



The Retreat Newsletter

May/June 2005

Volume 2, Issue 3

Social Committee By Mary Paukstys

NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS By Coni Mc Guinn



Hawaiian Luau and Pig Roast at the Retreat Clubhouse

From the left, Bob Regan, Bill Cole, Ron Paukstys, Mike Fazio

Photo by Geri Morgan



Photo by Wally Melinowski

Seventy Retreat residents had a fun time at the **Retreat Hawaiian Luau and Pig Roast** in April. The food was very tasty, the Hawaiian dress was festive, and the atmosphere was bubbling with excitement! Many thanks to the Social Committee for planning this event!

Since the last newsletter, the Board of Directors held two meetings and hosted the first meeting of the Homeowners Association on March 8th. Highlights of those meetings included a motion to **not** renew the Bristol Management contract and to hire **Capital Realty Company** effective May 1st. The new on-site manager is **Gina Cotto**. Hours, phone, and e-mail information will be the same as before. It was also voted **not** to renew the contract for Saunders and the new landscaping company is **Concepts in Greenery** located in Palm City.

A letter was received from the Martin County Safety Officer regarding SeaWind School. **There will be a crack down on speeders in the area.** Anyone wishing to visit the school must register at the office. Another safety issue is that children living in the *Retreat* and attending SeaWind should **not** use the East gate but go the long way through the development to get to school.

The lakes in the community will be stocked by Superior Waterways sometime in mid April with largemouth bass, bluegill, minnows/golden shiners, and channel catfish. Stocking the lakes keeps them clean, helps the overall ecology, and supports wildlife. Residents are allowed to catch and release in the lakes. Also living in the lakes along with the fish are snakes and **ALLIGATORS**. **Use caution when walking in the lake areas!**

New committees being formed are:

- (1) Benches - Bench memorials will be placed in strategic areas of the community.
- (2) Garden Club – To do fall plantings in the roadway circle, clubhouse and East gate entrance.
- (3) Recreation – Care of the community center and pool.
- (4) Utilities – Review utility contracts and recommend changes.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please leave your name with Gina in the office.



THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAS ALSO PLANNED SEVERAL **MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR** COCKTAIL PARTIES. AT ONE OF THESE EVENTS, RETREAT RESIDENT **GINO GILIBERTO** VOLUNTEERED HIS TALENT AND SANG FOR US. ALSO JOINING GINO IN THE ENTERTAINMENT WAS RETREAT RESIDENT AND SINGER, **DOTTIE SACCO**. THANK YOU TO BOTH OF YOU!!!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

UPCOMING SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS INCLUDE:

- ⇒ **LADIES HIGH TEA** AT LADY ANN'S TEA HOUSE IN STUART. THIS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH, AT 1:30 PM. CONTACT BILLIE KRONE AT 546.7816 FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- ⇒ A **KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY** WILL BE HELD AT THE RETREAT CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY, MAY 7TH. WATCH THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY INPUT OR IDEAS, CONTACT KARIN RYAN AT 546.2049. THIS IS A COMMUNITY GATHERING, AND YOUR INPUT IS WELCOME.

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS
By Brenda Frank

Our March 21st Women's Club meeting was attended by over 50 members. The membership has grown to 102 women. Wow!

At our last meeting, a representative, Anna Santana, spoke to us about "**Safe Space Shelter**," an organization for victims of domestic violence. She was overwhelmed by our organization's generosity. Thank you Catherine Klinger and the Outreach Committee for organizing and carrying out a program which has helped one of our Women's Club charities.

Catherine Klinger also reported that four mini grants were given to Hope Rural School. Check the letter of thanks on the Women's Club Bulletin Board.

Lill Malinowski introduced Danielle Crouch to explain "**Relay for Life**," an American Cancer Society's signature event to fight cancer. The relay takes place on April 29th and 30th at the JV Reed Park located South of St. Christopher Church in Hobe Sound. Our team name is **The Retreat Remembers Brenda** in memory of our dear friend and member, **Brenda Rosetta**. Money will be raised via bake sales and contributions which will be acknowledged by having contributors post "Stars and Moons" signs on the windows of the Retreat Clubhouse. For more information, contact Lill Malinowski on 545.3732 or Becky Freedman at 545.3286.

Our next meeting is April 18th, and we will have one of our local florists present our group with handy tips on flower arranging.

Several reminders:

- ⇒ Join members bowling every third Friday of the month at Stuart Bowl.
- ⇒ Mark May 12th for a Princess Island boat trip. Watch for notices in the mail room.
- ⇒ The June 22nd luncheon will be at The Breaker Hotel in Palm Beach.

Thanks to all who actively participate to make our organization and community unique. Remember "**WISE WOMEN CELEBRATE**."

Women's Club Princess Cruise



Pictured above are the folks that went on the Women's Club Princess Cruise. Gambling, a wonderful lunch, and entertainment on the ship were enjoyed by all. Retreat residents were transported via bus for the day's outing.



Photo by Carol Stone

On March 31st, Women's Club members along with friends and spouses visited **Café Protégé at the Culinary Institute**.

History was made today. Mary Regan is watching hubby, Bob, the Retreat hamburger expert, learning the art of pastry. Nick Sacco, second day of his retirement, first day in the kitchen, is being watched closely by his wife, Dottie.

Everyone had a wonderful lunch and then enjoyed making exquisite desserts, bananas foster with homemade vanilla ice cream and tarts. Everyone left with their own apron as well as the desserts. What an afternoon!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

By Jane Stokes

Residents of The Retreat are responding quite well to our **Box Tops for Education** campaign to benefit Hope Rural School in Indiantown. To date, we have sent more than 700 box top points to the school. A big thank you to all who have contributed.

Just as a reminder, **ONLY** box tops or labels which have the "**education logo**" are considered eligible. Not eligible are: manufacturer's coupons, Betty Crocker Catalog Points, or ice cream/sherbet spoons. The collection box is located in the Retreat mail room.

WOMEN'S CLUB OUTREACH COMMITTEE

VISIT TO HOPE RURAL SCHOOL

By Sandy Goldfarb



On February 15th members of the Outreach Committee of The Women's Club visited the **Hope Rural School**. Sister Mary Dooley and Sister Marion Hangsterfer discussed the school's philosophy and funding.

This includes total English immersion as well as parental involvement. School financing depends on donations made through fund raising and grants from various sources. Although parents are charged \$100 per year, the actual cost of educating a child is close to \$7,000 per year. The school is fully accredited by the state.

The school serves approximately 100 students in grades K-5. They plan on adding a full day pre-school program next year. Many of the teachers wear several hats at the school. We met "Coach" who drives their school bus, teaches physical education, and also does counseling with the children.



Our group was divided into two, and we each had an opportunity to tour several classrooms as well as their garden. One project instituted at the school involves garden plots. Families can maintain their own garden plot to grow vegetables and flowers.



Helping to beautify their campus are wonderful murals on the outside of the buildings and on the garden fence created by the children. These murals depict scenes from their native countries. Most of the children come from Guatemala.

The Outreach Committee will be helping the school move their library and set up a new computer lab. Individuals may volunteer to act as a tutor, mentor, or help with the after school program.

Mini-grant forms were left at the school for the teachers. These forms will be submitted to the Outreach Committee for consideration. After reviewing their needs, the committee will present recommendations to The Women's Club as to which project we hope to raise money for and support during this year. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, contact **Sister Marion at 772.597.2203**.



Photos by Sandy Goldfarb

On February 27, 2005, our dear friend and Women's Club member, **Brenda Jean Rosetta**, passed away after battling cancer. I felt a need to do something for her wonderful husband, Joe, who was so good to her. I offered to help him with the buffet luncheon at his home for family and friends after the memorial Mass. I never planned a menu for a large group before so I called upon the ladies of the Retreat Women's Club to help me. The response was overwhelming. I would like to thank Brenda Frank for her guidance. The following women set up the entire buffet: Marianne Jacobs, Virginia Darcy, Marguerite Badcock, Ann Condon, and Martha Tarquine. These ladies supplied delicious food: Lill Malinowski, Brigit Hall, Joy Currier, Denise Felipe, Becky Freedman, Nancy Galiher, Nancy Kisslinger, Polly Knoodle, Helen Palmer, Audrey Ruggier, Dottie Sacco, Lucille Sanchez, Mary Paukstys, Mary Regan, Coni Mc Guinn, Margaret Dara, Joan Sophia, Martha Tarquine, Geri Morgan, and Betty Loomis. Jane Stokes helped out in the kitchen.

Brenda is no longer with us but I will always remember how brave she was and that beautiful smile and positive attitude she always possessed. It was a pleasure knowing her.

By Helen Larcom

THE RETREAT BOOK CLUB

BY BECKY FREEDMAN

THE RETREAT BOOK CLUB MET APRIL 14TH TO DISCUSS ITS CURRENT SELECTION, "**THE KITE RUNNER**", BY **KHALED HOSSEINI**. ALL AGREED THAT THIS IS A POWERFULLY WRITTEN AND HAUNTINGLY COMPLEX TALE OF FRIENDSHIP, BETRAYAL, AND SALVATION; SET IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE 1960'S AND 70'S. THE TALE IS RICH IN CULTURE OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND BRILLIANTLY PORTRAYS THE CRUELTY AND TRIUMPH OF COMING OF AGE IN THREATENING TIMES.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 12, AT 7:00** IN THE CLUBHOUSE. THE GROUP WILL BE READING AND DISCUSSING, "**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**", BY **SUE MONK KIDD**.

THE RETREAT BOOK CLUB WAS STARTED ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND WELCOMES ALL RESIDENTS WHO LOVE TO READ. THE GROUP COMES TOGETHER IN RELAXATION AND FRIENDSHIP; AND READING CHOICES ARE INCREASINGLY DIVERSE. ONE OF OUR MEMBERS ADMITTED TO BEING A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT JOINING AN ALREADY FORMED GROUP, BUT FOUND IT OPEN AND FRIENDLY. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. FOR MORE INFORMATION, E-MAIL **BECKY FREEDMAN AT BECKYF561@AOL.COM**.

MORE THAN JUST A STORM WATER RETENTION POND...

By John Bendonis, Drainage and Lakes Committee

It starts with a surface water engineering plan that meets water management districts' requirement for a retention pond. Add a lake design that includes a shallow shoreline area. Plant an assortment of aquatic vegetation to provide oxygen, absorb excess nutrients and provide cover for fish. Stock with a balanced population of native fish such as largemouth bass that feed on the insect-eating fishes (bream and shiners) and catfish that vacuum the depths of the water. Turtles set up housekeeping. Herons, egrets, ibis, wood storks and other wading birds visit the pond. Cormorants and anhinga swim underwater in pursuit of small fish. An osprey or eagle may grab a large game fish. A playful river otter captures a frog. An occasional migratory alligator adds to local conversation. Life continues in the Retreat ponds.

The Retreat Board of Directors recently approved the fish stocking of the ten bodies of water within our development. The stocking, considered an important link in the ecology of the ponds was the recommendation of the contractor that is presently responsible for the maintenance of our lakes.

Hurricane Shutter Reminder

By Dottie Williams, Legal and Covenant Committee

This is just a reminder to all of our residents who travel North for the summer months. Hurricane shutters are to be installed at the time of an impending storm and not prior to your departure. Last year's two storms have many concerned about the safety of their home but it is important to point out that our Community's Covenants state that in your absence, you are responsible to designate a person or firm that will install and remove the shutters when needed for storm protection. In addition, it is not a good practice to have shutters on your home for any length of time. Proper ventilation, fire safety and a "flag" your home is vacant are a few reasons why hurricane shutters should not be left on a home longer than necessary.

Realizing that many homeowners are looking for a reliable person to put up hurricane shutters, our Property Manager is taking the names of residents who are looking for someone to do the installation and also, residents who would be willing to install the shutters either for a fee or as a volunteer. If you are interested in having your name put on either of these lists, just call the Property Manager's office at 546.6112. Our Property Manager will then share the information she has gathered to help you in your search for a person to install your shutters.

Helping Our Community Maintain the Irrigation System

By Dave Williams, Retreat BOD

In the past we have asked community members to tap down sprinkler heads that may get stuck in the up position. Many residents who walk the community have done this, and we thank you for your help.

Now there is another way you can help. At the Community meeting at SeaWind Elementary School, I advised those in attendance that we had ordered flags to use for marking faulty sprinkler heads and other irrigation problems. The ordered flags have arrived and are available for pickup at the Retreat office during manned hours by any interested resident. These flags may be used to mark problem spots on your property, along our roads and sidewalks, or on common property. When you mark an area with a flag, please call the Retreat office at 546.6112. A work order will then be completed and the irrigation technician will come out to fix the problem. It might be a good idea to keep 2 to 3 flags in your garage. We will also make flags available to you at Board Meetings.

A Reminder to All Retreat Residents

By The Retreat at Seabranh Board of Directors

When you purchased your home in the Retreat, you signed a document that stated that you read, understood and agreed to abide by all rules and regulations in the Homeowner Documents Book. The Board of Directors (BOD) is charged with enforcing the regulations in this document for the benefit of the community as a whole. Several articles in these documents that your BOD and its sub-committees have to deal with are as follows:

1. According to these documents, the only item that is allowed to be placed in the front of our homes is one regulation American Flag that must be attached adjacent to the garage door of a unit. **ALL** other items, unless permitted by Florida law, require written approval of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) or your BOD. Please read and familiarize yourself with Article XI – Architectural Control, pages 31-33 and Article XII – Use Restrictions, Pages 33-38 of the Covenants.
2. Know where your property line is so the HOA does not have to ask you to remove plantings or other items from Association Common Property. When you went to closing on your home, a copy of your property survey should have been included with the closing documents. This survey shows the measurements as to where your property ends and Common Property begins.
3. ACC approval is also required if you add to your home, change or expand garden locations from the Developers plan, add trees or shrubs to your property, add a pool or fence etc.

If we all comply with the articles in the Homeowner Documents Book, our community will look better than it already does and all of our property values will be enhanced.

Neighborhood Watch

By Tom Palmer, Coordinator

Going Away?

Very soon many in our community will return to their Northern homes or enjoy a summer vacation. The Neighborhood Watch Group suggests you follow these simple steps to help protect your property while you are away:

1. Stop newspapers and other deliveries.
2. Transfer valuables and cash to a safe deposit box.
3. Place radios and lights on timers.
4. Turn down volume on your telephone and answering machine so they cannot be heard outside.
5. Close blinds or curtains.
6. Arrange to have hurricane panels installed and removed. There are companies that provide these services.
7. Notify neighbors and provide an emergency phone contact.

When away from home at any time, we strongly advise you take advantage of your home security system. Activate the system.

Solicitors?

Some complain about solicitors. We understand the concept of free enterprise; notwithstanding, the Neighborhood Watch Program has posted signs and does not condone solicitors in our community. If you are approached by unwanted sales people and are fearful, we suggest you call 911 immediately. The deputy will resolve the problem.

What Hurricane WATCH and WARNING Mean

- WATCH: Hurricane conditions are *possible* in the specified area of the WATCH, usually within 36 hours.
- WARNING: Hurricane conditions are *expected* in the specified area of the WARNING, usually within 24 hours.

When a Hurricane WATCH Is Issued

- Listen to [NOAA](#) Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to cover all windows of your home. If shutters have not been installed, use pre-cut plywood. *Note:* Tape does not prevent windows from breaking, so taping windows is not recommended.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.

What to Do When a Hurricane WARNING Is Issued

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.
- Complete preparation activities.

- If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
 - Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
 - Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.

Leaving Your Retreat Home...

If you will be leaving your Retreat home for an extended period of time, Retreat resident *Marlene Boobar* suggests creating a "Close Up" Check List. Check off each item as it is completed. Here is a sample list which you can fine-tune to meet your needs:

	"CLOSE UP" CHECK LIST	CHECK OFF
1	Unplug washer and dryer	
2	Turn off water to washer	
3	Shut off circuit breaker and water to hot water heater	
4	Turn off water to refrigerator ice maker	
5	Low set refrigerator	
6	Put ice maker in off position	
7	Empty ice maker basket	
8	Add one cup of water and one tablespoon vegetable oil to bottom of dishwasher	
9	Run few cups of ice through disposal and spray with WD-40	
10	Leave kitchen drawers and doors open	
11	Set air conditioner to 77 degrees	
12	Leave ceiling fans on low	
13	If want to turn off water - turn water valve off	
14	If want to turn off water - cup of bleach in toilets, cover with Saran Wrap	
15	Remove batteries from remotes	
16	Unplug electronics (TVs, computer, radios, etc.)	
17	Remove patio items - store in garage	
18	Hurricane shutters with bolts readily available	
19	Emergency phone numbers available on counter	
20	Secure unit	
	Your name and contact numbers	
	Handyman number and contact numbers	
	Address of Property	

HURRICANE TIPS FROM RETREAT RESIDENTS

- ✓ **Dottie Sacco:** Fill plastic bags with water and freeze. If power fails, water will keep freezer or refrigerator cold. When it melts, you have drinking water.
- ✓ **Bonnie Becker:** One of the most helpful hints I had was to purchase gallons of water and freeze it. Then place the frozen gallons in the refrigerator to keep temperatures cool until power went on.
- ✓ **Gene Gillis:** Before the storm, I sent an e-mail to a large number of people that I thought would be interested in the status after the hurricane. In the e-mail, I also asked a relative in Massachusetts to save the e-mail and then do a "reply all" to the e-mail when I called her with the status. The phones were out and the cell phones were overwhelmed with calls. This proved to be a very effective way to keep everyone informed.
- ✓ **Jan Kasuboske:** When hurricane Charlie hit the Gulf, I offered our house to some of our friends that are permanent residents at Punta Gorda. I told them the necessary things to do to our house to make it temporarily livable. That included opening the main water valve. What I did not realize was that sometime during the summer, someone had opened the water valve in the back. They obviously got no water, and walked away leaving it "open." Consequently, when the people from Punta Gorda turned on the main water valve in front of the house, the valve in the back was still open. It ran for about 24 hours before it was discovered. We pay close to 1 cent a gallon for water and sewer. My water bill was over \$80. This year, I am going to remove the knobs or handles from each spigot before I leave to remedy the problem.
- ✓ **Becky Freedman:** (1) Two things I did learn from last season: Have at least two fine quality coolers from which to eat for the first two days of power loss. Do not open refrigerator and freezer, (that we kept blanketed, after turning the temperatures down to the coldest setting 24 hours before the hurricane was forecast to hit), until absolutely necessary. I also turned our air conditioning to the coldest setting 24 hours ahead of the storm, and we did very well through the first three days of the power loss....after that, we were resigned to waiting out the loss of power. (2) This is a community that loves to help our neighbors, but each homeowner must take responsibility for education and preparedness. Remaining calm and positive, having a sense of humor...these are qualities as important as any other type of emergency assistance. (3) I am putting together a kit full of games and prizes...to pass the hours in as lighthearted a manner as possible.



HAPPY 4th
OF JULY

HURRICANE LINKS

By "Cybrary Man" aka Jerry Blumengarten

When preparing my column in early February, I starting putting aside sites that I feel would be very useful and fun to use. One of my favorite sites is *How Stuff Works* (<http://science.howstuffworks.com>). Here are my suggested links for hurricanes.

- ✓ In *How Hurricanes Work*, you will learn how hurricanes form, how they move, the destruction and damage they cause, and how hurricanes are tracked:
<http://science.howstuffworks.com/hurricane.htm>
- ✓ National Hurricane Center - Tropical Prediction Center (National Weather Service - NOAA):
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- ✓ Atlantic Hurricane Track Maps and Images:
<http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/hurr/>
- ✓ For children, I highly recommend the Brain Pop movie on Hurricanes which can be accessed at:
<http://www.brainpop.com/science/weatherandclimate/hurricanes/>
- ✓ National Hurricane Awareness Week - Hurricane Preparedness (NOAA-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration):
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>
- ✓ FEMA Hurricane Background and Preparedness Information:
<http://www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes/hurinfo.shtm>
- ✓ Hurricane Awareness - What Can You Do To Prepare (American Red Cross)
<http://www.redcross.org/news/ds/0305hurricane/>

To find more links about hurricanes check out my hurricane page:

<http://www.angelfire.com/stars3/education/hurricane.html>
Happy Surfing!

CAR JACKER'S NEW SCHEME

Received from Ken Ciani

Imagine: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. Then you lock all your doors, start the engine, and shift into REVERSE. You look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space and you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window.

So, you shift into PARK, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, the car-jackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car, and TAKE OFF !!!

Your engine was running (ladies would have their purse in the car), and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

BE AWARE OF THIS NEW SCHEME THAT IS NOW BEING USED. Just drive away and remove the paper that is stuck to your window later.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to **Randy Hoefling**, Paver Block Sealing Company, 285.9647. Randy is a Retreat resident who volunteered his time to power wash our entrance signs, the decks around our community pool, and the Clubhouse entrance patio and walks. **THANK YOU!!!!**

PHOTO BY MARIE FERRANDINO



RETREAT'S 2005 BEGINNER'S BRIDGE GRADUATING CLASS

By Bea Kozlowski

Standing from left to right: Bea Kozlowski, Lois McGill, Ann Condon, Hilary Kozlowski, Instructor Sally Troiani, Sue Behn, Bob Ferrandino, Alice Bernhardt, Rosemarie Scotti. Sitting from left to right: Nancy Rowe, Louise Bendonis, Carol Weller, Sandy Goldfarb. Marie Ferrandino snapped this group photo.

Congratulations to The Retreat's first graduating class of Beginner's Bridge. Every Thursday for the past 10 weeks, this group has met at the clubhouse under the tutelage of **Sally Troiani of The Retreat.** Sally volunteered to organize and teach beginner's bridge to all interested Retreat residents. At the first meeting, Sally promised her students if they attended class, read the weekly assignments, and did the exercises at the end of each chapter they would be playing bridge in no time. Well, Sally was right. In addition to the Thursday class, Sally invited students to play afternoon bridge on Wednesdays at her home. We've learned a lot, made wonderful new friendships, and had a great time. Thanks go out to Sally, our teacher, our friend, our neighbor - she is truly a jewel in the Retreat's crown.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

THE RETREAT 2005 DIRECTORY

INFORMATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE **RETREAT 2005 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY** WILL BE POSTED AS SOON AS THE DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE.

The Retreat Newsletter

The Retreat Newsletter is published every other month excluding July/August. If you are out of town and want to read the newsletter as new issues are published, there are two ways to do this. If you have Internet access, go to our Retreat WEB site: www.retreatatseabranh.com. Click on the NEWSLETTERS icon, and select the latest version which is the first to be listed. You can read it online or print it off.

If you wish to have the newsletter sent via the US Mail, contact Lydia Keller at 8508 SE Retreat Drive or call her at 545.7142. Drop off or send Lydia a dollar for postage and handling for each issue you wish to receive. Also, provide address label(s). Lydia will send the newsletter as it is published.

RECIPE CORNER

NEIMAN-MARCUS COOKIES

(Recipe may be halved)

A lady with her daughter finished lunch at a Neiman-Marcus Café and decided to have a small dessert. Because both were cookie lovers, they decided to try the Neiman-Marcus cookie. It was so excellent that they asked her for the recipe. The waitress said with a small frown, "I'm afraid not, but you can buy the recipe." They asked how much, and she responded, "Only two fifty-it's a great deal!" The ladies agreed to buy it and told her to just add it to the tab. Thirty days the lady received her credit statement, and she then realized the recipe cost her two-hundred and fifty dollars! So, enjoy this recipe for all it is worth.

- 2 cups butter
- 24 oz. chocolate chips
- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 8 oz. Hershey Bar (grated)
- 5 cups blended oatmeal
- 4 eggs
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 cups chopped nuts (your choice)

Measure oatmeal, and blend in a blender to a fine powder. Cream the butter and both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla, mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder, and soda. Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar, and nuts. Roll into balls, and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 112 cookies.

Received from Geri Ciocia

Chocolate Dessert

- 6 oz. bittersweet chocolate
- 4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 10 tbsp. Butter
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. orange liquor, optional
- Vanilla ice cream or whip cream

Preheat over to 425 degrees. In double boiler, melt chocolate and butter. Gradually add powdered sugar and flour. Add eggs, one at a time. Stir until smooth. Add vanilla extract and liquor. Divide into 6 custard cups. Bake 14 minutes. Run knife around cup and invert on plate. Center should be gooey. Garnish with ice cream or whip cream.

Note that cakes can be made 2-3 days in advance. Refrigerate. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before baking.

Received from Ann Condon



Retreat resident Ket Morea

Children of the Tsunami

By Tom Morea

I live here in The Retreat with my pretty wife, Ket. I have been in South Florida for over 15 years now--first in North Palm Beach, and then in The Preserve, and now here. After December 26, I sent a donation

into The American Red Cross. On January 1st, I made a commitment to do more for the little children in the Tsunami areas.

We sponsored a dance in North Palm Beach with long-time friends and raised money. My wife, Ket, does traditional Thai dancing and used to teach dancing at a university in Bangkok. She performed traditional dances at the fund-raiser. Ket also made traditional food for the dinner.

I e-mailed many of my friends to donate, and I matched the donations--that was part of my commitment. My son and I went to Thailand on February 5th for two and a half weeks. We offered help in anyway. We hand-carried the money to The King's Royal Foundation. This money will help the children of the Tsunami. At first, we were met with the front volunteers. When they saw the amount of the donation, we were asked to sit down and wait a few minutes for the President of the Foundation to come out to meet with us. I thanked him for his time. I told him since Thailand and the United States have been good friends for many years, we wanted to help in some way. He thanked all of us. The women out front told me we can continue sending funds there. I may go back in November to do more.



Brittany Larcom

When we are young we spend a lot of time dreaming about how our lives will be. We usually have a picture in our mind that we work toward. I remember always wanting to be a Mom. Sometimes our dreams do not work out the way we thought. At the age of 31, I decided to look for a child to adopt. It was a long process and a little bit scary.

I decided to adopt an older child. In the state system, there are many children that do not have families. I had to qualify, take classes, and pass a long interview and home inspection. I found a pretty little girl that lived in my county. This little girl, Brittany, had been in the system for most of her life. She was living with a foster family and had lived with them for over two years. They were a foster only family so their intentions were not to adopt. The case worker matched us about a year ago. We started visitation, and she moved in July 2004. My parents were surprised I had decided to adopt since I am a single Mom.

My parents were able to meet her a few weeks after she moved in. She was so happy to have a grandpa and a grandma. Her first visit to her grandparents' home was in November for Thanksgiving. This little girl said to me as we were driving down the road into the development, "Mommy, look at the flowers, and there are fountains! Mommy does Grammy and Pop live in a fairy land? I think I am really going to love this place." When she saw the house her words were "WOW what a beautiful place." When she looked around the house, she just kept saying this is so pretty. When she saw the bath tub in the master bathroom she asked, "Can I take a swim in there?" The thought that came to my mind was, out of the mouths of babes. Her view point of the community and home that my parents live in were of a child that had never experienced a real family. She is always so happy to go to that home and is always saying to people that, "My Grammy and Pop live in a beautiful place." She said that it is like driving into a dream.

I am happy to say that this little girl is now an official part of our family. She is very proud to be a Larcom and if you see her she will tell you all about her wonderful grandparents and the magical place where they live.

By Betsey Larcom, Daughter of Paul and Helen Larcom

MEMORIAL DAY—May 30th

Remember all our military personnel



Photo by Hilary Kozlowski

At the March **Neighborhood Watch** meeting, our residents were very pleased to welcome "**Clara Barton**" to our Retreat community. Her appearance was a joy to all. Clara's presentation, dress, and personalized story were appealing and informative. They all symbolized our nation's history with

the American Red Cross. Bob Stoll gave a timely presentation concerning Disasters-Hurricanes. Thank you to Mary Jones and Bob Stoll!



Isabelle's (Baby Belle) first birthday party photo taken at Chucky Cheese in Mentor, Ohio. Baby Belle is the granddaughter of Retreat residents Jim and Ruth Dudziak.

FIRST ANNUAL ELDORADO REGATTA

By Dottie Williams

Photo by Patti Greaves



Dave Greaves, Tom Hartnett, Dan Glen, and Boots Spengler navigate their boats in the Parade of Boats

On Saturday, February 19, the **First Annual Eldorado Regatta** was held on the lake at the end of SE Eldorado Way. The plans for this event, the brainstorm of Patti Greaves and Dottie Williams, were in the making for quite awhile. Announcements were sent out inviting neighbors and friends to join in the festivities and bring their battery-powered remote control boat if they had one.

Prior to the day of the regatta, Dave Williams and Dave Greaves went out on the lake in the Greaves' inflatable to set the racing course. Since there were all types of boats entering, different classes were established. They were Classic Boats, Boats under 2', Large Boats and Nitro Boats (two batteries and two motors). Nine boats were brought to the Regatta and seven raced. The most impressive was Dan Glen's classic boat. It was a hand-made replica of Thomas Edison's cruiser that he used at his winter home in Fort Myers.

As the 35 or more spectators cheered them on, the boats were launched. Dan's classic boat led the parade of boats around the lake to open the Regatta and then the races began. Two reliable timekeepers traveled from New York and Orlando to officiate and record the speed of the boats. We lost count of the number of times Tom Hartnett had to take the trusty pool skimmer around the lake to rescue his boat. The ribbon winners were **Dan Glen**, Classic Class; **Ernie Spengler**, 1st place, Boats under 2'; **Dave Williams**, 1st place and **Tom Hartnett** 2nd in Large Boats; **Gary Easton**, 1st Place and **Dave Greaves**, 2nd in the Nitro Boat Class. A special award was given to **Jimmy Roach** for the smallest boat. It was smaller than a beer can. Rich Dietz also won a special award for his rowboat entry. **Gary Easton** of Melbourne had the fastest boat and was awarded the Eldorado Regatta Trophy for 2005.

"The Second Annual Eldorado Regatta should be even bigger and better."



Photo by Nancy Easton

Back Row: Ernie "Boots" Spengler, Dick Keough, Jimmy Roach, Dave Williams, Rich Dietz

Front Row: Tom Hartnett, Gary Easton, Dave Greaves, Dan Glen

When the races were finished and the awards given out, we all ate dinner overlooking the lake on the Williams' porch. Much of the dinner conversation revolved around who was going to get a boat for next year's Regatta. Dave Williams shared his **Tower Hobby Catalog** with all who were interested. The Second Annual Eldorado Regatta should be even bigger and better.

Pizza, Parents and Playful Ones

By Lisa Rothenberg

At the Retreat Clubhouse on Friday, March 11th, the Mom's Group held their first **Kids Corner Pizza Night!**



families. Pizza was delivered from Dominick's Italian Pizzeria. The moms and dads enjoyed the adult conversation while the kids watched "Nemo" on the big screen. What a

fun night! A second "Pizza Night" was held on April 8th with even more families in attendance! Future Pizza Nights are planned for the second Friday of each month at the Retreat Clubhouse - check the mailroom bulletin board for a sign-up sheet for this event and for other future Mom's Group activities. All families are welcome. For details, ideas or other events planned, contact **Katrina Collette at 546.9880 or Lisa Rothenberg at 263.8344.**

A POEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

RECEIVED FROM JOHN CONDON

A ROW OF BOTTLES ON MY SHELF	THE CAPSULES TELL ME NOT TO WHEEZE
CAUSED ME TO ANALYZE MYSELF.	OR COUGH OR CHOKE OR EVEN SNEEZE
ONE YELLOW PILL I HAVE TO POP	THE RED ONES, SMALLEST OF THEM ALL
GOES TO MY HEART SO IT WON'T STOP.	GO TO MY BLOOD SO I WON'T FALL.
A LITTLE WHITE ONE THAT I TAKE	THE ORANGE ONES, VERY BIG AND BRIGHT
GOES TO MY HANDS SO THEY WON'T SHAKE.	PREVENT MY LEG CRAMPS IN THE NIGHT.
THE BLUE ONES THAT I USE A LOT	SUCH AN ARRAY OF BRILLIANT PILLS
TELL ME I'M HAPPY WHEN I'M NOT.	HELPING TO CURE ALL KINDS OF ILLS.
THE PURPLE PILL GOES TO MY BRAIN	BUT WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW...
AND TELLS ME THAT I HAVE NO PAIN.	IS WHAT TELLS EACH ONE WHERE TO GO!

Don't Get Rattled Folks BUT...

By Roberta Kucharski

Last year we had two very large **rattle snakes** removed from our yard. They were both 4 to 5 feet long and quite wide around the belly.



Both times Animal Control was able to cage them and take them away. Both snakes came out of heavy shrubbery. Keep an eye on your children and pets. Don't let them go into the shrubs. Remember, if you hear a rattle, it's not a toy.

NEW MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Effective May 1st, our new management company will be **Capital Realty**:

600 Sandtree Drive, Suite 109
Palm Beach Gardens 33403

The **Senior Property Manager** is:

Todd Jackson

Phone: 561.624.5888 or 800.940.1088

Fax: 561.624.5827

E-Mail: tjackson@capitalrealtyadvisors.com

Our **On-Site Manager** is:

Gina Cotto

Retreat Clubhouse Office

8700 SE Retreat Drive

Hobe Sound 33455

Phone: 546.6112

Fax: 546.1699

E-Mail: retreathoa@adelphia.net

Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 9 am to 12 pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 1 pm to 4 pm

Friday: By appointment only

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bill Cole	546.5353	wcole2b@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Phil Kemp	545.3626	bonkeak8@aol.com
Secretary	Coni Mc Guinn	545.3465	conimcguinn@aol.com
Treasurer	Muriel Barry	545.1919	N/A
Director at Large	Dave Williams	546.3866	davrep@adelphia.net

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS

ANOTHER SEASON IS RAPIDLY COMING TO A CLOSE. IT'S BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO BRING YOU THE NEWSLETTER ON A BI-MONTHLY BASIS, EXCLUDING JULY AND AUGUST. MANY THANKS GO OUT TO ALL OF OUR DEVOTED REPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS WHO MADE THE NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS. **THANK YOU SO MUCH.**



DRAWING BY MARSHA LEVINE

WE URGE ALL RESIDENTS TO READ THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

TO KEEP INFORMED ON UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS, READ THE BULLETIN BOARDS FOR NOTICES THAT ARE

POSTED IN THE MAIL ROOM AND ON OUR RETREAT WEBSITE, WWW.RETREATATSEABRANCH.COM.

WE WISH ALL RESIDENTS A HAPPY, SAFE, AND HEALTHY SUMMER. SEE YOU IN THE FALL.....

EDITORS

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