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MERRY CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 25



NOV 28 – DEC 6



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DECEMBER 6



DECEMBER 27 & 28



FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION – DEC 8



FEAST OF THE HOLY
FAMILY DEC 27



FEAST DAY DEC 8



DECEMBER 31

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REMEMBER WHEN?

Submitted by Betty Vandermyn



Remember when..... that special night we became Santa's elves putting together all the special toys we bought for Christmas day and most with assembly required. So as soon as the kiddos were asleep, we went straight to our work with probably a few too many drinks to make matters worse. And so, the night began. 'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse. Instructions were studied and we were inspired, in hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required." The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, while Dad and I faced the evening with dread: A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot! And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot! We opened the boxes; my heart skipped a beat.... Let no parts be missing or



parts incomplete! Too late for last-minute returns or replacement; If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement! When what to my worrying eyes should appear, but 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear. With each part numbered and every slot named, so if we failed, only we could be blamed. More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out, all over the carpet they were scattered about. "Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there! Slide on the seats and staple the stair! Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand." "Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand." And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact, that all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact. To keep parents, busy all Christmas Eve night with "assembly required" till morning's first light. We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work, till our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt. The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin before we attached the last rod and last pin. Then laying the tools away in the chest, we fell into bed for a well-deserved rest. But I said to my husband just before I passed out, "This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt. Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring, and not have to run to the store for a thing! We did it! We did it! The toys are all set for the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!" Then off to dreamland and



sweet repose I gratefully went, Though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded... I'd forgotten that batteries are never included! OOPS!

Author Unknown

The Eyes of A Child Years ago when I was

young and still quite meek and mild,

*I saw the world through a rose colored glass, the
innocent eyes of a child.*

*The wonder of the simple things produced such
laughs and grins,*

*colored lights on a tree, a song to sing and so the list
begins.*

*Brightly wrapped parcels and shaking the box with
anticipation of what it may hide,
grandparents and family all bearing gifts and my
cousins to play with outside.*

*The holiday feast and eating too much, oh the food
was so good I could cry,
soft peppermint sticks, hot coco and cookies and my
favorite, mom's pumpkin pie.*

*Praying for cold and maybe some snow or at least
frost on the front windowpane,
and if you can't make it cold then don't make it hot
and please God, "don't let it rain"!*

*The Charlie Brown special, no school for two weeks,
staying up late and counting the days,
these are the things that remain in my heart and when
remembered my eyes start to haze.*

*Now you will have others, may your list be long, so
reminisce through with a smile,
and if I had one wish I know it would be, that we
could see through the eyes of a child.*

Joe Cortese

ANSWER TO NOVEMBER 2021 BRAIN TEASER:



A man is looking at a photograph of someone. His friend asks who it is. The man replies, "Brothers and sisters, I have none. But that man's father is my father's son." Who was in the photograph? **His Son**

THE POP - IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

By Dana Matlock



With this December 2021 issue we will complete our first year of publishing our community newsletter, *The POP*. We are happy to say that the feedback has been very positive. We have learned a lot along the way and hope to make next year even better. It takes many

volunteers to produce and deliver this publication and it's time we thank them for all their hard work.

What makes a good community newsletter? First and foremost, it is our resident authors that contribute the interesting and diverse articles that we love to read. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our talented authors: Doreen Armstrong, Tom Bailey, Nick & Toni Burnett, George Byrne, Barbara Cerasa, Donna Copeland, Joe Cortese, Phyllis Cox, Chris Davis, Carol Lee Eppinger, Muriel Fallon, Mal Fraser, Kevin Gallagher, Terry Johnson, Pat Jones, Peggy Jordan, Judy Kelly, JoAnn Larkin, Bob & Dana Matlock, John Mecurio, Sam Miller, Keith Mowling, Jim Nichols, Paul Olson, Bob Persch, John Popp, Carol & James Pursley, MaryAnn Rabuazzo, Janice Randolph, Irma & Mike Reed, Jean Scionti, Betty & Steve Vandermyn, Gary Watkins.

Second, a big thank you to Donna Copeland and her Block Captains for the packaging and delivery of *The POP* to your doorstep every month. They are Rich Rabuazzo., Betty & Steve Vandermyn, Claire Hamel, Marlene Anderson, Karen Dolan, Dr. Jeffery Skee, Carol Marchetti, Jean Bowe, Joy Paine, Susan Hawksby, Diane Williams, Kathy & Kevin Gallagher, Sandra Thomas & Jim Trahon, Bob Gucciardo., Debbie Pate, Noreen Bartolotta, Bob Matlock, Helen Raynor, Betty Shaver, Patty Watkins, Linda Theriault, Phyllis Cox and Lynn Ceman.

Special thanks to my co-editor, Betty Vandermyn, who has spent many hours learning to do layout and design on her computer in addition to writing articles and working with authors to get content for you.

We also owe a debt of gratitude for the Plantation Oaks Residents Association (PORA) for their pledge of support and for purchasing the door handle bags for delivery.

Thanks to Murex for producing and printing the calendar insert each month.

As you can see there are many of our residents involved in this publication. If you have enjoyed *The POP* this

past year, just give a smile and a "thank you" to those involved when you see them.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the readers of *The POP*, for your interest and encouragement. Please continue to give us your invaluable feedback and ideas for further improvement and subjects you would like us to cover. Also, we would love to have you as a contributor in 2022. It does not have to be long or involved article, just something you feel would be of interest to your neighbors. Think about it and give me a call if you would like to discuss.

PS: Don't forget if you have a need, give our advertisers a chance to serve you. Without them we would have no way to pay for the publishing and printing of *The POP*.

FUNNIES FROM YOUR EDITORS

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in.

"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.

"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that."

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.



THE OAKS ROCK PAINTERS

By JoAnn Larkin

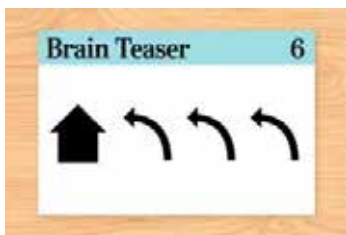


After spending two months painting 🎃 Halloween rocks the party occurred and was extremely successful. Painted rocks were everywhere for people to choose. The rock painters that attended had a great time. There have been too many people to thank for bringing rocks to me and no number is too small. Just pick a rock or a few you think could be painted. Thanks to all of you and keep them coming.



We are developing a list of residents who would not be able to go to the rock garden. We want to reach out to them with one of our uplifting rock. If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving a rock, please let us know. Come by and see all the choices in beautiful Christmas 🎄 rocks. The rock garden is located on the edge of the woods under a palm tree next to horseshoe pit.

DECEMBER BRAIN TEASER



Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two

masked men. Who were they?

Answer will be in the January 2022 issue of The POP



FEDERATION OF MANUFACTURED HOME OWNERS (FMO)

By James Pursley, Plantation Oaks FMO Rep

Hello, it's me again, I know what you are saying. How did he last that long? Anyway, have you ever been "Lost for



Words"? I certainly have, I remember one time in Grade School, don't know how I remember back that far, I was looking out the window daydreaming, thinking about going home and playing with my dog Spot and waiting on the ice cream truck that came by several

times a week. About the time I was getting ready to pick out which ice cream I wanted, the teacher called on me to answer a question. Good example of "Lost for Words!" Another good example was when my dad had his turn, what happened was my good friend Bill, he lived across the street from my parents' house and he and I were the same age. We did everything together, went to school together, Cub Scouts together, and went camping together. You can see we were buddies. We used to watch "Pro Wrestling" on TV. At the time we thought it was real. Give me a break, we were kids and didn't know any better. One day, while on summer break, Bill and I were out in my front yard, and we looked at each other - we looked at each other like we had seen Elvis at the Burger King. We thought we had seen one of the wrestlers that we watched on TV. We thought it was an illusion, whatever that was. A few days later we saw the same car go by. We remembered the car because it was a big flashy Cadillac. See no one in our neighborhood, at the time no one could afford a car like that. It was the same guy driving. So, Bill and I devised a plan, we didn't know what devised meant, we had heard it on "The Andy Griffin Show." Our plan was to follow him on our bikes the next time we saw him. We waited for days then one day here comes the Cadillac, we were behind him. We saw him turn into a driveway. The couple that lived there were married and the husband drove a bread truck. The husband also left early, he would come by us when we were walking to school and beep his horn. Being my and Bill's age we had no clue what he was doing there at that time of day. So, when I got home, I told my mom about what we had discovered, she said ask your dad when he gets home. I waited anxiously for dad to get home, I asked dad to explain, he was "Lost for Words".

One thing to know is that FMO is never Lost for Words. They are always talking while representing us

continued on page 7

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WANTED - POP CONTRIBUTORS

Please join our elite group of article contributors who share their stories with us. We would love to hear yours. No writing experience necessary. Email your article to both editors, Dana: dbmatlock@live.com & Betty: elzbthvnd@att.net



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WELCOME COMMITTEE

By Bob Matlock



It seems to me that this time of year has come to be pretty much about gifting. I'm sure that we all have received a gift that we treasure more than any other. Mine happens to be the gift of life. Consider from the tiniest microscopic lives to the giant plants and animals that inhabit the earth. Trillions of them! In the air, in the water, in the food, in my hair, on my skin, in my arms when I hold or hug someone. Everywhere! Made up of all different shapes, sizes and colors. Just like my family members, friends, and neighbors. As people we are alike. We are of the same image. But Bob, you might say, we have different ideas about the same things. And we have different affiliations because of where we were raised or who raised us. And to that I say, that is OK because those relationships and ideas do not change our image. We are all just people. What a wonderful gift. Let's welcome and consider our new neighbors as gifts of new life to our community. They are:



Welcome!

We are glad you are here!

NEW NEIGHBORS



Dallatore, Ray & Donna, 127 Habersham Dr.
Along with their dog, Darla, they will divide time between PA & FL



Keegan, Dorothy Keegan.
17 Galemont Dr.
From California & PA. with dog "Sweetheart"

Kegel, David & Joanne, 8 Tobias. Ln.
From Palm Coast & CT. Joanne works from home
No photo available.



Lannin, Carolyn & Eleanor, 5 Morington Dr.
Welcome back to our Canadian Friends!



Petraglia, Patricia, 88 Habersham Dr.
From Palm Coast & happy to be in Plantation Oaks

Sewald, Paul & Patricia, 4 Beaumont Ln.
No photo available.



Pavlicek, Tracey & Rinaldi, Andy
24 Galemont Ln. From PA with cat, Stormy
Tracy teaches in Ormond Beach.



Focht, Jack & Ella, 17 Chatsworth Ln
Moved from 5 Morington Ln.

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DECEMBER IS NATIONAL PEAR MONTH!

by Chef Kevin Gallagher, MS, CEC



There are over 3,000 known pear varieties grown around the world, but only a handful of heirloom varieties have been cultivated, with only 10 varieties grown in the United States. The pear is one of the few fruits that does not ripen on the tree. It is harvested when mature, but not yet ripe, and, if left at room temperature, it slowly reaches a sweet and succulent maturity as it ripens from the inside out.

To ripen your pears, place firm pears with other fruit, like bananas which naturally give off ethylene gas, will speed up the ripening process. Check the neck for ripeness daily, by applying gentle pressure to the neck, or stem end, of the pear with your thumb. If it yields to pressure, then it's ripe and ready to eat! Once the pear is ripe, it can be refrigerated to slow the ripening process and saved for use up to five days later.

Like many fruits, the flesh of cut or peeled pears will eventually brown. This natural oxidation process won't affect the taste or quality. However, to prevent browning, dip them in a mild solution of 50% water and 50% lemon juice.

Pears are an excellent source of dietary fiber (medium size pear has 6 grams of fiber, 24% of the RDA) and a good source of vitamin C, a proven antioxidant. A medium pear has about 100 calories.

Pears Poached in Belgian-Style Beer

By Chef Kevin Gallagher CEC

Poaching pears in wheat beer makes a silky, mellow treat. This recipe is a great accompaniment to a cheeseboard with olives, crackers, and honey, perfect for starting off a meal.

Ingredients

3 cups wheat beer, (Belgian-style wheat beer like Blue Moon or Samuel Adams)

1/2 cup honey

1 orange, cut in quarters

10 whole coriander seeds

3 whole cloves

3 firm pears, such as Bartlett

Instructions

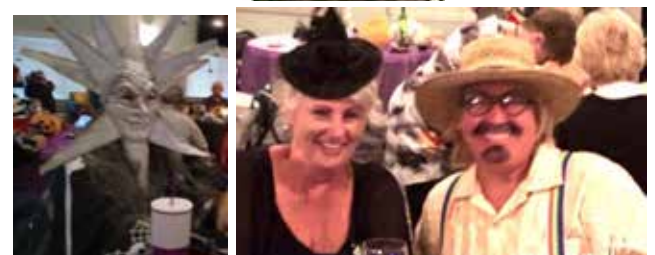
1. In a medium saucepan, combine the beer and honey, stirring to combine. Squeeze in the orange juice and

add the orange quarters along with the coriander and cloves. Peel and halve the pears and scoop out the cores. Place the pears into the liquid, covering with a piece of parchment paper to help keep them submerged. Turn the heat to medium-high, cover the pot, and bring the pears to a simmer.

2. Once simmering, reduce the heat. Continue to cook the pears, pushing down on them as necessary, for 15-30 minutes or until just tender when pierced with a fork. Remove pears and place in a shallow dish, spooning a tablespoon of the liquid over each half to keep moist. Discard the remaining liquid. Allow the pears to cool on the counter for 30 minutes, then cover and place in the refrigerator to cool completely. When you're ready to serve the pears, gently turn them in their liquid to moisten, and then slice into 1/4-inch pieces. Drizzle with honey and serve alongside cheese, such as Chèvre (soft goat cheese), aged Gouda, or Parmigiano-Reggiano.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL.....





HALLOWEEN NIGHT GOLF CART PARADE



where the heart is. My heart this December is thinking back in memory to a Christmas in 1960, "Tinsel", a reminder of my past when all I had to think about was how to get the lead strands on straight, and how not to put two identical Christmas ornaments side by side. We always decorated the Christmas tree on a Saturday afternoon. My mother would set it up with colored lights while my sister and I watched with anticipation. This one-year Mom had a great idea. "Let's put the tinsel on first, she said. Three to five strands on every single branch. It will look wonderful!" We all agreed and spent the next two hours slowly and methodically placing each strand, one by one, on the dark green needles, taking care not to let them tangle or fall on each other. When we finished, we stepped back to admire our work. It was beautiful! The tree looked not green but more like sterling silver, glittering and glowing with all the multi-colored lights reflecting on the tinsel. How we prided ourselves on our accomplishment. Mom suggested that we have a cup of hot chocolate before putting on the ornaments. We were sitting in the kitchen enjoying the break when we heard something crash to the floor in the living room. We moved quickly, each of us knowing but not willing to admit that it was the TREE. As we approached, our Siamese cat came running past us covered in tinsel. We stopped just short of the living room, looked sadly at each other and then looked in to see our beautiful work of art destroyed in a matter of moments. None of us moved for a few minutes and then Mom stepped in and slowly raised our glorious wonder to a standing position. It was awful. Not one strand of tinsel lay straight. They were all askew; some sideways, most knotted together. I think we all wanted to cry. "Oh, well." said Mom, matter-of-factly. "Let's finish our hot chocolate and then try to salvage what we can of it all." And so we did. Our tree had lots of tangled and intertwined layers of tinsel but once we put on the blue glass bells, the gold glittered stars and some other adornments, we once again stepped back and all was right with the world.

As for the cat, she prided herself on her achievement as she strutted past us in her silver tinsel coat. Well, why not. How many cats do you know that can knock down a tree in one blow? I can still see that day in memory. May your holiday be "memorable" with many joyous moments decorating your Christmas tree without "lead tinsel," of course!

MY CHRISTMAS LETTER...2021

By Jean Scionti



Every Christmas I send out a letter to all our friends. This year has been a particularly sobering one. Therefore, instead of dwelling on our trials, I would like to share a holiday story from my past with you. "Home is

THANK YOU!!

By George Byrne, CERT Team Leader



On behalf of Plantation Oak's CERT, and myself, extend thanks to all who supported our fund raiser at the Tim Rippey dance on Saturday, October 16, in the clubhouse. The proceeds from the ticket sales, Chinese auction and individual donations are most appreciated and much needed.

Due to the pandemic, we have all been unable to gather for more than a year. This event gave the community a chance to interact with one another, let our hair down and just enjoy ourselves. I do think attendees had a good time and this has been long overdue!

The pandemic has left our funds depleted; so this fund raiser has given us the opportunity to replenish our account and replace much need supplies. Supplies like: water, fuel, batteries and expired items. These things must be replaced on a regular basis so we are ready to support our community should the need arise.

And speaking of being ready; your team conducts drills and has monthly meetings that we encourage all to attend. Please consider becoming part of our team! Again, thank you for your support!

Editors' Note: Thanks to the generosity of our residents, over \$1,367 was raised for our CERT Team. Congratulations to all our Basket winners: Italian Basket – Ella Focht; Margarita Basket – Irma Reed; Spooky Tree – Mal Fraiser; Movie Night – Ben Cerney; International White Wine Basket – Janice Randolph.



Mission Statement: To provide emergency assistance to our community when State/Local emergency services are delayed or otherwise unavailable. All residents are invited to register with us any special needs or emergency assistance you (or someone you know) may require in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. This information can be helpful in executing search and rescue, planning and purchasing necessary supplies and equipment.

To register contact Donna Copeland, dmcopeland50@gmail.com, 704-886-7706.

Currently, we have 52 members and are always looking for new people. Please join us at our next meeting. For more information give me a call at 845-728-4679. For information on how to sign up for red alert warnings log on to WWW.FlaglerEmergency.com. You may also register for special needs evacuation assistance on this site or call 386-313-4200



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Terry Johnson



It's hard to believe that Christmas is around the corner, and we have some special events planned to get the season started.

The Halloween costume party was held on the 30th and was a huge success. It was great seeing all the interesting costumes. We had mini sandwiches, candy and Sir Dennis entertained us. Special thanks to those who helped with decorations and making the sandwiches and selling tickets.

The ice cream social and golf cart parade happened on Halloween night. It's always fun seeing all the decorations especially at Betty and Steve Vandermy'n's house.

On November 11 we thanked all the Veterans in our community and throughout the nation for their service with a golf cart parade and service.

Our Fall Festival was on the 20th with a buffet of baked ziti or ham and sides. We were entertained and danced to music by Tony and Debbie. Again, special thanks to those who sold tickets, helped serve the food and of course the cooks who prepared the meal.

On December 13 we will be visiting the Casements (John D. Rockefeller) mansion in Ormond Beach for a Christmas house tour. This will be a carpool event leaving the clubhouse at 9:15 scheduled tour at 10am. There is a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse since I need a count to tell the people in charge of the tour. Admission is free, they only ask for a donation.

It's Gingerbread house making time once again. It was a success last year so I thought we should do it again on December 16 from 10am to 1pm at the clubhouse. All you need will be your own house to decorate and we will have door prizes. So please come and have some fun.

The Christmas golf cart parade will be on the 18th at 6pm followed by hot chocolate and we are asking for everyone to bring 1 dozen cookies to share that night. More info on cookie exchange to follow. The Santa Elves project will be from 4:30 to 5:30 giving out goodies to those in our community who are considered shut in. Thank you, Diane Williams, for chairing and those who volunteered their services.

New Year's Eve on the 31st with Michael Kohn starting at 8pm till midnight. We will have high-end appetizers. Tickets are \$20 each and sale days will follow.

In addition to the events on the Cooks schedule below, we will have a Snowball Dance on January 5. We are

looking for a chairperson to hold a chili cook-off on January 29.

If any questions, regarding these events, please contact Terry Johnson 609-876-0837

COOKS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2021- MARCH 2022

Breakfast Hour: 8:30AM-9:30AM

Lunch Hour: 12:00PM-1:00PM

Dec-4 BREAKFAST: fruit cup, farmer's casserole, hash browns, juice, and coffee.

Dec-15 LUNCH: Italian sausage and pepper sandwich, potato chips, beverage.

Feb-5 BREAKFAST: fruit cup. French toast, juice, coffee.

Feb-12 VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE: combined cooks and social committee event. Chicken parmigiana, ziti, garlic bread, salad, decadent chocolate cake, beverages.

March-19 ST. PATRICK'S DAY: Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, dessert, beverages.

ALL BREAKFASTS through December 2021 will be \$6:00 and LUNCHESES \$7.00

As of January 2022, all BREAKFASTS will be \$7.00, and LUNCHESES will be \$8.00.

All menus are subject to change depending on market pricing and availability and will be posted as early as possible.

For breakfast and lunch menus please check menu board and sign-up sheets at the clubhouse. Breakfast and lunch tickets can be purchased on the day of event.



BEAUTY TIPS

By Terry Johnson

For a wow-worthy nails without a pricey trip to the nail salon enlist the help of a toothpick.

To do: Paint nails a solid color and allow them to dry completely, then dip a toothpick in another shade and use it to draw dots, flowers, loops, and other patterns on your nails. Just be sure to let each layer dry before adding more details and use a new pick for each color.

OUR FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR JOAN HAUGHT, PART 3 OF 3

By Bob Matlock

This is the 3rd and final article in this series



Joan: Travel and learning never really stopped for me. I spent a month traveling on the Green Tortoise, a reconstructed

Joan in Shanghai Oct 2011 Greyhound bus of the '60s. We would stop at national parks during the day to prepare vegetarian meals and then hike the trails. Soon a new relationship evolved through Travel Companions Exchange with a retired electrical engineer from Colorado. Lindy and I drove through Canada, Mexico, and the United States, full-time in our motor home for several years, towing a car. We visited siblings, children, and grandchildren as we checked off all of the states west of the Mississippi. Without bag phones or satellite dishes at first, we would line up in rv camps on Sunday mornings and let those we love, know where we were before we arrived at their doorstep with our wash. In addition, we took side trips to the British Isles, South Korea the Maritimes and Japan and made new friends through Elderhostel. My travel companion died after a heart redo, and I moved to my brother's home in Westchester County in NY where I applied for the Peace Corp. While there I purchased my first computer and arranged to share a week with each of my grandchildren when they reached age ten, touring with them somewhere in the United States

I arrived in Plantation Oaks with my dad, Charlie Anderson, over 20 years ago. I had recently learned that the Peace Corps would no longer send me to Namibia in Africa to teach. I had acquired Lyme disease from a deer tick while building bridges for a hiking trail in the Catskills and would always test positive for the disease. Our new home, occupied by slaves from the Bulow Sugar Plantation just a century ago, awaited us. I can still hear my 90-year-old dad hammering on tin cans in the carport prior to paid recycling. We would exchange the cans for money that would be used by the Flagler public schools to purchase computers.

I am now trying to share lives with my seven

grandchildren and their parents during the pandemic. The two oldest are attending collages in Massachusetts and N. Carolina. Family connections with ZOOM are special weekly happenings. My life cycle at Plantation Oaks combines playing clarinet with the community band and the Windy Woods, simulating a leaf picker upper on the yard, teaching line dancing at the Clubhouse, playing occasional bridge, and participating in exercise classes at Fitness One. I still help with the traveling marine zoo at Whitney Lab and study Ice Age Florida. Ten years ago I met my new traveling companion Bob Merriman in Rio. He shared my love for travel, and we enriched



Joan & Bob with Terra Cotta Warriors, China

our lives together with tours to the Galapagos, Egypt, Jordan, China and Argentina. Bob relocated from St. Louis to Plantation Oaks in 2013. The following year we drove our Roadtrek van for a trip along the Lewis & Clark trail. Unfortunately, the van was side swiped in an Oregon State Park, and we went careening off the narrow roadway down a steep wooded cliff. Fortunately, we were able to escape through the van's windows as it was bursting into flames. Presently I am rebuilding the Charlie Anderson Trail, behind our house, from a resurrected MYZOO through the woods amidst the raccoons, armadillos, wild pigs and a recently cited black bear. Being polyonic (five replaced major joints) and keeping in motion appears to rejuvenate my 83 years albeit at a slower pace. I want to remain young at heart, continue to find ways to evolve and not be too pooped to pop!

Epilogue. *I hope you have been able to immerse yourself in some of Joan's interesting and exciting experiences. If you have a story about a personal experience or know of someone else who does, and it might be interesting for the rest of us, please call me, Bob Matlock at 386-439-3443.*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2-Dec Joyce Popp
 2-Dec Carol Haseltine
 4-Dec Toni Christ
 4-Dec Paul Cutright
 4-Dec Sue Fix
 4-Dec Sue Persch
 5-Dec Russell Akins
 5-Dec Joan Lockwood
 5-Dec Leonard Gucciardo
 6-Dec Joanne Kegel
 7-Dec Marcia Fingland
 7-Dec William Holdsworth
 7-Dec David Hedrick
 7-Dec Edward Kaspshak
 8-Dec Michael McGeehan
 9-Dec Megan Byrne
 12-Dec Phyllis Holdsworth
 13-Dec Laura Dawkins
 14-Dec Martha Duncan
 15-Dec Mike Smith
 17-Dec Donald Donahue
 17-Dec Susan Saloom
 18-Dec Michael Merry
 18-Dec Eddie Remondi
 19-Dec Cathleen Niedhammer
 19-Dec Harry Gilman
 19-Dec Carol Mahoney
 22-Dec Bobbie Sharp
 23-Dec Mary Slick
 24-Dec Gayle Lane
 24-Dec Frank Micalizzi
 24-Dec Donald Bettencourt
 26-Dec Lesley Prompovitch
 27-Dec Renee Matteau
 27-Dec Noreen Bartolotta
 27-Dec Claire Bencal
 29-Dec Ellen Barningham



We try hard to get it right. However, if we have missed your birthday or anniversary, or have the dates wrong, please contact Betty Vandermyn at elzbthvnd@att.net or Dana Matlock at dbmatlock@live.com so we can correct our information for the newsletter. Thank you!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2-Dec Donald & Lorraine Donohue
 6-Dec Robert & Vivian Burbridge
 16-Dec Paul & Nancy Cutright
 20-Dec David & Carol Manowski
 23-Dec Stephen & Ruth Ann Seltzer
 27-Dec Russell & Kathleen Atkins
 31-Dec Robert & Pamela Linton





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SEARS WISH BOOK

By Jean Scionti



We all remember it; the Sears Christmas catalog that came faithfully to our doorsteps every season, and the thrill of excitement when it arrived. My kids would run to the front door when they heard the thump of the heavy book on the steps. It was too big for my mailbox. They would be jumping up and down with such joy. Hey! I would jump for joy too! It meant a week or more with a few hours of peace and quiet while they were absorbed with the "Wish Book." I can still see my children stretched out side by side on the floor in front of the Christmas tree, red markers at the ready to circle their dream toys.

By the time I was allowed to have the book in hand, it was ripped, wrinkled, earmarked, and smothered in blotches of red ink. This routine went on for about five years or so before they finally realized that Santa never got them what they circled in the book. That's not to say that we didn't get them "stuff." Just that we never bought it from the "Wish Book," or from Sears. Our purchases mostly came from S&H stamp book catalogs...but that's another story.

The best part of all this is that I think they knew that they were not going to get anything they circled, but certainly, they had their fun checking it all out. I recently mentioned to my girls that I was going to write a short article on the Wish Book. They looked at me, scowling and said, "You were the meanest mother on the planet. How could you do that to us?" I replied, "Look, we all know that Santa has his own factory. How could I buy from Sears and not let him and his elves surprise you with their own surplus of toys? Besides, you kids loved looking at all those colored pictures and wishing for all those wonderful toys. There's no harm in wishing... right?" Oh well, no reply from either of them.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

GARDEN CLUB DIRT

By Judy Kelly



Well, it's been awhile, but here we are finally. Fall is a wonderful time to garden, after a long stretch of high temperatures and wet weather. It's all about rethinking what you want your home to look like inside and out.

There are plenty of plants for either location. Indoors we can have blooms (african violets, gloxinia, kalanchoe, amaryllis) to name a few maybe a poinsettia or Christmas cactus with the holidays in mind. 'Tis the season for pansies. There are so many varieties of the same plant, big ones, trailing, ruffled, clear faces and any color you can think of. Maybe try a black one for a change. The smaller variety doesn't need deadheading and they have many more flowers than the bigger ones. The choice is yours. With care, water and fertilizer, they last well into spring.

Now I want to relate an experience I had recently. I was scammed. It was a message from FedEx about my not being home when a package was delivered. Well, I had not been out that day. They wanted to deliver again and needed some information. Long story short I gave them whatever they asked for because I was expecting a delivery for my medications - one needed refrigeration. So, in my mind there was a reason to not just leave it. At the very end was a number to call FedEx and verify. They were quick to tell me they don't ask for any of that information and never charge for redelivery. If and when this ever happens to you, when you notify your accounts, they will give you some much needed advice. Fraud can be handled in this situation. Please talk to your friends and let them know just how conniving these people can be. We are embarrassed to share that we fell for it, but I was unaware that this particular scam has been used for years. As I shared my experience with others, I was amazed how many people had fallen into a similar situation. Please, please be careful because one fine day you could slip up and will have to go through the worry of what now? Do share your similar experiences with others - don't be quiet about it. Let this slip up not to be a secret so everyone is alerted to fraud. Enough of that, back to a better day. Welcome to all our new residents. Come out and join in some of our varied activities. Meet with your neighbors! I am happy to help you with any of your gardening questions or head you in the right direction. Happy holidays to all.



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