to Christmas lunch

By Mary Widman

Thank you to all members who attended our game night.

Prizes were given out by Club President Nancy McMillion.

Members donated more than 40 pounds of food for a local food pantry. Thank you all for your generosity.

Thank you to Donna Bittner for volunteering to be our new hospitality chairwoman. We are still in need of a club secretary to take the minutes

of the meetings. Please call Dorothy Carpenito at 796-4460 if you can take this position.

We still have seats on the Jolly Trolley to our holiday luncheon at the Beachcomber restaurant in Clearwater. Cost is \$10 and you will order from the menu. Call Dorothy if you would like to attend this club luncheon on Dec. 16. The trolley will leave the East Activity Center at 11 a.m.

We will have no meeting in January

2015. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 6:16 p.m. Nancy will be discussing our upcoming trip to Barnum Bailey Museum in Sarasota.

If you know of any member who is ill and needs a word of good cheer, please let us know so we can send a card.

We want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2015.



**Singles Club**

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- KAS Construction

This list does not, in any way, guarantee nor endorse the product used, or the performance of the vendor. It does provide you with a list of licensed and insured vendors who meet On Top of the World standards and are in compliance with Pinellas County codes and permitting.

*This list could change monthly.*



**Philosophy Club**

## Express your views

By Bob Reis

Our club is currently enjoying presentations, which are followed by a question and answer period.

The discussions give you the opportunity to express your own views.

We also have "Open Discussion" meetings. With this format you have the opportunity to suggest a topic of special interest to you.

Join us on any Tuesday. You don't have to be a member of our club to attend. You're welcome even if you just want to listen, Tuesdays 10-11:30 AM, East Activity Center Veranda. Any questions? Call Bob Reis at 798-2443.

**OTOW-TV Channels**

**96**

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# No ... the 'most wonderful time of the year' is not shopping, cooking and filling gift lists

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..."

The song is a celebration of the holiday season, about friends and families getting together, hosting parties, spontaneous visits from neighbors, universal social gaiety, spending time with loved ones, kissing under the mistletoe, roasting marshmallows, sharing stories, and a holiday meal that will put us into a food coma.

And we all want to share that celebration with all our hearts.

However, between the shopping, the cooking, decorating the tree, the gifts you forgot to buy, the holiday cards you forgot to mail, and the overall hustle that is somehow attached to this season, this favored holiday song doesn't always live up to its lyrics

Why is the one season out of the entire year that is supposed to spotlight peace ... so hectic, rushed, and stressful?

Most children do not care about cooking, cleaning, shopping, organizing, or having all the right decorations on the tree. They are lost in the childlike belief that "you-know-who" is coming to town, making sure the cookies and milk will be waiting for him, and a light snowfall is the most



By Allen Winston

Winston's World

amazing thing they've ever seen.

Let's face it, there is a commercial side to the holidays and it's almost impossible to avoid participating in it. It's true, we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by buying some last minute stocking stuffers, and a few more lights for the front of the house. And we do have to make sure the cooking is done, the house is cleaned, the decorations are up, and the presents are beautifully wrapped.

But we can't make these things the most important part of the holiday.

This is a time for family and friends, a time to be focusing more on creating memories than on the holiday "to do" list.

For many people, this time of the

year is not so much a voyage of discovery, but rather a ritual of reassurance.

The holidays represent a state of mind for child and adult alike.

To embrace peace and goodwill is the real spirit of the season. It's that time of year when you can count on smiling faces and bright lights and awesome gifts and giant twinkling trees and family reunions and childish games, and classic holiday movies and believing in that old man that you know doesn't exist.

After all, any holiday that has elves, flying deer with antlers, and an old man who not only makes toys, but also delivers them, has to be "the most wonderful time of the year."

Much of the fascination and reverence for this time of the year comes with the sights, sounds and smells of the season. They carry with them a sense of nostalgia, allowing us to relive the magic of holidays past... waking up to a blanket of freshly fallen snow, baking homemade cookies with Grandma, a glass (or two) of eggnog, the aroma of a turkey roasting, driving through neighborhoods in search of the brightest holiday lights, maybe even enjoying a chilly hayride, and of

course all that good cheer, warmth, and spirit that fills the air.

And then there's all that fabulous holiday music. These are wonderfully warm moments that impress themselves on our memories, and we carry them with us throughout our lives.

There is something about the character of the season that makes us more selfless, more friendly, kinder, and generally much nicer.

It is the perfect time of the year to gather with loved ones, flip through favorite family photo albums, and reflect on yesterday's cherished memories, while anxiously anticipating the new ones this holiday will bring.

We need to embrace the magic of the season, and remind ourselves how quickly time seems to flow, how swiftly our days fall into weeks, which tumble into months, which snowball into years.

This year, this holiday season, may we all stop and take the time to enjoy all those beautiful moments that occur unexpectedly, and bathe in the spell this time of the year casts, and as for all that clutter and chaos, relax, and have another glass of eggnog, for it really is "the most wonderful time of the year."

## If I was Santa ...

If I was Santa, I'd deliver all the treasured gifts you have ever lost in the past.

I'd give you back your tiny figure.

I'd restore the color to your hair.

I'd bring you a tight tummy so you can wear your tight-fitting slacks again.

I'd remove all your wrinkles and leave you with one chin.

I would relieve you of aching feet, corns on your toes, and the need to find your glasses right on your nose.

I'd make sure you never had another headache, nor the need for pills or heating pads.

You'd never look silly.

You'd always catch Cupid's eye.

Your heart will rise when those 'wolves' start to whistle.

If only ... I was Santa.

Marge  
Mayer



Marge's Humor

'Twelve Days of Christmas' as sung by your cat

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 12 bags of catnip, 11 tasty pounce treats, 10 ornaments hanging, 9-hour naps, 8 peacock feathers, 7 stolen Q Tips, 6 feathered balls, 5 milk jug rings, 4 munchy houseplants, 3 running faucets, 2 fuzzy 'mouses,' and a hamster in a pear tree.

### Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a big, fat bank account and a skinny body.

Last year you mixed these up?

I've been very good this past ... 'week.'

Can we focus on that and try my wish again?

Merry Christmas.






Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus visited On Top of the World last year and made many grandchildren very happy. Both will return again this month, so make sure to invite your grandchildren. There will be a storyteller, snacks and everyone will watch Santa's arrival on radar. (OTOW News file photo by George Swiderski)

# December features a dance, a show and a visit from Santa Claus

By Marvin Flam

The Entertainment Committee has several exciting and fun events finishing 2014.

And for the 2015 season, the fun will continue!

Don't miss out.

Be a part of it!

Check us out on the bulletin boards in your building and at the East and West Activity Centers.

Check OTOW-TV channels 96 or 732, and the Box Office at [OnTopOfTheWorldNews.com](http://OnTopOfTheWorldNews.com).

We look forward to personally greeting you at the EAC auditorium on Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30-10:30

a.m. and also at our shows, dances and Sunday-in-the-Park events. For information call 727-797-1761, or email: [entcom2014@gmail.com](mailto:entcom2014@gmail.com).

On Dec. 4 we present the Jimmy Mazz Show, and Dec. 6 the Calendar Girl Dance featuring The Travelers Band.

Don't miss Mr. and Mrs. Santa's special visit direct from the North Pole to OTOW on Sunday, Dec. 21. Bring children of all ages to enjoy the entertainment, cookies and punch. And each child gets to sit on Santa's lap and get a gift.

The Entertainment Committee will welcome 2015 with our New

Year's Eve Party on Wednesday, Dec. 31. It starts at 9 p.m. with Flashback providing the music. We will provide the hats, noisemakers and champagne, along with a ton of fun.

More than 400 residents will countdown with us as the old year leaves and the New Year begins. We'll have a champagne toast and celebrate to the wee hour of 1 a.m.

This party is almost sold out!

At the annual meeting in November, the 2015 Executive Board was elected and installed in a ceremony conducted by Meyer Kaplan. As the 2014 year winds down, the EC Board thanks you, the residents of OTOW,

for all your support and encouragement. Our thanks and appreciation also go to the Executive Board and the more than 70 volunteers who have worked tirelessly all year to insure that our events are fun, exciting and safe.

You do not have to travel outside of OTOW to enjoy a terrific lineup of shows, dances and Sunday-in-the-Park events for 2015. All are presented in your auditorium.

There has been no increase in our ticket prices and we offer a variety of discount packages and reserved seats.

Visit with us as the fun continues..... Don't miss it!

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE**



**DECEMBER 2014**



FOR INFORMATION CALL: 797-1761 OR EMAIL: [entcom2014@gmail.com](mailto:entcom2014@gmail.com)

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THURSDAY NIGHT SHOW - 7:30 PM - \$15 AT THE DOOR

**JIMMY MAZZ SHOW**

THE STYLE OF THE CROONERS, WITH THE QUICK WIT AND ENERGY OF ELVIS AND TOM JONES COMBINED



JIMMY MAZZ

**SAT  
DEC  
6**

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE - 8 PM - \$10 AT THE DOOR

**CALENDAR GIRL DANCE**

MUSIC BY: THE TRAVELERS

ENJOY 60s GOLDEN OLDIES & EC BOARD BABY PIC CONTEST



THE TRAVELERS

**SUN  
DEC  
21**

SUNDAY-IN-THE-PARK AT THE EAC - 2 PM - FREE

**SUNDAY-WITH-SANTA**

SURPRISES - FREE KIDS GIFTS FROM SANTA & MRS. CLAUS  
COOKIES AND PUNCH PROVIDED BY GOOD NEIGHBORS



SANTA

**WED  
DEC  
31**

WEDNESDAY - 9PM-1AM - \$25 PP - NO TKTS SOLD AT DOOR

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

MUSIC BY: FLASHBACK

BYOB - WE SUPPLY: ICE, COFFEE, HATS, NOISEMAKERS, ETC.

MUSIC BY



FLASHBACK

**SUN  
DEC 7**

**EC VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY**

BY INVITATION ONLY - A REMINDER FOR EC VOLUNTEERS



**PREVIEW  
OF  
JANUARY  
EVENTS**

- JAN 4 - SUNDAY EC VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-2 PM-AT EAC
- JAN 8 - THURSDAY SHOW - "SHOWTIME" - 7:30PM
- JAN 10 - SATURDAY DANCE - "DISCO FEVER" - SAX FIFTH AVENUE - 8 PM
- JAN 11 - SUNDAY-IN-THE-PARK - 2 PM - EAC
- JAN 22 - THURSDAY SHOW - "THE MARLINS" - 7:30PM
- JAN 24 - SATURDAY DANCE - "SOUTH BEACH DANCE" - LOUIE BRAVO - 8PM

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS: 8:30-10:30 AM AT THE EAC  
WHEN YOU SUPPORT EC YEAR-ROUND EVENTS, YOU SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!



# Can't find your golf ball?

## Check the hole!



Marge Jacobs, left, and Pat Murray, right, help Carol Kapoor celebrate her first career hole-in-one.

By Mary Ann O'Neil  
Welcome back Snowbirds!

We hope everyone had a great summer and you are ready for a fun year of golf.

On Nov. 6 our own Carol Kapoor had the first hole-in-one of the season. Carol was golfing with Marge Jacobs and Pat Murray on hole No. 4.

After everyone teed off, Marge and Pat looked for Carol's golf ball, but didn't find it on the green. They knew it hit the flag pole so next they thought it might have rolled off the green. After a brief search, still no ball.

The ladies decided to look in the hole for the missing ball and low-and-behold was Carol's ball.

Carol used her 7-iron to make the shot.

Congratulations Carol.

### Weekly Awards

November 4: A Flight – Ellen Gilbert; B Flight – Carol Kapoor, Theresa

### Ladies 9-Golf

Gates, Marge Jacobs, Anna Hyden and Connie Saylor; C Flight – Barbara Sensale, Hazel Kelly, Mary Ann O'Neil and Lee Sciarra; D Flight – Verona Titus, Ingrid Durhan, Romy Brady, Fran Pitman and Doris Reasch.

November 11: A Flight – Ellen Gilbert; B Flight – Dorothy Ryan, Carol Kapoor, Marge Jacobs, and Wendy Colquhoun; C Flight – Mary Ann O'Neil, Marge Sivek, Barbara Sensale and Hazel Kelly; D Flight – Maureen McGuire, Verona Titus, Fran Pitman, Doris Reasch.

We would like to welcome Wendy Colquhoun, Doris Reasch and Lee Sciarra into our Ladies 9-Hole Golf family.

On behalf of the Ladies 9-Hole League, may this happy holiday bring many smiles your way!

## Fourth season of mixed league action begins

The opening competition for the Thursday Golf League took place on Nov. 13.

The weather was wonderful and the turnout was large.

The first week of our fourth year saw the hot hand of Don Hunter take both first place and low gross honors. Bob Maynard narrowly missed winning, but easily took second place. Rich Ziembicki was third.

Duane Hinrichs, Bill Cook, Clyde Hershberger, Jahn Lawson and Don Hunter captured one skin each.

Duane Hinrichs was long and accurate, taking closest to the pin and long drive honors. Ada Culbertson was women's long drive champion. Bo Craddock had longest drive for the senior division (although his drive would have won either division).

Each week points are awarded. The person who ends the season with the most points is the league champion. It is our version of the FEDEX

### Thursday Golf

Cup.

Steady play is rewarded, instead of relying on good play over a two-day event. The weekly winner earns 7 points, second place earns 5 points and third place 3 points. One point is given for playing. The low gross winner will receive 2 points if they do not record another place. The low gross winner will be treated as a skin.

This year's match play tournament will begin in January. Defending champion, Ron Parham was spotted in several golf shops selecting his weapons for a run at a third title in four years. Ron will need something special this year as the level of competition increases each year as our membership grows.

The league plays unofficially year-round and here are the final results of

this past off-season:

Week 22 winner was Don Sorensen. Second place went to Don Dorris and third was Allen Pier. Paul Meyers took low gross honors. Allen Pier, Clyde Hershberger, Bruce MacPherson, Don Sorensen and Don Baker all had one skin each. Paul Meyers collected two skins.

John Maloof was week 23 champion. Paul Meyers placed second and Rich Ziembicki was third. Bill Higgins carded the low gross score. Dutch Michael, Allen Pier, Don Hunter and Paul McMinn collected one skin each.

First place on week 24 went to Don Hunter. Dutch Michael was second, followed by Bill Cook in third place. Low gross was won by Bill Higgins. Allen Pier, Don Hunter and Paul Meyers won one skin each.

The final unofficial week was won by Allen Pier. Second place went to Rich Ziembicki. Allan Teal was third.

Low gross honors were shared by Clyde Hershberger and Allen Pier. Jim Cawley, Bill Higgins, Jim Stewart, Don Leamy and Steve Yauk all collected one skin.

Our league welcomes new members at any time and all On Top of the World residents are welcome to join the league. Players must sign in by 10:30 a.m. and play begins at 11 a.m. every Thursday.

Weekly play is not mandatory and guests are welcome. There is no weekly sign up. If you show up, you play. If you are interested in playing competitive golf using USGA rules, our league is for you.

We play the course to a Par 67 using the USGA Stableford format. Men play from the blue tees where available. Women play from the red tees and yellow where available.

For more information call Paul @ 727-474-2344 or email blackdoggol@aol.com



## Some ladies already showing mid-season form

By Pat Eastman

The Ladies' 18-hole Golf Association finally started their league tournaments on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Some of the women are off to a great start in the tournaments.

Coming in first place in their respective flights two-out-of-three weeks were Mary Beth Devine, Sherry Ivey, Elaine Stretavski, Pat Dalziel and Ellen Fier.

Three for three were Gail DuCharme and Pat Eastman.

Maureen Stewart had the shot of the month with a picture perfect pitching wedge for an eagle on hole No. 1 from about 60 yards out.

On Veteran's Day, the ladies played a handicap net scramble. The winning team was Nanette Rudolph, Marie Belliveau, Diane Moxley and Gail DuCharme with an amazing score of 20-under par. Coming in second place was the team of Terri Mikszenas, Trish Burch, Carole Whynot and Carol Lacey.

After the scramble, a delicious pizza lunch was enjoyed by all the women. Fran Zaloski then gave a rules seminar, which included a question and answer session. Also the course superintendent explained why the haz-

### Ladies 18-Golf

ard stakes around the ponds, especially holes Nos. 6 and 17, had to be expended out so far from all of the pond's edge. The expended thick vegetation will help to keep erosion in check and also help with chemical run off. So we all have to live with the added hazards - it's the law.

#### Upcoming events

On Dec. 3 we will have a holiday brunch 9:30 a.m. in the West Activity Center Sunrise Room.

On Jan. 13 we will have our Charity Suncoast Hospice tournament with a rain date of Jan. 20.

#### Tuesday tournament

##### flight winners

##### Oct. 21

A flight-- Pat Eastman, Ada Bryant

B flight--Carol Whynot, April Glenn

C flight--Joyce Monahan, Ellen Fier, Elaine Stretavski

D flight--Gail DuCharme, Nancy McCall

##### Oct. 28

A flight--Pat Eastman, Maureen



Pictured above are the first place scramble winners Nanette Rudolph, Marie Belliveau, Diane Moxley and Gail DuCharme.

Stewart, Sherry Ivey

B flight--Donna Smerz, Natsue Dawson, Pat Dalziel

C flight--Mary Beth Devine, Elaine Stretavski

D flight--Pat Cassidy, Gail DuCharme

##### Nov. 4

A flight--Pat Eastman, Sherry Ivey, Gloria Sayer, Terry Kuplen

B flight Carol Lacey, Leora Hamm

C flight Ellen Fier, Pat Dalziel, Mary Beth Devine?

D flight Joan Yorkery, Gail DuCharme

## Bryants win Guys and Dolls Tournament by half a stroke

Our annual "Guys and Dolls" tournament was originally scheduled for Oct. 15, but due to rain and unplayable conditions it was re-scheduled for Oct. 22.

The rain date conditions were much better and a great tournament was enjoyed by all.

Tom and Ada Bryant placed first in the field with a score of 58.5. Second place winners were Mike Crittedon and Kay Sattedee with a score of 59. There was a three-way tie for third with Rich and Jackie Woloszyn, Carl Rounds and Muriel Salo, and Phil Smerz and Carole Whynot all sharing the honors.

### Men's Golf

All participants are looking forward to next year.

Upcoming events for December are very important. Our next date to participate in your association is Dec. 4, annual elections, when we will decide who will be our officers for next year.

The slate of candidates is as follows: President Elect Joe Gerardi and Jim O'Neil; Treasurer Russell Caughey; and Secretary Pete Milner.

Make sure you come and vote for

your candidate. Look to our scoreboard for further information.

Next is our annual Christmas party and December tournament, which is scheduled for Dec. 10. Our tournament will be a four-man scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Please check in at least 30 minutes previous to tee time.

As always, the ladies are invited to join us afterwards for our Christmas party. There will be entertainment and food and liquid refreshments.

That's it for 2014. See you in 2015.

The officers of your association wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season.



Congratulations go out to J Dico-stanzo for his recent hole-in-one on the No. 16. J used a driver for his first-ever ace. The great shot was witnessed by William Boy.

---

Congratulations go out to Heiti Kitkac for a recent ace on the par 4 No. 17 hole.

Heiti used a driver. The shot was his first-ever hole-in-one.

The shot was witnessed by Sharon Earles.



# October tournament was a bit spooky as competitors dressed up in costume

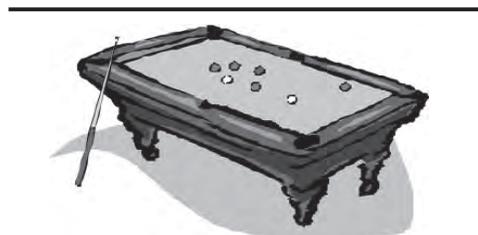
By Reva Heymann

The last November meeting of the Que'T club was only two days before Halloween and the members decided that, while still seriously playing pool, it would be a lark to dress up in costumes for the evening.

We left it open that anybody who did not want to dress up could come as usual, but the majority of the group thought it would be fun.

It was amazing how many creative ideas people had and how good they looked.

Ellen Frederick had on a dress that was the image of what Heidi would



## Que'T Billiards Club

wear.

Becky Balderson was the Wicked Witch of the West from the Wizard of Oz story. She had a totally green complexion (painted on), long straggly hair

(a wig), etc.

Jean Doane was Harpo Marx to a T, including the raucous honk of a bicycle horn when she wanted to get anyone's attention.

Liz Thompson looked like the sailors in the South Pacific movie (as they dressed up as women to sing: "There ain't nothing like a dame") with a grass skirt, pseudo coconut rounds hung on to simulate breasts, etc.

Mary Lou had on a gorgeous looking showgirl outfit with a spotted cow outfit, and Helen Crombie had sewn a mouse outfit with ears and big, colorful bows, etc.

Penny Page took some fake fur and sewed a terrific cave woman costume.

Even our instructors got in the spirit of the thing. Denny Balderson sported a humongous fake beard and Eddy Solivan had skeleton painted gloves, one of which came off ("hand" attached) when someone shook his hand.

Despite the hilarity, the October tournament went on as intended. Maureen Doire was the winner. She never lost a game all night. Margo Lindsay was the runner up with only one loss.

# Dan Kane picks up five solo wins, one team win

In eight-ball action from Oct. 20, newcomer Dan Kane earned first place, Allen Pier (back from summer up in Indiana) captured second place and Dave Williams claimed third in the A Flight.

In B Flight, Barb Sundberg captured first place. After a playoff for second, Joe Wisinski edged out Ron Baltrunas. Ron settled for third.

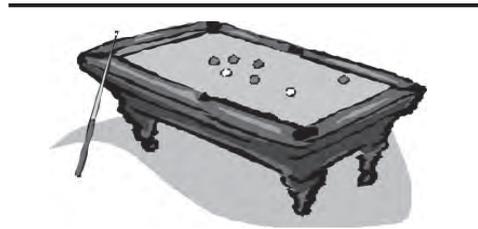
On Oct. 27 in the A Flight, Dave Williams walked away with first place not taking a single loss. Tony Baker captured second. No playoff was held between Dennis Balling and Mario Rodriguez for third place.

In the B Flight, after a three-way tie between Dan Kane, Joe Ventimiglia and Barb Sundberg, Dan took first place, Joe claimed second place and Barb settled for third place.

The A Flight players next tournament was held on Nov. 3. Denny Balderson captured first place, Dave Williams claimed second place and Allen Pier settled for third.

The B Flight players tournament was held on Nov. 4 with Joe Doire taking the first place slot and Ian Hunter, just returning from Canada, claiming second place. No playoff was held between Paul McMinn and John Shearer for third place.

On Nov. 10, after a playoff in the



## Billiards

A Flight, Dan Kane edged out Denny Balderson for first place. Denny had to settle for second. Ed Ramirez took third.

The B Flight played on Nov. 11 with Ron Baltrunas edging out Bill Robertson for first place. Bill took second place with Joe Doire settling for third.

They played Scotch Doubles on Thursday, Oct. 23. The team of Bob Ellis and Joe Gora had fun taking first place. Maureen Doire and Dave Williams captured the second place spot with Tony Baker and Joe Ventimiglia settling for third.

On Oct. 30, Dan Kane took first place. No playoff was held between Joe Doire, Dave Williams and Joe Wisinski for second or third places.



Pictured above are the B Flight top three from a tournament on Nov. 11. From left are Ron Baltrunas (first place), Bill Robertson (second place) and Joe Doire (third place).

On Nov. 6, they played Scotch Doubles with the team of Ian Hunter and Dan Kane taking first place. Bob Ellis and Dave Williams took second place, and Maureen Doire and Bill Robertson settled for third.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, in nine-ball play, Dan Kane took first place with Tony Baker claiming second. On Oct. 28, in a playoff for first place between Dan Kane and Ed Ramirez, Dan captured first place. Ed had to settle for second.

On Nov. 4, Howard Wilson edged out the field to claim first place with Dave Williams settling for second.

On Nov. 11, Frank English walked away with first place. After a playoff, Joe Ventimiglia took second place.

After the tournament, the fellows celebrated Tony Baker's birthday with cake and coffee.

Bring your recreation card, get in on the action and have some fun in these heavily competitive tournaments. We use the round-robin format.



# SPORTS



## Tennis honors Joseph Spahalski for leadership to tennis

By Harry Morrison

The migration south by the Snowbirds is just about completed.

There are always a few stragglers and we all anxiously await their return.

By the time you read this, both Men's and Ladies' Tennis Leagues will be in full swing. The Men's League meets every day, except Sunday, at 8 a.m. and generally play to 10 a.m.

The Ladies' League meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 a.m. and generally play until 10 a.m.

Members and guests come and go as they please during these time periods. As well, members of the opposite sex are more than welcome to play in both leagues.

The format is doubles where all players are in continual substitution play (Equal Court Time). With this process, a player gets the chance to play with every other player at least once.

This is an open invitation to all owners and renters to join us at court

### Tennis

side behind the East Activity Center. Do not let age or ability stop you from joining us. We currently have at least one 88 year old playing every day with us and we will work with you via lessons to improve your playing ability if you so desire.

The membership fee is \$10 and this includes free BBQs, and all the other benefits, which include free supper general meetings.

If you need any further information, please call Harry Morrison at 727-791-7907 or contact me by e-mail at [morrisonharbar@aol.com](mailto:morrisonharbar@aol.com).

By the time you have read this article, we will have had our general supper meeting in the Sunrise Room on Nov. 13. At this meeting, where fellowship is the focus, we focused on electing the new executive board for the 2014-15 year.



Joseph Spahalski

At that meeting, we honored Joe Spahalski who will be stepping down as president and will not be running for the 2014-15 term.

Joe has shown tremendous leadership during this past term, and in a

recent poll has shown a 100 percent approval rating!

During his tenure, there was a continued focus on inclusivity where both leagues became formalized as one association. With this formalization, the OTOW Tennis Association Constitution was revised and passed by the general membership at our general meeting on March 27.

Joe has worked tirelessly on behalf of the OTOW Tennis Association and thankfully his leadership will continue for another year as the Past President.

Thank you Joe!

On Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. at the courts we will have the first of three BBQs (hotdogs/hamburgers) and there will be an informal doubles tournament.

This BBQ will be free of charge for all members.

I am looking forward to hearing from all new potential tennis members and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

## Two players hit for cycle in same game

## Cody's forces tie with five-run rally, game tying-home run

By Bob Rittner

People have wondered how it is possible that the On Top of the World softball league has played for 40 years without ever recording an error.

The answer is simple. An error is defined as a misplay on a ball that should have been played with ordinary effort.

At our age, it takes more than ordinary effort to bend down, let alone to track fly balls or throw more than 10 feet.

Ergo, there can be no errors as every play takes an extraordinary effort.

### Cody's 11, Scott's 11

Down by five runs in the last inning, Cody's rallied with a barrage of extra base hits.

Hugh Quirk doubled to lead off and moved to third on Howard Huff's single. Paul Fice followed with an RBI double and two more runs scored on Bob Rittner's triple over the left fielder's head. Chris Ferrugia capped the rally, homering to deep centerfield.

In the bottom of the inning, Don Dinello tripled with one out, but short-

### Softball

stop Paul Fice snared a sharp line drive to hold the runner, and designated fielder Don Kutchinski displayed his athleticism by grabbing a bad hop and throwing the runner out at first from short centerfield.

Newcomer Rick Champ tripled and singled and also made some fine running catches in the outfield while fellow rookie Rick Helton doubled among his three hits.

### Cody's 8, Scott's 10

Scott's took control of this game in the third inning, holding Cody's scoreless over the middle three innings while building a four run lead.

Cody's managed to pull within one run, but Scott's reestablished their cushion late in the game and held on.

For Scott's, the hero of the game was Steve Yauk who drove in a run with a clutch single and made a spectacular

running catch of a screaming line drive deep in the right centerfield gap.

Joe Maley had a four hit game, while the drive of the day was Pat Kennedy's blast over the left fielder's head that scored a runner from first base.

Scott's also turned an OTOW record six double plays.

Cody's was led by four hit days from Greg Zimmer, Tony Caputo and Guy Bertuzzi.

### Cody's 10, Scott's 5

Superlative defense kept the scoring low.

The turning point of the game may have been in the top of the first inning when Scott's loaded the bases with no outs, but could not score due to Cody's airtight defense.

Cody's shortstop/third base combination of Fred Walters and Phil Kirsch recorded 12 assists and six put-outs between them. In the outfield, Tony Alves tracked a towering fly ball making a basket catch.

Scott's had its share of excellent plays as well, with Henry Santos making a tumbling catch of a pop fly.

### Cody's 9, Scott's 12

Lenny Segall's bases-clearing double put Scott's ahead, and Roger Hebbler's three RBIs secured the lead. Ken Graham had four hits for Scott's.

Cody's Guy Bertuzzi smashed five hits, including a double, but Scott's defense kept Cody's from staging big rallies. Newcomer Eddie Ramirez singled and tripled in his first game in over 20 years.

### Scott's 13, Cody's 7

Scott's broke open a defensive game in the fifth inning, taking a five run lead powered by Lenny Segall's home run and two triples and Don Dinello's six hits.

Cody's was led by Guy Bertuzzi's four hits and an Eddie Ramirez home run.

### Scott's 14, Cody's 15

Chris Ferrugia hit for the cycle to help Cody's eke out the victory. Paul Fice contributed two doubles among his four hits for the winners.

Lenny Segall also hit for the cycle, and Don Dinello and Roger Hebbler each added four hits to keep the game close for Scott's.

**Everything promoted on this page is free!**



# BULLETIN BOARD

## Slimnastics

We meet 9 a.m. every weekday morning. Walking, stretching, getting the blood pumping. We meet in the EAC gymnasium.

## **Polar Bears swim exercises**

Healthy, fun, water exercises for everyone.

Week days, 9-10 a.m., in the East Activity Center swimming pool as long as the outdoor temperature is above 62 degrees.

There is no charge.

For more information, call 797-1168.

## **Bonesavers**

Bonesavers continues to meet all year round.

We meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-9 a.m. in the East Activity Center Large Card Room.

We use hand weights and ankle weights in exercises designed by Tuft University. Our exercises help prevent bone loss. We cannot grow new bones, but we can exercise to try to stop further loss.

Men and women are both welcome to attend our classes. We never do floor exercises and our classes are always free.

For more information, call Libby at 727-669-1486.

## **NEW CLASS!**

### **Fat Burning Workout!**

9 a.m. Tuesdays, in the EAC Large Card Room. Men and women are welcome.

Bring water and a towel.

Be prepared to have fun and burn 800-900 calories.

## **Exercise class welcomes Snowbirds**

Hello ladies! If you are interested in staying fit, come join us at 8 a.m. weekdays in the East Activity Center gym.

The gals are great. The music will get you moving -- it's a fun way to start your day. Our exercises include stretching, building balance and coordination, improving flexibility, strengthening the body's core, weightlifting to improve muscle tone, and cardio workouts to music.

Bring a towel or mat because we do floor exercises. So you won't get bored, each day we work different muscle groups with a different routine. Also, bring your hand weights to our strength training/weight lifting classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We've added a cardio circuit workout with weights on Wednesday mornings, as well.

In addition to the above, come try our new fun and fit workout on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Large Card Room. As always, our classes are free. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Sundberg at 847-946-4214.

Happy Holidays from Tarpon Total Health Care



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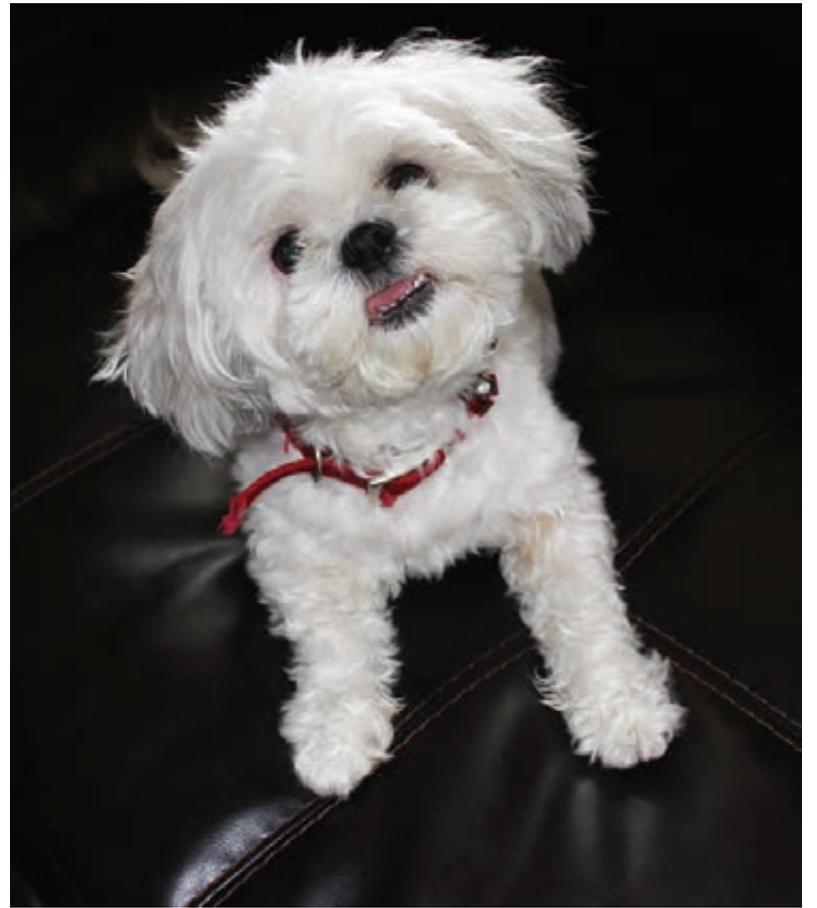
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**Walgreens**  
**PET SUPPLIES PLUS**  
**OTOW News**  
**Pet of the Month**

Each month, OTOW News, Walgreens and Pet Supplies Plus are featuring a Pet of the Month in this newspaper. Any pets living at On Top of the World are eligible. To enter your pet, email one clear, color photo to [boootss@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:boootss@tampabay.rr.com) and tell us what makes your pet special. If you don't have email capabilities, drop off your photo and information to the newsroom. You must include pet's name, owner's name, building and age. Only one pet per household can win each year. The winner will receive (1) 8x10, (2) 5x7 and (4) 4x6 photos from Walgreens on the corner of Belcher and Sunset Point roads. You will also receive a \$10 gift card from Pet Supplies Plus on McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater. If you are the winner this month, bring the newspaper and your original color print to Walgreens to receive your prize, and stop by the newsroom to pick up your gift card. Each monthly winner becomes eligible for Pet of the Year honors in January. We are currently running low on entrees, so if you've never entered your pet in the contest, now is the time to do so! Good luck!



Introducing Cassidy from the Austrian Alpine Building. Cassidy is 4 years old and a non-barker. She loves everyone she meets and always wants to go to the Dog Park.

Cassidy likes to lie in bed and listen to her owners – Kathy Ahrens and Len Segall - sing. But Cassidy refuses to sing herself. Usually she'll stick her tongue out if the microphone is placed in front of her.

This princess always wanted to be a Pet of the Month and now wants to be Pet of the Year.



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# BUILDING REPORTS



Decorations such as these, displayed at the 2013 Canadian Club dinner-dance, will again brighten the East Activity Center auditorium for a festive dinner-dance on Dec. 10.

## Canadian Club Christmas dinner-dance will kick off 2014-15 season of activities

By Rick McLauchlan

Our annual Christmas dinner and dance will be held at 5 p.m. on Dec. 10 in the auditorium of the East Activity Center (EAC).

Tickets are \$13 per member and \$15 for non-members. The last date to obtain these tickets will be Thursday, Dec. 4, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the EAC.

Come and enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner and, if you wish, BYOB and munchies, as these will not be supplied.

A dance will follow, complete with prizes and a share-the-wealth draw. For information, call Rick McLauchlan at 727-238-3657.

Registration for 2014-2015 started on Nov. 15 and will continue in the EAC auditorium from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 1, 4, 8 and



then will restart after the Christmas break on Jan. 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22. Remember, the only items you need are a valid recreation card and \$5. The details of the registration and the general meeting held on Nov. 15 will be included in the January issue of this newspaper.

If you need any crested Canadian Club items, e.g., golf

shirts or towels, our logo design is held exclusively by Embroidery Works in Dunedin. Call them at 727-734-8663.

The President's Ball will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the EAC auditorium.

We will start the New Year with a new event: a "Happy Hour Cabaret." More details will follow in January.

If you haven't followed the On Top of the World newspaper on the Internet over the summer, you may wish to catch up by going online to look for past issues at <http://www.ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/news.php>

Then scroll down the page, click on "Box Office," then "Click here to enter," then "OTOW Club pages" and then scroll down til you see the

Canadian Club logo. Click on it to find club info, events, photos, etc.

Best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and happy 2015.



Perhaps Santa will arrive at the Canadian Club dinner-dance on his motorized scooter as he did last year.

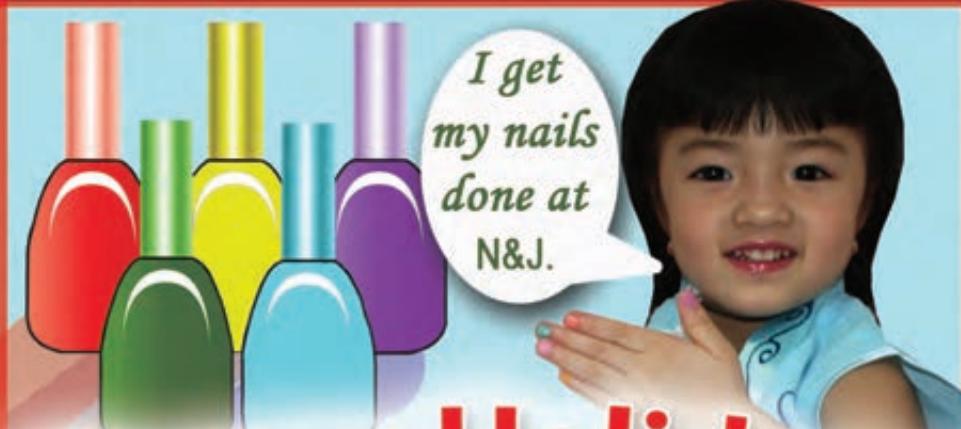
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**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE OTOW NEWS**



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Relaxing at a nice meal are (L-R) Jean and Rob Karl and George and Tatiana Goldsmith.

## Baghdad building once again has a reporter

Being a resident of On Top of the World for more than two years, I have never seen an article written by residents of our Baghdad building.

I would like to change this, so I will be the first in a long while.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is George Goldsmith. My family and I moved to the U.S.A. from Saint Petersburg, Russia (formally known as Leningrad), 23 years ago.

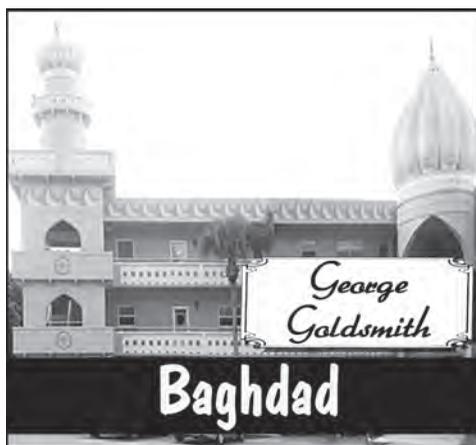
We found ourselves in a new country with foreign language, a new culture and no friends. To start life all over again is not easy. We had to learn the language and work hard to make ends meet. Most American people who were born here have not experienced the type of struggle we had to go through.

But since the United States of America was built by immigrants, your parents or grandparents probably could relate.

We moved to Florida one year ago from Pittsburgh, Pa. We lived in Pittsburgh for 22 years and enjoyed life there. We have three children and six grandchildren. All of them are in the United States.

Our son, who lives in Port Charlotte, is a physical therapist. The oldest daughter is working in a research echocardiography laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. She continues her education at Pitt University. Our youngest daughter has her own hair salon. She is a very talented hairstylist and photographer.

Since Pittsburgh has such cold weather (especially, last winter), we decided to move to Clearwater.



Now we are happy to wake up every morning and see sunshine, people playing golf or walking their dogs.

OTOW is a beautiful, clean, well-maintained community. When our relatives or friends come to visit, they are excited to see fountains, pools, golf courses. Many times we hear from them, "You are living in paradise."

Also we have wonderful neighbors: Jean and Rob Karl, Ruth Simon, and all the people in our building. They helped us each day in so many ways. Jean and Rob are always showing us places to eat and things to do.

We were especially excited to discover a Russian restaurant, the Old Moscow Art Café in downtown Clearwater (530 Cleveland Street). They have our favorites: borscht, pirogues, pelmeni (meat dumplings in broth), and Russian crepes of various kind. Our photo is even on display there. We really enjoy their food and the delicious desserts they serve.

Thank you everybody for being such a welcoming community. Happy holidays! God Bless America!

## Our new Grecian Classic reporter needs your input

During my short time here, I noticed there was currently no reporter from our building.

So I decided to begin writing and sharing great news from our building. So, here is my introduction to all.

My name is Petra and, as of August, my poodle, Sam (who will be 10 years old in December) and I have retired in Florida and have made On Top of the World our domicile.

We both relocated from Louisiana where I lived for 20 years. I have one daughter and one granddaughter; they still reside in Louisiana due to career and family.

I was born and raised in New York, known as the "Big Apple." I moved from New York and landed in Minneapolis, Minn., to attend college and soon discovered that my tired bones could not handle the cold winters.

I spent 14 years in Minnesota and when my daughter was 7, I decided to travel south. My career took me to Pineville, La. A smaller environment and a very Southern culture where "Yes, Ma'am" is still considered proper when spoken to.

Although, I have family in other states, Florida will be our family reunion place.

I've always wanted to retire in Florida, where there are sandy beaches,



good food, arts, entertainment and, of course, sunshine. The decision was not difficult to make.

So, here I am OTOW, where senior living is wonderful and where there are lots of things to enjoy and join.

It is not my intent to infringe on your privacy; however there are probably many interesting events and much more we could share with the rest of our community.

Please contact me if there is something you would like to share. If you know of any interesting or exciting events you or our building are doing or planning to do, let me know. My phone number is 727-725-1623 or 318-419-6510. You may leave a message and phone number. Thank you for your news!

## Time to sign up for Granada holiday bash

We started the season off with a luncheon at the First Watch in October, which was typical of our Granada residents — warm and friendly!

On Dec. 12 we will be holding our annual holiday party in the clubhouse. Look for the details on the bulletin board which will give time and additional information on the sign-up sheet. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Heartfelt congratulations to Marilynne Kuestner, who is a first time grandmother. (Just don't call her grandma — the baby will call her Oomah.)

We will have more to tell you



in future columns as further plans are developed.

Until then... have a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

## Need An Extra Newspaper?

Copies of the OTOW News are available in the lobbies of the East and West Activity Centers.

# Building holiday dinner will be Dec. 9

(In last month's Royal Chateau column, the wrong building reporter identifier and photo was used. We regret the error.)

I'm still hearing of the enjoyable activities that our neighbors had in the summer.

Janet and Joe Scolari had a very busy time in New Jersey. They attended the first Holy Communion of a granddaughter. She looked beautiful in a dress that Janet had made for her.

Later they took a trip to St. Johns, Virgin Islands, which was relaxing and lovely. They also went to the Atlantis in the Bahamas with 17 family and friends and had a super time.

In August, they saw the two oldest grandsons off to college. A delightful trip was made with one daughter and her three little girls to North Carolina, Savannah, and Disney World.

Eileen Hawk recently traveled to the Boston area to visit her grandson and family. She witnessed the newest member's baptism.

Jean Gitlin went with friends last month to Tupelo, Miss. She



didn't say what she did, but she had a good time.

Jeannie Pierce has scheduled some concerts at the 30th Avenue Baptist church in St. Petersburg, and also one at Southernaire Mobile Home Park in St. Petersburg. She does this almost every month and welcomes people in the building to attend.

Igor Nikolic's class in Italian will start again in January. It meets in the lower level of the East Activity Center. It sounds like an interesting

class. There is no homework, and all supplies are given out. It includes music and culture of Italy. You should enjoy it if you are interested in broadening your outlook.

Ladies of the building had the first luncheon of the year Oct. 24 at the Olive Garden. We had a delightful time, and the food was delicious. In November, we went to the Red Lobster. Come join us at Johnny's Restaurant on Jan. 23, 2015. It is fun to get together.

The men are having breakfasts now. It has started with a small group, but they enjoyed it so they went to Bob Evans in November. The next breakfast will be Jan. 23, 2015, at the Golden Coin on Highland Ave.

The annual Christmas dinner will be at Kally-K's on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. Sign up now!

Also, we need people to help decorate the Christmas tree in the core on Friday morning, Dec. 5, at 10:30. We could definitely use more ornaments, so bring some when you come. See you there. Fa-La-La!



Roman Byzantine

## Grandchildren make annual trek to OTOW

Phil and Donna Smerz's grandchildren made their annual Halloween visit (this year they were dressed as a Florida State football player, Strawberry Shortcake and Bam-Bam).

The children now have social lives and are busy with school events. We don't see them as often. Time has wings.

Our Arizona daughter spent a few days with us celebrating her up-and-coming 50th birthday (see photo, below). She was in town to attend her cousin's wedding. She and her sister, who also had a birthday, were able to re-connect with long-lost family members at the wedding and get in some bargain shopping.

"Till We Meet Again"



Reporter's husband, Wally, and daughter, Peggy. (Photo by Marguerite Laskowski)

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|--|---|--|

**A Note For Dog Walkers**

When picking up after your dog, do not throw plastic bags down the storm drains. This is against the law.

Be sure to always clean up while walking your dog.



Debbie Delbora enjoys a kayaking adventure in New Hampshire's Kimball Pond during a vacation trip to New England that she and Mike Gill took recently.

## Trip to New England will result in lasting memories

Come with me and let's revisit Mike Gill and Debbie Delbora's trip to New England to see family and old friends.

They drove to the rocky coastal part of Maine, land of lobsters, clams and, of course, homemade maple walnut ice cream. (Maine sells more ice cream than any other state in the U.S.)

Debbie went kayaking (see photo, above) at Kimball Pond in Dunbarton, N.H., sometimes called Bunbarton.

The foliage was in full spring at the time of their visit.

Apple Hill orchard delivers the best apple turnovers. Then it was on to historic Gloucester, Mass., a fishing port, and site of the "Perfect Storm" of 1991 and the famous fishing vessel, the *Andria Gail*, which sunk at that time, 23 years ago.

## Modernage holiday party set for evening of Dec. 10

Marge Sivek has arranged for our Christmas party to be at Johnny's Italian Restaurant again this year, since we had a nice time there last year.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We will be celebrating on Dec. 10 at 5 p.m.

Joan Wilson's granddaughter planned to get married on Clearwater Beach on Nov. 1. When the wind started blowing at 30 MPH the wedding was changed to the deck of the Island Way Grill, where the reception was held. The whole family was there to help celebrate. Best wishes to the couple.

Watch the bulletin board for the date of our building meeting in the center core. It will be on a Saturday late in January. We will be given information on coming events and will also vote on a few items.



They also got to see some of the giant turbines that help generate electricity for the area.

Then off again to historic Salem, Mass. ("witch city"), and then to the beautiful coastal town of Marblehead to see the schooners sailing in the Barbour. Witch city, beware! Debbie knows the town well, ha-ha!



Do you read columns in the paper from other buildings? If you do, you will find them interesting. You might learn something and see what other people are doing.

Have a blessed holiday and try not to eat too much!

## THE WAY WE WERE A look back at the OTOW News

(Part 67, December, 1976)

By Dolores Burm and Elaine Gotler

- We enjoyed visiting Cypress Gardens on Dec. 9. Buses left at 9 a.m. and left the park at 4 p.m. for return to OTOW. \$8.50 per person included transportation, entrance fee, an exciting water ski show and an electric boat tour.
- The Christmas Dance was held on Dec. 18. \$1.50 per person included dancing. Also a New Year's Dance on Dec. 31 was held for \$5 each.
- The new Bon Appetit Restaurant was reviewed. There were tuxedo-clad waiters, the menu featured a balance of various foods, and the prices were in line with comparable restaurants in the area. Fine organ music played while dining and, of course, the gorgeous sunsets were enjoyed by all.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year to all!

*The OTOW News would like to thank Elaine and Dolores for their efforts in researching and writing these 67 columns over the past five years.*

## Seafood festival, car show help kick off winter season

"The way to happiness is best traveled with competent companions."

Let's face it, we live in a paradise. As an example, John's Pass held a Seafood Festival on Sunday, Oct. 26. Gorgeous there, very scenic, with wonderful atmosphere.

The festival was packed, filled with vendors who had the most amazing artwork for sale. We found jewelry that had been handmade and was beautiful for 10 bucks — anywhere else in the U.S. would have been a lot more money. It was a fun time.

Malcolm and Elizabeth Warren were contributors at the All-British Car Show in Safety Harbor in November where we met up with other friends. By all accounts, it was a very popular, successful show and venue for all who contributed and attended.

Guest star Gary Puckett (without "the Union Gap") didn't leave Elizabeth, without entertainment since he very kindly and sweetly, sang "Young Girl" quietly and beautifully into her left ear... talk about "an audience of one" — what a treat!

And while on the subject of "beautiful" and "treats": "T" was a treat to enjoy such a beautiful day in beautiful surroundings with beautiful cars and



beautiful people who attended! We three had a real beaut of a time... what's not to love about that?

Happy to say my Gourmet Club is up and running again. I kicked-started and hosted the first gathering on Sept. 10. Next time Beth and Don Gutterman hosted it in November with a lovely clam chowder. Still, as always, looking for interested cooks.

Evona Carrol went all-out and treated the building to a Halloween Party for the neighbors from 5-7 p.m. on Halloween night. This was Avona's 94th Halloween. There were lots of treats, no tricks and a good turnout.

Puff pastry wrapped around asparagus: Bake and serve. This is delicious. Give it a try!

# Now's the time to make social plans for the New Year

November, the gratitude month.

The month started with Veteran's Day, an opportunity for us to display our nation's flag. We are the land of the free because of the brave. Thanks to all those who have or are now serving.

We had our fall business meeting of the Azores Activity Club. A club which invites all Azores residents to join. There were 40 residents in attendance: a very enthusiastic group. Our building captain, Kathy Gerritt, kept the meeting moving as we discussed solutions to storage rooms and walkway refinishing.

Lots of discussion of upcoming events: Core party, Dec. 4, Christmas party Dec. 11, a January bash on the 10th, a 35th building anniversary party (TBA), March 14 St. Pat's party with a trip to the track to follow on the 28th.

Kathy appointed Tom Pirrello, John Parham and Chuck Kilgore as a nominating committee to suggest residents to be elected to the Azores Activity Club board. The election will be held in the core prior to the core party on Dec. 4. Please contact Tom, John or Chuck to recommend potential board members.

On Nov. 23 was our building's Thanksgiving dinner, with 28 attending a very special luncheon at Marguerite's.



A super way to prepare for Thanksgiving. Marguerite comes as close to serving as perfect a Thanksgiving meal as anyone I know except my grandmother.

Our traveling diplomat, Dulce Boyce has taken another "Road Scholar" trip that really covered a lot of our world.

She left Tampa and flew to Beijing, China, where she had time to check out a few things, like the summer palace, then off to Lhasa, Tibet, 12,000 feet above sea level. She visited temples, a bazaar and a small village before moving on to Kathmandu and Dhulikhel in the Himalayas. There she visited the largest Buddhist Stupa in the world (see photo at top right).

Back to Kathmandu and off to

Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. She visited the famous Taktsang monastery called the "Tiger's Nest." From there to Bangkok, Thailand, then back to Tampa, home and a much-needed period of recovery.

Carmel and Victor Tomich returned home after an extended trip.

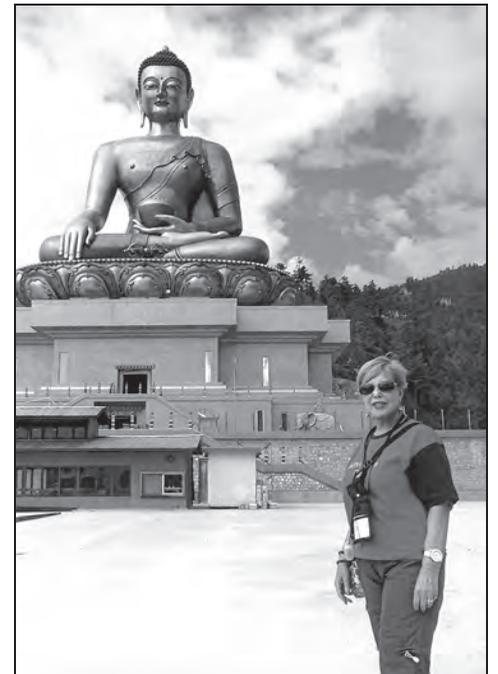
Dr. Barry Warner visited from Alabama to be with his dad for a week. His mom Bettie filled him with "mom cooking" and lots of love.

The building's December canned goods drive is underway from Dec. 1 to 17. Last year we filled 18 boxes. Maybe we can do even better this year — 20 boxes, maybe.

Katie Shinell took a quick trip north to visit family. Temperature up there 32 degrees, trip was really quick. She is glad to be home and warm.

Nora Bill is having a great visit with her son David. He arrived Nov. 22 and will be here until Dec. 4. David is presently stationed in Khartoum, Sudan. We appreciate your service David, and hope you get plenty of home cooking while you are here.

Petie Fornuto reports a visit from her son and his wife and her grandson. Am sure that a wonderful family time was enjoyed.



While on an Asian tour, Dulce Boyce poses near the largest Buddhist Stupa in the world, which she found in the Himalayan region.

Core decorations volunteers are: Marie Pirrello, first floor, Carole Kilgore, second floor, Peggie Longfellow, third floor. I'm sure they will appreciate help and ideas.

Keep your eye on the bulletin board, events are coming up fast — don't get left out. Join in the fun of living in one of the most lively buildings in the whole complex!

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## New postal carrier starts her days early

Meet your new letter carrier, Randi Rust, "our mail lady," who has been delivering mail for 28 years out of the Hercules Avenue post office.

She is the mother of two children, a daughter who is an attorney and a son who is a CPA. She had her first granddaughter this year, who is eight months old already.

Randi starts her day at 8 a.m. at the Hercules post office. The mail is set up in cases, according to street delivery addresses and is pre-sorted.

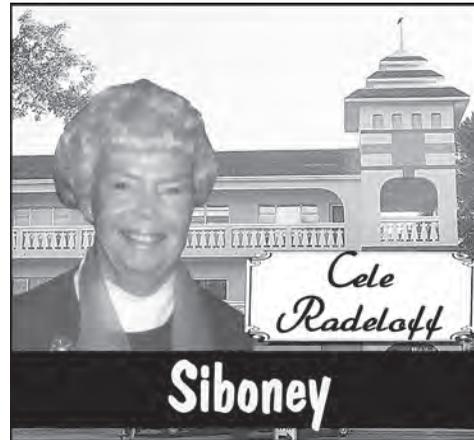
She delivers to every building on the West side of On Top of the World, except for four and gets home after six p.m. Now, it's on to Christmas and all those big packages!

Good luck Randi, How nice to meet you!

Susan Rausch left in October for a visit with her son Chris, his wife Mickey and their four children, ages 5 to 12 years. It was busy, hectic at times and wonderful. What a spirited family.

She then met her sister, Maryellen, (who lives on the East side of OTOW) in Buffalo for their annual girls' week, decorating their friend Shelly's lovely floral and gift shop.

They then left there for a visit with Maryellen and Ralph's daughter and her family, another spirited family -two children, two dogs and a cat. They arrived back in OTOW exhausted but very happy — just in time to vote!



Lillian and Mike Foy's nephew, niece and their daughter arrived for a visit, along with Mike's sister, Liz, from Toms River, N.J. It was Liz's first time in Florida; she wanted to see Clearwater Beach, so they all went there on a cold, windy day — Brrrr!

They loved it but went on to Orlando for a week. Liz returned to Lil and Mike's condo to spend a week enjoying our heated pool and the sun.

My nice neighbor, Penny Drummond and I went trick-or-treating in our building and then surprised her cousin Ruth Moore, who lived in the Delhi building. Ruth did not recognize us, as Penny was dressed as a priest and I a clown (compliments of Gloria Waltz). Thanks everyone — it was fun!

Our building was well represented at the Sunday in the Park Fashion Show. Sue Watlington was one of the models

and along with husband Jerry there were 14 of us from the Siboney building cheering her on. She looked beautiful. We all loved the scarf presentation and this wonderful afternoon was all free.

Our monthly luncheon held at Johnny's had 29 attending. Thanks, Rita, for making the reservations.

The Thursday show was terrific and what an entertainer Susie Cruz (from Brooklyn) turned out to be! We loved it.

The Senior Vendor Expo was a huge success. Did you buy a chance from me and had to leave early? The winning numbers are posted on the Gift Shoppe door.

Many thanks to our maintenance department for painting our laundry room ceiling. It really looks nice with the new paint.

The Press volunteers are looking forward to their Christmas luncheon at the Safety Harbor Spa. We pay our own way, but it's so nice to meet all the other reporters.

The Siboney Christmas party is at Kally-K's on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Don't forget the Chorus on Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14. Rita Tombari, Lillian Foy and I have tickets. Terrific show for only \$5. See you there.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and to all a happy and healthy New Year!



## OTOW 55-and-Over Driver's Safety Course



**Class is 9-Noon, Dec. 18 & 19 in the East Activity Center Starlite Room**

*(Please fill out one form per person. Completed forms must be dropped off at the OTOW newsroom by Dec. 12.)*

**Your name:**

**Date of birth:**

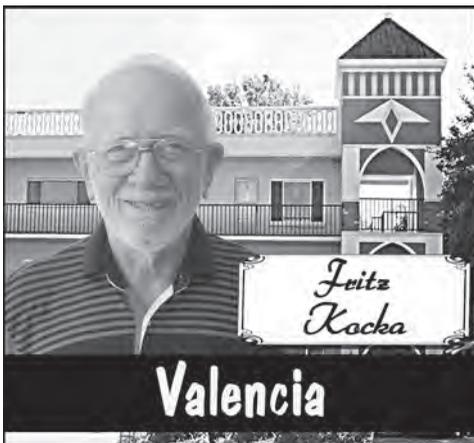
**Driver's license number:**

**Street address:**

**Building number:**

**Telephone:**

**You must bring a check for \$15 to the first class. Make check payable to AAA.**



## Building dues payment date is nearing

This year is swiftly drawing to a close.

Be sure to let your loved ones know you are thinking about them as the Christmas season approaches. A phone call would be nice.

I have noticed some of our Yankee and Canadian friends have returned. I will have to brush up on my French! Welcome home.

Another event is approaching. Our \$10 assessment per person by apartment comes due Jan. 1, 2015.

New building officers need to be announced this month. As of this writing, the date had not been forthcoming.

Check the bulletin board for the date and time we will meet in the core to decorate for the holidays. As in the past two years, only the three floors of the core will be decorated.

Our November ladies' and men's luncheons were held on Nov. 13. The ladies had a wonderful lunch at Ruby Tuesday's, and were very pleased. The men went to Lucky Dill Deli. Need I say more?

Merry Christmas to all and a happy New Year!

Mama sez: Never trust a woman who doesn't trust her man.

## Warm winter weather encourages strolling

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and any other holiday that you celebrate.

The year has just about run its course and we will be enjoying the New Year with a hope that the world will be a better place in 2015.

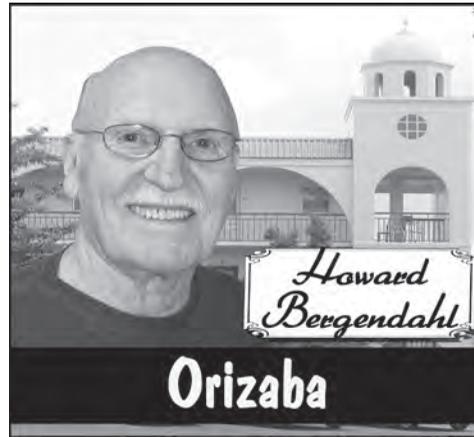
I recently wrote about a reunion enjoyed by Ed Fournier and his fellow veterans of World War II. Later I received a phone call from a veteran looking to make contact with some of his fellow compatriots and I was able to bring the veterans together. It's a small world, especially here at On Top of the World!

A bit of trivia here, The Pledge of Allegiance was approved by Congress on June 22, 1942.

The building luncheon held at the Lucky Dill was well-attended and a great time was had by all, thanks to Linda Ledesma. The holiday spirit was evident and will continue this month as the building celebrates the holiday at the Bon Appetit.

I was lucky enough to have my daughter visit from New York for a few days, but she came during one of our cold spells (cold for us) and had to fight to get the sun exposure the northerners always seem to look for.

Jackie Blair was visited by her sister-in-law and they were able to help our economy by doing a bit of



shopping. It's great to have everyone coming back for another season at OTOW. The whole atmosphere of the complex changes and strictly for the good.

Another of the rituals that is in full swing now that the weather is cooperating is the opportunity to sit on our patios and enjoy the beautiful days. Walk around the building and you may find Flo Gracia, Jim or Lynn Anzalone, Fannie Batista, Gloria and Tony Iovinelli, Jane and Bill Link, myself and many of your neighbors soaking up the sun or just enjoying the wonderful weather.

Read about a cashier at the supermarket having trouble finding the price for a cucumber. "Maybe the list is alphabetical," the customer offered. So he started searching from the bottom of the list: "Q, Q, Q..."

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# Open house allowed resident to 'show off'

The month of October came to a close with a pizza party hosted by none other than the family of Jan Guyton.

Thirty people attended. The weather was absolutely fabulous. This get-together was also a farewell send off for Jan's daughter, Pam, who has since returned to St. Louis to live near her daughter and grandchildren.

Another very nice event was an open house cocktail party hosted by Deborah Androvetta. Delicious snacks and desserts were provided, as well as a choice of beverage.

It was awesome to see the renovations done to her condo in the short time that she has lived here. She joins some of other people here as being very talented.

The ladies lunch bunch chose Cheddars for their eatery of the month. This was new for me and a very pleasant experience. The food was high in quality



and the amount plentiful, and the surroundings most pleasant.

I was most happy to have as a guest my eldest child, Donna. She could stay for only a week but we made the most of it and had great one on one chats. My son, John came for Thanksgiving week. With Ginny now living here at On Top of the World and with Karen

and hubby coming for a short vacation at their condo, we had a family meal. Of course it wasn't as large a group as in the old days when all 10 children and their offspring gathered to make short work of "Tom Turkey."

Another piece of good news began with a thunderous noise. I am an "early to bed early to rise" person. I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter, when what to my wondering eyes did appear but a rather old diesel truck that had made the trek from Manitoba carrying two fun-loving people, none other than John and Gwen Briggs.

With Lenny and Ginny Tousigeant arriving after Thanksgiving, our family here at building one is again complete.

Pat Volheim is working on finalizing plans for our holiday party on December 13. The tickets for the meal will be sold in the core the date for which will be posted.

## Bible Study Club

Bob Reis, President

The OTOW Bible Study Club is a non-denominational Bible study group to explore the word of God, and how it relates to our everyday lives. Our teacher, Woodie Tully, brings 45 years of Bible teaching experience to help understand the Scriptures.

The club meets each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the Veranda Room of the East Activities Center. Occasionally we use a third Tuesday evening for refreshments, music and singing.

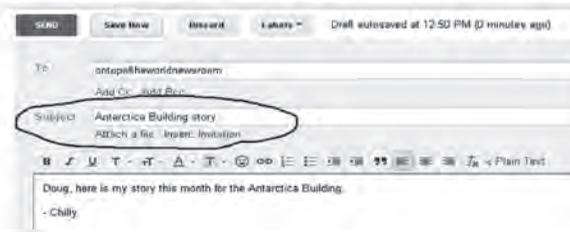
We welcome everyone to our club. You do not need to have any knowledge of Scripture to join, and there are no club fees required. We are not a church; those attending are from a variety of denominations.

Every first-time guest receives a complete copy of the Bible to keep as their own.

For more information, call either Bob Reis, 798-2443, or Woodie Tully, 399-1773.

## Attention OTOW News writers ...

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# Bohemian fall festival always a popular event

We had a good-sized gathering for our Bohemian Fall Festival welcoming back our Snowbirds.

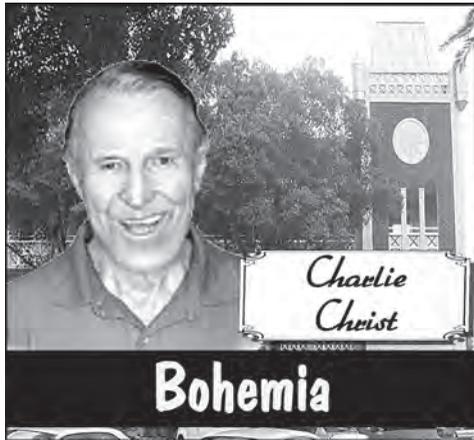
There were at least 30-40 on hand. Cuisine featured brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad, drinks, and a truly sinful chocolate cake.

Mike and Jerry deserve credit for slaving away for two hours with the cooking chores.

The scavenger hunt was won by the Irish Laners, but Paula promised to include some more difficult items to make it more competitive next time.

All were urged to reserve a spot for our annual holiday dinner at the Clearwater Country Club. The door prizes promise to be even more dazzling than last year.

There are five signed up for the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. Participants will do the one mile or the 5K run-walk. We'll let you know the finishers in our next issue. This whole affair is an annual event sponsored by the city of Clearwater and includes over 10,000 people of all ages.



Luba and Kristo Aleksic (see photo) are two of our newest owners. They moved here from New Jersey. Kristo retired from the tile business after 20 years. Their two sons still live in New Jersey, but they did bring their dog, Coco.

They became attracted to On Top of the World after visiting with friends who retired here. Luba loves the water and the beaches while Kristo spends his time fishing.

John and Marie are back following



New Bohemia residents Luba and Kristo Aleksic are finding plenty to do around OTOW.

57 days of cruising on the *Oasis of The Seas*. A memorable tour was when they left the ship to sail up the Rhine River into Germany for a day, then to an Oktoberfest in Bavaria. They then visited Innsbruck, site of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics.

Following that, they enjoyed going to the top of the Eifel Tower in Paris, visiting the leaning tower of Pisa, and the medieval city of Lucca before boarding The Silver Bullet for London. The finale was a folklore show in Switzerland. Wow!

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## Don't forget to sign up for Dec. 10 holiday luncheon

Merry Christmas, residents and friends of Capistrano.

Seems like we just finished Thanksgiving dinner and it is time to put the Christmas decorations out. Karen and I celebrated our Thanksgiving on the Carnival cruise ship *Sunshine*. We are approaching our 60th cruise.

Remember Tony, Claudette, Julia and Sam took the Disney movie buff cruise in October. Tony tells me they had a great time. Tony had an opportunity to talk with Richard Dreyfess (would not do a photo), enjoyed a conversation with Tab Hunter and had picture taken with him.

Ann Blyth, Alex Trebek, and Shirley Jones among others were also aboard. The stars mingled with the cruisers and shared some of their experiences in film. Movies which helped make them famous were also shown throughout the cruise.

Thank goodness elections are over, no more of those campaign ads on TV — they sure do get annoying. Now we will get the Christmas ads! Those are easier to swallow than the campaign ads.

I hope our veterans enjoyed the appreciation freebee breakfasts, lunches, and dinners on Veterans Day. A hats-off salute to Clearwater merchants who



are especially generous to us vets.

A number of the Capistrano Snowbirds have returned to On Top of the World, and it is sure good to see all. A few late birds will drift in over the next month or so, especially those that come from the far north areas.

I have seen a few unfamiliar faces around the building, if you are a new resident drop me a note with a short bio and I will include you in the monthly article so Capistrano neighbors know who you are.

Don't forget the Capistrano holiday dinner at Kally-K's Dec. 10. A notice will be posted shortly.

Congratulations to all the worthy winners of the Capistrano building association elections!



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## New residents are always made welcome

We welcome some new residents who moved in recently.

They are Merelee and Michael Bernard, both from Illinois. Married for 41 years and having two boys and three grandchildren, they decided to choose the warm weather and move to the Sunshine State. Michael likes fishing and Merelee enjoys her red scooter.

Raymond (Bud) Hildreth, born in Vermont, came here from Connecticut. He is one of few people who worked his whole life for the same company (Carl Freudenberg Group, a company based in Germany).

He was married to his high school sweetheart and they have three daughters and two grandchildren. Since two of his daughters live here in Florida the decision to live here permanently was easy made.

Bud is much into genealogy and has traced his family back to 1605.

Robert (Bob) Anderson and his wife Emily Contrada, both from New York City (Whitestone and Brooklyn)



have even more in common — both are nurses. Bob is a retired nurse and pharmacist, Emily is a registered nurse and works online as an editor for nurses' educational publications.

Bob is a toy train collector and loves to go to train shows. His other hobby is genealogy.

Diane Magie hosted a Halloween party and did a great job decorating her condo nice and spooky. Her snacks and the sandwiches were delicious.

We will have our Christmas lunch



Captains Beth Thomas and Ted Beckloff check out the coffee at our meeting Nov. 8.

again at Red Lobster and hope to see all of you Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. Don't forget to sign up on the sheet at the bulletin board for proper reservations.

Our monthly coffee and donuts on Saturdays at 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. (watch the signs!) are attracting more residents every time (see photo above).

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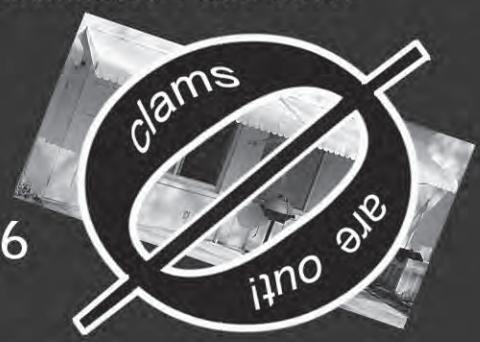


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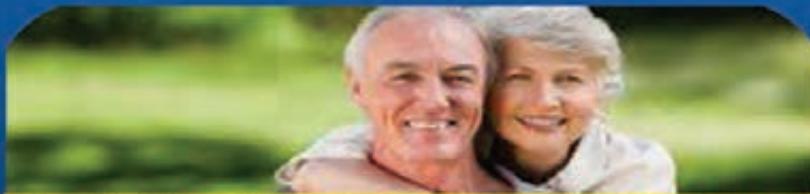
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# 'Encore' holiday building party scheduled for Dec. 9

December always promises to be a busy month, with house guests, traveling, decorating, parties and aromas of yummy things to come from the kitchen!

Christmas is such a magical time of year. It's time to get out the decorations, trim the tree, light the Menorah, chill the eggnog and welcome friends and family. We trust the core Christmas tree will be decorated this year — it was dearly missed by many last year. Our thanks again to head elf Charlie Coffman and his merry band of helpers who do such a nice job on our building lighting decorations.

With everyone pleased with last year's Christmas party, Howard Roehle arranged an encore. The Viennese Villa's party is scheduled for Dec. 9 at GrillSmith. The sheet is on the core bulletin board. Sign up early as seating is limited. Bring along a camera for some pictures.

Lynn Canaza celebrated her birthday with a party at the Island Way Grill with family. It was a nice way to usher in a new year. Elaine Power, Lynn's mother, has a birthday coming up New Year's Day. Happy Birthday, Elaine, from all your friends.

Howard R. and Russ Lamesfield hosted a very well-attended party welcoming Snowbirds and new neighbors. Everyone enjoyed meeting new neighbors and catching up on things we did last summer.

Elsie Jane Anderson's Polar Bear swimmers are enjoying our new pool area.

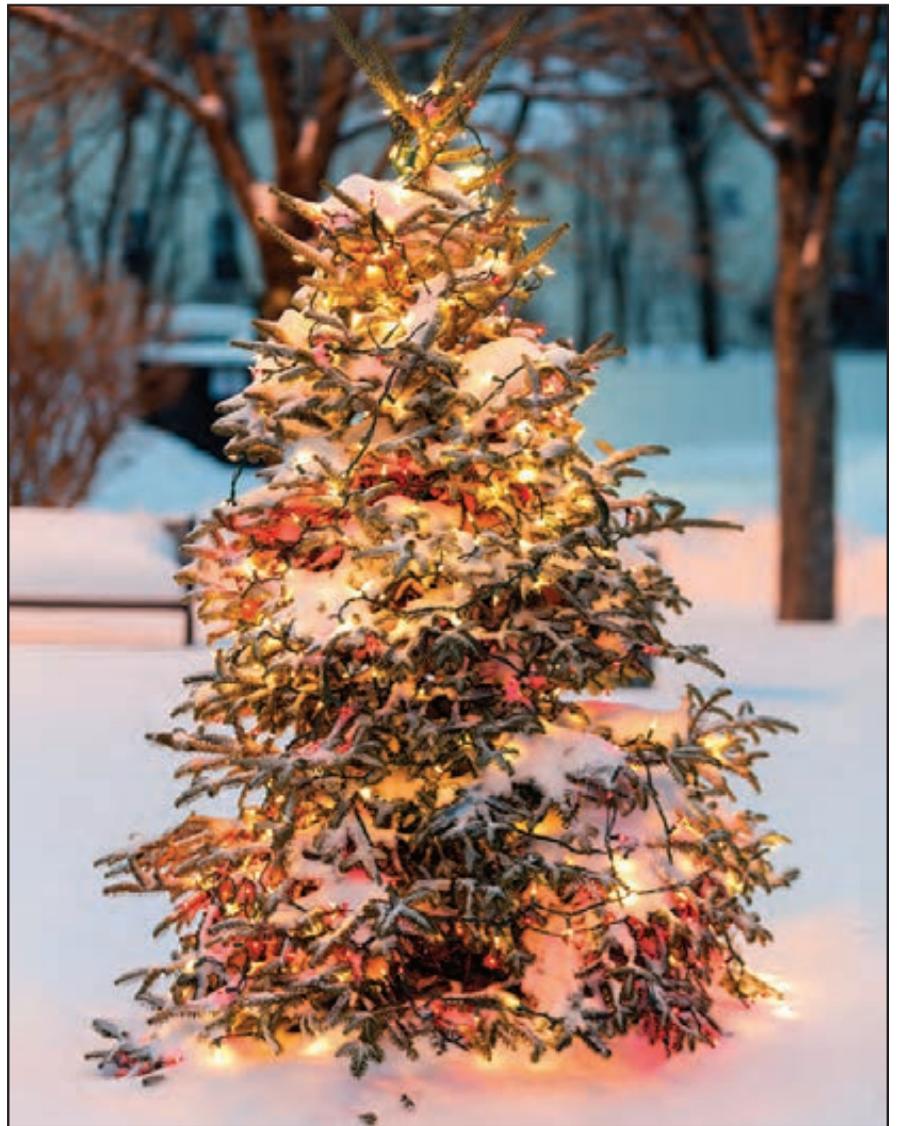


The shaded seating areas, the new pool skirting, the comfortable chairs and the dedicated smoking area are welcomed additions. Everyone is remarking what a nice job was done, thanks to the great On Top of the World management and crew.

We were in snowy Maine for Thanksgiving with family and friends. Mother Nature delivered fluff and blustery breezes to make us scurry back to sunny warm Florida. We really do not miss the snow and all that goes with it... like moving it around! See photo at right.

I would like to wish the staff and management of the OTOW News and the many volunteers at the paper a most joyous, peaceful and safe holiday.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.



Lovely wintertime scene of a gorgeously decorated tree. (Photo by Mike Leonard)

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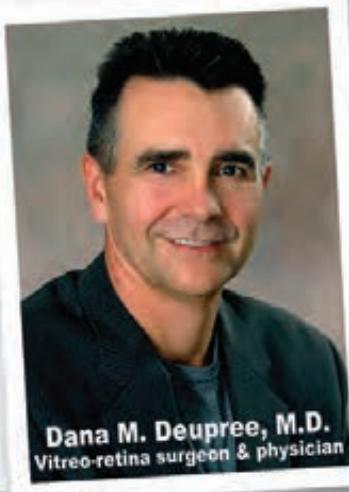
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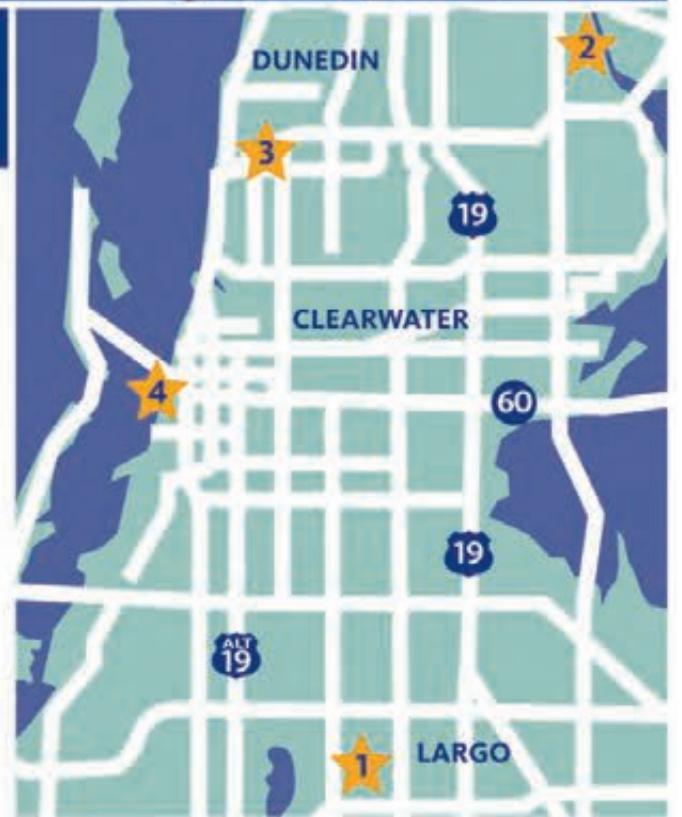


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## Dec. 18 is date of building's holiday party

This is the season of shopping, partying, gift-giving and just enjoying yourself — the fun of the holiday season!

Many people in our building will enjoy the holidays in different ways. Some will go away, some will stay, some will spend the holidays with relatives, some with friends, but all will have a good time.

Dave and Sylvia Shelmon will be spending Christmas with relatives who are coming from Chicago. When the holiday is over, one of the relatives plans to relocate to On Top of the World.

Steve and Cheryl Kraft will be spending their day with relatives, including a new great-nephew.

Paige Johnson will start her day by cooking a turkey. Then she and the bird will join some friends from OTOW and share dinner.

On Thursday, Dec. 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Island Way Grill, our building will have its holiday party. Everyone is invited, so watch the bulletin board for details.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 22, 2015 as there will be a building meeting then in the Sunrise Room. A potluck will follow the meeting. Watch the bulletin board for more information.

Everyone have a very safe and happy holiday!

# A visit to Ohio for pre-deployment event

*My Christmas cards from A to G  
Have long and chatty notes from me.  
My lines get briefer by and by;  
All T to Z receive is "Hi."*

It is time to get busy, since I still send Christmas cards.

With friends scattered far and wide, I look forward to hearing from them at least once a year and pray they look forward to hearing from me. Gotta go — have to get busy on those notes!

Melbourne Building decided to put our November and December get-togethers "all together." We will be having a special holiday luncheon at Queen's Pizza on Dec. 6 at 12 noon. If you haven't signed up, hurry to the bulletin board and do that right now. If you have a special Christmas sweater or dress, be sure to wear it. See you there!

Liz Thompson is a great-grandma. First one — a boy. Congratulations! I'm praying for my first grand, a little girl to be born sometime this month. They won't tell me what they are



years and one to Afghanistan for one year. It was the first time in five years they had all been together.

I just checked special mail box and it was empty. For some reason this November has been hectic for me and I am sure there are stories out there I missed. How about calling me or leaving a note in in that box?

Looking forward to seeing your Christmas decorations. Don't forget to vote on line for the best first floor and the best second or third floor scenes. There are two first place prizes this year. Vote online at:

[www.ontopoftheworldnews.com](http://www.ontopoftheworldnews.com)

Click the orange On Top of the World News Clearwater banner.

Then scroll down to the OTOW News Holiday Lights Contest box.

See page 10 for rules and more information on the contest.

Have a delightful December. Remember Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7. Enjoy your Hanukkah or Christmas celebrations with family and friends. Next column will be in 2015, so celebrate the New Year, too!

going to name her, for now, we just call her "Cookie."

Gary and Liz bought a mobile home in a RV park in Schenectady, N.Y., where they spent most of their summer. They were able to visit with friends, family and old school classmates. But they said it sure was good to be back at On Top of the World!

Carol Ann Futej enjoyed a long weekend with family in Cleveland, Ohio, for a farewell get-together for her two grandsons. They are being deployed, one to South Korea for two

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## Calendar of Monthly OTOW Activities — December 2014

|    |           |          |  |                     |
|----|-----------|----------|--|---------------------|
| 1  | Monday    | 9:00 AM  | Ladies 18-Hole Golf Meeting                | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 1  | Monday    | 10:00 AM | Snowbirds Club Meeting                     | Art Room            |
| 1  | Monday    | 10:00 AM | Chorus Rehearsal                           | Large Card Room     |
| 1  | Monday    | 10:30 AM | Entertainment Committee Meeting            | Veranda             |
| 1  | Monday    | 11:00 AM | Snowbirds Club Meeting                     | Starlite Room       |
| 1  | Monday    | 11:00 AM | Bingo Appreciation Luncheon                | Sunrise Room        |
| 2  | Tuesday   | 3:30 PM  | Billiards Board Meeting                    | Sunrise Room        |
| 2  | Tuesday   | 6:30 PM  | Hoosier Club Meeting                       | Art Room            |
| 2  | Tuesday   | 6:30 PM  | Chorus Rehearsal                           | Auditorium          |
| 3  | Wednesday | 9:00 AM  | Sewing Crafts                              | Starlite Room       |
| 3  | Wednesday | 5:30 PM  | Baby Boomers Meeting                       | Starlite Room       |
| 3  | Wednesday | 6:30 PM  | Theater Workshop Board Meeting             | Veranda             |
| 3  | Wednesday | 7:30 PM  | Theater Workshop Meeting                   | Veranda             |
| 3  | Wednesday | 9:30 AM  | Ladies 18-Hole Golf Meeting                | Sunrise Room        |
| 4  | Thursday  | 3:00 PM  | Art Guild Meeting                          | Art Room            |
| 4  | Thursday  | 1:00 PM  | Jesters Rehearsal                          | Auditorium          |
| 4  | Thursday  | 7:30 PM  | Entertainment Committee Show               | Auditorium          |
| 4  | Thursday  | 1:00 PM  | Jesters Rehearsal                          | Auditorium          |
| 4  | Thursday  | 1:00 PM  | Press Association Luncheon                 | Road Trip           |
| 4  | Thursday  | 12:30 PM | Writers Ink Meeting                        | Computer Room       |
| 4  | Thursday  | 11:30 AM | Contract Bridge Cards                      | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 4  | Thursday  | 10:30 AM | Pennsylvania Club Meeting                  | Starlite Room       |
| 5  | Friday    | 9:30 AM  | Good Neighbors Board Meeting               | Large Card Room     |
| 5  | Friday    | 7:00 PM  | Lambda Club Party                          | Large Card Room     |
| 5  | Friday    | 2:00 PM  | Travel Club Meeting                        | Starlite Room       |
| 7  | Sunday    | 5:00 PM  | Karaoke Singing                            | Auditorium          |
| 8  | Monday    | 12:30 PM | Family History Meeting                     | Computer Room       |
| 8  | Monday    | 10:00 AM | Chorus Rehearsal                           | Large Card Room     |
| 8  | Monday    | 2:00 PM  | German Interest Group Meeting              | Sunrise Room        |
| 8  | Monday    | 8:30 AM  | Blood Pressure Screening                   | Veranda             |
| 9  | Tuesday   | 6:00 PM  | Chorus Rehearsal                           | Auditorium          |
| 10 | Wednesday | 5:00 PM  | Canadian Club Dinner/Dance                 | Auditorium          |
| 10 | Wednesday | 9:00 AM  | Sewing Crafts                              | Starlite Room       |
| 10 | Wednesday | 7:00 PM  | Jesters Meeting                            | Sunrise Room        |
| 11 | Thursday  | 9:30 AM  | Good Neighbors Get-Acquainted Coffee       | Auditorium          |
| 11 | Thursday  | 2:00 PM  | Democratic Club Meeting                    | Starlite Room       |
| 11 | Thursday  | 12:00 PM | Lawn Bowlers Party                         | Sunrise Room        |
| 11 | Thursday  | 4:00 PM  | Building No. 61 Chetnik Party              | Sunrise Room        |
| 12 | Friday    | 1:00 PM  | Art Guild Meeting                          | Art Room            |
| 12 | Friday    | 5:00 PM  | Building No. 40 Granada Party              | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 13 | Saturday  | 12:00 PM | Building No. 57 Mandalay Meeting           | Sunrise Room        |
| 13 | Saturday  | 5:00 PM  | Building No. 39 Mallorca Party             | Sunrise Room        |
| 14 | Sunday    | 3:00 PM  | Chorus Concert                             | Auditorium          |
| 15 | Monday    | 9:30 AM  | Health Screenings Free Eye & Ear Testing   | Auditorium          |
| 15 | Monday    | 3:00 PM  | Building No. 74 Brahman Meeting            | Sunrise Room        |
| 16 | Tuesday   | 5:00 PM  | Bible Study Party                          | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 16 | Tuesday   | 9:00 AM  | Caring and Sharing Party                   | Sunrise Room        |
| 17 | Wednesday | 6:00 PM  | Italian Club Meeting                       | Auditorium          |
| 17 | Wednesday | 6:00 PM  | Hoosier Club Cards                         | Sunrise Room        |
| 18 | Thursday  | 5:30 PM  | Baby Boomers Meeting                       | Starlite Room       |
| 20 | Saturday  | 3:00 PM  | Building No. 23 Swedish Traditional Party  | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 21 | Sunday    | 2:00 PM  | Entertainment Committee Sunday In The Park | Auditorium          |
| 21 | Sunday    | 12:00 PM | Lambda Club Party                          | Crafts Room-Kitchen |
| 27 | Saturday  | 5:00 PM  | Sensational Seniors Meeting                | Sunrise Room        |
| 31 | Wednesday | 8:00 PM  | Lambda Club Party                          | Large Card Room     |
| 31 | Wednesday | 9:00 PM  | Entertainment Committee Dance              | Auditorium          |

Pearl Harbor Day  
Sunday, Dec. 7

Hanukkah Begins  
Wednesday, Dec. 17

First Day of Winter  
Sunday, Dec. 21

Christmas Day  
Thursday, Dec. 25

Kwanzaa  
Friday, Dec. 26

New Year's Eve  
Wednesday, Dec. 31

Daily OTOW Activities

MONDAY

7:00 Coffee Corner ..... Coffee Corner  
 7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:00 Ladies Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 8:00 Bonesavers Exercise ..... Large Card Room  
 8:30 Ent. Comm./Club Ticket Sales ..... Auditorium  
 8:30 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 9:00 Computer Club Meeting ..... Computer Room  
 9:00 Slimnastics ..... East Side Gym  
 9:00 Polar Bear Exercise ..... East Side Pool  
 9:00 Zumba Exercise ..... Large Card Room  
 10:00 Library ..... Library  
 10:00 Aerobics Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 10:00 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 11:30 Duplicate Bridge ..... Large Card Room  
 12:30 Mahjongg ..... Rainbow Room  
 12:30 Canasta ..... Small Classroom  
 1:00 Art Guild Oil and Acrylics ..... Art Room  
 1:00 Tai Chi Beginners ..... East Side Gym  
 2:30 Tai Chi Experienced ..... East Side Gym  
 5:00 Poker Group ..... Poker Room  
 5:00 Mahjongg ..... Rainbow Room  
 6:00 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 6:30 Billiards ..... Billiards Room  
 6:30 Poker Group ..... Small Classroom

TUESDAY

7:00 Coffee Corner ..... Coffee Corner  
 7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:00 Ladies Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 8:30 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 9:00 Computer Club Meeting ..... Computer Room  
 9:00 Caring and Sharing Crafts ..... Crafts Room  
 9:00 Slimnastics ..... East Side Gym  
 9:00 Polar Bear Exercise ..... East Side Pool  
 9:00 Fat Burning Workout ..... Large Card Room  
 9:00 Snowbirds Club Salsacize ..... Sunrise Room  
 9:00 Spanish Speaking Class ..... Yellow Room  
 10:00 Art Guild Painting ..... Art Room  
 10:00 Philosophy Club Meeting ..... Veranda  
 10:30 Ballroom Dancing Class ..... Auditorium  
 11:00 Yoga ..... East Side Gym  
 12:00 Ceramics ..... Crafts Room-Kitchen  
 12:30 Art Guild Chinese Paint Brush ..... Art Room  
 1:00 Line Dancing ..... Auditorium  
 1:00 Billiards ..... Billiards Room  
 1:00 Canasta ..... Small Classroom  
 2:00 Chess ..... Rainbow Room  
 3:00 Snowbirds Club Line Dancing... E. Side Gym  
 5:30 Dominos ..... Small Classroom

6:00 Pinochle ..... Large Card Room  
 6:00 Mahjongg ..... Rainbow Room  
 6:00 Euchre Cards ..... Starlite Room  
 6:30 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 6:30 Billiards ..... Billiards Room  
 7:00 Bible Study Meeting ..... Veranda

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Coffee Corner ..... Coffee Corner  
 7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:00 Ladies Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 8:00 Bonesavers Exercise ..... Large Card Room  
 8:30 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 9:00 Computer Club Meeting ..... Computer Room  
 9:00 Good Neighbors Crafts ..... Crafts Room  
 9:00 Slimnastics Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 9:00 Polar Bear Exercise ..... East Side Pool  
 9:00 Knitting Group Crafts ..... Veranda  
 9:30 Zumba Gold ..... Auditorium  
 10:00 Cribbage ..... Small Classroom  
 10:00 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 11:00 Dancercise ..... East Side Gym  
 11:30 Duplicate Bridge ..... Large Card Room  
 12:00 Library ..... Library  
 1:00 Art Guild Painting Pals ..... Art Room  
 1:00 Tai Chi Beginners ..... East Side Gym  
 1:00 Mahjongg ..... Rainbow Room  
 1:00 Double Pinochle ..... Small Classroom  
 2:30 Tai Chi Experienced ..... East Side Gym  
 5:00 Baby Boomers Game Night ..... Crafts Room  
 5:30 Poker Group ..... Poker Room  
 5:30 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 6:00 Poker Group ..... Rainbow Room  
 6:30 Poker Group ..... Small Classroom  
 6:30 Ladies QueT Billiards ..... Billiards Room

THURSDAY

7:00 Coffee Corner ..... Coffee Corner  
 7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:00 Ladies Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 8:30 Ent. Comm./Club Ticket Sales ..... Auditorium  
 8:30 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 9:00 Computer Club Meeting ..... Computer Room  
 9:00 Slimnastics Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 9:00 Polar Bear Exercise ..... East Side Pool  
 9:00 Snowbirds Club Line Dancing..... Sunrise Room  
 11:00 Yoga ..... East Side Gym  
 11:30 Contract Bridge ..... Large Card Room  
 12:00 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 1:00 Art Guild Class ..... Art Room

1:00 Mahjongg ..... Small Classroom  
 1:00 Snowbirds Club ..... Sunrise Room  
 1:00 Mahjongg ..... Yellow Room  
 1:30 Scrapbooking Crafts ..... Crafts Room  
 2:00 Chess ..... Rainbow Room  
 5:00 Mahjongg ..... Small Classroom  
 5:00 Pinochle ..... Small Classroom  
 6:00 Poker Group ..... Poker Room  
 6:00 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 6:30 Billiards ..... Billiards Room  
 6:30 Canadian Club Game Night... Lg Card Room  
 7:00 Canasta ..... Small Classroom

FRIDAY

7:00 Coffee Corner ..... Coffee Corner  
 7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:00 Ladies Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 8:00 Bonesavers Exercise ..... Large Card Room  
 8:30 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 9:00 Jesters Rehearsal ..... Auditorium  
 9:00 Computer Club Meeting ..... Computer Room  
 9:00 Ceramics ..... Crafts Room  
 9:00 Slimnastics Exercise ..... East Side Gym  
 9:00 Polar Bear Exercise ..... East Side Pool  
 9:00 Zumba Exercise ..... Large Card Room  
 9:00 Pinochle ..... Small Classroom  
 10:00 Exercise Class ..... West Side Gym  
 12:00 Library ..... Library  
 1:00 Billiards ..... Billiards Room  
 1:00 Mahjongg ..... Small Classroom  
 5:30 Poker Group ..... Poker Room  
 5:30 Poker Group ..... Yellow Room  
 6:00 Poker Group ..... Rainbow Room  
 6:30 Hand & Foot Canasta ..... Small Classroom

SATURDAY

7:30 Tennis ..... Tennis Courts  
 8:30 Line Dancing ..... Auditorium  
 8:30 Computer Club Meeting ..... Large Card Room  
 11:00 Dancercise ..... East Side Gym  
 11:30 Duplicate Bridge ..... Large Card Room  
 1:00 Tai Chi Beginners ..... East Side Gym  
 2:30 Tai Chi Experienced ..... East Side Gym

SUNDAY

11:30 Contract Bridge ..... Yellow Room  
 12:00 Scrabble Club ..... Yellow Room  
 1:00 Pinochle ..... Small Classroom



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# A concise historical background of “jolly old St. Nick”

Instead of telling you who had company and who went where for the Christmas holidays, I thought I would tell you about why we have some of our beliefs.

Santa Claus is also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle and simply “Santa.”

The American version of the Santa Claus figure came from the Dutch legend of Sinter Klass, brought by settlers to New York in the 17th century.

It was the popular author Washington Irving who, in 1809, gave Americans their first detailed information about the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas. He described the arrival of the saint on horseback each Eve of Saint Nicholas.

In 1823, writer Clement Clarke Moore wrote “The Night Before Christmas,” and gave us the names of the reindeer, along with Santa’s jolly laughs, his elves, and his trips up and down chimneys.

In 1860, Thomas Nast depicted a rotund Santa for Harper’s magazine and from 1860 to 1880 added more details such as Santa’s workshop.

In looking for the historical roots of Santa, we must go deep in the past.

The basis for Santa Claus is Bishop Nicholas of Smyrna, in what is now Turkey. Nicholas lived in the 4th century A.D. The Orthodox Church later raised



St. Nicholas, a miracle worker who later became the patron saint of children and seafarers. His name day is Dec. 6.

In the Protestant areas of central and northern Germany, St. Nicholas later became known as der Weihnachtsmann. In England in the 16th century, he was called Father Christmas.

St. Nicholas made his way to the U.S. with Dutch immigrants and began to be referred to as Santa Claus. In the U.S., Santa comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve.

When we lived in New York, our house did not have a chimney, so I wet the soles of my husband shoes, dunked them in baby powder and walked them across the room from the door to the tree. That way, our sons believed that Santa came in our door.

When I was a little child, the 1936 storm came up and the Allegheny

River flooded. I remember as the water was ready to come into the house, Daddy threw the decorated tree out the door and took us up the hill to my grandparent’s house. Santa found us there.

We all have memories of past Christmases, so remember to tell them to your grandchildren.

Today we look at Christmas lights and think “Oh, those are pretty,” but the tradition of illuminating lights in the winter months didn’t start off with aesthetics in mind. December is the darkest month of the year, with the shortest days. In the 12th century, people living without central heating were understandably unhappy when the sun went down and plunged them into the cold depths of night.

During the winter of 1184 we have the first recorded lighting of the Yule log. People had both the Yule log and trees, so they decided to join the two. Then they decided to put candles on the trees. This was a very bad idea. So bad that, the tree would only be put up a few days before Christmas and was promptly taken down afterwards. Candles would remain lit only for a few minutes per night and the families would sit around the tree and watch it vigilantly with buckets of sand and water nearby.

In 1880, Thomas Edison had his incandescent light bulbs figured

out and was on the lookout for a way to advertise them. To display his invention as a means of lighting up Yuletide excitement, he strung up incandescent bulbs all around his Menlo Park laboratory so that passing commuters on the nearby railway could see the Christmas miracle.

Two years later, in 1888, Edward Johnson displayed the first electrically-illuminated Christmas tree at his home in Manhattan.

By 1908 some Americans were putting lights on their trees, but keep in mind that in 1900 a single string of electric lights cost \$12, which would be about \$300 today for one single string.

Have a merry, happy, healthy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



*Merry  
Christmas!*

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# Help us protect residents from the 'grandparent scam'

Within the past two years, individuals featured in this newspaper were contacted by phone that a grandchild was in jail and needed bail money.

The callers had the correct names of the grandchildren, the correct towns and the correct grandparents' phone numbers.

However, the phone call was a scam

to try to get the grandparents to fork out large sums of cash. Investigators believe the scammers may have read this newspaper online to gather information.

Since the first such incident, the OTOW News is requesting that building writers no longer list the names and locations of children or grandchildren

in stories. All residents should be aware that this is a common scam nationwide.

If you get a call that a family member needs money, ask questions and double-check the information. Try to check on the whereabouts of the child in question yourself. If it sounds suspicious, call the police.



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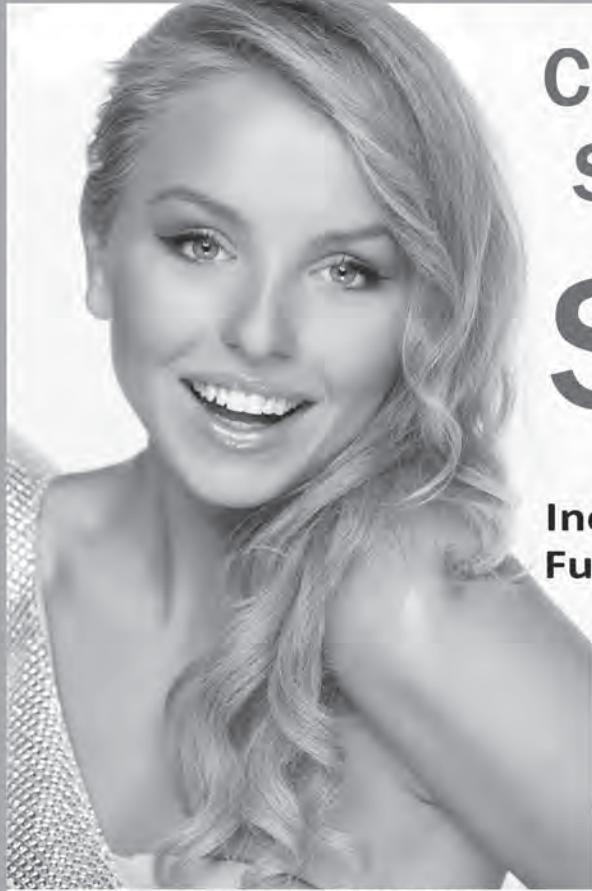
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# It's time for the annual On Top of the World Holiday Lights Contest

## for OTOW residents



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TO ENTER**

- simply decorate the front of your condo and follow all OTOW decoration guidelines.
- between Dec. 1-17, call the newsroom (799-3216) and arrange to have a picture taken of your decorated condo. Don't call until your unit is ready. You don't have to be home when the photographer arrives, but make sure your holiday lights are lit until at least 8 p.m. The photographer will not give you advance notice he is coming. Photos will only be taken from the outside.

## ANYONE MAY VOTE ONLINE!

- one photo from all contest entrees will appear on the special website address listed below. Photos will appear in two categories: Ground-floor units and upper-floor units.
- online polls open 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, and close at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Anyone in the world is allowed to vote, but only four votes per computer will be accepted (please don't cheat). Vote for your (2) two favorite ground-floor units and your (2) two favorite upper-floor units. Please base your vote on holiday spirit and WOW! Anything visible from a parking lot should be judged, including window displays. Once you enter the polling booth, you will not be allowed to leave and re-enter.
- winners will be announced in the January 2015 edition of OTOW News, which will be distributed on Dec. 31. The resident(s) receiving the most overall votes will receive a two-day, two-night stay at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa. The other first place winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from the Sunset Grill. Second place in both divisions will receive \$75 gift certificates from the Sunset Grill.

**Please visit this Website to view entrees and/or vote**

<http://www.ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/HolidayLights/holidaylightshome.php>

*It is possible for unlimited views of entrees without voting. Enjoy the lights and thank you for decorating!*

# Catered holiday party is set for Dec. 11

The October building meeting was well-attended.

Pizza and drinks were served and yummy desserts were brought in by the Chetniks. The same officers will remain in office: Paul Bruyere as president, Marie Buckley as secretary and Muriel Landau as treasurer. We thank them for their dedicated service.

Bill Jacobs volunteered to be the Sunshine Person, and Phil Meissner took on the job of publicist, posting events on the bulletin board.

The treasurer's report was so good that we will not have to kick in any dues this year.

The Christmas holiday party, at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, is moving along. It is being catered by the Orange Blossom Catering of St. Petersburg. The menu is posted on the bulletin board.

There will be a 50-50 raffle at the affair, so bring a dollar or two. There will be Christmas music and a Christmas Quiz with lots of prizes. Come in your holiday duds and prepare to have



some fun. Checks of \$25 per person should be made out to Chetnik Bldg. Assn. and given to Muriel or Theresa.

We welcome some newcomers to the building. Jeri and Herb Miller are Snowbirds from Michigan. They rented for five years in Australian Way before buying Mary Kearney's condo.

Herb is retired, and was a crane operator at Great Lakes Steel. Herb also served in the Navy. They have four children and seven grandchildren. They love the pool and the beach and plan to take up golf.

Don and Karen Eisenhardt are also Snowbirds. They hail from Ocean City, N.J. Don was the Fire Chief of Ocean City Fire Department, retiring in 1990. Karen just retired from being in real estate. They have three daughters, a son and six grandchildren. One daughter lives in California and two daughters live in New Jersey.

The son is a Chief Warrant Officer serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. All are married.

Their oldest granddaughter is in an internship program at Disney in her senior year of college. The oldest grandson will also be doing an internship in February at Disney during his senior year of college.

When Don retired, he bought a boat, practiced for three years, and then he and Karen toured all the islands in the Caribbean. They were grateful for having lived their dream.

John and I wish all you wonderful Chetniks a Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

## ATTENTION WEST SIDE DRIVERS

As you enter on World Parkway and approach Americus Boulevard, remember to come to a complete stop before making your turn. Do not pass a left-turning car on the right, inasmuch as that blocks the other driver's vision and could cause an accident.

Remember to make a complete stop when you come to any stop sign within the OTOW community. The other cars and pedestrians around you are depending on it, even though you may not see them. A "rolling stop" places you and others at risk of an accident. Stop, look both ways, and look in front of you. Thanks for being a cautious and safe driver!

### BLOOD PRESSURE PROGRAM

On the second Monday of each month from September through April, blood pressure testing will be available at the East Activity Center from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Special thanks go to our nurses for volunteering to take blood pressures. Remember, all are welcome.

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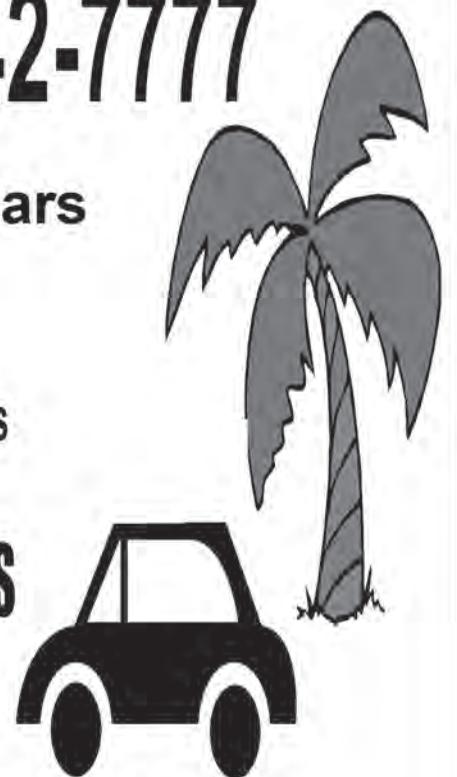
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# Reporter takes interesting summer trips

“Did Adam have a belly button?” Now that I have your attention, I will proceed!

One way to keep yourself vital at this age is to travel, which seems to be near and dear to the hearts of many denizens of Emerald Isle.

Toby Heestand, a loveable little white poodle, took his maid, Marie Heestand, to Texas, where they visited Marie’s daughter, who is also a real animal lover like Marie.

Besides taking care of the many dogs, cats and horses that Marie’s daughter owns, Toby and Marie spent much of their three weeks on a houseboat in a lake near Ft. Hood, Texas, relaxing, reading and even catching a few catfish.

Catherine Goeke, a very talented Emerald Isle artist, received an invitation to display some of her works of art in her hometown.

I went on three trips this past summer. The first was a trans-Canada train trip beginning in Vancouver, where we took the Rocky Mountaineer to Kamloops, BC. Here we transferred to the VIA railway to wend our way across the middle of Canada.

It was all quite spectacular, especially the part where our hotel in Kamloops experienced a fire caused by



During a recent trip to Alaska, building reporter Sue Naylor visited a mushers’ training camp near Denali.

someone putting a bundle of chemical-infested rags right up against the dryer in the laundry room.

It was probably the most excitement they’ve seen in Kamloops

in many years. Even the Kamloops fire department arrived in full regalia.

At the end of July, I went to Alaska, this time inland — Denali, Anchorage, Seward, Homer — instead of along the coast which I had done years ago with my late husband.

If I can find the picture of a caribou about a quarter-mile away I will attach it. It will be the tiny dot in the center, or maybe on the side. Who knows? Use your imagination.

Amazingly, this caribou sought out the only remaining patch of snow to nap on. Suddenly, it occurred to me that these arctic animals actually like the frigid conditions there. Now when I see them plodding through a raging blizzard instead of feeling sorry for them I will know that they are actually celebrating in their own little caribou way.

At the end of August a friend and I attended the US Open Tennis Tournament in New York City. It was amazing to see all the stars up close. They are all very tall and very thin.

I will end this with a little brain teaser which I got from last night’s “Idiotest” on the Game Show Network: If you count backwards from 5-1, what number do you end on? The answer is in the body of this report.



## Holiday get-together will be Dec. 12

Hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and didn’t eat too much!

We had a nice crowd at our annual “Welcome Back Snowbirds” luncheon at Rumba’s Island Grill in Oldsmar. Thank you, as always, to Joanne Wallend, who set up the event. It was a great opportunity to catch up with our Snowbirds as well as to meet and welcome some of our newest neighbors. We all enjoyed our delicious meals and lively conversation. It was great to see that both sides of the building were well represented!

Be sure not to miss our holiday get-together, a potluck dinner, on Friday night, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Veranda Room at the East Activity Center.

You are asked to bring a dish and the beverage of your choice. The sign-up sheet and more information will be on the bulletin board. Please also indicate what dish you will be bringing. All residents are welcome, so please come and share a little holiday cheer! If you haven’t been to one of our building get-togethers yet, now is a great time to get out and meet your neighbors. Come join us!

By now, our tree is up and our core is all decorated for the holiday season. Many thanks to those who gave their time to make our building festive. It does take some work, but we always make it a fun job. We will appreciate any offers of help in putting it all away again after the New Year. Hint, hint!

We at the Bavarian Chalet would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy!

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## Seasonal Residents-Temporary Address Change

To ensure timely delivery of On Top of the World mailings, please use this change of address form. This form will allow for a temporary change of address as you move to your seasonal address. You will still need to make a temporary change of address through the U.S. Postal Service for your regular mail service.

# OTOW Change of Address Form

Building # \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarding Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarding Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Leaving OTOW Home: \_\_\_\_\_



Complete a new form in the future if your return date is unknown at this time.

You may mail this form to : On Top of the World Condominium Association Inc.  
2069 World Parkway Blvd E,  
Clearwater, Fl. 33763

## THE OTOW BUS COMES DIRECTLY TO YOU!

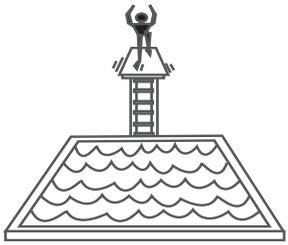
**For reservations, call 799-3417, then press #7 of the voice menu. Seating is limited. Make reservations 24 hours in advance.**

Reservations for transportation to and from the East and West Activity Centers will be accepted following the schedules listed below.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Tuesday Morning Specials</b><br/>See Posting in Bus</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.....9 to 9:20 a.m.<br/>East Side..... 9:25 to 9:45 a.m.</p>          | <p><b>Thursday Morning</b><br/>Publix (Sunset &amp; Belcher)</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.....8 to 8:20 a.m.<br/>East Side..... 8:25 to 8:45 a.m.</p>      |
| <p><b>Tuesday Afternoon</b><br/>K-Mart &amp; Countryside Mall</p> <p>Paradise/West Side 12:30 to 12:50 p.m.<br/>East Side..... 12:55 to 1:15 p.m.</p>    | <p><b>Thursday Afternoon</b><br/>Publix (Sunset &amp; Belcher)</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.... 11 to 11:20 a.m.<br/>East Side.....11:25 to 11:45 a.m.</p> |
| <p><b>Wednesday Morning</b><br/>Publix (Sunset &amp; Belcher)</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.....8 to 8:20 a.m.<br/>East Side..... 8:25 to 8:45 a.m.</p>      | <p><b>Friday Morning</b><br/>Super Walmart</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.....8 to 8:20 a.m.<br/>East Side..... 8:25 to 8:45 a.m.</p>                        |
| <p><b>Wednesday Afternoon</b><br/>Publix (Sunset &amp; Belcher)</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.... 11 to 11:20 a.m.<br/>East Side.....11:25 to 11:45 a.m.</p> | <p><b>Friday Afternoon</b><br/>Super Walmart</p> <p>Paradise/West Side.... 11 to 11:20 a.m.<br/>East Side.....11:25 to 11:45 a.m.</p>                   |

### Guidelines for Riding the Bus

- The OTOW bus service is for the exclusive use of OTOW residents with a valid recreation card.
- This service is provided to our residents at no charge.
- Thank you, but the driver is prohibited from accepting tips.
- The bus driver picks up passengers with reservations only.
- You must be able to transfer on your own to ride the bus.
- Medical devices may be restricted due to passenger load.
- Eating and drinking on the bus is prohibited.
- Shopping bag limits and size restrictions are at the driver's discretion.
- If space allows, residents with current recreation cards may catch a one-way ride home on the bus.
- If you create a safety hazard or cause unsafe distractions to the driver, you will not be permitted on the bus.
- Shopping time is 90 minutes and begins at the first drop off.
- Due to limited seating, we cannot accept multi-day reservations.
- Reservations are first come, first served, and may only be made 24 hours in advance.
- The reservation phone number is for seat reservations only. Please leave your name, trip request, building and unit number, and phone number.
- If you live on the second floor of a two-story building, or if your building's elevator is out of service, the driver will carry your bags to your front door. The driver is strictly prohibited from entering your unit.
- The SCA staff takes their directions from SCA management. Please refer all questions and concerns to the Community Service Office.



### SWIMMING POOL RULES

**DONT EMBARRASS YOUR GUESTS!**  
Know the Rules and Abide by them!

- This facility is exclusively for OTOW unit owners with a valid recreation card, for guests of unit owners accompanying residents with a valid recreation card, or for renters with a valid recreation card.
- Please show your valid recreation card upon the SCA staff's request.
- Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave.
- Swim at your own risk
- There is no lifeguard on duty.
- Oils, sun block, and body lotions must be showered off before entering pool.
- Pool will be closed during inclement weather.
- Walkways to the gates must be kept clear at all times.
- Use of these facilities is at a resident's or guest's own risk.
- Guests under the age of 15 may use the facility from 12-4 p.m., seven days a week.
- Guests under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Children under age 2 must wear a "swim diaper."
- Please take all children for frequent potty breaks.
- Pools are closed when gates are locked.



## Fine cooking brought this couple together

If you are walking by the apartment of Dick Bateholts and Jean Kilgore, chances are you will catch the aroma of a current cooking project.

Jean loves to cook, and most of their meals are prepared and eaten at home. Indeed, the neighbors are aware of Jean's cooking prowess and of her good heartedness for sharing the results of her work in the kitchen.

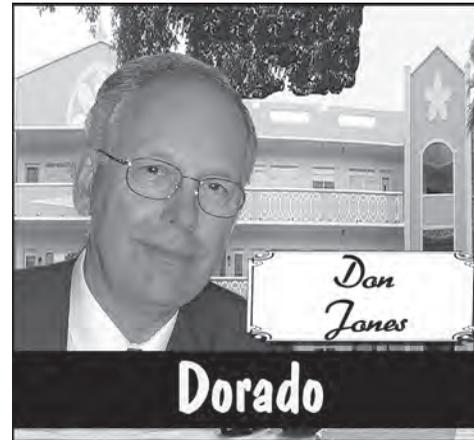
Dick and Jean met in 2004 when Jean moved into the Dorado building. Dick confesses that she was sharing some of her cooking with a neighbor when he first noticed Jean. As she passed by him, he commented that, what she was carrying smelled very good.

The adage "The quickest way to a man's heart is through his stomach" was proven again...

Today, Dick says he is a lucky man. They usually eat in but Jean is happy to go out – especially for breakfast from time to time. And Dick says they like to eat out at least once a week.

Dick has lived in On Top of the World's Dorado building since 1999 and has shown his willingness to share in the community by assisting with many projects throughout his tenure here.

He has served as vice-president for the building and was very instrumental in



Dorado featured residents Jean Kilgore and Dick Bateholts. The aroma of Jean's wonderful cooking led to their relationship.

getting the storage rooms organized. His education in Mechanical Engineering at Clarkson University took him into employment with an aircraft company and to Orlando.

Since his retirement, Dick has

enjoyed bowling and attending events in the OTOW community and beyond.

Jean was born and educated in Maine and worked there before retirement. She has a son in Massachusetts and a daughter in Maine. She proudly explains that she has five grandchildren.

Dick was born and educated in New York until his move to Florida with his work. He has a son in Atlanta Georgia and one grandchild there.

Both Jean and Dick have been regular members of the Canadian Club and participate in its events. Although they are not Canadian by birth, they enjoy the club and its events. Jean belonged to the New England Club as well. Jean and Dick recognize the changes that have been taking place at OTOW over the years while they have lived here and understand that the world has changed greatly since they first moved into this community.

They enjoy life at OTOW and beyond, and are spirited and friendly participants in all the Dorado social events.

Speaking of Dorado socials, Nancy Deitemeyer was instrumental in organizing our Nov. 10 cocktail party at the Sunrise Room. Everyone had a good time. Thanks, Nancy, and thanks to all your helpers!

## Observations from around the building

Sophia Kugeares has returned from a visit with several family members in Michigan, which included celebrations and reunions.

Of course, being Sophia, she immediately typed up an organization plan for the holidays.

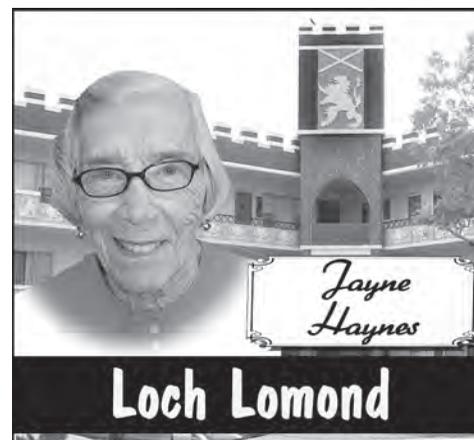
Shirley Swift and Phil Woods had discussed various items important to Loch Lomond residents' smooth social and financial activities.

Please check the bulletin board by the elevator for the core party Friday Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m.

A luncheon (not dinner) will be at Johnny's on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at noon. Sophia offers these suggestions and wants your input or additional ideas.

Phil has agreed to continue maintaining phone lists, maintenance forms, keys, welcoming and orienting new residents. Sophia offers to remain Building Committee chair, and Lucille Greenhaigh, would you be the treasurer?

Dottie Liberte — would you stay on as Sunshine person, collaborating with Enid? Jane will



remain building reporter. Sophia has other plans to present at the annual building meeting.

Please respond to Sophia with agreement, alternate or additional ideas, your suggestions and your presence. We have had so many necessary changes in the last couple of years and are adapting well, but more fresh faces and contributions always welcomed and needed.

Our building celebrity last month was "Teddy," Helen and Bob Lauko's shiny white personable doggie. For several years now at 7:30 a.m. when I

leave my ground floor apartment to go to the East Activity Center, I see Helen and Teddy starting on their first walk of the day. Then, before their evening walk, Helen and Bob found riding their bicycles all over the community. What an active, busy family!

Remember that we used to get our mail delivery from Jim, at about noon. Several different carriers and times were assigned to us when he retired. Now our very pleasant mail carrier, Vic, says he is permanent, but has the 4 p.m. slot. Sometimes a little earlier, but usually we can expect it then.

On the subject of mail, the Israeli Drive mail flag broke; Phil Woods replaced it for us. Many thanks.

Residents are requested to submit any interesting personal facts, stories or photos to me. You are able to slip them into my storm door or the box mounted to the bulletin board. Best phone number for me is 754-6646. You can e-mail photos to OTOW News and they will connect it to your article.

Enjoy, keep in touch, and introduce yourself to new residents.

**OTOW News wishes you and yours a very merry Christmas!**

# Alaska trip included extensive tours by ship and train

This month, I want to report on an exciting trip to Alaska taken recently by two of our neighbors.

Joseph (Joe) Maley and Audrey Knowlton flew to Seattle, Wash., then took a bus to Vancouver, Canada, where they boarded *The Island Princess* for a seven-day cruise.

The first day, they stopped at Ketchikan, Alaska. The second day found Joe and Audrey in Juneau where they took a whale-watching tour.

On the third day, the ship stopped in Skagway, where Joe and Audrey toured an Indian village there (see photo at right). The natives danced and invited some of the tourists to join in the dance. Audrey joined in and totally enjoyed it.

On one of the days of the cruise, the ship traveled around the Blue Glaciers. That was a sight to see and a wonderful photo opportunity.

"Dining anytime" was one of the many features Joe and Audrey enjoyed about the ship. There were also entertaining shows every night.

In addition to traveling by ship, they also took a four-day Alaska Railroad train tour.



Joe and Audrey visited Denali State Park, home of Mt. McKinley. The cabins they stayed in at the park were charming and inviting. The scenery was beautiful. After the land tours were over, they flew home from Anchorage.

Exciting news! Our neighbor, Heinz Heinke, shot his first-hole-in-one. This took place on the nine-hole golf course. Heinz has been playing and practicing for the last 20 years. He sure was a happy camper for days to follow! A celebration is certainly in order. Congratulations from all of us at Rila Renaissance.



Joe Maley, left, and Audrey Knowlton pose by Alaskan totems they encountered in a native village during an extensive tour to Alaska they recently took.

Thank you to all who attended the annual building meeting and helped to put up the Christmas decorations. It looks great! Please look for a notice on the bulletin boards for the day we need help taking down the decorations.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held at Kally-K's restaurant on Main Street in Dunedin. The date is Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. Please come at 4:30 p.m. and socialize.

We will be choosing from a menu, which includes the salad bar. Each guest will pay their own bill. You can look up the menu on the Internet. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin boards.

If anyone needs a ride, please note by your name. There are many people who will be willing to drive.

We hope all our neighbors and their families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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|   | Chair    | \$32.00 |
|   | Recliner | \$42.00 |



While singing the words to Abba's "Dancing Queen," 'You can dance, you can jive...' these RisingSTARZ actors were definitely having the time of their lives!

## Youth camp anniversary, RisingSTARZ play are Englander highlights

This is the season for caring, kindness and acts of giving, so it is only fitting for me to tell you about two of our residents and how their hearts and efforts have helped others.

Fifty years ago, when most were focusing on the "British Invasion" (a/k/a The Beatles and Rolling Stones), or the first ever "Daddy, I want that car" Ford Mustang, or the U.S. Attorney General's first warning that smoking was a health hazard, Jean and Paul Kelly were busy in New Jersey founding the Salvation Army's Youth Services.

This past summer, Jean and Paul attended a 50th reunion to celebrate Camp Tecumseh, named after a famous Indian Chief who dreamed that all Indian tribes in North America would become one nation.

The camp began with only 200 acres and a field. Paul was their first camp director. Jean led the efforts to plan and construct the dining room and kitchen facilities.

Today, it houses more than 400 acres and many cabins, so that thousands of children from low-income families may enjoy fresh air, exercise and new friendships during annual summer camp programs.

The Kellys also accompanied the first Salvation Army Youth Band to leave the U.S. as ambassadors. Paul and Jean were responsible for the finances and other business for the band while they were traveling.



Get ready for the Tony Awards, because George Algozzina will more than likely be nominated for his co-directing of a special adaption of "Mamma Mia" by the RisingSTARZ Theater Group.

We listened, we laughed, we danced and we sang; and yes, we even shed a few tears as we watched more than 20 individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges put on the show of their lives.

They were talented, skilled, proud and loud and thoroughly entertained us for the entire evening.

The show songs are still in our heads even now: "Mamma Mia," "Dancing Queen" or "Take a Chance on Me." I'll bet you'll catch yourself singing these songs today.

May your days be bright and your hearts be light as you celebrate this holiday season.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

This Classified section is a service to the OTOW community. There is no charge to residents for this service. Items must be priced under \$500 and copy must be 20 words or less including phone number. Submitter's name and building name must be included, but will not be published. *If the submitters's name and building is not included with the ad, it will not be accepted for publication.*

Please note: We do not accept ads for automobiles, firearms, yard/building sales, apartments for sale or rent, or employment. Ads must be placed in the boxes marked OTOW News in the East and West Activity Centers or dropped off at the newspaper office. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication date. Ads received late will be placed in the next available issue. Only one (1) ad per person per month will be accepted.

### FOR SALE

Tricycle for sale, excellent condition \$250 OBO. 744-8348

32" LG Television, two years old, like new \$125. 698-6634

Freezer, Avanti, 5 cu. ft., white, good condition \$75. 796-8271

Recliner, beige, small size, with foot rest \$65. 796-9615

Clark "Exerciser 2000 Elite" No. 1 home therapy for those 50 and up. New cost \$350, sacrifice for \$125 OBO. 410-8138

Great Christmas gift: Penny's fill-in puzzles, 13 jumbo issues. 725-3708

Bike, multi-speed, large tires, good condition \$17. 796-0554

Lenox cup/saucer, white, gift box \$20; Coach bag, black, shoulder strap, excellent condition \$25. 791-7610

Sewing machine, Sears Kenmore, w/instructions and accessories \$40 (orig. \$160). 723-8270

3 reconditioned laptops; 2 reconditioned desktop towers; 17" monitor. Call for prices, all of which include free delivery and setup. 400-5739

Luggage set, red color, large, medium and suit carrier, good condition \$75. 796-2477

Golf clubs: one man's one woman's, with bag \$40/\$50; queen comforter \$20; electric blanket, dual controls, queen size \$39. 726-4571

Graco baby stroller \$25; Tagalong pet booster seat 16"W x 14"D x 8"H, still in box \$25. 799-8819

Motorized lift chair, like new quality, barely used, dark maroon cloth upholstery \$400 OBO. Free delivery. 239-8019

Mirror, 42" x 30", rose tint, beveled \$50; pair mirrors, 45" x 21" each, wood frames, \$100. 723-8416

Men's and women's golf clubs and bags; bowling ball and bag. 799-2532

Ladies' bike, 26", nearly new \$75; unisex folding bike \$50. 726-2247

Samsonite suitcase, black, 29" LIFT spinner, new, never used \$80, new cost \$190. 417-9822

Folding cot \$15. 791-6759

Heavy-duty Brinkman gas grill BBQ, 4 burners, includes cover and propane tank, good price. 724-4059

Dominoes game (double 12) \$10; new Skip-Bo card game \$5; Tripoley deluxe edition \$5; new Uno card game \$5. 726-5949

Lazy Boy recliner, blue \$50; double bed w/headboard and frame (box spring & mattress like new) \$125. 315-271-6471

### WANTED

Two used kayaks with back supports wanted. Would also like paddles and life jackets if possible. 612-570-2757 or 727-260-0881

Dishwasher wanted, used, black, good condition. 723-8416

Old desktop computers, laptops and cell phones wanted for recycling. Drop off at the computer meeting room, downstairs in the EAC. Hard drives destroyed securely.

Stepping stones or border stones wanted. Will pick up any unwanted ones. 400-6097

Comic books wanted, pre-1980 Marvel or DC, any size collection, immediate cash paid. 712-3655

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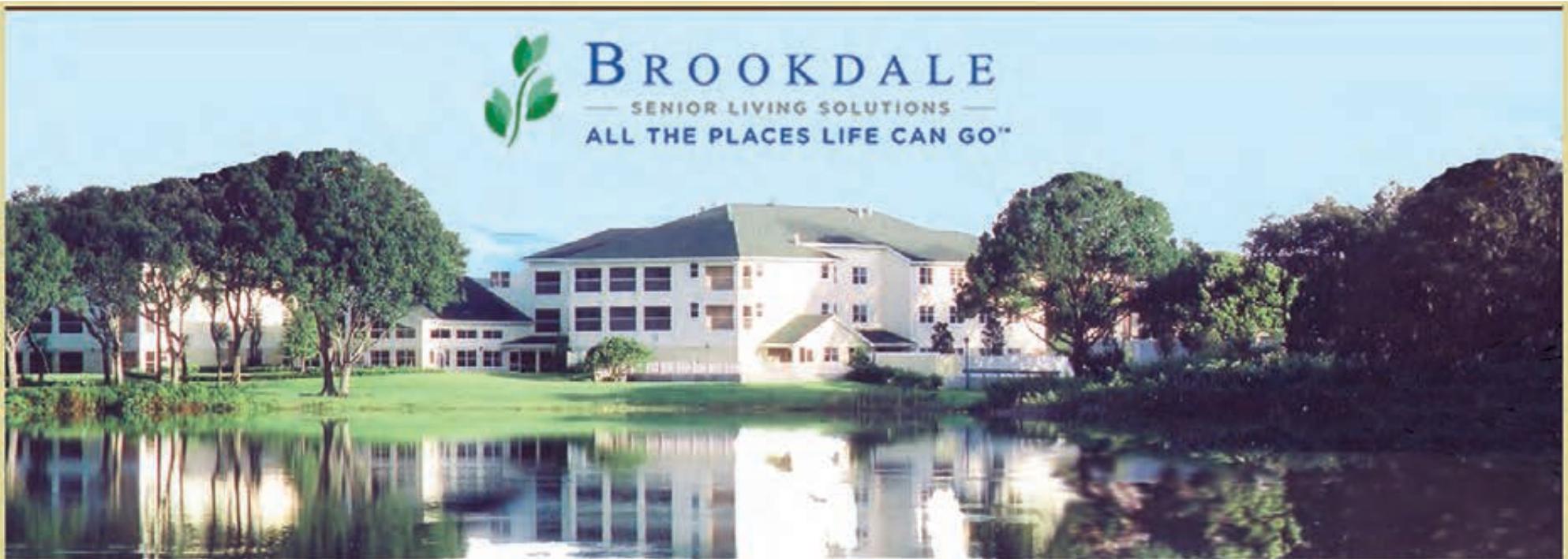
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