



The Retreat Newsletter

September/October 2021

Volume 18, Issue 4



Dottie, Coni and Marlene 1. Page 6



Rick Renshaw 1. Page 2



Here's Rick on the day we spoke. He was not wearing his painting clothes.

For my first assignment as a cub reporter for the Retreat Newsletter, Lill Malinowski asked me to interview Rick Renshaw about the recently completed project to paint the 555 houses in The Retreat. On July 7, we spent a pleasant half hour by the pool, and this article is the result of our conversation. I enjoyed getting to know Rick a little better. I really appreciate all of Rick's hard work to make The Retreat such a wonderful place to live. If you see any of the members of the painting committee, be sure to thank them for their tireless service to our community!

— Continued from page 1 —

Q: So, you've been at this for a year-and-a-half or so?

A: We started in January 2020, right before COVID. With a break in October 2020, work resumed in December and finished on 7-6-21. The painters have been the same crew from day one.

Q: So, basically, we're all done now?

A: Yesterday, they finished the last painting, which was the inside of the school wall, the school side of the school wall. I've done a partial inspection already, and I'll probably finish today or tomorrow.

Q: How many members were on the committee?

A: Including myself, there were:

- Nick Fiduccia, chairperson
- Russ Lahey
- Tom Chirico

Those three people were original members, including myself. And then when we restarted painting in December of 2020, Tom Chirico had left the area, and we also had:

- George Arnold
- Bruce Balenseifer
- Robert Porras
- Patti Greaves

Q: Just as a guess, how many hours a day were you putting in?

A: Let me start by saying that everyone chose a day, Monday through Friday, out of this group, except for Nick. Nick did the office paperwork and ordering. So, on Monday through Friday, they would go out once or twice for an hour or two. I went out almost every day during that time, at a separate time. We wanted to keep the element of surprise for the painters, you know? Not that they did anything wrong – they were wonderful – but just to let them know we were watching. So, I did anywhere from one to six hours a day. Six hours would have been days we did a lot of inspections.

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**TO ADVERTISE IN THE RETREAT NEWSLETTER,
CONTACT Jack Spyker-Oles AT 845.481.0581.**

Q: You were also doing the pre-painting inspections?

A: All of us were. We all did those. Those were about 20 minutes per house, more to give the homeowner information on what they could possibly fix before we painted over it, and what the process was; what they could expect and not expect.

Q: Speaking as a resident, I thought it went very smoothly.

A: Thank you. It didn't always, you know, but the bulk of it did.

Q: Refusals?

A: No one could refuse. It's at the determination of the HOA when to paint our houses, in our documents. Now, did we have a couple of people that might've spoken to our attorney? I believe so, but we wanted every house to be fresh and clean starting at roughly the same time, and 18 years was long enough.

Q: How often did you get your clothes dirty?

A: (Laugh) I set aside four shirts, two pairs of shorts and sneakers, and washed them every week, and wore the same ones, and I did ruin all of them. I should say I went out every Saturday. Saturday was my day back here, so when they went out Monday through Friday, I went out on Saturday. That all worked out well because of COVID. We couldn't go anywhere anyway. We like to travel, but we were home-bound.

Q: What will you do with all your spare time? Are you going to Disney?

A: No, not Disney. Been there enough. We like to travel, and we've started booking some decent trips the middle of next year. Make sure everything is cleared up.

Q: Do you have any interesting stories about critters that you ran into while you were painting?

A: Our biggest incidents were birds that built nests up on top of the accordion shutters, and we had to delay cleaning and painting for a few days in order for them to let the eggs hatch and fly away. Believe it or not, we found a few snakes, but no alligators in the bushes. We really didn't have any trouble with that. We had a lot of issues with mud, you know, in between the houses, during last year's rainy season.

Q: What was the best day of painting?

A: (Laugh) Probably yesterday.

Q: How long have you been residents?

A: David and I bought this as a vacation home in the beginning of 2006, and we've lived here full-time since 2012.

Q: Previous career?

A: I was (still am) a Registered Nurse, and I worked mainly in nursing and hospital administration.

Q: Do you have a pet?

A: We have a cat name Skyy. She's a rescue.

Q: And tell me about your interest in landscaping? Have

— Continued on page 3 —

— Continued from page 2 —



It's nice to have a generous neighbor who has a lot of plants. This beautiful Christmas cactus has white blooms. I told Rick how special it was, and he gave me a couple of cuttings. I can't wait for it to bloom. Thanks, Rick!

you always done that, in your previous home too?

A: Yes. Just a hobby. I like to work outside. I like to be outside. That's another reason the painting was good for me, although I went through a ton of sun screen, let me tell you.

Q: Did you get that from your parents?

A: No, no. Maybe that's why I enjoy it. My parents didn't, so even growing up I would take care of the yard up in Massachusetts. Just a hobby. Get outside and do a little every week. Yes, it's fun. We like to try different things. You learn what will live here and what doesn't.

Q: Does David work outside too?

A: Oh yeah, he does even more than me. I focus mainly on the orchids. I separate them and propagate them and give them away.

Q: Well, that gives me enough material to put a little article together, I'm sure. That'll be fun.

Postscript: As of this writing (7-25-21), the parking lot is no longer a staging area. No more paint buckets, overflowing dumpsters, and no more POD® self-storage container.

— Jack Spyker-Oles
Cub Reporter

What's Wrong With this Picture??



We see this sign post every time we enter the roundabout at the end of Seabranh. But our neighbor, Donna Whitman, pointed out a strange thing about this sign. I haven't noticed it in the 5+ years we've lived here. Can you spot it? If you need a hint, see page 11.

— Jack Spyker-Oles

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB?

By Mona Wiley

Hi Friends! In the past this newsletter would be filled with events upcoming in the fall. Once again COVID has slowed down our activities. Please be alert for postings for events and lunch outings via the mail blasts, postings in the mailroom and our closed circuit channel. So far we are planning our first get-together the 3rd Monday in October. This will be a meet and greet, so please come for refreshments around 6:30pm.

In June about 30 ladies had a wonderful luncheon at the Tequesta Tea Room. Summer outings were suspended due to that "C" word.

A BIG thank you to all who donated to the "back-to-school supply" collection! Not only were supplies donated, but many of you gave generously so materials could be purchased. Thank you!

Women's Club Meeting Dates and Programs

Margaret Ochotorena

The summer is quickly coming to a close and soon we will be resuming Women's Club meetings.

October 18, 2021: There will be no formal program. Instead we are socializing and getting to know new people with a fun version of speed-dating! Our new officers will be installed for the coming year.

November 15, 2021: Bill Miller from the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge will present and share information about the work being done to protect our wildlife.

January 17, 2022: Ken Dara, a local Retreat resident and graphic designer will speak about Gyotaku, the Art of Fish Printing.

February 21, 2022: Kristen Kroen, Decorative Interiors will share her experience as a decorator and review current decorating trends.

March 21, 2022: We will once again have our popular fashion show. Our fellow members will show off designer consignment outfits and accessories.

April 18, 2022: We will have salad night (provided by our members).

Women's Club Outside Activities Committee

Peggy Settle Mostad

Please note all events for the Women's Club Outside Activities are subject to change due to venue restrictions and/or the COVID situation. Please look for further details to be announced and the sign up sheets when posted in the mailroom as the event dates approach.

October 26, 2021

Elliott Museum and Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge Museum

Includes a Museum Tour, Lunch at their new café and House of Refuge Tour on Hutchinson Island. The museum's new attraction will feature the famous "Florida Highway Men" paintings.

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021

Summer Crush Vineyard Winery Tour, Wine Tasting, Lunch and browse their unique Gift Shop in Ft Pierce.

December 2021

Outing information, date, and details to be announced soon.



THE RETREAT SAYS THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our wonderful community and the Communications Committee has just said Thank You and Goodbye to a special lady, Dottie Williams. As another long-time writer, proofreader, etc., Dottie has retired from the Committee!

Dottie and husband, Dave were one of the “originals” to move into the Retreat. Both immediately volunteered their services to our new community.

Most of you know Dottie from her articles of “Wildlife in Our Back Yard,” a regular column in our Newsletter. Living on a lake, the Williams’ have many critters visit them, but I think their favorite was one of the alligators who lived in the lake. For several years, Dottie and Dave hosted the Eldorado Regatta, a fun day of boat races on the lake with a slalom course set up. All the “boys in the hood” immediately purchased remote control power boats to see who had the fastest.

Dottie was also a valued member of our team, *The Retreat Remembers*, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. This annual fundraiser honors and memorializes residents who have had cancer.

Always a member of the Retreat Women’s Club, Dottie has been one of those “behind the scenes” supporters, always willing to give a hand and donate to our projects.

In her spare time, Dottie sings in the Treasure Coast Community Singers (TCCS), who perform both classical and pop music and hold several concerts a year. She serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the TCCS. She and Dave are also proud parents and grandparents and visit their families up north often.

The Retreat owes Dottie a giant THANK YOU for all she has done for our community.

JUST CALL MARLENE

Three little words that describe one of our dynamos of the Retreat. If you needed any information or a job well done, Marlene Boobar answered the call—never saying NO. How lucky we were! Now, after many years of service to the Retreat Newsletter and Communications Committee, Marlene has decided to retire.

As “one of the originals,” Marlene and husband, Bob and Marlene’s sister, Gerri and husband, Steve Strong purchased adjoining capris in 2003. How nice to have your sister next door.

Before chairing the Communications Committee and becoming our Web Master, Marlene was an HOA Board member for several years and served as President of the Retreat Women’s Club.

Marlene also started and facilitates a ZOOM Prayer Group in the Retreat on Saturday mornings and attends several other prayer groups. As Head Deacon at Palm City Presbyterian Church, she launched a weekly Prayer Group and a new Widow’s Social Group.

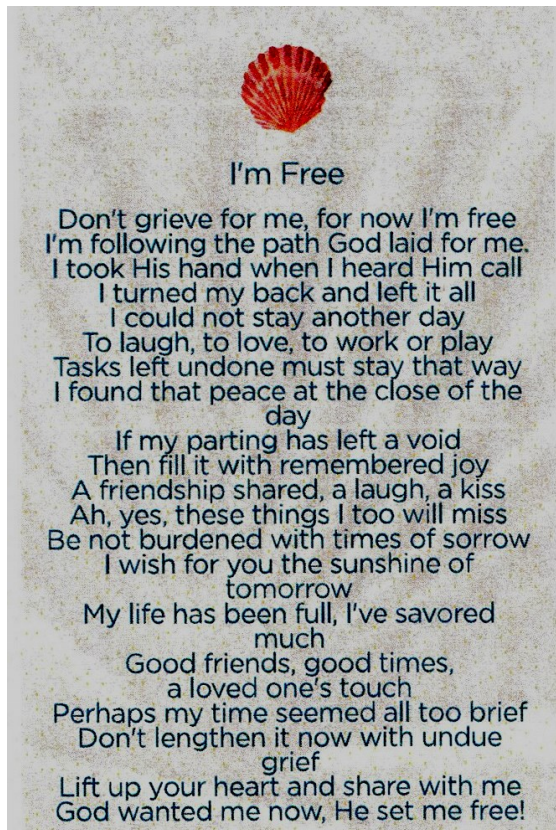
Marlene manages to stay in touch several times a week with her many friends and family via ZOOM and in person. She also travels to see friends whom she has met on her many trips. During season, she spends time with her daughter Maryanna and family in Hobe Sound and in the summer visits with her daughter Jessica and her family in Maine.

Marlene, we wish you much enjoyment in your retirement (if you really can retire!) and we so appreciate all your years of service.

—Coni McGuin



IN LOVING MEMORY
Linda Marie Stephens
May 15, 1959 - July 18, 2021



the Retreat
Social Committee
Presents

2nd Annual

Resident Charity Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, November 20, 2021

The Retreat will once again host a resident Arts and Crafts Fair featuring all the talented people living here. Last years event was a big success, despite all the restrictions to follow due to covid. This year should be even better and bigger.

If you have an artistic talent of any kind please join us for the 2nd Annual Fair. This is a charity event which means all vendor fees will be donated to a charity. This year we are choosing to donate to The Salvation Army's Compassion House of Stuart. This is a transitional shelter for homeless women and women with children.

The vendor fees will be \$20 for a table. The event will be open to all residents and guests of The Retreat. Admission to the fair is free.

This year we are working on having entertainment and/or food available. The food would be for purchase.

If you are interested in participation, contact the following committee members. Take advantage of the summer to create lots of things to sell!

Fran Massey – 772-546-6768

Darlene Green – 561-578-0615

Diane Meagher – 772-932-7887

Janet Ross – 203-219-2399

Our Pickleball Outing for a Steamy Summer

The Retreat Sizzlers took a welcomed Pickleball break, mid-summer. Many players and significant others joined for a late day outing at Hobe Sound Beach. A breezy evening was perfect in contrast to several 90 plus degree Pickleball court days. Our group gathered with heavy hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages for a few, beach chairs and plenty of laughter and Pickleball stories. The fall is setting up to welcome back many returning folks that love this game on our The Retreat courts.

Remember to use our chosen online retailer: www.pickleballcentral.com and use code: CRSIZZLERS for a 5% discount for you and a Club Credit to us for equipment. Paddles are abundant and the fun apparel is colorful, and sneakers, too!

The Retreat Sizzlers welcome new 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



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**Our Messy Pool
Dottie Sacco**

We had our palm trees stripped and was shocked as we watched all the debris deposited on our patio and in the pool. We contacted Pelican Pool Service, a company we have used over 17 years, and they responded immediately. The company owner, Damon, came over and cleaned it up. We are so grateful for the excellent service his company provides.





Answer to Trivia Question from Page 3

By: Jack Spyker-Oles

The word "Trespassing" on the second sign from the top is spelled incorrectly. It has three "S" letters instead of two!

TrespaSSSing versus TrespaSSing.

OH BOY! A CONTEST!!

Can you spot the similarity between these two pictures? The first five creative answers will have your name and answer featured in the next issue of the Retreat Newsletter! Send your answer to: spyker.oles@gmail.com Good luck!!

a



b





the Retreat

 Social Committee

 Presents

BOCCE BALL

Outdoor Social

Friday, May 28 at 5:00 pm

Bocce Ball 1.



Bocce Ball Page 2.





Thoughts from Kay Campbell

In evaluating my life for the past few years, I have narrowed it down to interests and activities that started with the letter B. Many involved are residents of the Retreat. So before going north this spring after a season of limited activities we celebrated breakfast together at Harry and the Natives. The Bs in my life are:

- Belief in a Heavenly Father
- Bible scripture
- Better Half (Lex)
- Beautiful and Brilliant Children, Grands, and Greats
- Best friends
- Bridge
- Book Club
- Baking Banana Bread
- Beach (in the past)



Special Bs are Buddies Jan Kasuboske and Lois McGill. Busy sister Linda Homer was also a guest. A good time was had by all as we said Bye Bye to Lois and Bob as they are permanently returning to PA.

On Friday, July 2nd, the Social Committee was pleased to welcome everyone to the Retreat's first post-lockdown First Friday celebration. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces as well as several people who have moved in during the past year. We hope they will continue to join us.

Thanks to Darlene for the beautiful July 4th decorations and to everyone who brought delicious food and desserts. Also, a special thank you to whoever donated the sleeves of plates to the Social Committee. They are greatly appreciated.

We had hoped to go back to normal First Fridays but with the current Covid outbreak we decided to skip August. Keep an eye on the mailroom door for information regarding September.

Diane Meagher



Today's Date: _____

ANNUAL RESIDENT DIRECTORY LISTING ONLY

If you are not currently listed in the Annual Resident Directory, and wish to be -
Please complete & sign the form. Place in the Property Management Drop Box located in the Mail Room.

List your information *exactly* as you want it printed in the Directory.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

Retreat Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address for Directory:

DISCLAIMER: Information contained in Directory is confidential and not for dissemination outside the Retreat community.

Signature(s) *

Signature(s) *

***Homeowner(s) Signature is required to have information published in the Directory.**

Today's Date: _____



NOT GETTING HOA EMAILS?

If you are NOT currently receiving HOA Email Blasts, and wish to:

Complete below and place in the Property Management Drop Box located in the Mail Room.

Email for HOA Blasts: _____

Name(s): _____

Retreat Address: _____



RETREAT ASSISTANCE NETWORK

For short-term needs:

- ◆ Transportation to medical appointments
- ◆ Rides for grocery shopping or hair appointments
- ◆ Prescription drug, grocery and mail-ups
- ◆ Check-phone calls or friendly visits
- ◆ Minimal meal preparation

Audrey DeLoffi, 245.8420

Marilyn Patterson, 932.4340

Due to COVID 19, some services may temporarily be unavailable.



BRIDGE SCORES By Carol Flynn

There are no bridge scores for this edition.

Everyone is staying home and staying safe.



Got a question?

Looking for a form?

Not getting HOA email blasts?

www.retreatatseabran.ch.com

Check out **FAQ** on Home page tab.

Check out **Members Only** and **Subscribe to HOA Email**.

(Please do not **UNSUBSCRIBE** if you wish to stay informed.)

RETREAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Karen Tyree	561.339.9255	retreat.karent@gmail.com
Vice-President	Rick Renshaw	772.546.1940	retreatrickrenshaw@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Anne Fiduccia	864.517.5556	retreatmaryannefiduccia@yahoo.com
Secretary	Stephanie Milazzo	772.245.8615	retreat.stephanie@gmail.com
Director	Tony Caserta	561.373.1787	retreattonyc@yahoo.com

RETREAT PROPERTY MANAGER

SCOTT MONTAGNA Signature Property Management scott@ signaturepropertymgmt.com	LCAM, CMCA Vice President of Management Support	3171 Dominica Terrace Stuart, Florida 34997 Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm	Telephone 772.219.4474 Facsimile 772.210.4474 Emergencies: 772.219.4474
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RETREAT COMMITTEES

Architectural Control	John McGuinn	772.545.9704	
Clubhouse	Joyce Fordham	772.545.0081	fordham48@msn.com
Communications	Jack Spyker-Oles	845.481.0581	spyker.oles@gmail.com
Finance	Tom Hartnett	772.545.3107	tmhartn55@gmail.com
Landscape	Linda Wolf	772.932.7969	lwolf33455@icloud.com
Neighborhood Watch	Bill Burns	772. 546.6990	burnsjro@aol.com
Social	Fran Massey	772.546.6768	gmail.fmass1954@com

RETREAT ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

All Retreat residents are invited to take part in our Retreat Activities.

For more information, please call the contact person.

Bunco	Darlene Greene	561.578.0615
Retreat Assistance Network (RAN)	Audrey DeLoffi Marilyn Patterson	772.245.8420 772.932.4340
Retreat Newsletter	Lill Malinowski Jack Spyker-Oles	772.545.3732 845.481.0581
Social Bridge	Carol Flynn	772.546.4118
Tennis	Tom D'Avanzo	772.545.7229
Women's Club of the Retreat	Sue Arnold - Pres. Meg Ochotorena - Vice Pres. Cindy Sibilis - Sec. Fran Spaulding - Treas.	216.409.1480 516.457.0476 908.295.6658 937.657.0249

Mah Jongg Mon. 1 PM	Ginny Franklin	561.339.4409
Duplicate Bridge	Carol Flynn	772.546.4118
Knot Just Knitting	Sandy Morrow Liz Plourde	772.545.1936 772.546.5673
Pickleball	Ron Doucette	772.245.8484
Poker—Men's Straight	Joe Ciocia	772.545.9767
Poker—Texas "Hold—Em"	Otto Vernacchio	772.546.7523
Bocce Ball	Stephanie Milazzo	772.245.8615

BUSINESS OWNERS — The Retreat Newsletter is a great place for you to reach local customers. Ads are business card size (2"x3.5") and are printed in black and white. The ads appear in **COLOR** on our web site www.retreatatseabbranch.com. Cost for each ad is \$175 per year; double-wide ads are \$325 per year. A yearly contract is required. Please contact Jack Spyker-Oles at 845.481.0581 or spyker.oles@gmail.com. Revenue from ad sales help defray our printing expenses. Thank you for your continuing support!!

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Dear Retreat Residents — Your newsletter staff, Jack and Lill, want you to know that Dottie, Coni and Marlene are no longer working on the newsletter. We thank them all for their dedication, energy, skill and assistance over many years.


Please send future contributions for the newsletter to either Jack or Lill. And we thank our readers for your continued support and contributions to our Retreat Newsletter!

Jack: spyker.oles@gmail.com
845.481.0581


Lill: wallylill@comcast.net
772.545.3732

Photo Credits


Pickleball – Ron Doucette
Bocce ball – Carol Flynn
Bocce ball – Peggy Moslad



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