

The Retreat Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2022

Volume 19 Issue 5



Meet Your Neighbor!

Recently retired art educators, professional artists and entrepreneurial cousins, Retreat resident Alene Sirott-Cope and Tampa resident Debra Campbell were looking for their next big move. Their love of nature photography, mixed media, collage, acrylic and alcohol ink paintings were helping them stay creative, but they wanted to do something more exciting with their work. "We both wanted an encore to our careers, and although we hadn't seen each other in six years, we reconnected and started communicating regularly."



L-R: Debra and Alene

Alene was an art educator at several universities teaching graphic design for 32 years and an Art Director for 40 years. Debra was an adjunct professor at University of South Florida and an art educator for 20 years. Alene and Debra started sending each other original art pieces and the other would add her own art to the composition. Every piece of art is a half and half collaboration and is seamless in design and concept. In February of 2022, that unique collaboration was developed into *Campbell and Cope Art Products*.

They offer two online boutiques that showcase the pair's original artwork on wearable art, home decor and tech accessories. Their art products feature wildlife, coastal and ocean themes plus Florida motifs and places with a touch of *awesome*. They also have a school-based assignment campaign where student artists may submit their art for production in the Campbell and Cope product line for a limited time.

"Both of us have way too much creative energy. We needed this new focus, and now we're doing what we love. It doesn't feel like work. It feels more like a hobby but we're very serious about it while having a great time designing original and distinctive products!" —Alene Sirott-Cope



Art collage

**You can follow them on Facebook at *Campbell and Cope Art Products*
and on Instagram at *TwoArtCousins***

This issue's proofreaders: Tom Stine, Coni McGuinn, Mona Wiley, my sister Jean and my lovely wife Linda.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB

by Mona Wiley

New Season for the Women's Club

Welcome back, everyone – old members and new members. We are 134 members strong now and if everyone shows up for a meeting, we'll have to spill out onto the pool deck!! How fantastic would that be.

The weather has been a little cooler recently, so our northern snow bunnies will be happy to be back and jump into our fall lineup. Monday, October 17th was our first meeting of this season. Sue Arnold opened the meeting with introductions of new members and visitors. It was a casual evening of *get-to-know-yous* and how was your summer? Lots of goodies to eat and stories to catch up on.

Every woman in the Retreat is welcome to come to the Women's Club. We meet every third Monday of every month. Membership is \$25 for the year. For those who are new, we use the money to sponsor House of Hope by buying groceries for their *store* that provides for underprivileged families. We also send flowers to our members when they have been hospitalized or lost a family member. Other monies pay for speakers to our meetings, and some goes to other charitable causes. The club is a way to connect with others in our community and make friends, besides helping to make the Retreat a wonderful place to live.

Our outside committee plans events – usually once a month – to some interesting location in the area. Email blasts and notices will be sent and/or posted in the mailroom. Be sure to watch for these and sign up when necessary.

Our lunch team also plans a luncheon monthly. This is a great opportunity to sign up and meet other lovely ladies, as well as enjoy a delicious lunch somewhere. Recently, the lunch bunch went to Taste, where the food never disappoints.

Next month, November 21st our Monday meeting will feature a biologist from the Nathaniel Reed Wildlife Refuge in Hobe Sound. There will be no animals this time, but it will be an interesting evening of learning how the center has expanded and what its goals are. This is a great place to take your visiting grandchildren. There are hands on activities for them at the center. There also is a short trail walk through the scrub land. The walk to the beach is good exercise and at low tide, the beach is a great, relaxing spot.

The month of December has no Monday meeting, but be sure to watch for notices about decorating the

Clubhouse the first weekend in December. Those who participate usually have a pizza lunch at the Clubhouse and share in a Yankee swap. Last year, someone asked me what a Yankee Swap was. Hmmm! I assumed it was anyone who was born and raised north of the Mason-Dixon line and now lives down here and wants to help with the decorating!!

It's just great to have everyone back! Looking forward to meeting you!

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To advertise in the *Retreat Newsletter*,
contact Coni McGuinn at (772) 545-3465



THE RETREAT SOCIAL COMMITTEE
invites you to join your neighbors for a

Holiday Potluck Dinner
at the Clubhouse on Friday, December 2nd

Doors will open at 5:00 PM

-  Toys will be collected for Toys for Tots in partnership
-  with The Women's Club
-  Fun holiday entertainment
-  Further details to follow!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!



Traffic Sign

This street sign and stop sign have been missing from the East Gate for a long time. It was knocked over by a car, laid on its side for a month or so, finally removed but not replaced. It has been replaced, all shiny and new. Somehow that makes me happy. Order has been restored!

I want to thank the readers who contributed to this issue. We had some readers who are proud of their hobbies, and they made this an interesting issue. Veterans Day is November 11th, and December 7th is "...a date which will live in infamy." For the next issue, please share a paragraph or two about your military experience and, as always, a picture or two would be great!

Please email your contributions to: spyker.oles@gmail.com

Keep in mind that the deadline for the next issue is December 15th, 2022. Thanks! —Jack

A Timely Interview: Retreat Pickleball 101

Greetings! I am sitting with long-time Retreat resident Frank Ziegler; a tennis player, teacher and coach of that sport, as well as a superb pickleball player. On this recent Saturday morning, Frank asked me several questions on the subject of pickleball.

Frank: Ron, you've been heading up The Retreat pickleball for about five years now. What have you observed at this community?

Ron: Great question, Frank. The folks that join the local ranks to play here have a passion that has also swept across the country. Healthy exercise as we age, as well as camaraderie and fun, are the underlying benefits for all. These folks love to share this energy.

Frank: Tell us some of the key differences of this game versus golf, tennis or other sports and pastimes?

Ron: So, it is really simple. The equipment is minimal and not really expensive. Courts can be found in growing numbers throughout the region. I think the modest amount of time to get up to having fun is key. Golf uses many hours and is not cheap. Finding groups of tennis players may be tough in areas. Maybe fishing benefits by having a possible meal for dinner! Oh yes, this game is easy on the knees.

Frank: For the Retreat residents, what can they expect by becoming part of the pickleball players group throughout the year?

Ron: Luckily for all, as the season is just starting for the fall, we see more players returning. That means players of many levels of experience, knowledge and skill will be sharing the courts. Socially, we often gather on the courts for planned events, in the Clubhouse for Gala Award evenings, and off-site outings such as beach parties. Lasting friendships are made, as well as the great times spent with pickleball.

Frank: Well, Ron, that's great. Thanks for this informative chat.

The Retreat Sizzlers welcome new resident players. We play as mixed doubles in our matches with many players on our courts. The courts enjoy healthy competition on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning, from 8:00 AM until about 11:00 AM.



Ron Doucette
Pickleball Representative to the Clubhouse Committee
ronald@sunkist2.com
(772) 245-8484



John Stephens, Ray Audette, Joe Scerbo, Eileen Reid & friend Mike



Eileen Reid, Jean Scerbo, Roseanne Fallon, Susan Hatch



Joseph Scerbo & Ray Audette



Jean Scerbo & Susan Hatch

Tennis, Anyone?

Last April, members of the Retreat Tennis Club took off their sneakers and T-shirts, left their racquets at home and partied at the clubhouse. It was the annual celebration to mark the unofficial end-of-season and affords an opportunity to wish our 'snowbird' friends and neighbors a fond *Farewell*.



Photo taken on the courts October 12, 2022



Photo taken at the clubhouse April 23, 2022

With our hot, humid summer (almost) past, those (relatively few) who play here year-round were at the courts this week and happily welcomed back several who have already returned and resumed playing.

A special, warm welcome is extended to our new member, Dave Coutts, who very recently relocated here from Maryland.



Dave Coutts

We have four beautiful courts on our doorstep! We all know that exercise, laughter and socializing are of huge benefit to achieving and maintaining a happy, healthy lifestyle for as long as possible. Anyone who knows the basics of tennis and has played the game at some point in their life is welcome to join us. No age limit! It's fun! We play mixed doubles Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30 AM.

Contact: Tom D'Avanzo
Email: tdavanz@comcast.net
Tel: 772. 545.7229

—Anita Calicchio



Mystery of the
Seabranh

Save the Date!
More Details to Follow



Cruising for **MURDER**



*Let's Retreat to the
"Mystery of the Seabranh" for an evening of
Fun, Intrigue & Murder!*



*Please Join us for the
Captain's Cocktail Reception*



Saturday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m.

*Reception to be held in the
Mystery of the Seabranh clubhouse*

*Bring your own drinks, mixers will be provided
Attire is cruisewear casual*

Brought to you by the Retreat Social Committee



Bocce Ball at the Retreat at Seabranh

The new bocce winter/spring season is coming. Please sign up for the new season now. The new season runs from January 9 through April 5, 2023, including the playoffs. Subs can also sign up at this time. Call or email to sign up:

Nick Lombardi
914.815.1571 c
Nickbardi@optonline.net

Tom Hartnett
772.708.1026 c
Tmhartn55@gmail.com



The bocce courts were deserted this summer, but this sandhill crane family was looking for a friendly game.

Clay Shooting at Quail Creek Ranch with my Brother



It's a family affair



Gary and Mike



Pull!



A day at the Ranch



The family that shoots together...



Gary and Mike

My brother's name is Michael, and we've both been shooting for fun only - no hunting - since we were boys. Our dad bought us both shotguns around the age of 10. In fact, my three kids, twin daughters and son and their spouses, all shoot clays, along with Mike's son. We all love to shoot clays. It's a family activity that we all enjoy.

We go out to Quail Creek Ranch in Okeechobee as often as possible. In fact, Mike and I were out there yesterday (October 6).

—Gary Haugen

Attention Retreat Bicyclists!

Whether you are riding a beach cruiser or a 27-speed road bike, you know we are blessed to have such a wonderful neighborhood for bike riding. Whatever your age or skill as a cyclist, Safety Comes First!

Before starting out, check your seat adjustment, brake function and tire pressure. Wearing a helmet may seem bulky and hot, but it can save your life. If you decide to venture out onto Seabbranch, a flashing rear light is also a necessity. Bright, colorful clothing is helpful so the cars know you are out there. Remember to ride with the traffic at all times.

We have several bike shops in our area. No matter where you decide to shop, I hope you'll take the time to pick up a helmet in time for this season.

Sincerely, Fellow Bicyclist of the Retreat,
Sue Arnold

Did You Know? The distance from the club house to the end of SE Eldorado Way, back to the club house, up and down both side streets (SE Diamond Hill Terr. and SE Cascadia Way), is about one mile. It's a nice ride through an attractive, friendly neighborhood - and there are no hills!



Otto M. Vernaccio Sr.

Happy Birthday, Neighbor!

Otto M. Vernaccio, Sr., celebrated his 95th birthday recently, on October 7. Otto has two sons, Otto and Marc, and has lived in the Retreat for 18 years. He worked as an accountant for JB Williams Co. for 40 years. Otto has enjoyed Texas Hold'em at the Clubhouse, and also golf and tennis. Today he enjoys his home and pool on La Creek Court (up the creek), and he's still driving. Happy birthday, Otto!!



Got a question?

Looking for a form?

Not getting HOA email blasts?

www.retreatatseabbranch.com

Check out FAQ on the Home
Page tab

Check out Members Only and
subscribe to HOA Email

(Please, do not UNSUBSCRIBE
if you want to stay informed)

Who: Kate Stine 561-762-6966 or jupitrlady@aol.com
 What: Ladies Bible Study
 When: Wednesdays from 10–11:30 AM
 Where: The Retreat Clubhouse



K8Stude

Our 1958 Studebaker Silver Hawk. Original 289 (not a Ford) V8 with "3 on the tree with O/D" transmission, A/C and redone interior. Kate and I both drive it regularly. License plate reads "K8Stude". We don't have room for more than one, so we trade off every 3-4 years and get something else. It's always fun to drive an old car, and we never pass one like it going down the road. —Tom Stine



Our Favorite Hobby!

Another fantastic summer on the Good Grief! Weekend trips to Sailors Return, aka Sunset Bay Marina, and numerous runs down to Peanut Island and the *Palm Beach scene*. We



Captain: Dave Greaves
 Admiral: Patti Greaves

love our boat and spend many nights just sitting at the dock watching all the *crazies* go by. I must add the new look in (bathing suits???) is quite entertaining. Hence, it keeps David on his toes. We hope everyone is as fortunate as we are to live in paradise; even if it's *wicked hot*, it's where we call home now!



The Good Grief

My name is Kevin Knoop and I am a 20-year resident of the Retreat. I have enjoyed many different hobbies in my 71 years, but my two favorites are building ship models and model railroading. I build the ship models up from scratch or from kits. I also do repairs, upgrades and redesigns on Radio Controlled models for members of our Radio Controlled boat club. For more information, see www.TCRCBoaters.org



The steam drifter herring boat *Emily K* under way on Tradition Lake

This is a kit by Mount Fleet Models in the U.K. The highly detailed model measures 42 inches long with a nine inch beam, and is powered by a motor from a marine fresh water pump driving a single two-and-a-half inch diameter 4-blade propeller. Features include propulsion, maneuvering, lights and smoke generator. I was three years building her.

This is my 1"=1' scratch built model of the 1954 Whiticar Sheerwater sport fisher *Hobo*. I built her from the original shearline drawings and old photos provided by John Whiticar. She is powered by twin Titan 775 brushed, fan cooled motors driving 45 mm diameter propellers. I was three years building her too.



Two photos of the red-hulled sport fisher *Hobo*



Jersey Central Railroad Baldwin DRX-6-4-2000 diesel locomotive

The train photo shows my built up HO scale model of a Jersey Central Railroad Baldwin DRX-6-4-2000 diesel locomotive #2004 sporting the tangerine and blue livery on the point of an eight car passenger train at the St. Lucie station on the Treasure Coast Model Railroad Club, Port St. Lucie, Florida. See www.TCMRR.org. for more information.

It's an Alligator! Everybody Out of the Pool!!

Bedlam broke out on October 18 when early morning swimmers discovered a two-foot alligator lurking at the bottom of the community swimming pool. A Retreat resident dispatched the beast back into the pond from whence it came. Please be aware, only a licensed trapper may remove an alligator. The pool was treated with an antibacterial agent. According to witnesses, there were no injuries. Only in Florida!! Thanks to Liz Flaherty Condon for the photo.



EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN BE SUBMITTED FOR THE NEWSLETTER

- Trips taken
- Visitors
- New members of the family: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, pets
- Significant anniversaries, birthdays, retirements
- Deaths
- Time line of regularly scheduled neighborhood get-togethers
- Special requests
- Special events/outings—reunions, fairs, etc.
- Book reviews
- Recipes
- Restaurant reviews
- Household tips
- Pet profile
- Family profile
- Strange neighborhood occurrences—alligator on porch, big fish caught in Retreat lake, etc.
- Oldest member of the community
- Youngest member of the community
- Input from our younger residents—information on hobbies, school, activities, etc.
- Input from our senior residents
- Volunteer needs
- Charitable needs
- Letters to the Editors
- Birds identified in the Retreat—with pictures would be great
- Unusual animals spotted in the Retreat—bob cat, panther
- Gardening tips—container gardening, drought tolerant plants, etc.
- Sports accomplishments
- Puzzles, word games

One of my (Many) Hobbies

My mother-in-law used to say: “If you’re bored, you’re boring.” With that in mind, I’m certainly not bored - or boring. I love to ride my bicycle around the Retreat and exercise in the gym, sing in the Treasure Coast Community Singers, volunteer every week at the Blake Library, and of course work on the Retreat Newsletter and Directory.

I also enjoy repairing and restoring old photographs. Below are some of my favorite completed projects. The repair of each image takes many hours of focus, concentration and imagination using a high-quality scanner and Photoshop. The time that I work on these images becomes a meditation, and the final result can be magical! —Jack Spyker-Oles



A friend's old family portrait - before



A friend's old family portrait - after



A friend's father as a boy - before



A friend's father as a boy - after

Each image has its own history and back story, and that becomes part of the fun of bringing the image back to life. In case you're wondering, I don't do this for hire; it's strictly a hobby.



A badly damaged old postcard - before



A badly damaged old postcard - after

RETREAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS	President	Karen Tyree	561.339.9255	retreat.karent@gmail.com
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	Director	John Curren	508.954.0827	retreat.johnc@gmail.com

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	3171 SE Dominica Terrace Stuart, FL 34997 Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm		Office Phone: 772.219.4474 Office Fax: 772.219.4746 Emergencies: 772.219.4474	

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	Communications	John Curren	508.954.0827	retreat.johnc@gmail.com
	Social	Fran Massey	772.546.6768	fmassey1954@gmail.com

Retreat Activities and Contacts

Retreat members and residents enjoy a number of social groups engaging in entertaining activities. Get involved! Meet your neighbors! Have fun! Here are some of the groups with their contact information. See the Activities Calendar for schedules.

Bocce	Nick Lombardi	914.815.1571	Retreat Assistance Network (RAN)	Nancy Strona	772.545.3993
Bunco	Marie West	910.327.0556			
Duplicate Bridge	Carol Flynn	722.359.8274	Retreat Newsletter	Jack Spyker-Oles	845.481.0581
Knot Just Knitting	Sandy Morrow Liz Plourde	772.545.1936 609.618.4626	Social Bridge	Carol Flynn	722.359.8274
Ladies Bible Study	Kate Stine	561.762.6966	Social / First Friday	Fran Massey	772.233.3102
Monday 1 pm Mah Jongg	Ginny Franklin	561.339.4409	Tennis	Tom D'Avanzo	772.545.7229
Morning Mah Jongg	Carol Flynn	772.546.4118	Women's Club of the Retreat	Pres: Sue Arnold Vice Pres: Meg Ochoterena Sec: Cindy Sibilia Treas: Fran Spaulding	216.409.1480 516.457.0476 908.295.6658 937.657.0249
Pickleball	Ron Doucette	772.245.8484			
Poker - Guys & Gals Fri. Nights	Otto Vernaccio Sr.	772.546.7523			
Poker - Texas Hold 'Em	Joe Ciocia	772.545.9767			

Martin County Sheriff's Office Presentation

On Monday evening, October 3rd, the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) gave a presentation in The Retreat clubhouse about speeding along Seabbranch Boulevard and in The Retreat. Data obtained by the MCSO showed that there is a minor speeding problem along Seabbranch approaching the school zone heading west. The data showed a range of 1-10 MPH over the 35 MPH speed limit in that area. They said this is common throughout Martin County.




Residents expressed concern about cars not stopping at the stop sign where Seabbranch Blvd. ends and the private roads of The Retreat begin. MCSO agreed to increase monitoring of that area when staffing allows. The current penalty for not stopping at a stop sign in Martin County is a fine of \$163.50 and three points added to your auto insurance. MCSO also agreed to monitor stop signs and roadways inside The Retreat more often as staffing allows.



Another topic discussed was driving golf carts on streets and sidewalks. MCSO informed us that golf carts are never allowed on sidewalks in Martin County, and are not allowed on most roadways in Martin County unless equipped with safety features such as headlights, stop lights, turn signals, windshield wipers, a horn and other safety features. Golf cart drivers must have a current Florida motor vehicle driver's license.

Speed bumps, radar speed limit signs, raised crosswalks, traffic slowing rotaries and landscaped islands were also discussed as options when speeding problems continue. Please help keep our neighborhood and Martin County safe and obey the posted speed limits.

—Rick Renshaw, The Retreat BOD-VP



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