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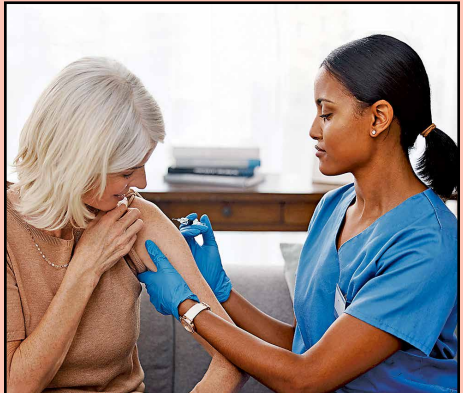
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Ceremony Celebrates Topping Out At JKV

Many Beautiful Apartments Remain Available



JKV’s Chief Marketing & Innovation Officer Monica McAfee addresses the audience during the Topping Out Ceremony of The Vue and The Terrace at Westlake on Oct. 28. Joining Monica on stage were (l to r) JKV’s CEO Dr. Salvatore A. Barbera, Broward County Vice Mayor Lamar Fisher, Pompano Beach Mayor Rex Hardin, Architect Bill Gallo, Architect Brandon Dilla, JKV Resident Tom McKay, and from Moss Construction Bob Moss, Eric Berke and Steve Whitmer.

Rob Seitz
Gazette Editor

In building construction, a 1,300-year-old tradition calls for a celebration after the last beam, or its equivalent, is placed atop a structure during construction: It is called Topping Out.

For the Westlake at John Knox Village project—the most ambitious in its 55-year history—that celebration took place the last Friday in October. Earlier that month, the Moss Construction team had completed its final exterior concrete pour for the roof of the 15-story Vue apartment building.

That means, the outsides for both The Vue, and its conjoined 11-story neighbor, The Terrace, are completed. There is still plenty of exterior work to be done on the \$120 million, 147 state-of-the-art apartments, however more attention can now be focused on the interiors of the buildings.

During the Topping Out Ceremony, a time-lapse video of the buildings was shown. To watch that video, scan the QR Code on page 2 of the *Gazette* with your smartphone’s camera.

While workers feasted on a delicious catered BBQ lunch,

JKV and Moss VIPs, political dignitaries and others spoke in glowing terms of the project’s progress.

None so much as JKV Heritage Tower resident Tom McKay, who told the more than 300 in attendance: “Anybody who works for Moss Construction, I have a message for you from the residents of John Knox Village, ‘We Love You.’”

“We have never worked with such good contractors in our entire lives. You guys make sure that we are safe and well cared for while you do your work. You also clean up after yourselves...I have never seen such a clean construction site...you guys up on these buildings look like an orchestra at work with all these pieces and parts working together, the machinery coming together.

“We don’t know how you do it, how you get which thing in order at the same time, but it is so much fun to watch. We are going to have this memory for the rest of our lives.”

After the lunch, speeches were presented, raffle prizes were won by the unflagging workers, and hard-hat tours of the building were given.

See “Westlake at JKV” On Page 2

The Westlake at John Knox Village project is the most ambitious in its 55-year history.

Deck The Halls In Scarlet, Green And White To Celebrate The Holiday Season

“Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.” – Anne Frank

Nona Cree Smith
Gazette Contributor

It’s that wonderful time of year again, when our homes become wonderlands of color, twinkling lights, dazzling ornaments and the lovely sounds of the season.

It’s also the season to enjoy and discover a variety of holiday celebrations. We can look forward to a candle lit Hanukkah with nights of feasts, gifts and an ancient game; a bright and cheerful Christmas aglow with decorated trees and a holiday feast; and the bold colors and music of Kwanzaa, with soul and African food accompanied by the beating rhythms of drums. All these celebrations are brought together by beautiful swags and garlands of greenery, an abundance of flowers and the lovely scents they bring to a home.

The Bold And The Beautiful

One of the most recognizable and festive holiday plants is the bright and cheerful poinsettia with its scarlet bracts, tiny yellow flowers and emerald green leaves. You’ll see these pretty plants in bright abundance at florists, supermarkets and nurseries throughout the country. Once purchased, they will decorate homes, shops, businesses and places of worship.



One of the most recognizable and festive holiday plants is the bright and cheerful poinsettia. Image Source: Getty Images.

The plant has a long and interesting history: Native to Central America, where it flourished in the Southern Mexico area of Taxco del Alarcon. The Aztecs used the plant as decoration, but also put it to practical uses. They extracted a purple dye for use in textiles and cosmetics from the plant’s bracts. The milky white sap, today called latex, was made into a preparation to treat fevers.

See “Holidays” On Page 3

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Additional Benefits When You Reserve Your Apartment Home

From “Westlake at JKV” On Page 1

Enthusiasm for the project is not just taking place on JKV’s 70-acre campus, but is being felt in the greater community. Westlake is currently more than 80-percent presold.

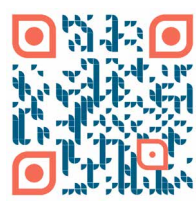
With a 10-percent deposit, *Gazette* readers are automatically enrolled as Platinum Level members of the Westlake Village Club, with benefits that include meals at any of the four on-campus dining venues.

Westlake is scheduled to open in 2024, with common-area amenities that will include:

- *Technology hub*
- *Business center*
- *Art studio*
- *Sacred space*
- *Library*
- *The French Press, a coffee and wine bar*
- *The bistro-styled Westlake Eatery*
- *A high-tech projection theatre*
- *Covered parking on the second and third floors*

To learn more visit www.johnknoxvillage.com or www.JKVGrows.com or call 954-871-2655.

During the Topping Out Ceremony, a time-lapse video of the buildings was shown. To watch the video, scan the QR Code with your smartphone’s camera.



See how JKV is growing and join us to share in the Holiday Spirit on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m., when the annual JKV Holiday Parade returns to the campus after a two-year COVID-cautious hiatus.

You’re Buying Life-Care Security, Not Real Estate



JKV Residents and Team Members participated in the recent on-campus Breast Cancer Walk emphasizing the common purpose the JKV community shares.

One misunderstanding many prospective residents have about moving into a JKV apartment or villa home is that they are buying that home. In fact, JKV is a Life-Plan Continuing Care Community, meaning that all residents receive a Life-Care contract which secures their care, if, when and for whatever health care circumstances may arise, in addition to which they enjoy the use of an apartment or villa their entire time as an Independent Living resident.

Residents have the peace of mind knowing that their future health care needs will be met. That continuum of care includes assisted living and skilled nursing should those levels of care ever be needed—all of which takes place directly on JKV’s 70-acre campus. For more information and to schedule a tour of John Knox Village, call 954-871-2655.

Thanks For Asking

Are Your Holiday Traditions Changing?

Dave Bayer
Gazette Contributor

Jackie and I are about to spend our sixth holiday season at John Knox Village. Where does the time go? In many respects, it seems like 2022 went by faster than most, mainly because of the many changes that took place on campus.

The Pavilion, which includes a 350-plus seat Cultural Arts Center, two dining venues and a nautically themed bar became fully operational and has been well received. With the opening of the two new restaurants, our 41-year-old main dining room was demolished, and that site has been dredged to provide a lake that will further expand the Village’s waterway system.

Enjoying all the amenities associated with our wonderful Aquatic Complex has been a very welcome change. Management of our Dining Services has been outsourced to NexDine, and after a few adjustments, the changes in our dining experiences have gone smoothly.

Westlake At JKV

A change still taking place around us is the construction of Westlake. Westlake will consist of two state-of-the-art apartment buildings that will include 147 new Independent Living homes. The Topping Out Ceremony commemorating the completion of the two shells was celebrated on Oct. 28, with project completion scheduled for the first quarter of 2024.

Jackie and I are planning to move to Westlake, and have enjoyed picking out the flooring, cabinets, counter tops, etc. Of course, Jackie was more engaged in the selection process than me, but I did get to work on my “Yes Dear” line, smile a lot and score a few much-needed points.

Unexpectedly, both the Chairman of our Board of Directors and our Chief Executive Officer left JKV simultaneously in late August. Although concerning, the subsequent transition has also gone smoothly. I don’t recall thinking about what changes to expect when we moved to JKV, but the many evolutions during 2022 have been challenging. Change has always been hard to manage and usually very difficult for my generation to accommodate and appreciate.

Celebrating The Holidays

Jackie and I had been married for three years before we moved to JKV and had already transitioned from hosting the big family gatherings to joining whichever relative had assumed that mantle. As a couple, we usually spend Thanksgiving with my kids in North Florida and Christmas with Jackie’s family in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Of course, there are more than family dinners to enjoy at this time of year, and most of what we have experienced during this season since moving here has been very enjoyable.

For those reasons, we are really looking forward to this holiday season. The scheduled festivities here will include an abundance of good music, a great variety of social gatherings, special events and, hopefully, a welcome respite from change.

There are three well-established constants at JKV during this season of the year. The first is that the true spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah is always evident. The second is the special lighting throughout our beautiful 70-acre campus. There are not many neighborhoods that can match the beautiful lighting at JKV. If possible, give yourself a holiday treat and arrange an after-dark visit to the campus during December.

Charity Begins At Home

Although not as visible, the third constant is the demonstration of charitably-framed minds living at JKV. In many ways, this is the most important constant and demonstrates what John Knox Village is all about. Resident giving has always been an important part of JKV. The first record of a fund-raising campaign was in 1971, when residents raised money for our first Health Center. The iconic John Knox Village clock on the I-95 side of Cassels Tower was a gift from a resident. Our first swimming pool (1978) was donated by a Board member. In 1983, resident Dr. Rex Foster built Foster Lake and populated it with his collection of swans. Residents donated \$6 million to spearhead the funding of The Woodlands. Receipts from annual Bazaars and our Resident Auxiliary Services thrift shop support items such as wheelchairs, recliners, buses, cars to transport residents and the resident weekly newsletter.

The history of giving at JKV tells a story about the generous and caring culture that continues to thrive today. Examples include our Employee Holiday Gift Fund, which was established some 40 years ago. In 1990 the total raised was \$85,181; in 2000 it was \$286,299; and in 2010 it had grown to \$346,547. In 2020 our residents donated \$700,566. Donations for this year’s fund are also robust. This is just another example of the camaraderie and appreciation residents feel toward the employees and shows that the spirit of charitable giving remains alive and well in the Village.

These well-established traditions at JKV assure us that it will continue to be a great place to live with our extended family and continue to enable us as we strive to lead our best life now.



Cassels Tower residents Dave and his wife Jackie Bayer enjoy the holiday festivities of a Christmas past at John Knox Village.

JKV Residents Dave Bayer and his wife Jackie have both been involved in a variety of volunteer activities in the local community and at the Village. Dave is a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Life Care Residents Association.



Brilliant Colors Emphasize The Joy Of The Holidays

From “Holidays” On Page 1

The poinsettia may have remained a regional plant had it not been for the efforts of Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779–1851). The son of a French physician, Dr. Poinsett was appointed as the first United States Ambassador to Mexico (1825–1829) by President James Madison.

Dr. Poinsett had attended medical school, but his real love was botany. Dr. Poinsett had hothouses on his Greenville, SC plantation, and while visiting the Taxco, Mexico area in 1828, he became enchanted by the brilliant red plants he saw there. He brought back cuttings to South Carolina, where they prospered. He began propagating the plants and sending them to friends and to botanical gardens. From their beginnings in the Carolinas, the love of poinsettias grew into a world-wide business.

Today poinsettias are an indispensable part of our holiday décor, from cheerful red leaves surrounding the Christmas tree, or combined with other plants, to create elegant holiday displays.

The beauty of the poinsettia is enhanced when combined with other holiday plants. A display of large amaryllis lilies, both red and white, are a perfect foil for poinsettias and for every kind of holiday celebrations from Hanukkah and Christmas to Kwanzaa.

Holiday Plants On A Budget

Before COVID, on Black Friday, we would arrive before dawn at our local hardware store, and buy bargain-priced poinsettias and bring home at least a dozen beautiful plants. We decorated the hallway as a colorful welcome to our home. But for us, those 5 a.m. Black Friday trips for budget poinsettias are over. If your decorating budget is tight this year, perhaps a big bunch of red and white carnations would make colorful, fragrant substitutes.

Carnations have long been dismissed as “filler flowers,” but in reality, these beautiful blossoms have been favorites for centuries. Of uncertain origin, clove-scented carnations reportedly were brought to Italy from Spain by the Romans during the first century. They weren’t common elsewhere in Europe until the Crusaders brought them back from North Africa in the 13th century. Carnations were a favorite flower for celebration wreaths, because of their delicate beauty, range of colors from bright red to delicate pink and pure white, their fragrance and long-lasting quality after being picked.



Kwanzaa celebrates the combined traditions of several different African harvest celebrations. The seven candles represent the seven major principles of African community philosophy. Image Source: Shutterstock.

A Festival Of Lights And Gaming

The game of dreidels is traditional gaming fun during Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Enjoyed primarily by children, it’s fast paced and easy to play, with its four simple rules written on the dreidel, symbolized by the letters, which have specific significance for the holiday. The letters stand for the phrase

“nes gadol haya sham,” which means “a great miracle happened there.”

It is a reminder of the Hanukkah miracles of the military victory by the Macabees over the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and the one day of Temple oil that lasted eight nights. In Israel the last letter of the dreidel is “pay” instead of “shin,” to represent the phrase “a great miracle happened here.”

To play, you need a dreidel, two or more people and about ten pieces of gelt (money) per person, which for the children is often gold-covered chocolate coins. The game is played in rounds with each player putting a piece of gelt on the

table, and taking a turn to spin the dreidel. That player must do what the dreidel indicates on the upturned face. The game continues, each player taking a turn, until one person has all the gelt. It’s a fun, easy game. See the illustration for translations.

The Harvest Celebration Of Kwanzaa

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chairman of Black Studies at California State University – Long Beach, wanted to create an event that would unite African Americans and give them the opportunity to celebrate their culture and history instead of only participating in the celebrations of the dominant society.

He founded “US,” a cultural organization, and researched the African first-fruit celebrations. He combined the tradition of several different harvest celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

The celebration is based on seven major principles, which are according to Dr. Karenga, an African community philosophy of: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. On each of the seven nights of the weeklong celebration, families gather together and light one of the seven candles of the kinara. Usually, a discussion about the one specific principle takes place. The celebrations culminate with an abundant communal feast called Karamu, usually on the seventh day of Kwanzaa. Good food, singing, music and time for thoughtful discussions all end with joyful dancing and the sound of African drums.

Peace And Goodwill To All

However you celebrate, whether it’s Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, Happy Holidays.



The game of dreidels is a tradition during Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Image Source: Getty Images.

Stocking Stuffer Books: Perfect For Gifting

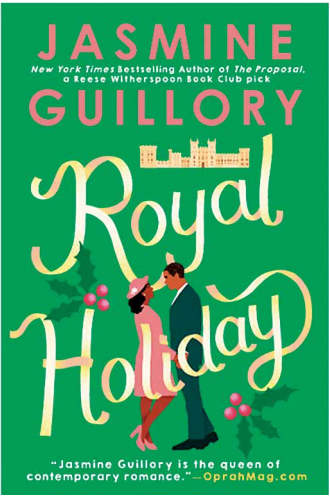
Nona Cree Smith
Gazette Contributor

which to choose. May I suggest the following as great stocking stuffers for the bookworms among us.

Royal Holiday By Jasmine Guillory

Vivian Forest has a unique chance to travel with her daughter, who is a fashion consultant, on a business trip during the Christmas holidays. As she rarely goes anywhere, the single social worker never celebrated the holidays without her close-knit California family. Vivian tries to be spontaneous, so she makes Maddie’s wishes come true and off they go to England.

When mother and daughter arrive at a magnificent, fairy-tale castle, Maddie is immediately whisked away to outfit the duchess while Vivian is offered a private tour of the grounds by Malcolm Hudson, a private secretary to the Queen. As an innocent flirtation with this handsome, intelligent man turns into something more, Vivian is shocked to find herself

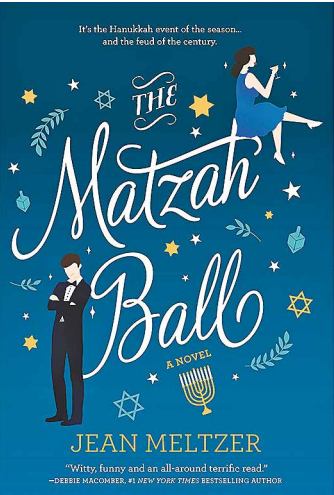


completely captivated, and is dreading leaving England. With courage and faith, shy Vivian learns that middle-aged romance might actually be better the second time around. Find a cozy reading nook and enjoy reading about a mature couple’s hot romance.

The Matzah Ball By Jean Meltzer

Rachel Rubenstein-Goldblatt, the daughter of a Long Island Rabbi, has a big secret. Rachel is an award-winning writer of Christmas romance novels. She writes under a pseudonym, and no one knows her secret, except her best friend.

Her home office is filled with Christmas decorations and memorabilia that would make her Jewish family plotz. Even though her shelves are filled with dozens of best-sellers, the publishers want her to write the first Hanukkah romance. Although she is very proud of her heritage, Rachel does not view Hanukkah as material for romance, until handsome Jacob Greenberg comes to town to organize the Matzah Ball, the event of the season. This book is laugh-out loud funny, so enjoy a glass of Manischewitz wine while reading.

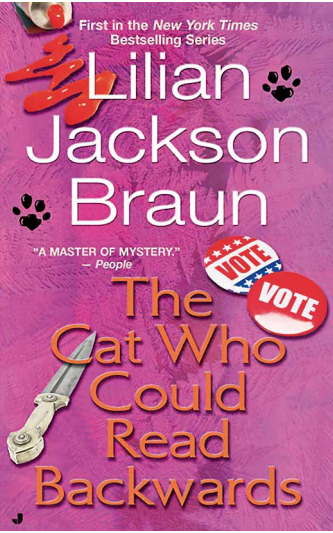


The Cat Who ... A Series

Lilian Jackson Braun (1913–2011), a beloved American writer, is well known for her light-hearted series of more than 20 “The Cat Who...” mystery novels. The series of books center on a former newspaper reporter, James Qwilleran and his two Siamese cats, Koko (short for Kao K’o Kung) and Yum Yum, both feline detectives extraordinaire.

The series begins in a large unnamed city (I deduced it to be Chicago), and then moves to the fictitious small town of Pickax located in Moose County “400 miles north of everywhere.” Although never acknowledged in her books, the lifestyles described in the series are generally accepted to be modeled after Bad Axe, MI, where the Brauns lived until the mid-1980s.

I recommend starting with the first book, “The Cat Who Could Read Backwards,” and enjoy the carefree literary journey. It’s even better if a purring cat sits on your lap while reading.





The JKV Holiday Bazaar Committee finalizes plans for the two-day event Dec. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gazette readers are invited to join us for this fundraising event.

Join Us During The Holidays

As a *Gazette* reader, you are invited to get into the holiday spirit at John Knox Village. Plan to join us for these great events.

JKV Holiday Bazaar: Dec. 7 And 8

The Holiday Bazaar, one of the most anticipated events on the JKV calendar, is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7 and Thursday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Village Centre Auditorium. This annual event has been a major fundraiser for JKV Health Care Services.

This year's Bazaar promises to have a variety of unique treasures and will be a great opportunity to pick up some interesting holiday gifts for family and friends. Among the merchandise offered will be baked goods, jewelry, holiday crafts, art, housewares, knickknacks and much more. Various raffles and auction items will also be featured during the two-day Bazaar.

JKV residents Fred Schieferstein and Ken Shananhan are co-chairs for the Bazaar and are ably assisted by dozens of volunteers. During last year's Bazaar, more than \$18,000 was collected and donated to JKV Health Care Services.

JKV Holiday Parade: Dec. 15

After a two-year COVID-induced hiatus, the annual JKV Holiday Parade will return to the campus

on Thursday, Dec. 15, kicking off at 4:30 p.m.

Cheer on more than 30 parade units featuring floats and displays from JKV Departments, local high school marching bands, local businesses, government officials, Broward County Sheriff's motorcycle units and the Pompano Beach Fire Department.

Join our residents and get in the holiday spirit as you watch the hour-long Holiday Parade.

Call the JKV Sales Department at 954-871-2655 for more information about either and/or both of these great events.



Music Is In The Air: Celebrate With Us In December

The John Knox Village Cultural Arts Center is sprucing up for the Holiday Season. As a *Gazette* reader, plan to join us for these great Holiday Shows.

Carole J. Bufford Roars: Dec. 4

JKV welcomes Carole J. Bufford on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m., as she presents "ROAR! the Jazz Age songbook of the music of the 1920s and beyond."

Carole will bring you back to a time where flappers, vamps and sheiks were shimmying in gin joints as a whirl of great social and political change happened all around them. She'll perform an ensemble of songs made famous by Sophie Tucker, Al Jolson, Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong.

The Chocolate Nutcracker: Dec. 10

If you are a dance aficionado, the Ashanti Cultural Arts Dance Troupe will perform "The Chocolate Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. This spin on Tchaikovsky's classic ballet stays true to the original, but takes Clara on an amazing adventure to Africa.

BWC Choral Group: Dec. 20

For anyone pining for holiday favorites like, "White Christmas," don't miss the Tuesday, Dec. 20 performance of the BWC Choral Group. This 30-voiced women's chorus is celebrating 50 years of singing a cappella and will present "Home for the Holidays" at our Cultural Arts Center.

Tickets for all performances are \$26 per ticket for nonresidents. To RSVP for these concerts, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for John Knox Village. If you have questions about these concerts, please call the Sales Department at 954-871-2655 or visit www.johnknoxvillage.com for a full list of upcoming performances at JKV.

Robust Programming Doubled Residents' AAW Fun



Mitch the Magician mystified JKV Resident Jan Spalding in finding a \$100 bill inside an unpeeled grapefruit.

Rob Seitz
Gazette Editor

Knox Village team unleashed their imaginations to

After two years of COVID-careful events surrounding Active Aging Week, the dynamic John

create first-class programming for the residents.

Team members from Life Enrichment, Fitness, Meaningful Life, Spiritual Life, Production and Marketing developed so many events—28 in all—that JKV's version of AAW ended up spanning two weeks.

Programs ranged from a Brain and Body Fitness Obstacle Course, Tri-Level Aqua Training Blocks, Campus Pickleball Tournament, Storytelling Workshop, Health Symposium and Wellness Fair to sessions on identity theft prevention, technology security and guided tour of NSU's Art Museum, as well as performances from Ashley Pezzotti, the New Florida Follies, South Florida Symphony Pops, Choir! Choir! Choir! and much more.

This was the 19th Annual AAW organized by the International Council on Active Aging to: "Celebrate aging and to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle on a national scale."

As Life Enrichment Manager Jody Leshinsky told residents during the AAW Closing Ceremonies: "Our wonderful team put together robust programming which included all seven dimensions of wellness [Physical, Spiritual, Intellectual, Social, Vocational, Emotional and Environmental]. It was a packed and terrific two weeks."



South Florida Symphony Pops at the Cultural Arts Center.



The group karaoke performance of Choir! Choir! Choir! had JKV residents dancing in the aisles and their voices raised in song.



The talented musicians from Ft. Lauderdale's Dillard High School Marching Band kicked off Active Aging Week with an energetic performance.

Charitable Giving Makes JKV Great

Donations Of Funds, Goods, Time And Talent Is At The Heart Of Village's Spirit

Marty Lee
Gazette Contributor

John Knox Village (JKV) is a caring, sharing community, where residents and staff alike work together to create a Village of fulfillment, respect, commitment and inclusion. For residents, JKV is a true home, full of familial friends and neighbors, cared “for life” by a committed and talented staff. Many residents feel a responsibility to “give back” for the many blessings they have received from life in the Village.

The main conduit for giving to JKV is through the John Knox Village Foundation. The Foundation’s mission is to support the programs, services and spaces of the JKV community.

Mark Dobosz, the Foundation’s Executive Director said, “Residents at JKV are very philanthropic and generous with their time, talent and treasure. I am amazed at the heartwarming stories of how much JKV means to a donor and the strong desire to give back to the place that provides them with the safety, security and comfort that is ‘home’ for them. And the size of donation doesn’t matter because the same deep level of gratitude is expressed and shared in a similar manner – sincerely and from the bottom of their heart and soul.”

The following are just a few examples of resident gratitude.

We Need A Steinway

Margo and Herschell Lewis moved to JKV in 2006 from their Ft. Lauderdale home. They might have reconsidered the move, had not the Sales and Marketing Director at that time made accommodations to find space for Herschell’s pride and joy: His Steinway Piano. The Lewis’s took two Village Towers apartments – one in which to live, the other for Herschell’s piano, office, storage and their Segways.

Ever since Mr. Lewis was a boy – born during the Depression in Chicago – he loved music more than anything. He played the violin as a youngster, but with his large hands it was a difficult instrument to master. Whenever he saw a piano, Mr. Lewis would sit down to play. He never took piano lessons but learned to play by ear.

It was many years later in life when Mr. Lewis finally got the chance to own a Steinway. “We bought the piano in 1998,” Margo said.

After two years of living in two Village Towers apartments, the Lewises moved into a double apartment in JKV’s Heritage Tower with plenty of room for Herschell’s and Margo’s offices, living space and the Steinway piano.

He was a prolific professional in marketing, merchandising, advertising, writing and film production. Mr. Lewis never stopped working during his years at



Concert pianist Solomon Eichner was the first to perform at the JKV Cultural Arts Center on the Steinway piano donated to the Village by Heritage Tower Resident Margo Lewis.

JKV, and he never stopped playing his piano. Mrs. Lewis said, in fact, “Herschell worked on a marketing proposal over his final Saturday and Sunday.” He died that Monday at the age of 90 in 2016.

After his death, Mrs. Lewis knew that Herschell’s Steinway was meant to be played. She donated the piano to the JKV Foundation, and it found a temporary home on the eighth-floor lobby at Heritage Tower.

Mrs. Lewis recalls having dinner last year with JKV’s Chief Marketing & Innovation Officer Monica McAfee prior to the opening of the new Cultural Arts Center in the Pavilion at JKV. Mrs. Lewis remembered that during dinner, Ms. McAfee told her, “I have to find a Steinway,” in anticipation of the completion of the Cultural Arts Center. Mrs. Lewis replied, “You already have one.”

Once construction was completed, her husband’s beloved Steinway was moved from Heritage Tower to the Cultural Arts Center. Its inaugural performance was by the noted classical pianist Solomon Eichner. In the months since, Mr. Lewis’ Steinway has brought the joy of music to audiences at JKV, and will continue to do so for years to come.

Barton’s Nautilus Bar

Mr. Dobosz said the effort to build The Woodlands, which opened six years ago, was very much a resident-driven initiative to create a first-class skilled nursing and rehab facility at JKV.

“Being the first, and still only Green House model program in Florida, residents sought to get fully behind the effort to see the facility constructed and contributed a sizeable portion to the total cost,” he said.

The same spirit of charitable giving continued during the construction of The Pavilion. Mr. Dobosz said that residents Bob and Diane Barton selected the naming opportunity for the Bar in the new Pavilion during the Village’s 50th Anniversary Campaign in 2017.

The naming opportunity provided the Bartons the chance to have the space named while philanthropically supporting the JKV Foundation with a \$100,000 gift. As part of the 50th Anniversary Campaign, the Barton’s saw making their gift in this way as something that would be of interest to them and supportive of the JKV Foundation’s fundraising efforts.

Marilyn Askin Donates For Renovations

Dedicated to philanthropy during her long career as an attorney and educator. Marilyn Askin contributed extensively to Rutgers University. Mrs. Askin and her late husband, Frank, who distinguished himself as the founding director of the Rutgers Constitutional Litigation Clinic, gifted more than \$1 million to the University’s Law School to establish an endowment promoting its groundbreaking clinical program. A wing at the law school bears the name – Frank and Marilyn Askin Legal Clinic.

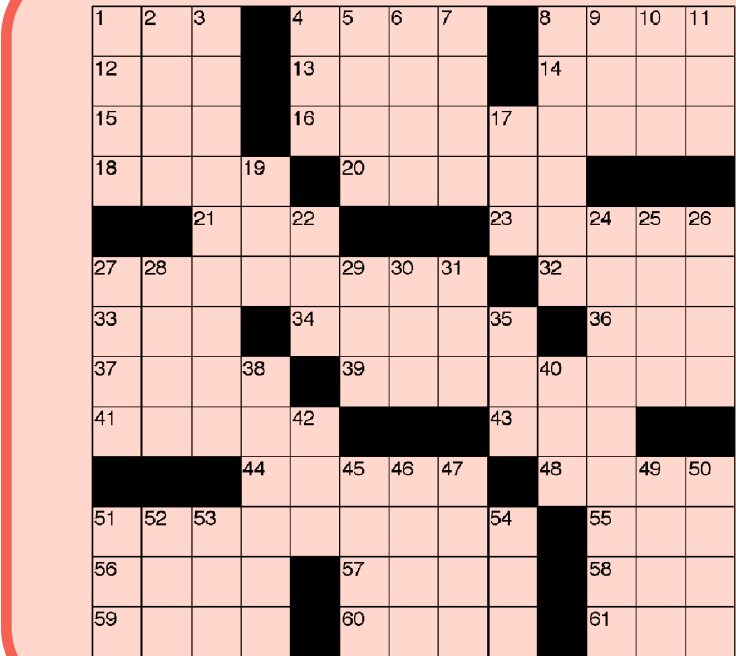
Mrs. Askin continues her generous support as a member of the JKV community. She learned about the planned renovations to various sections of the common areas of the assisted living Gardens West, long before she became a Gardens West resident. Mrs. Askin became very interested and enthusiastic about the planned improvements and enhancements. Recognizing the importance of a warm welcoming area for residents, Mrs. Askin chose to help fund the Gardens West main entrance and lobby area with a \$250,000 commitment to the renovation project. This gift will truly make a difference in the lives of current and future residents of Gardens West once the renovations are completed.



Marilyn Askin, Gardens West Resident and JKV philanthropist.



Barton’s Nautilus Bar is the Village’s gathering spot for a pre-dinner drink, and to meet friends prior to a concert in the Cultural Arts Center.



Crossword Puzzle Of The Month

ACROSS

- Et cetera (abbr.)
- P.I. food
- Harp (Ital.)
- Cheer
- Synagogue
- Base
- Jamaican dance music
- 4th incarnation of Vishnu
- Trillion (pref.)
- Money
- Military macaw
- Monsieurs (abbr.)
- Feint (2 words)
- Sesame
- Grain
- Polishing material
- Soft drink
- Pronoun contraction

DOWN

- Former
- Scepter (2 words)
- Coarse cotton fabric
- Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
- Small anvil
- Your (Ger.)
- Veneration
- Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
- Fair Employment Practices Act (abbr.)
- Night (pref.)
- Cetacean
- Sound of a horn
- Egypt. cross
- Indian ground salt

- Subtract
- Nature
- Social Security Number (abbr.)
- Melville’s captain
- Plant seed coat
- Wings
- Among
- Sleep state (abbr.)
- Exclamation
- Anecdotes
- “Casablanca” character
- Boat
- Abridged (abbr.)
- Hunt (2 words)
- Change the decor
- Rosebud, e.g.
- Parasitic plant
- Haw. island

- Malay gibbon
- Selling price
- equivocation
- Mode
- To (Scot.)
- Subordinate official
- Garland
- Social affair
- Sicilian volcano
- Condition (suf.)
- Afr. hornbill
- Uncommon
- Apiece
- Air Force Base (abbr.)
- River into the North Sea
- Unclose
- Ultimate degree

Answers On Page 10.



JOHN KNOX VILLAGE

A Life-Plan Retirement Community



Over 80% Pre-Sold

jkgrows.com

Westlake

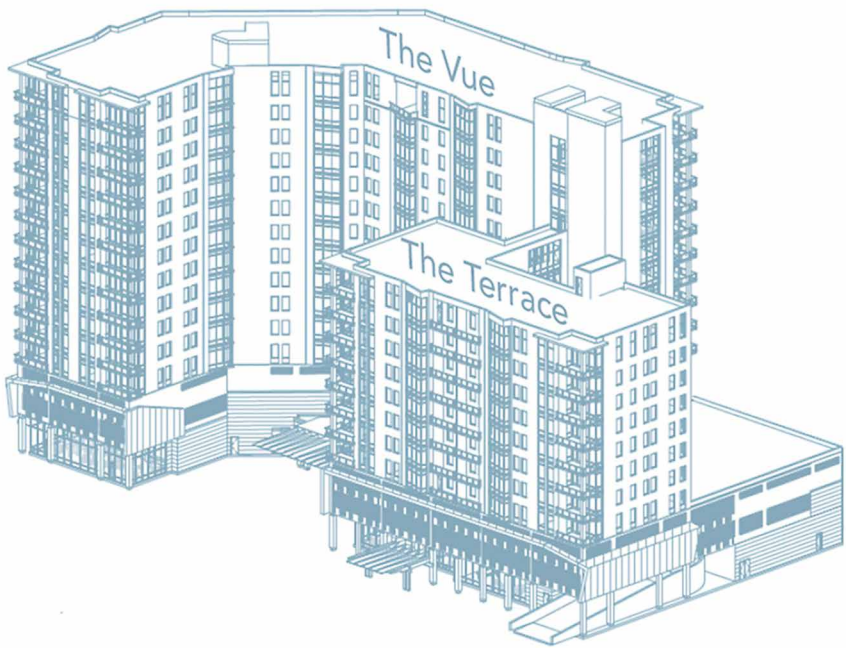
AT JOHN KNOX VILLAGE

Westlake

The newest resort-style neighborhood at JKV featuring two all-new, modern residence buildings.

JKV Advantage



Get peace of mind with our Life-Care contract that covers you for whatever health care situation may arise.



To schedule your one-on-one appointment with a Life Plan Consultant **954-871-2655**



JOHN KNOX VILLAGE
Where possibility plays

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JOHN KNOX VILLAGE

An Award-Winning Life-Plan Retirement Community

Have you *Asked* Kim?



Kim Ali, guru of information at John Knox Village (JKV), is frequently asked important questions regarding resort-style living at JKV and the new apartment home neighborhood, Westlake. That’s why we started this friendly column to help you make the right informed decision.

Dear Kim: Can you tell me about your most popular events at JKV? I heard that you have a new Cultural Arts Center.

— *Interested in Lighthouse Point*

Dear Interested: JKV is known for its lifestyle and engaging events at the community. We just built a \$34 million Cultural Arts Center and currently have a robust entertainment schedule with lots of talent to enjoy. Come on by and check out one of the shows.



HEALTH & WELLNESS SERIES

Introducing Mark Rayner, Director of Health Services at John Knox Village. Mark oversees all skilled nursing care for our guests. The Woodlands is a seven-story building that features all private bedrooms, with baths for each guest. There are 12 homes, each consisting of 12 private bedrooms, each with a private bath, surrounding a kitchen, dining room and living room. All meals are prepared in each home by universal caregivers who cook, clean and provide daily caregiving.

Dear Mark: My loved one was recently diagnosed with Dementia and sometimes attempts to leave our home without knowledge of where to go. We are concerned for her safety and have a caregiver during the day while we are at work. We are planning on traveling out of state for Christmas and are concerned with how to ensure safe care while we are gone.

Does the Woodlands at John Knox Village provide any type of short-term Respite Care?

– *Hoping for Help in Pompano Beach*

Dear Hoping: First of all, I’m sorry to hear about the family situation with which you are dealing. It is always difficult to provide care for a loved one dealing with Dementia. We absolutely can provide a safe and caring place for your loved one to safely stay, while allowing the family to travel out of town during the holiday season.

There is no long-term obligation, and we have short-term Respite Stays starting at three days to as long as needed.

Please feel free to call our Admissions Office for details at 954-247-5804.

Do you have questions? Ask Kim!
Call 954-871-2655 today or email: askkim@jkvfl.com

John Knox Village 400 SW 3rd Street (Main Gate), Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Johnknoxvillage.com | jkvgrows.com

Dillard Center For The Arts

The Next Feature In A Multi-Part Series Presenting JKV's Community Partners



The Dillard High School Marching Band opened the festivities at JKV's Active Aging Week.

Jody Leshinsky
Gazette Contributor

When I think of a performing arts high school, the first thing that comes to mind is the film, and subsequent television series, “*Fame*.” My imagination takes me to musical numbers with talented, young students singing wistfully about love, dancing

in leotards and leg warmers on top of cafeteria tables. You may not know, but we have our own version of that right here in Broward County, at Dillard Center for the Arts (DCA). DCA is a fully accredited performing and visual arts magnet school and is part of the Broward County Public Schools system. There are several feeder arts magnet schools – North Andrews Gardens Elementary, Deerfield Park Elementary and Parkway Middle – where students can begin their arts education from a very young age and continue through 12th grade.

Dillard Marching Band At JKV

When JKV created its Community Partnership with DCA, Dillard put a lot of thought into the types of programs that would be presented on- and off-campus. Residents enjoyed an energetic, lively performance of the Dillard Marching Band during Active Aging Week at JKV in October. Not only did the students perform at the Opening Ceremony in our Cultural Arts Center, but they also visited our higher care residents as they marched around the campus to perform in front of Sea-

side Cove, Gardens West and The Woodlands. On Dec. 15, the Marching Band will return to participate in the JKV Holiday Parade. Throughout the school year, they’ll entertain us with pop-up performances in the Seaglass Restaurant, which might be a student playing a violin or cello or bringing us other performances during dinner. The Cultural Arts Center will also host a few performances by their musicians, or the DCA theater troupe. The Life Enrichment Department will publish these events in the Month-At-A-Glance newsletter and through email blasts. Additionally, DCA has offered JKV residents a discount on tickets to performances at the Dillard Center for the Arts Theater, which is located in Ft. Lauderdale, off Sunrise Boulevard. A list of the performances can be found on the DCA website at www.dillardhs.com/showtime. For more information on these programs, please contact Life Enrichment at JKV at 954-783-4039.

Your Personal Life Inventory

Take The Time To Assess Where You Have Been, And Where You Plan To Go

Melissa Jill Clark
Gazette Contributor



Melissa Jill Clark, Life Wellness Coach

- *What is most important to you?*
- *Are you spending your time on what matters most?*
- *Where is your energy going?*
- *How are you feeling about your current schedule?*
- *Are you getting caught up procrastinating rather than giving your energy in the direction you want your life to be or go?*
- *Are you spending so much time pleasing others that you may have lost touch with your own goals and desires for the precious time that you have?*

As we enter the month of December, the close of another year, the realization of how fast time flies is imminent. Time is the most valuable gift. This is where our life is held in the precious moments that we have. As we get ready to begin anew in 2023, I encourage you to take inventory of your current life just as it is. Ask yourself the following questions:

Chances are, you’re doing a lot of really great things with your life and your time. Take note of these things. Be proud of yourself and keep it up. You may also find that there are probably some areas of your life that you can tidy up, to make space for the activities that make you feel most happy and fulfilled. When we know we are doing good things, we often feel resistance to let them go. Or perhaps, we may struggle to say no to something because we see there is a need. It is important to remember that there are many needs in the world, but it is not our own personal responsibility to fill them all. Above all, we must guard our own energy and where we spend our time. There is so much good that needs to be done in this world and it’s very easy to take that burden on ourselves. But when we continue to do this, we just deplete ourselves from the very energy that we need to give our very best. Sometimes, we have to give up the good for the great. I’ll say that again: Sometimes, we have to give up the good for the great. We must learn to discern and say no to things that might seem noble, because there is a different place that we need to be investing the valuable resources of our gifts and our time. The best way to do this is through breathing, meditating, focusing inward and following your inner guidance. When you do this, you can make your decisions in alignment with what matters most and is closest to your heart. Living in alignment brings peace and happiness.



Meditation helps you make decisions about what matters most and is closest to your heart.

When we are filled with our own joy, our energy emanates from our entire being and we share this gift with whom we come into contact. This is when we have the power to make more of an impact. Sometimes we need to do less, in order to truly be able to accomplish more. So, as we come to the close of 2022, take a look at your life, and where you spend your valuable time. Notice how you feel and make your adjustments accordingly. This could be the biggest gift you can give to yourself and to the world this holiday season. Additionally, it will give you a fresh clean slate as you move into a new year.

A Precious Holiday Memory



The long-forgotten photo of Barbara and Michael going steady during the holidays in 1959.

Michael Featherstone
Special To The Gazette

“A picture is worth a thousand words,” is an adage in multiple languages meaning that complex and sometimes multiple ideas can be conveyed by a single still image, which conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a mere verbal description. My wife, Barbara Morningstar, and I had been looking forward to our September trip back to our roots in Michigan for months. I was eager to visit with

classmates from Waterford Township High School’s class of 1960 for a COVID-belated 60th Reunion. We both enjoyed visiting with relatives and friends on this trip, particularly Barbara’s sisters, Lois and Linda. Linda, the middle sister, had been a classmate of mine and currently lived in the house my father had built on Williams Lake in 1947 – the same house in which I lived, until about the age of 10. She was one of our first visits, and as she greeted us, told us that she had a surprise. She pulled out a shoebox that was filled with photos and said that she had recently discovered the cache of images that their father had taken when the sisters were young.

When We Were Young

I noticed Linda was holding one of them in her hands with its back to us. She handed it to me first and I involuntarily gasped out ‘Oh My God.’ I couldn’t believe what I saw. My eyes watered. The next thing I thought to say was, “This is the most precious gift you could have given us.” It is, in fact, our most precious possession: A photo of Barb and me in our teens. Since then, we have speculated about the photo – which to us – communicates much more than a thousand words could. Neither of us remember her father taking the photo. Clearly, it was taken just before or after Christmas in 1959. We had been “going steady” for about four months and clearly, we were going out on a date later that evening, probably to Rocco’s Pizzeria and then a stop at the Frostop, the Waterford



Michael and Barbara married during the holidays in 2021.

equivalent of “*American Graffiti*” Mel’s Diner. A few months later our romance was interrupted when my parents decided to move to South Florida. **57 Years Apart: Together Once More** It was an interruption that would last 57 years, and the interim was not unlike another movie, “*Sleepless in Seattle*,” one of us single, the other married, Mike in Florida, Barbara in Michigan, then Barbara in Florida and Mike in Michigan. We came back together in 2016 and married last year on Dec. 29 – perhaps exactly 62 years from the date that photo was snapped.

Letters From Home

Burn Loeffke
Gazette Contributor



Burn Loeffke

As a retired Army veteran, having 36 years of active service, my mind often thinks of our young men and women serving our country overseas, away from family and friends during the holidays. Letters from home are so important to our servicemen and women. They keep our relationships connected with those we love back home.

The holiday season can be stressful, especially for service members deployed overseas. I spent holidays in combat zones, and the tour that stands out prominently in my mind was my first time in combat.

I was a young Lieutenant with a team of 11 other Special Forces. We were in the middle of nowhere. There were none of the comforts that the Army usually provides during the holidays. We were on a highly classified mission, meaning no contact with anyone back home.

With no experience in married life or even a prolonged relationship with a woman, the idea of me dying in combat was hard to accept. I prayed that I'd be spared so I could enjoy a wife and family before my life ended. Adding to those feelings was the fact, that while on this mission, no one back home would know where I was, and therefore would not be able to send me any mail during the duration.

The longing for a connection kept returning. I felt cheated. Thoughts of a too-soon interrupted life, and possible death kept swimming in my head. The lack of mail – no warm words from anyone I knew – added to the frustration because, officially my fellow soldiers and I, just weren't there.

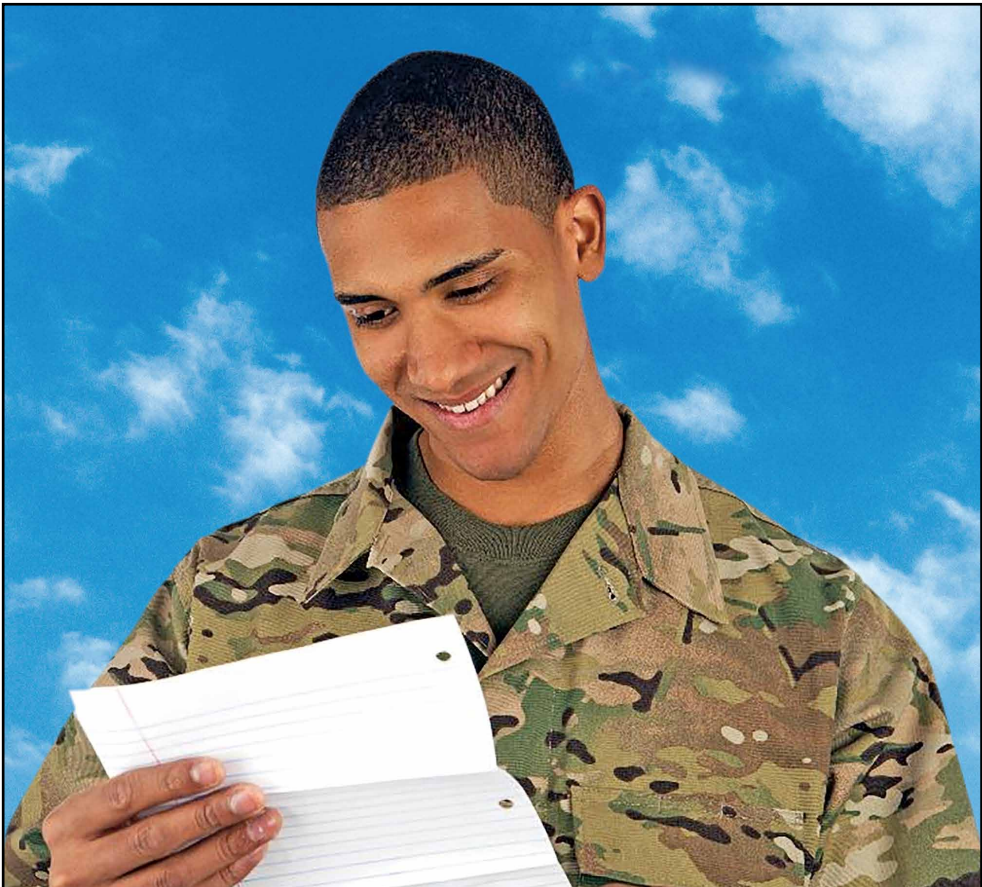
From Your Sporty Blonde

To keep our morale up, before we deployed, the First Sergeant had asked us to check off the type of woman we wanted to write us. I selected, "Blonde with interests in sports, music and languages." I knew, on a classified mission, mail was not allowed: Yet every month, I would receive a letter signed, "From your Sporty Blonde, who misses her brave soldier tremendously."

I have to admit those monthly letters kept my morale high, and I looked forward to receiving each one. It wasn't long however, before I put two and two together. Those monthly letters were in fact, not from the Sporty Blonde, but from the Sergeant.

Letters From Home

If you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew or even a close friend serving our country in the military, remember to write a letter and send a card every chance you get. While emails, text messages and social media are great for immediate contact, there is nothing quite



Keep your serviceman or woman in mind during the holiday season.
Image Source: Getty Images.

like the permanence of a hand-written letter and a carefully selected holiday card to bring feelings of warmth and family connection to our military men and women who are away from home.

During these trying times, remember those in every branch of the military who keep us safe, both at home and overseas. Take the time to write a special letter this holiday season to express your love and appreciation for all they do.

The noted English author G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." Get behind that serviceman or woman in your life and show the support, understanding and love he or she deserves. Write that letter today. Happy holidays to all, and a special thank you to all our servicemen and women for continuing to preserve our many freedoms.

Bernard "Burn" Loeffke is a retired Major General of the United States Army. He fought and was wounded in the Vietnam War. In four years of combat as a Lt. Captain, Major and Lt. Colonel he was awarded several valor awards including the silver star, bronze star and others. He later served as the commanding general of U.S. Army South. In the 1980s, He was the first American Army General to serve as Defense Attaché in the Peoples Republic of China and was also Army Attaché in Moscow. In 1992, he retired and was called back four months later to head a year-long delegation looking for POWs in the old USSR. He retired again in 1993, and immediately started his second career in medicine. He finished his medical studies in 1997, and participated in medical missions in war-torn or impoverished areas such as Bosnia, Haiti, Kenya, Iraq, Niger, Darfur and the Amazon jungles.

This Is A Time For Giving – Be Generous To All

Rachael Gallagher
JKV Spiritual Life Director



Rev. Rachael Gallagher

As the winter holidays: A time for exchanging presents, stuffing yourself with festive treats and gathering together for celebrations. But the holiday season is also, of course, the season of goodwill, and can be a tough time for many people, including those who are homeless, grieving, lonely or struggling to make ends meet.

So why not spend some time helping those in need this December? Research shows that acts of kindness can have a huge benefit on your own happiness, health and sense of well-being, as well as those of the people you help. Take inspiration from these acts of kindness this winter holiday season.

Volunteer Your Talents And Time

No matter how you do it, volunteering is a selfless act that will help transform the lives of many people over the holiday season. A good source for finding volunteering opportunities are the official websites of individual charities.

You could lend a hand in a charity shop, help out at a soup kitchen, volunteer for a crisis helpline, or volunteer to wrap presents for disadvantaged children.

If you are someone who celebrates Christmas, one idea that I love is to make a "reverse advent calendar." Alongside opening your own traditional advent calendar every day, why not make a reverse advent calendar? It's simple: Just begin with an empty box, adding one item of non-perishable food to it every day until Christmas. You can then take it to your local food bank. Check with your nearest food bank to see exactly what should, and shouldn't be, included

in your box. As well as the basics, you could even throw in some treats like candies and cookies.

Another way to donate to your local food bank and help those in need this holiday season is to head to the supermarket and get food for the sole purpose of donating it to the food bank.

Give Blood

Another great act of kindness at any time of year is giving blood. Demand for lifesaving blood donations doesn't slow down at the holidays. If you're fit and healthy, aged over 17, and weigh over 110 pounds, you should be able to give blood. The whole experience is relatively quick (although you'll need to spend some time after your donation being monitored in case you feel light-headed or ill) and is one of the most selfless and rewarding things you can do.

Invite A Neighbor For Hanukkah, Christmas Or Kwanzaa

Residents who are not traveling over the holidays might be feeling isolated as neighbors leave to visit friends and family – so why not ask if they'd like to come over for a fun evening of snacks and games? You could also ask anyone else you know who seems

lonely and might be spending the holidays alone. No one should be alone this winter.

Of course, there are many other ways to be generous this holiday season. The key is to think about those who may be in need or downtrodden and to offer hope in the form of generosity. I think that if we all begin to look outside of ourselves, we will all be inspired and filled with more hope this winter.



Answers to Crossword Puzzle on Page 5 and Sudoku on Page 9.

E	T	C		S	A	B	A		A	R	P	A	
R	A	H		S	H	U	L		M	E	A	N	
S	K	A		N	A	R	A	S	I	M	H	A	
T	E	R	A		B	R	E	A	D				
		A	R	A				M	S	S	R	S	
M	O	C	K	B	L	O	W		T	E	E	L	
O	A	T		R	A	B	A	T		A	D	E	
S	H	E	S		R	O	Y	A	L	R	O	D	
S	U	R	A	T					E	E	C		
				T	E	E	S	T		I	H	R	E
A	D	O	R	A	T	I	O	N		F	A	A	
F	E	P	A		N	O	C	T		O	R	C	
B	E	E	P		A	N	K	H		R	E	H	

6	1	4	8	9	3	5	2	7
2	5	8	1	4	7	3	9	6
9	3	7	6	5	2	4	8	1
1	4	2	3	7	6	9	5	8
3	7	6	5	8	9	2	1	4
5	8	9	2	1	4	6	7	3
4	6	1	7	2	5	8	3	9
7	9	5	4	3	8	1	6	2
8	2	3	9	6	1	7	4	5

Plan A Holiday Visit To NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale

For Immediate Release
Special to The Gazette

NSU ART MUSEUM
FORT LAUDERDALE



Quisqueya Henriquez, Intertextualidad (Intertextuality), 2005. Video. Video Time: 3 minutes (looped). NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale; gift of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz, Key Biscayne, FL. © Quisqueya Henriquez.

New Exhibition

“Animation Generation”
On View through April 23, 2023

“Animation Generation” presents film and videos from the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Collection that use elements of animation and illustration. The selection ranges from cels for Walt Disney’s second animated feature film “*Pinocchio*” (1940) to the pioneering 3-D digital animations of Jennifer Steinkamp.

The technology has rapidly developed since the early 20th century, when animations required teams of artists and animators to undertake the laborious task of hand-painting each scene. Although the advent of computer-generated imagery in the 1960s allowed artists to achieve life-like effects, artists such as Raymond Petti-

bon and William Kentridge (whose two-channel film, “*Ursonate*” is on view in an adjoining gallery) chose to produce animations that appear decidedly hand-made. With the recent launch of Meta AI’s Animated Drawings software, even children can watch their own drawn figures dance, skip and jump in seconds.

Upcoming Events:
Sunny Days/Starry Nights: Free First Thursday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Enjoy FREE Museum admission and 2-for-1 All Day Happy Hour on the first Thursday of every month from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. during Free First Thursday Sunny Days/Starry Nights. Starry Nights is presented by Broward Health.

Bank of America Museums on Us: Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4

Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and U.S. Trust credit and debit cardholders receive free access to over 200 institutions. Cardholders will receive free admission on the first full weekend of each month. Cardholders need only present their card and a photo ID to gain a free general admission. The promotion doesn’t include access to special exhibits, ticketed shows or fundraising events.

Creativity Exploration: “Set Sail” Saturday, Dec. 10 from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Reflect upon the waves of change, as well as high and low tides of life that you have experienced. Craft a vessel using mixed media supplies, inspired by the paintings of Malcolm Morley, and celebrate the journey you have made to be here now. Advance reservations are required, and space is limited. Pricing: \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Age 18+.

Docent Speakers Bureau Presents: “Through the Lens” Monday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the John Knox Village Centre Auditorium

The NSU Art Museum Docent Speakers Bureau will present “*Through the Lens*,” on Monday Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the John Knox Village Auditorium.



Photographic portrait of nature photographer Ansel Adams — which first appeared in the 1950 Yosemite Field School yearbook. The camera is probably a Zeiss Ikon Universal Juwel. Image Source: Wikimedia Commons.

This talk will explore how the art of photography has evolved from earliest photographers like Eugene Atget, to the landscapes of Ansel Adams, the portraits of Richard Avedon and Annie Leibowitz and then focus on the identity-shaping work of Cindy Sherman and Zanele Muholi. It will look at how composition and engagement make photos “work” as documentary, and as art that helps us reflect on the world around us.

The speaker is Marion Field Fass. She is retired from Beloit College where she was Professor of Biology and Interdisciplinary Studies. She always imagined “growing up” to be a photographer. Armed with her iPhone camera, she is still trying to reach that goal. Marion has been a docent at the NSU Museum of Art since 2019 and loves to talk about how connections between artists shape their work.

NSU Art Museum is located at One East Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301. For more information about NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, visit the website at: www.nsuartmuseum.org

Pompano Beach Arts & Music Holiday Events

Kay Renz
Special To The Gazette

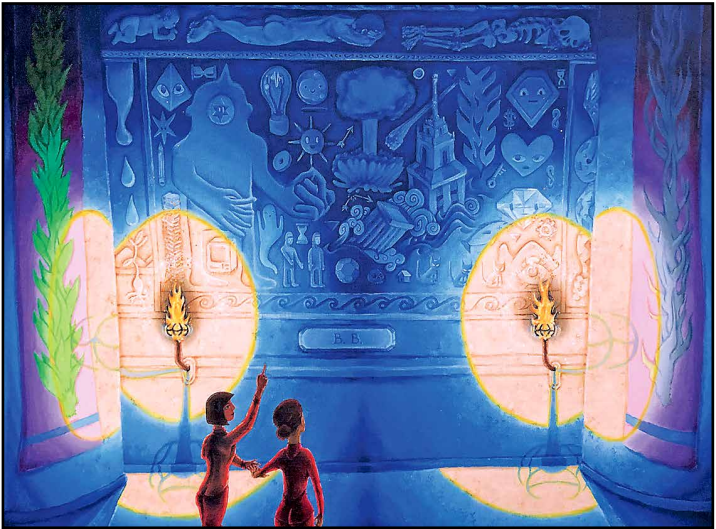
There are many merry moments to be had this December in Pompano Beach. Enjoy a wonderland of holiday fun with a hip-hop party, stunning visual art, a breath-taking tree-lighting, festive musical performances, and an invigorating and artful spoken word competition.

Old Town Untapped

Come for the music, stay for the magic. December’s monthly street festival features The Ricca Project Live Hip-Hop Party, which blends your favorite old-school hip-hop hooks from the ‘80s, ‘90s and ‘00s with ripping solos and fresh freestyles.

Stop by Bailey Contemporary Arts Center (BaCA) to meet this month’s featured artist-in-residence Gregory Dirr, who will be there to meet and greet at the opening reception for his new exhibition “*The Big Book*.” And don’t miss the seasonal tree-lighting and festive projections on the walls of Old Town as you wander through this joyful and lighthearted festival of seasonal treats. Enjoy craft beer, food trucks, and artist vendors selling unique and artistic merchandise, perfect for holiday gift-giving.

Old Town Untapped is free and open to the public Dec. 2, from 6 to 10 p.m.



“Master of His Game” (2021) acrylic on canvas by Andy Ballentine.

The Big Book By Gregory Dirr

As mentioned, BaCA presents an exhibition by Gregory Dirr entitled “*The Big Book*,” which the artist describes as “a visual narrative called a story with existential themes.” Dirr is an interdisciplinary visual artist, compulsively creating work that draws inspiration from fairy tales and the natural environment. Known for his whimsical, yet classical paintings and murals, he is often commissioned to create works for the public and private realms. Constantly exploring new ways to create, he is passionate about experimenting with new materials and processes.

Home For The Holidays, Featuring Broadway Star Levi Kreis

Outer Critics Circle Award winner and Drama League nominee, Levis Kreis is beloved by Broadway fans for his Tony Award-winning performances originating the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in Broadway’s “*Million Dollar Quartet*.” During his holiday show at Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Levi’s stunning piano and vocal talents will infuse gospel, country, rockabilly and jazz into a fresh and flawless collection of Christmas classics and holiday favorites. Kreis will be joined by Jack Ciano, piano accompanist, bass, percussion, and the GENVAS Ensemble Singers.

Kreis’ performance on Saturday, Dec. 6 has a \$45 ticket price, which includes a post-concert champagne and dessert reception with the artist.

This event is the second in the new Bell’Arte Concert Series, in its inaugural season, which consists of four fine arts salon-style concerts, each unique in topic and genre. The impressive lineup of internationally acclaimed artists will continue with operatic and soul powerhouse Alfreda Gerald, and violin phenom Rachel Barton Pine in the coming months.

Fifth Annual Exit 36 Slam Poetry Festival

Get ready to be hit by a deluge of emotions when some of the nation’s best spoken word artists take the stage at the 5th Annual Exit 36 Slam Poetry Festival. Pompano Beach Arts is proud to present this entertaining and educational experience Dec. 8–10,



Broadway star Levi Kreis

at key cultural venues throughout the city. The event will feature the slam competition along with a variety of seminars and special events. An all-access festival pass is \$65, and daily passes are \$25.

A Seraphic Fire Christmas

Enjoy beautiful seasonal carols and heart-warming music in the 20th season of “*A Seraphic Fire Christmas*.” Within a serene candle-lit setting, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season will quiet and Seraphic Fire will fill the room with a capella musical peace and joy. Enjoy familiar favorites such as the hauntingly simple, yet lush “*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*,” and the enchanting “*Silent Night*.” Come away cherishing a newly discovered gem on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$65.

Lastly, if you are looking for the perfect gift for your music-loving friends and family, VIP tickets are on sale for Jazz Fest Pompano Beach 2023 for both Spyro Gyra and David Sanborn at just \$65.

Visit the website: www.pompanobeacharts.org for more information.

Home For The Holidays

Phyllis Strupp
Gazette Contributor



Phyllis Strupp

sons about what home really means, and how it holds us together throughout life.

Home Is Hope

Werner had been part of the Normandy invasion on D-Day, just six months before “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*” was first released. The Battle of the Bulge started on Dec. 16, 1944 – a week after the song first hit the airwaves. A cold, dark holiday season greeted him, rife with uncertainty about the future.

By 1944, Werner had already learned that home is where the heart is, not where the house is. Werner, who grew up in Germany, had seen firsthand how easily a house could be taken away from someone. In 1941, Werner and his widowed mother lost everything they had, making a narrow escape from Europe to start over in the U.S.

When he first heard “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*,” he felt great sadness at being so far away from his family. The song brightened his heart with the hope of

Holiday music comes in a wide variety of songs and styles. We all have our favorites that bring back cherished memories. The song “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*” holds deep meaning for me.

Bing Crosby first sang the popular World War II tune in December 1944, some 15 years before I was born. For years, the mournful song never meant much to me.

Then one day, Werner, my father-in-law, told me a story about what the song meant to him. In doing so, he taught me three important les-

sons about what home really means, and how it holds us together throughout life.

Home Is Forever

The hope that “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*” stirred in Werner’s heart was fulfilled. Werner made it home safe and sound. He and his mother shared another 50 years of life together in the United States. They even enjoyed trips back to Europe together, visiting favorite places from long ago.

Even so, some 70 years after Werner first heard “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*,” his eyes still teared up as he told me what the song meant to him during the war. The pain of separation from loved ones brought by World War II stayed with him.

Werner was neither spiritual nor religious. Sometimes we would talk about the divine, but he said he just didn’t “get it.” He once said that whatever it is people get from spirituality, he thought he got from opera and classical music.

When it was Werner’s time to go, he was on vacation by himself in Germany. He was hospitalized due to a sudden, acute condition. When it became clear that this was going to be the end, he said, “It seems a little too soon for all this.” He was 92 and a half years old.

At the hospital, he asked to speak with me by phone. He told me he wanted to go home. I stammered, knowing he could never go back to his “home” again. To my surprise, he said, “No I don’t mean that, I want to go home to God.” He could barely talk, but he wanted me to know that he did “get it.” He died shortly thereafter.

Home Is Inside

As you can see from this story, Werner enjoyed remarkable brain health. He was a SuperAger: Someone who lives long and well over age 80. Like other SuperAgers, Werner ate an average diet. But he felt safe inside and connected to others: The ultimate mental diet for a healthy brain.

To age well, we must be at home within, just like



To many of us the sounds of Bing Crosby’s “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*,” still ring true. Image Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Werner. If we are alive, we have triumphed over the troubles of the past with courage to hope for the future.

This holiday season may keep you away from special people or gatherings, whether you like it or not. You can still be at home for the holidays on the inside by feasting on:

- *Holiday music that delights your soul*
- *Special foods that you enjoy*
- *Reminiscing about good times*
- *Movies that warm your heart*
- *The joy of being alive*
- *Random acts of kindness that make others smile*

Ring out the bells. Happy Holidays.

Brain Wealth founder **Phyllis T. Strupp, MBA**, is an award-winning author and brain training expert, speaking to audiences around the U.S. on how brains and lives can get better with age. Her book, “*Better with Age: The Ultimate Guide to Brain Training*,” introduces a pioneering approach to “use it or lose it,” based on successful outcomes from her 10 years of experience in brain coaching. Visit Phyllis’ website: www.brainwealth.org

Reserve Your Spacious New Biscayne Apartment Home In The Vue At Westlake

After a busy summer and fall of construction, The Vue and The Terrace have been topped out – completing the Terrace’s 11 stories and The Vue’s 15-story structure. Now the meticulous work of crafting the interior spaces is underway.

This month’s featured apartment home is the Biscayne, available in The Vue. This spacious apartment home is perfect to enjoy your Life-Plan future. Make your 10-percent deposit and become a Westlake Club member. Plan a visit to get all the information about life at John Knox Village and enjoy a complimentary lunch in the Glades Grill overlooking the Aquatic Complex.

The Biscayne Apartment Home Features:

- Two bedrooms, two bathrooms
- Nearly 1,750 square feet
- Stainless steel kitchen appliances: Range, refrigerator, dishwasher and microwave
 - LED kitchen lighting
- Under-mount stainless steel sink w/spray faucet and disposal
- Quartz/porcelain kitchen countertops
- Choice of upgraded backsplashes
- Choice of kitchen hardware
- Generous cabinet selections

Master Suite

- Spacious walk-in closet
- Baseboard molding
- Walk-in shower

Bright, Spacious Interior

- Crown molding option
- Frameless shower door
- Custom closet option
- Washer and dryer

As a resident of JKV, you will enjoy a comprehensive long-term care insurance policy, unlimited use of the Aquatic Complex with two pools, Glades Grill, Poolside Sports Pub, Pickleball and bocce ball courts, Fitness Studio, the Rejuvenate Spa & Salon, Palm Bistro, the Pavilion with Cultural Arts Center, the Pearl and Seaglass restaurants, Barton’s Nautilus Bar and much more. Call the Sales Department at 954-871-2655 to schedule a tour.

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The 11-story Terrace (foreground right) and 15-story Vue apartment buildings have topped out and are entering the interior finishing phase of construction.

