



FLEET BEAT

VOL. 34 No. 4

THE FLEET LANDING RESIDENTS' NEWSPAPER

May 2024

Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

By Enith Vardaman

Residents gathered in Johnson Hall on April 26 for the second "Coffee and Conversation With Josh" of 2024.

Financial Results

Executive Director Josh Ashby began by displaying a chart of budget, 2024 average, and March 31, 2024, occupancy rates for independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing settings. All were performing well. A graph showed that all levels of care have been largely stable over the past 12 months.



Ashby reported revenue above budget and expenses below budget, resulting in operating income above budget for the first quarter of 2024.

The positive revenue variance is entirely attributable to the rebalancing of Fleet Landing's investment portfolio. The expense variance is attributable to timing differences, and will be closer to budget as the year progresses.

Ashby closed his discussion of favorable financial results with a report on lender-required financial covenants. The debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) is a capital structure ratio, indicating how well Fleet Landing can afford to pay its debt and interest. Days cash on hand (DCoH), a liquidity measure, indicates how long Fleet Landing could continue to pay its bills with no further revenue. The DSCR is well above the requirement (2.51 versus 1.20). A graph showed it to be above requirement in April 2023, with significant improvement in May 2023, and stability ever since. The DCoH was also well above requirement (404 versus 180). That figure is less than what was historically the case because of two factors: a \$165 million investment in the campus over the past five years, and a cyclical lower than normal turnover in entrance fee collections.

Resident Survey Results

Fleet Landing currently surveys all residents twice annually, in March and August. Those dates were chosen because they allow management to receive feedback at times of the year that can help with goal planning and budgeting. The March survey took place from March 1 to March 14. Of the 854 surveys distributed to residents, 614 were returned, a response rate of 71.9 percent—significantly higher than the national average rate of 43.6

(continued on page 14)

We Have a New Residents' Council

By Enith Vardaman



LtoR: Bob Peterson, Carol Smith, Lynette Beitz



Julia Pet-Armacost, Ken Hollinga, Ann Bell



Ernie Bio, Judy Solano, Stephen Dick

Results of the Residents' Council election were announced on April 24. Having received the largest number of votes, Carol Smith will serve a three-year term. Julia Pet-Armacost, Judy Solano, and Stephen Dick will serve two-year terms.

Council responsibilities are as follows: Peterson, president; Smith, vice-president; Lynette Beitz, treasurer; Pet-Armacost, secretary; Ken Hollinga, Wellness and Transportation; Dick, Facilities; Solano, Health Services and Safety and Security; Ann Bell, Dining and Housekeeping; Ernie Bio, Human Resources and Marketing.

April Residents' Council Meeting

By Howard Burdick

Residents' Council President Eileen Theis convened the April 16 council meeting in Johnson Hall. Noting that this year's staff scholarship funds were inadequate to offer scholarships to all eligible applicants, she encouraged residents to help ensure that there would be adequate funding next year. Residents can contact Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena for information about means of giving. She also extolled the selfless service of resident Enith Vardaman, editor of this fine journal, as well as Head Librarian and guru of iPad and other Apple devices for residents. She received a standing ovation.

Management Review. Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss introduced Marc Cantu, the new Senior Director of Campus Operations, who was featured in the April issue of *FLEET BEAT* (page 3). He then reviewed numerous activities related to the renovation of the Coleman Center. The ambience of the essentially completed ground floor received a round of applause from those present. Completion of topside spaces continues on schedule for late summer. He also reviewed numerous projects underway or planned for apartment buildings and the grounds.

Council Reports.

Vice President Bob Peterson paid tribute to Theis, Charles Winton, Nancy Russell, and Judy Poppell, whose terms on the Residents' Council were expiring. He reviewed dates and procedures for the election of four new council members. (See page 1 for results.)

Safety & Security. Peterson reviewed a number of scamming techniques as well as means of avoiding them.

Treasurer's Report. Winton reported favorable financial results.

Human Resources and Marketing. Reporting for Ernie Bio, Peterson announced that Autumn Brown of skilled nursing was the March Staff Member of the Month. There were 21 new hires in March. With 493 employees, Fleet Landing was staffed at 92 percent. Lobster Tales submissions totaled 102 in March.

Marketing has closed six contracts year-to-date, with income of over \$2.6 million. Sales and Marketing staff for the Nocatee project are aboard, and were introduced: Lisa Atkinson and Terry Hogan, Senior Marketing Counselors, and Marissa Rambo, Sales and Marketing Coordinator.

Wellness/Transportation/Clubs. Russell showed photos of our large bus in its new wrap. She also noted the addition of two grocery shuttles. She discussed wellness assessments, including what is covered and how and when to sign up for them. She reminded residents to add their name to the waiting list when a trip is full. Cancellations may make room for those on the waiting list. Also, if the waiting list is very long, another trip may be scheduled.

Dining. Lynette Beitz thanked all for their forbear-

ance while Coleman Center dining was closed. She noted new menus at Currents, Meridian, and 30 North as well as the availability of more vegetables and whole grain breads and rolls. She reminded residents that the bamboo takeout containers were biodegradable, not recyclable. They should be put in the trash, not the recycle bins.

Healthcare. Ann Bell reviewed advanced care planning documents, including living wills, durable power of attorney, and do not intubate, hospitalize, or resuscitate forms. She also reminded residents of the *Family Survivor's Handbook*, available on Fleet Link under "Resident Support Services."

Facilities. Ken Hollinga took those present on a comprehensive photographic tour of a number of recent improvements to buildings and grounds. He also provided photos of nests in the bluebird boxes.

Resident Suggestions. Secretary Poppell noted that there were no suggestions for which responses had been received.

Editor's Note: *FLEET BEAT* seeks to avoid repetition of information found elsewhere in this issue.

Meet the Candidates

By Victoria Freeman

On April 17, the five minutes each Residents' Council candidate had to present his or her credentials to a large Johnson Hall audience also provided fascinating background bits of information. For example, Fleet Landing has a resident who coaches a high school sport; one who served over 24 years on homeowners association boards; one who published a magazine; one who helped start a medical school; and one who is associated with both computers and a certain canine.

FLEET BEAT STAFF

Production

Editor	Enith Vardaman
Copy Editor	Fran Patterson
Copy Editor	Barbara Trevaskis
Photographer	Ed Hollender
Photographer	Ann Bell
Photographer and Reporter	Dita Domonkos

Reporters

Victoria Freeman	Carolyn Stoner
Daniel Barry	Howard Burdick
Maureen Miller	Kristin Perry
Isobel Spink	Carol Smith
Nancy Lundgren	Patricia Payne
Bo Smith	Mary Durkin

Carole Watson
Chet Davis (Roving Reporter)

All the news that fits...

Contributions to *FLEET BEAT* are welcome. Please place copy or any comments you may have in box 1107 at the Coleman Center. Neither letters to the editor nor anonymous submissions are published but we are, of course, mindful of your comments. Issues of *FLEET BEAT* can be found at www.fleetlanding.com. Sign into the resident portal and click on "Menu" and then "Publications." Issues can also be found under "Publications" on Fleet Link.

Fleet Landing Passover Seder

By Judy Poppell

Photos by Ann Bell and Ellen Berson



30 North ready for the guests

30 North was filled to capacity with almost 50 guests on Tuesday, April 26 as Jewish residents and their Fleet Landing friends and neighbors celebrated the Passover holiday at the annual Fleet Landing seder. The Fleet Landing seder was begun 12 years ago by residents Stan and Elaine Tenenbaum, of blessed memory. The tradition has continued and this year's seder was led jointly by Judy Poppell and Harriet Berson.

Passover is a favorite Jewish holiday, and the seder, one of the primary rituals of Passover, is usually celebrated in the home. Thus, our Fleet Landing home is an appropriate location for the Passover observance. The week-long holiday is celebrated with traditional holiday foods including matzah, slabs of crisp, unleavened bread, and other symbols of the Passover holiday.

One of the most celebrated holidays in the Jewish world, Passover or Pesach commemorates the biblical Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. The seder includes the annual retelling of the Exodus story and the role of Moses in leading the Israelites from slavery to freedom. It is a participatory event in which those present take an active part in the reading of the story and singing traditional holiday songs.

The seder is also a time to reflect on those less fortunate, and all who are hungry, including the stranger, are welcomed to share in the seder meal. Chef de Cuisine Abby Hazel did an amazing job of preparing a sumptuous Passover dinner complete with all the traditional holiday foods. Our servers did an outstanding job of seeing that all were served expeditiously and efficiently. Because of the popularity of this event, we will be seeking a larger venue next year.

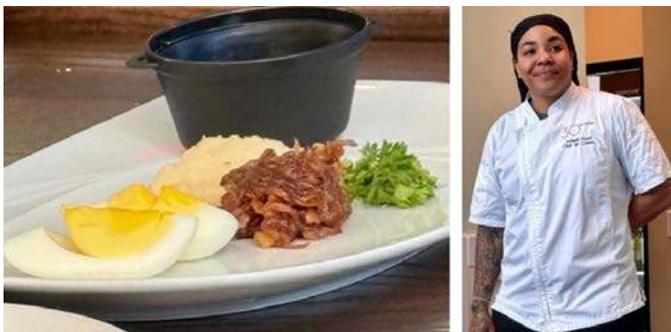
A great time was had by all!

Nap Time

Photo by Judy Solano



Retelling of the Exodus story



Left: The symbolic foods. Right: Abby Hazel.



Nancy Brown's greyhound, Ida Mae, snoozing at the Dog Park.

Ukelear Power Lights Up Johnson Hall

By Nancy Lundgren



Resident Mary Steinke wasted no time introducing Dan Barry, Fleet Landing’s very own wandering minstrel, to the Johnson Hall audience on April 18. She highlighted his many talents: artist, athlete, musician, composer, and “wicked” pool player—then promised everyone a “toe-tapping” good time. His 2022 concert had set the bar high for this encore performance featuring all original compositions.

Beaming as he stepped onto the stage, Barry once again charmed the audience with his easygoing singing style. Who doesn’t smile when seeing a guy with a ukulele and listening to songs about his “Keep It Little” philosophy of life.

His songs are image-filled vignettes describing small moments that tell a larger story. Some are about nature as found in his lyrics “You can’t tell a bird to stop singing ... We’ve all got a song, So let’s carry on.” Others speak of love: “By the Same Sign” and “Leavenworth Prison” are filled with wistful longing, expressed in letters to absent loved ones.

One can’t, of course, sing about love without a song or two about bumps along the way as “When we disagree, and it all goes blooey, We Do a Uey,” and the song about the anxious defendant waiting for the judge’s verdict, but seeing only the prominent wall cal-

endar proclaiming, “Compliments of Charles Stratton.” A couple of songs about truckers continued the bumpy road theme with “Counting Counties” and “Comeback Trail.”

With an upbeat tempo, Barry moved on to love and all its moods “Having To Do With You,” followed by the story of Scheherazade and Sinbad’s amazing adventure with the “Magic Carpet.” The “Snooze Button” song brought chuckles as he sang “I’m a snooze button glutton.”

Barry closed with his signature song, reminding us all to “Keep It Little.” Judging from the audience response, I’d say this 2024 encore performance exceeded expectations. Congratulations and thank you, Dan.

Return of the Farmer’s Market

April 3 was a rainy day, but that did not discourage residents from making their way to Johnson Hall for the always popular Fleet Landing Farmer’s Market. The colorful, enticing array of offerings included fruits, salad greens and dressings, cheeses, breads, a variety of pickles and even smoothies. A caterer and vendors of jewelry and scents braved the rain that kept several of the other expected outside vendors away.



Coleman Center Renovation Milestone

Photos by Ed Hollender and Patricia Payne

A dramatic change in appearance of the Coleman Center greeted residents entering the building on April 9 after it had been closed since April 1 for renovation-related activities. Parts of the first floor had been finished and operational earlier, but now the temporary walls were gone, and the layout, flooring, furnishings, and decor of the entire first floor were visible. Residents, staff, and the Board of Directors gathered in Breakers on April 24 to celebrate this milestone.



Bouquet on display at the April 9 reopening and a closeup of the attached note



Views of the renovated first floor

Celebration at Breakers

Scholarship Awards

By Carol Smith

Photos by Jennifer Arsenault and Ed Hollender



On the beautiful sunny afternoon of April 4, Fleet Landing celebrated the presentation of scholarship awards to 45 deserving staff members in Johnson Hall. Charitable Gift Planning Director Kathy DeSiena welcomed everyone and introduced the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, resident Dale Clifford, who recognized her committee members: Mary Donohue, Katherine Harlan, Frances Jones, Jim Joyner, and John Taylor. She then called the names of 42 Endowment Scholarship recipients, who came forward to receive their certificate as their name and photograph appeared on the screens. Three additional scholarships were presented to individuals enrolled in a four-year college or university.



Dale Clifford

The Henry A. & Jewel June Baker Nursing & Medical Technologies Scholarship was presented by Health Services Senior Director Julia Pratt. This year's recipient, Jakayla Jackson, is enrolled full-time in a Bachelor of Nursing program while she works full-time at Fleet Landing.

Human Resources Senior Director Michele Holley presented the Preble Scholarship, established in memory of residents Lidia and Robert Preble, to Rachel Leslie. She manages the Human Resources information systems and plans to use her scholarship for a degree in computer science. She has worked at Fleet Landing for 2½ years.

Holley also presented The Bratcher Scholarship, endowed by residents Stella and Ray Bratcher in honor and memory of Stella's mother, Tseng, Fan-Hsiu. The recipient, Isabelle Mercado, has been baking pastries for Fleet Landing for almost three years as assistant to Pastry Chef Belle Camacho. She earned her bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of North Florida, and thanks to the scholarship, she will pursue her master's degree in marine science at Jacksonville University in the fall. Residents were relieved to learn that she will continue to work at Fleet Landing, so there will be no shortage of delicious pastries.

Lake Turtle Nest

Text and photo by Enith Vardaman

We have Scott, resident Jini Vaupel's poodle, to thank for knowing about a lake turtle nest behind the 1000 Building. While the two were out for a walk, he was the first to notice one of the lake turtles making a nest and laying her eggs. Knowing that people, with and without dogs, frequently walk behind the building, Vaupel was concerned that the nest could be disturbed unintentionally. Her call to maintenance brought a quick solution, and the nest is now roped off.



Solar Eclipse

Photo by Paula O'Banon

Fleet Landing was far away from anywhere the April 8 total eclipse was viewable, but many residents did not want to miss out on even a partial view of this event. The skies were clear, and the Mainstreet dining plaza was a good place to gather and watch.



In Memoriam
Tom Miller 1940-2024

Purple Parade

Fleet Landing residents and staff turned out in force for the April 13 Purple Parade in support of the Alzheimer’s Association. After gathering in the North Point parking lot, they traversed the campus and exited through the Selva gate with a police escort. The variety in the means of the often purple-adorned transportation was impressive: bicycle, motorcycle, truck, car, golf cart, the Fleet Landing bus, and roller skates.



Library Notes

By Enith Vardaman

We thank our recent donors: Klara and George Csehi, Karen Hassler, Lorie Holmes, Don Husmann, Sally Pitard, and Dean Veremakis.

Rear Admiral Rick Cueroni, USCG (Ret.), has donated a copy of his memoir, *Four Decades in Hamilton’s Navy: A Quiet Odyssey*. It can be found on the Fleet Landing Authors shelf.

Bill Crossley has donated a new copy of his novel, *The Entrepreneurs*, for the Fleet Landing Authors shelf. It replaces a copy that has disappeared.

Two additions to the Fleet Landing Authors shelf include sections that pay tribute to Alice and Dick Stratton: *Captured by Love: Inspiring True Romance Stories From Vietnam POWs* by Lee Ellis and Greg Godek, and *Unwavering: The Wives Who Fought To Be*
(continued on next page)

Library Notes

(continued from preceding page)

Sure No Man Is Left Behind by Judy Silverstein Gray and Taylor Baldwin Kiland. The latter book is inscribed to the Fleet Landing library by the authors. They spoke about the book at Fleet Landing on December 5, 2023. (See *FLEET BEAT*, Jan./Feb. 2024, page 3.)

Lynn Blakemore has brightened up the Library Office with the donation of one of her paintings.

Reminder: Please place donations and returns on the book cart located between the Library Office and the library.

World Tai Chi & Qigong Day 2024

By Nancy Lundgren; photos by Craig Miller



Left: Sheri Nicholson.

Right: Deirdre Dwyer and Dan Jones.

World Tai Chi & Qigong Day is an international event, celebrated in over 80 nations on the last Saturday in April at 10 am, local time, to create a “wave” of harmony that travels around the globe as day breaks in different time zones. Locally, Fleet Landing residents and instructors shared their chi with more than 80 Jacksonville area celebrants on the field at Foundation Academy, which hosted the event again this year.

Tai Chi For Health and Wellness sponsored the day-long free festivities. Fleet Landing instructors Sheri Nicholson, Deirdre Dwyer, and Dan Jones organized a full agenda of beautiful demonstrations featuring various forms of Tai Chi/Qigong such as Wu

Style Tai Chi, Bafa Wubu, Yang 8, Eight Pieces of Silk Brocade, and Five Elements of Taiji.

The Fleet Landing Fan group, led by Deirdre Dwyer, kept the celebrants spellbound with their synchronized Tai Chi Fan performance. New residents Estelle Davis and John Rietveld doubled their chi-sharing by performing with both Fleet Landing residents and with their former group, the Mandarin Tai Chi Society. Dan Jones impressed all with his graceful movements as he demonstrated how to do “Tai Chi Silk Reeling.”

After lunch, celebrants could choose to attend an educational session: Dan Jones’s “Injury Prevention for an Active Life,” or Deirdre Dwyer’s “Intro to Tai Chi Bang.” These educational opportunities highlight the potential benefits of tai chi, emphasizing stress reduction, mental clarity, improved physical health, and overall wellness.



Some of the Fleet Landing residents who participated: Top (LtoR): Imogene Coleman, Estelle Davis, Maureen Miller.

Bottom: Kristin and Glenn Perry.



Fleet Landing Fan group

April MOAA Meeting

By Chet Davis; photos by Janet Silvester



LtoR: Brian Weiss, Josh Ashby, and Pat Kluever with a check representing MOAA's Fleet Landing Golf Classic hole sponsorship



LtoR: Leslie May, Suzanne McKnight, Rae Donnelly



Jackie Smith and T.K. Waters



Jean Ribault Chapter members

Pat Kluever, president of the Historic Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA), presided over the April 30 meeting in Johnson Hall.

In recognition of Fleet Landing's support of the MOAA chapter's activities, Kluever presented Executive Director Josh Ashby and Chief Operating Officer Brian Weiss a \$500 check for a hole sponsorship at the upcoming May 20 Fleet Landing Golf Classic, the major fundraiser for staff scholarships.

Having recognized returned POW (RPOW) Giles Norrington and his wife, Eileen, who were in the audience, Kluever then invited Leslie May, Regent of the Jean Ribault Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to come forward. She, in turn, asked chapter members present to stand and be recognized, and she asked Fleet Landing resident Rae Donnelly to join her. She said that the Jean Ribault Chapter had donated remembrance bricks to the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field to honor four deceased RPOWs who had a relationship with Fleet Landing: Carl B. Crumpler, John H. Dunn, Robert "By" Fuller, and George G. McKnight. A miniature replica of the brick for McKnight was presented to his widow, resident Suzanne McKnight. Miniature replicas of the other three bricks were accepted by Ashby and Weiss on behalf of Fleet Landing.

Kluever then commented on the commissary gift cards that the MOAA chapter was giving to military family members at the food distribution. He thanked chapter members and residents for their generosity and noted a \$500 donation toward that effort.

Resident Jackie Smith introduced the featured speaker, Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters, who spoke about his background as an army brat and about what motivates him. The murder of a cousin after his father's career brought the family back to Jacksonville had an impact on Waters's decision to become a police officer. He believes in accountability for the sheriff's office and holds his officers to a high standard. One of his goals is to meet the needs of people in their community, and he gains insight into those needs with his walks through neighborhoods. He also spoke movingly of attending a naturalization ceremony, naming the many nationalities that had become American citizens.

After his presentation, Waters answered questions on a range of topics, including his relations with local police departments, gang activity in the area, and personnel issues. In regard to staffing, he said he has 1,900 officers, but seeks 2,300. He acknowledged low pay is an issue despite bonuses offered at hire.

The audience showed its appreciation for his talk with a standing ovation.

Pollinator Garden

Photos by Ann Bell and Janet Silvester

Thanks to Jay Jernigan, Maintenance Manager (Exterior), and his team, Fleet Landing now has a pollinator garden. It is located adjacent to the Annex.



View of three sections of the completed garden looking toward the Annex



View of the fourth section of the completed garden looking toward the Annex



Members of the Exterior Maintenance team setting up the garden



View of all four sections of the completed garden looking toward Leeward Manor (continued on next page)

Pollinator Garden

(continued from preceding page)



Closeups of some of the flowers in the garden



This monarch butterfly is just the kind of visitor the garden is meant to attract.

FLEET Classics Concert

By Isobel Spink



Seven of our multitalented residents entertained us yet again with an excellent concert of familiar classical pieces. At the Fleet Classics concert in Johnson Hall on April 15, Julia Pet-Armacost introduced each piece with fascinating remarks about the composers, many of

whom were precocious. A bit of what we heard about some of them: Mendelssohn wrote 12 string symphonies between the ages of 12 and 14; Verdi was a principal organist at age 8; Rubinstein, a Russian, conducted a concert at age eleven; Haydn was a boy soprano, and Tchaikovsky was composing at age four. Another tidbit: Charles Gounod’s “Funeral March of a Marionette” later became the theme for Alfred Hitchcock’s TV series.

The concert began with Purcell’s “Trumpet Tune” and concluded with Sousa’s march, “The Washington Post.” In between, the compositions we heard included a selection from Vivaldi’s “Autumn” from *The Four Seasons*, from Mendelssohn’s Symphony No.3 (*Scottish*) and from Haydn’s Symphony No. 94 (*Surprise*), with its one unexpected loud chord—reputedly inserted “to wake up the patrons.” Pieces by other composers included Schubert’s “Marche militaire,” Tchaikovsky’s Waltz from *Sleeping Beauty*, Borodin’s “Polovetzian Dance,” and much more.

“Chopsticks” had a particularly interesting history. It was published by Euphemia Allen under a male name (Arthur de Lulli), because of obstacles for women composers. It was originally performed on the piano with the hands held sideways, little fingers at the bottom, using a chopping motion.

The FLEET Classics group melded beautifully, even with their unusual assortment of instruments: Bob Armacost (twelve-string guitar), Bunky Johnson (clarinet), Julia Pet-Armacost (flute and piccolo), Charles Winton (French horn and trumpet), Karen Sturtevant (piano), De An Winton (tenor saxophone), and Eunice Rogerson (soprano saxophone). They created a joyful and melodic afternoon. We look forward to their next performance.

Campus Projects

Photos by Ann Bell and Nancy Russell



Left: Repair to the concrete in a section of sidewalk between Mainstreet and the 8000 Building.

Right: Crane used to lift replacement rooftop air conditioner units at the 1000 Building and the 2000 Building.

St. Augustine Behind-the-Scenes Walking Tour

Text and photos by Mary Durkin



*Left: Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church.
Right: Lightner Museum and courtyard.*



*Left: St. Augustine Historical Society courtyard with statues of Alexander Darnes and Edmund K. Smith.
Right: Gary Sass, in top hat and vest, with the tour group at the Father Miguel O'Reilly House.*



View of the Ponce de Leon Hotel in 1888

On the picture-perfect day of April 4, a busload of 20 from Fleet Landing traveled to St. Augustine to meet up with our tour guide, Gary Sass. He was dressed as 1888 travel agent Ward G. Foster, who started the “Ask Mr. Foster” travel agency in the Casa Monica Hotel and published an early St. Augustine travel guide.

Our first stop was at the Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church at Sevilla and Valencia Streets, built by Henry Flagler in honor of his daughter who died in childbirth. He is now interred there along with his first wife and daughter. The church was designed in the Venetian style, like St. Mark’s in Venice, and made from a mixture of poured concrete and coquina stones.

Flagler came to St. Augustine for his wife’s health on the recommendation of doctors. He liked it so much he decided to build the Ponce de Leon Hotel to attract other visitors, and to build the extension of the railroad to get them there. A fountain in the courtyard has a center column shaped to look like a sword hilt, four turtles to represent the seasons, and twelve frogs to represent the months. The hotel was so popular that an extension was built called the Alcazar, which also housed the gym and an indoor pool. The Ponce de Leon Hotel is now part of Flagler College and the Alcazar is now the Lightner Museum.

Nearby houses also seen were the Ingraham House, used by Flagler’s surveyor, who later became mayor, and the Scofield House, named after the Civil War general and used as a residence for the hotel’s general manager. On to Avila Street, the first street in St. Augustine, where we viewed the Father Miguel O’Reilly House, built in 1691, and other period houses.

At the St. Augustine Historical Society, we viewed statues of Edmund K. Smith and Alexander Darnes titled “Sons of St. Augustine.” Darnes was a slave to Smith’s family, while Smith went to West Point, served in the Mexican War, but then joined the Confederacy as a general. Smith was notable as the last Confederate general to surrender after the Civil War. Darnes stayed with the Smith family until 1867 and then went to college and medical school and became the first black physician to practice in Florida. The statues represent the men in their postwar lives: Darnes with his medical bag and Smith in his academic gown as a professor.

The walking tour worked its way past more historic buildings on Avila Street to come out on The Plaza de la Constitución, which is bordered by the Cathedral Basilica, Trinity Episcopal, and Government House, and faces the Bridge of Lions. From there, it was only a few more steps to lunch at Athena’s Café, where one savvy waitress handled our group plus about 12 other customers and never delivered a wrong order or check. Kudos to her, and Gary Sass for an informative, educational, and entertaining morning spent learning more about our amazing local history.

April WELLInspired Learning Series

By Victoria Freeman



Donna Lee and Andre Bowen

Who would have thought that a presentation on Alzheimer's could be very informative as well as highly entertaining? The April 17 talk, titled "The Alzheimer's Association: More Than Just Purple" was both. Donna Lee Program Manager from the Alzheimer's Association wove into her presentation stories of Southern hugging and newlywed humor.

Lee named ten warning signs of Alzheimer's, differentiating them from typical age-related change. The list below includes selected examples she cited for each warning sign.

Memory loss that interrupts daily life: forgetting important dates or events or asking the same question over and over.

Challenges in planning or solving problems: trouble following a familiar recipe, keeping track of monthly bills, or taking much longer to complete tasks.

Difficulty completing familiar tasks: inability to drive to a familiar location, inability to make a grocery list, or remembering the rules of a favorite game.

Confusion of time or place: trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately, or forgetting where they are, or how they got there.

Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships: difficulty with balance, trouble reading, or problems judging distance. The last-named issue may cause problems with driving.

New problems with words in speaking or writing: repeating themselves or having trouble naming a familiar object.

Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps: losing things and being unable to go back over their steps to find them, or accusing others of stealing.

Decreased or poor judgment: lack of judgment when dealing with money, and paying less attention to grooming and personal cleanliness.

Withdrawal from work or social activities: cease engaging in hobbies or social engagements.

Changes in mood and personality: becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful, or anxious.

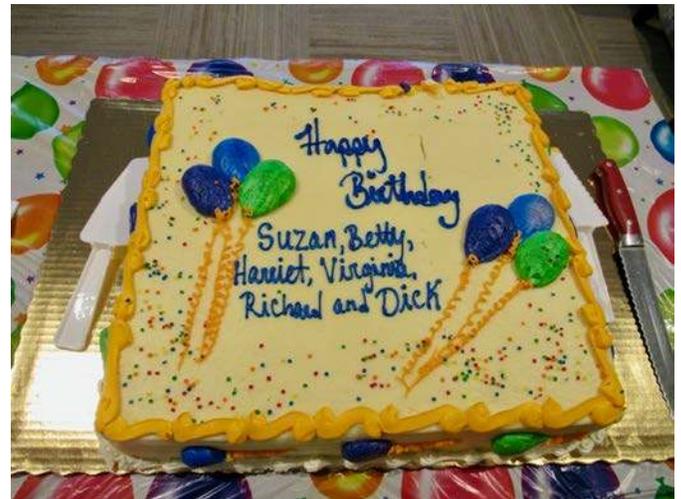
There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's, but caregivers are encouraged to start with the individual's primary physician for guidance. The Memory Disorder Clinic at Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic is a resource. Other suggestions for some improvement are following the Mediterranean Diet and getting sufficient exercise.

The second speaker was Nancy House Manager Andre Bowen. He discussed Fleet Landing's accreditation with Comfort Matters, a national program that focuses on quality of life and avoidance of institutionalism for persons with dementia. Representatives from Comfort Matters come to Fleet Landing every six months to train all staff in the care of Nancy House residents. Bowen reports monthly to Comfort Matters on how each resident is doing and receives guidance on dealing with any problems as appropriate. Fleet Landing undergoes an annual accreditation assessment.

Birthday Celebration

Photos by Ed Hollender

April was a banner month for birthdays in the 4000 building, with Virginia Keller, Harriet Berson, Betty Harris, Richard Wong, Richard Titus, and Susan Rogers all observing a milestone. Susan Rogers, Kerstin Chelius, and Lynn Blakemore banded together to throw a party for all six of them on April 7.



Executive Director's Quarterly Briefing

(continued from page 1)

percent for Fleet Landing's peers as well as the Fleet Landing August 2023 survey rate of 60 percent.

Ashby then discussed the Net Promoter Score, which is based on the question, "How likely would you be to recommend this facility to your family and friends?" Four graphs, the first from the period of September 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, and the remaining three for annual periods through March 31, 2024, showed a history of Fleet Landing's scores. Fleet Landing was in the "Excellent" range in the first two periods, but there was some slippage between the first and second (63.9 down to 55.3). Fleet Landing fell to the "Favorable" range in the third period (49.4, with 50 marking the border between "Favorable" and "Excellent"), but rebounded significantly (over 12 points to 61.8) in the most recent period ending March 31, 2024. The drop in the score coincided with a time of problems with adequate staffing.

Ashby also offered comparisons with the Net Promoter Score of other entities: Brookdale Senior Living's score was -39, while Publix and Florida Blue each scored 32.

Ashby displayed a chart with an overall March 2024 Net Promoter Score versus the score prior to that date as well as a breakdown of the score by level of care. It showed improvement—and mostly significant improvement.

Ashby described how the survey feedback is used. It is reviewed by senior leaders. It impacts management initiatives and resource allocation decisions. Departmental performance results are incorporated into leaders' performance evaluations. Results are reported to staff monthly and to the Board of Directors semiannually.

Residents readily complied with Ashby's request for a round of applause to congratulate the Fleet Landing team for the significant improvements in the March survey.

Miscellaneous

Nocatee Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Guide. This communication tool, launched in April 2023, allows residents to submit questions via email to Executive Assistant Jennifer Arsenault (jarsenault@fleetlanding.com). The questions are answered at each "Coffee and Conversation With Josh." The first two editions of the FAQ can be found on Fleet Link under the "Nocatee" tab of "Fleet Landing Presentations." There have been no further editions because no questions have been submitted since July 2023.

Campus Signage Project. Installation of the new signage is slated to begin this summer.

Best Places to Work! Fleet Landing has been selected by WeCare Connect as one of Senior Care's Best Places To Work 2024.

Coleman Center Exterior Service Area Enhancements. The goal is to screen the exterior service area/loading dock from such activities as residents going to the pool. Planning is complete, and project completion is expected in early 2025.

Resident Ambassador Program Update. With interest in Fleet Landing so high, as evidenced by 414 new inquiries received in the first quarter of 2024, Sales and Marketing has shifted to more group learning events. The Ambassador program is being revamped to have ambassadors take a broader role in these events. They will be offered an educational seminar this summer.

Endowment Fund Golf Tournament. The tournament, which will take place on May 20 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, is the primary fundraiser for staff scholarships. Residents who are not golfers can support this effort by sponsoring holes or with higher level sponsorships.

Other miscellaneous items: The Coleman Center renovation will be complete in late summer. A pollinator garden is under construction. (See article on page 10.) There will be some cosmetic updates to The Nancy House, and the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) semiannual inspection was complete.

As the final miscellaneous item, Ashby encouraged residents to attend the annual "Dancing in the Streets" event, which will have taken place by the time you are reading this. (See article on page 18.)

To complete coverage of "Coffee and Conversation With Josh," we have the photos of the Ashby children:



LtoR: Cosette, Connor, Vivian

Editor's note: A video of this meeting is available in "Video Library" on Fleet Link. The slides are available on Fleet Link at "Coffee and Conversation" under "Fleet Landing Presentations."

Fleet Landing in the News

By Enith Vardaman

Fran and Pete Sheridan continue to contribute to the "Letters to the Editor" column of *The Florida Times-Union*, with their most recent contributions being on March 17 and April 14.

The April issue of *FLEET BEAT* (page 10), featured an article about a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Fleet Hearts service club for its support of the Beaches Kiwanis Club Charity Concert. The article was accompanied by a photo of club members. An article about this and the same photo appeared in the April 11 issue of *The Beaches Leader*.

Fleet Landing Landscape

By Bo Smith

Photos by Bo Smith and Maureen Miller



Jay Jernigan



Tour group

Jay Jernigan, Maintenance Manager (Exterior), led a group of about 50 residents on a tour of our campus on April 5. We considered it the “Inaugural Garden Walk.” It was a bright, beautiful spring day, and our tour began with a flyover by one of our local bald eagles. Jernigan directs a team of 13, in addition to contractors, to provide us a beautiful and fully functional outside environment. He attended Valdosta State University and brings many years of landscaping experience. We quickly realized that we were being led by an expert who loves his work.

Jernigan views our landscape as a community of plants—each with individual needs, but each a part of the whole. Our plant environment is both groomed and natural. At times, it seemed that he personally knew every plant, and I’m confident he does know every tree. He considers our plant community to be a functioning

system in which all parts must contribute harmoniously and serve a population with high aesthetic expectations. He designs with nature.

An essential aspect of designing with nature is meeting the needs of the residents while working with the reality of the existing environment. Our needs are safe, convenient, and beautiful surroundings. Nature gives us hundreds of species of trees, shrubs, and grasses; blooms, pollen, leaf fall, and shade; plant diseases; dogs; heat, occasional freezes, and an evolving climate; wildlife, including state and federally protected species; and importantly, the soils. As we went through the many considerations, I envisioned an orchestra conductor: Success means all parts have to perform properly.

Early in the tour, we realized that the soil was the starting point—if the soil isn’t right, success is unlikely. We have a variety of soil types: Some is high quality topsoil, and some is more demanding native sand. Additionally, there is a lot of imported fill dirt with unpredictable mixtures that can be very problematic and even lead to stunting or death of plants.

Plant selection and maintenance of plant health in a heavily used setting is another challenge. Construction activities cut roots and block sunlight, vehicles and foot traffic compact the soil, and dogs add their special bit.

The comfort and convenience of the residents is a major element in the timing of watering, mowing, trimming, and sweeping of roads and sidewalks. One example of the complexity of our campus is the irrigation system. We have five deep-water wells, each with precise timing and pressure requirements. I was surprised to find out that we have 60,000 sprinkler heads. Ideally, they all work perfectly, and attention to that sort of detail is part of what makes our campus special.

I always enjoy the flower gardens that are strategically placed around campus. Those gardens include about 3,200 flowering plants, and they are completely replaced every three months. An interesting fact is that they are the same species combination used at Disney World and the Four Seasons in Orlando. Speaking of flower gardens, we have a brand-new pollinator garden next to the Annex, a great addition for those who enjoy butterflies and hummingbirds. (See article on page 10.)

Our tour only had time to cover the northern half of the campus. The housing loop was slated to be covered in a second tour on May 10.

FLEET BEAT News

By Enith Vardaman

With this issue, we welcome Carole Watson to the *FLEET BEAT* staff. Her “Welcome Aboard” article (July 2022, page 20) describes her extensive media experience. You will find two examples of her work in this issue: coverage of a recent Fleet Landing event (page 16), and an excerpt from her travel diary of a sojourn in Italy (page 17).

Local History: Mandarin

By Carole Watson

Time ran backwards in Johnson Hall on April 23 as “A Visual History of Mandarin” was presented. Brittany Cohill, Executive Director of the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, was the speaker who spun a fascinating story about the community located on the St. Johns River, south of Jacksonville.



Historically, there are five eras of life in the community. The first settlers were members of the native Timucuan tribe. Spanish explorers invaded and

ruled from 1565-1763, but gave no name to the area. British troops evicted the Spanish in 1763, giving the area its first recorded name, St. Anthony. In 1784, the Spanish wrested control from the British and renamed the sparse settlement San Antonio. Foreign rule ended in 1821. Under President James Monroe, the fledgling enclave became a part of the United States, and was accordingly named Monroe.

By 1830, the small village of rural farmsteads had acquired a post office. Postmaster Calvin Reed referred to it as “Mandarin,” naming it for the variety of oranges grown by many of the residents. During this time, Mandarin acquired its first famous resident, Anna Madgigine Jai, the freed slave wife of Zephaniah Kingsley, who owned several plantations in the Jacksonville area. Anna, herself, had a plantation on Mandarin Point, which she burned to the ground to prevent British possession during the War of 1812.

In 1861, the American Civil War had begun, and the St. Johns River became a conduit for supplying provisions and arms to both Union and Confederate troops. On April 1, 1864, the *Maple Leaf*, a Union steamship loaded with arms, was blown up and sunk off Mandarin Point by mines strung across the river by Confederate supporters from Clay County. It lay there, covered by river mud for more than 120 years. In 1984, Dr. Keith Holland, a local dentist and diving enthusiast, formed a team to locate and excavate the ship. The team located the ship and excavated a portion of the artifacts, including the ship’s bow, which now hangs, all 300 pounds of it, on a wall in the Mandarin Museum.

The period following the end of the Civil War was a time of burgeoning growth for Mandarin. Steamships plied the river, ferrying both tourists to the south, and produce, especially oranges, to the north. Word of the community’s temperate climate and lush vegetation spread.

In 1867, the community’s most famous resident, Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, was enticed, and she built a winter home, to escape cold Connecticut, on the banks of the river. She, her

husband, Calvin, and other family members wintered there for more than 15 years, until Calvin’s failing health prevented long travel. During their residence, they pioneered schools for both Black and white children. They sponsored a Bible study group that became the genesis of the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, famous for the Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass window depicting the view from the Stowes’ porch of the Spanish moss-hung oak tree and river.

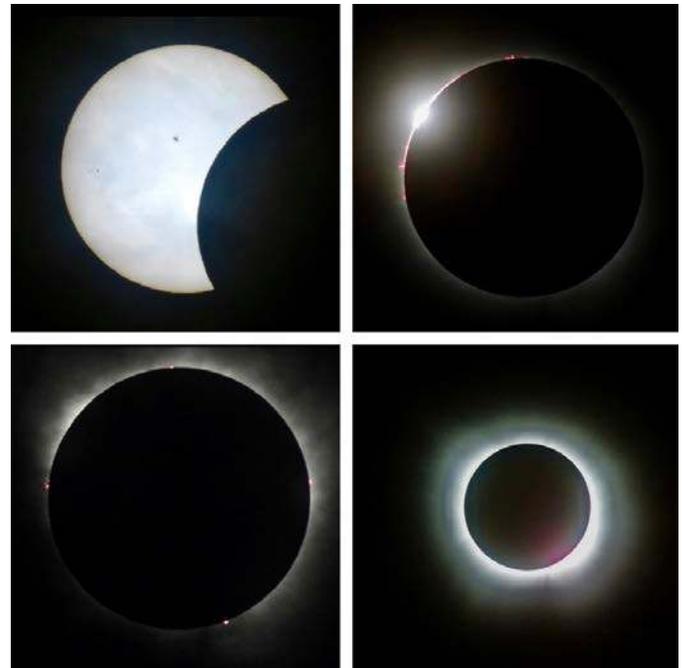
The little community continued to attract residents, drawn by its still rural quality of life. Early residents were known to describe Mandarin as “a not a place, but a state of mind.” With the completion of the Buckman Bridge in the 1970’s, linking Mandarin and Orange Park, both populations mushroomed into suburbia.

Mandarin residents, alarmed that the history of the area would be lost, banded together to form the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society in 1998. In 2000, the city of Jacksonville opened the 10-acre Walter Jones Historical Park, the first historical park in the city’s extensive park network. The park contains several historic buildings and the museum.

The museum and tours of the historic buildings are open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm.

Total Eclipse 2024

By Pete Wait; photos by Timothy Boyle



Albert Einstein said, “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” The fine tuning of our constantly expanding universe, including the critical relationship fixed between our Earth, Sun, and Moon that helps make life on Earth possible, falls in the range of miracle in the minds of many.

(continued on next page)

Total Eclipse 2024

(continued from preceding page)

Nearly all ancient cultures, dating to the time of Moses or earlier, some 1,800 to 4,900 years before Christ, paid astronomers to detect the timing and relative positions of various heavenly bodies, including solar and lunar eclipses. This allowed them to conclude Earth and our nearest neighbors in space must be spherical in shape and enabled them to calculate their sizes and distances from each other with remarkable accuracy. A 1919 total solar eclipse provided the means to gather the data necessary to prove Einstein's general theory of relativity.

Reasons To Believe (RTB) (reasons.org) is an international ministry of hundreds of well-credentialed scholars and scientists as well as thousands of other supporters. According to the organization's website, it is dedicated to discovering "how scientific research and clear thinking consistently affirm the truth of the Bible and the Good News it reveals." A group of six, members and associates of RTB Jacksonville Chapter, traveled to Camp Buckner, Burnet, TX (2,018 miles roundtrip, driving nonstop both ways), to attend an RTB-led retreat entitled "Total Eclipse 2024, An RTB Expedition, 4/5-9/24." Two members associated with Fleet Landing shared this experience: a resident, Dr. B. W. Pete Wait III, and Medical Director, Dr. Mark Messinese, an RTB Scholar. A third member of our group, area resident Timothy Boyle, an RTB Scholar, was our photographer.

Other members of RTB Jacksonville traveled by air. Attendees came from all across the United States and several other countries, including Canada, Australia, and South Africa.

On April 8, we were treated to an amazing display of God's glory in near perfect viewing of the heavenly events, including seeing stars and planets in midday, solar prominences, flares, the corona, and so on. We also attended presentations by leading internationally acclaimed scholars, scientists, philosophers, and theologians. It should be noted the sky was overcast until just before the event and sufficiently cleared above Camp Buckner just in time. The event watching was cancelled by authorities in the nearby town of Burnet because of the weather. The 300+ assembled at Camp Buckner had prayed fervently for our event.

Golden Oldies Dance Club

By Eunice Rogerson

The Golden Oldies Dance Club meets every month on the first Saturday of the month in the Windward Commons Lobby at 7 pm. This club is for people who enjoy dancing to the music of the '50s, '60s and '70s in a relaxed and friendly casual setting. Residents are welcome to bring drinks and snacks. No reservations are necessary. Contact Eunice Rogerson, 352-617-8234, or Gail Sharp, 863-602-0249, if you have any questions.

Solo Me

By Carole Watson

Carole Watson's "Welcome Aboard" article (July 2022, page 20) mentions her stay in Italy shortly before moving into Fleet Landing. She kept an entertaining travel diary, titled "Solo Me," in the form of correspondence with friends. Below is an excerpt from the beginning of the diary. More excerpts will be published in future issues of FLEET BEAT as space permits.



View of side patio of Le Vigne

It was June 2021, and the dormant Jacksonville real estate market had suddenly skyrocketed. My name had been on the waiting list to enter Fleet Landing for 4½ years, and I was fervently hoping that something would soon become available. I decided to strike while the market was hot, and listed my condo for sale. It sold in two days, and the buyers wanted a speedy closing!

Through friends, I was put in touch with an American couple who had, 20 years before, purchased and restored an ancient olive grove and villa in a very small town in Italy. They agreed to rent me a studio apartment in the guest house/olive oil processing facility they had built on the villa grounds. In three weeks, I had hired packers and movers, rented storage space, and arranged for an estate sale to be held after my departure!

Thus began the adventure of a lifetime ...

I made it by the skin of my teeth to the New York flight to Rome, thanks to an Olympic sprinter wheelchair pusher! Jet Blue was over an hour late leaving Jacksonville, and I made the New York plane with nine whole minutes to spare. Whew!

We landed in Rome the morning of July 5, and after a short wait, a young woman—or younger than you or I—arrived bearing a sign "Le Vigne." I gravitated to her, and off we went in a Mercedes sedan for a two-hour ride to Bosco, Italy, and Le Vigne.

Arriving at Le Vigne is impressive. You go down and up a narrow tarmac road to a gate made of steel pilings, and all around you are hundreds of olive trees

(continued on next page)

Solo Me

(continued from preceding page)

that shimmer silver in a breeze. You pass two outbuildings before you reach the top of the hill and the “big house.” It truly looks ancient: stone and brick with lots of heavy wrought iron railings, surrounded by stone walls that define garden after garden of flowers, herbs, fruit trees, and of course, the olive trees. Oh, yes, on the way, you’ve also ridden by the clay tennis and bocce courts, and the salt water swimming pool. Truly, a movie scene from something like *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

April World Affairs Council Event



LtoR: Terry and Janet Silvester, Ernesto Zedillo, Shann and Mike Purinton

Ernesto Zedillo was the featured speaker at the April 9 World Affairs Council of Jacksonville lecture, held at the University of North Florida (UNF) and simulcast in Johnson Hall. A former President of Mexico, he is now on the faculty of Yale University. Regrettably, technical difficulties have prevented the usual *FLEET BEAT* summary of World Affairs Council talks. However, Fleet Landing, a Platinum Sponsor of the World Affairs Council, offers residents bus transportation to UNF, the opportunity to attend the pre-lecture reception for the speaker, and reserved seating at the lecture. Four of our residents were fortunate to be introduced to the speaker at the reception.

Dancing in the Streets

By Carol Smith

The annual “Dancing in the Streets Block Party” on April 27 brought residents and staff to the Mainstreet dining area to enjoy music, food and drinks on a lovely afternoon. Veterans United Craft Brewery was on hand with their craft beers as well as a rum tasting table. Many had a difficult time choosing among the food trucks stationed in the Windward Commons parking lot and offering a wide variety of dining options. Fleet Landing’s own food truck, the Anchor, was there, as was E & W Barbecue, Hungry Owl, The Hyppo, Rosita’s Latin Flavor, and Noelle’s Crunchy Taco.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, while many took the opportunity to dance to the swinging music of Double Down. Several, in fact, were still ready for more when it came time for the band to pack up their instruments.

The efforts of Fleet Landing staff in planning and setting up the event were very much appreciated by everyone who attended.



League of Women Voters News

By Frances Jones

Dr. Nancy Staats, anesthesiologist and critical care MD, spoke in March to members of the League of Women Voters (LWV) at Fleet Landing. She addressed two issues: vaccine hesitancy and the petition to put abortion on the November ballot.

In a slide presentation, Staats reminded us of the success of vaccines in eradicating polio and measles. In 2024, according to the CDC, there have been at least 35 measles cases in 15 states. Staats said that Florida’s outbreak is the largest in the US and that what Florida’s health officials are doing—or not doing—is drawing fire from experts who study the way diseases spread.

Staats discussed the two decisions expected from the Florida Supreme Court by April 1: One dealt with the validity of Florida’s current fifteen-week abortion ban. Upholding the ban would actually trigger a six-week ban. The other decision would allow voters to decide in November whether or not to guarantee the right to abortion “before viability.” [In the April 1 decision, the court upheld the ban, and it gave voters the right to have a say in November.] Additionally, Staats spoke about the threat extreme abortion bans pose for pregnant women and their doctors.

Sustainability tip: Reduce food waste. One-third of our food is thrown away, ending up in landfills and generating methane. Freeze leftover food to eat later.

Birds Aplenty

Photos by Janet Silvester

Campus Birds



Left: Fleet Landing’s resident barred owl.

Right: Bluebird fledgling.

Beach Walk

The April 26 Beach Walk provided an opportunity to observe birds.



Laughing gulls



Left: Osprey with fish. Right: Piping plover.

Birdwatching Club Outing

By Mary Alice Westrick



LtoR: Great crested flycatcher, pileated woodpecker, wood duck



Left: Great egret and chicks.

Right: Birds are not the only denizens of Hanna Park.

Fleet Landing birders gathered at Hanna Park on April 27—a fine, 73-degree, sunny, somewhat breezy day—with binoculars in hand. We were led by our own resident bird experts, who located birds by both sight and sound for us. The distinctive call of a great crested flycatcher, for example, was heard before most of us caught it swooping off to another tree. Janet Silvester, however, was able not only to find it but also to take a photo!

(continued on next page)

Birds Aplenty

(continued from preceding page)

Some of the birds, such as the green herons, were sporting their courting plumage. Others were in the process of building nests or were already tending to eggs or hatchlings. Great egrets and snowy egrets were nesting at the islands with their chicks. We saw a nest of little blue herons in a clump of bushes along the shore.

Other notable sightings were yellow-throated warblers, parulas, house finches, and a very large male pileated woodpecker with red cheek markings as well as a bright red head.

At least 36 different birds were either seen or heard on this day. You should come out and join us. Our own Fleet Landing bird experts are always knowledgeable, helpful, and patient. We novice birders learn something new each time we join an outing.

Dance Party

By Isobel Spink



Left: DJ Neal Becton. Right: the dance floor



More from the dance floor

Residents trickled into Johnson Hall following dinner on April 19 to work off some calories, swinging to music provided by Neal Becton. He owns a record shop in Washington, DC, and has been DJ'ing for about 30 years. Becton brought his daughter and her friend, who had as much fun as we did.

The floor was crowded with couples and a large contingent of ladies. The five or six in pink poodle skirts all got their fair share of both fun and exercise. According to Wellness Services Manager Mary Faria, the idea for the event was born out of requests from residents Eunice Rogerson, who wanted a sock hop-type event where people could dance and have fun, and

Dana Neal, who wanted pretty much the same thing but called it "old time rock 'n' roll." Those two great ideas brought about a great event, although the attendance was a bit smaller than hoped for.

We saw some prolific, excellent dancers, but the highlight of the evening was Guy Van Syckle, who did an amazing body-bounce across the dance floor. Some called it a "gator," but it was truly spectacular. I wonder how he felt the next morning.

Wine and an enormous assortment of luscious desserts were available, and everyone had a sing-along, musical time, even if they never took to the dance floor.

Welcome Aboard

8319 Pat and Skip McAlexander (April)

Having moved from The Villages, a retirement



community of about 160,000 people near Ocala, FL, Pat and Skip said they had seen many cases of people who waited too long to move to a continuing care environment. Also, Pat had worked with hospice and understood the need to make timely decisions about life care, so their move here was a thoughtful choice.

Skip attended the US Naval Academy and was a pilot of multiengine planes in the Navy for 27 years in the oceanographic research (hurricane hunting) squadron. He was Naval Attaché to Brazil for three years. After retiring from the Navy, he was President of St. John's Military School in Salina, KS, a trust officer in a bank, and then traveled to Africa for about ten years to train African soldiers to be peacekeepers as part of a US State Department program. Pat would occasionally travel with him.

Pat's family has been in Florida since the early 1800's. She was born in Starke and grew up in Central Florida. She worked in the Department of Education at Florida State University and for Southern Illinois University's extension program at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. She met Skip there. She graduated from Manhattan Christian College in Manhattan, KS, and is an ordained chaplain. Pat has always been involved in working with those who need a helping hand, and she has volunteered for hospice care in various states for over 40 years.

—Kristin Perry

8219 Donna Mobley (March)

Savannah, GA, is Donna's home. She was born in that city and just arrived from there. She did leave Savannah on a couple of occasions, for example, when she attended the University of Miami and thought life was different there.

Donna's career for 30 years was in interior design, and she and her three partners initiated and introduced the practice of staging a home for sale. Staging is the art of place-

(continued on next page)

Welcome Aboard

(continued from preceding page)

ment of objects in a house. She began staging in 1990 and received a good response by appearing in magazines such as *Traditional Home*. She began teaching classes, and in 1991, she started an association to define and promote the art of staging. She did two rooms in Atlanta for the TV show *Good Morning America*, and following this publicity, Donna produced a manual to define staging with the terms and procedures for how to promote houses for sale. Procedures include layering (placement of objects in layers) and featuring owners' collections. The stagers prefer that the homeowners be away from their house during the staging process.

She was married for 56 years and has two sons and three grandchildren. One son lives in Atlantic Beach and is married to the daughter of another Fleet Landing resident, Linda Bryant. This group of four socializes and has gone on a cruise together. In the past, Donna has created and sold paintings, and she is considering starting this again via taking art classes and exhibiting here.

—Kristin Perry



8336 Joy and Tim Miller (March)

During their many travels, Joy and Tim especially loved cruising the Adriatic Sea and also visiting Russia as part of Tim's interest in antiques.



Tim was born in the Midwest. His love of traveling that started when he was 13 has never stopped. He obtained a B.S. in international business, with a Russian language minor, from California State University, Sacramento.

Tim has held a number of different positions, but really found his niche as a Russian antiques dealer for 25 years. Following that career, he became a chocolatier, and he still makes chocolate truffles for friends and family. He enjoys US and international cooking, traveling, gardening, sampling fine wines, and watching classic movies.

Joy was born overseas and lived there until she went to college. She met Tim while attending Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, OR. She obtained her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University and her Master of Preventative Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of California, Davis. Joy practiced in the Sacramento, CA, area for thirteen years, and later served eight years as a Public Health Officer in the US Air Force. In 1997, she was a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, conducting outbreak investigations. She later served at the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center in Frederick, MD,

and then in a civilian capacity as Chief Scientist. After moving to Alexandria, VA, she was in the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies. She enjoys genealogy, traveling, and walking the dogs, Little Belle and Jet.

The Millers are looking forward to participating in wine tasting and other fun events as well as finding volunteer opportunities.

—Kristin Perry

Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On

By Nancy Lundgren



On April 12, Victor Wainwright, a raucous, high-octane, dynamic performer and crowd pleaser returned to Johnson Hall for the fourth year to kick off Fleet Landing's Summer Concert Series. Born in Savannah, GA, into a musical family, he emulated his father's vocals and his grandfather Jessie's boogie-woogie piano playing as he developed his own distinctive style. Wainwright has won six Blues Music Awards, charted #1 on the Top 10 in the US Billboard, and was nominated for a 2019 GRAMMY.

Wainwright customized his playlist for the Fleet Landing audience to get our feet tapping and hands clapping as he and his talented guitarists, Pat Harrington and Terrance "Sweet Tea" Grayson, played 1960's music à la Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard. The songfest continued in high gear with his boogie-woogie blues sounds showcased beautifully in his original compositions.

Once again, Wainwright regaled us with stories and songs about his 95-year-old grandma who is currently enjoying life in a continuing care retirement community in Savannah. He remembered her teaching him the old spiritual, "Down by the Riverside," and invited us to sing along as he played. She especially loves the song he wrote for her after a terrifying drive together. "Look Out, Granny's Behind the Wheel" performed with audience participation, is hilarious, and continues to entertain folks of a certain age.

In 2014, *Living Blues* magazine described Wainwright this way: "He serves as an electrifying guide to a good time—spinning tales, telling his listeners how to beat

(continued on next page)

Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On

(continued from preceding page)

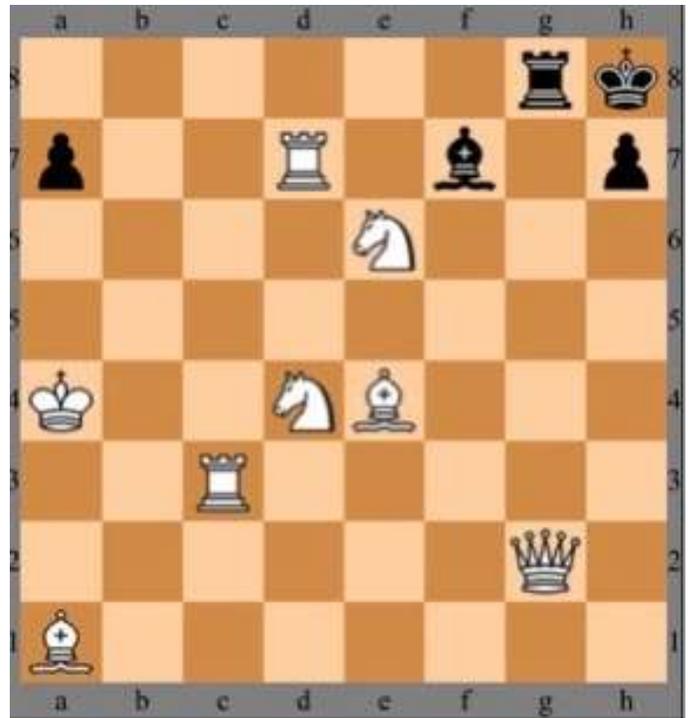
the blues, and meticulously conjuring raw soul and energy out of his acoustic piano." And so it was with this year's performance, which ended with his promise to return for the 2025 Fleet Landing Summer Concert Series.

Chess Club News

By Richard Wong

Each of the three puzzles is "White to move and mates in 2." Can you find the correct answer?

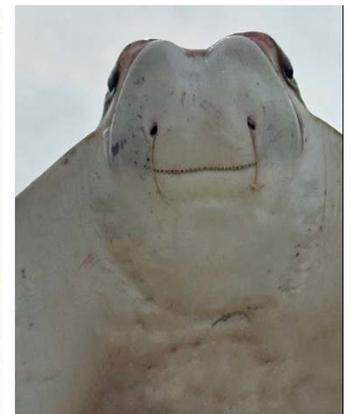
The Chess Club meets Tuesdays, at 1-3 pm, in the Windward Commons lobby.



Coastal Tide Excursion

By Mary Durkin

Photos by Ann Bell and Janet Silvester



Stingray viewed from the top and the bottom (continued on next page)

Coastal Tide Excursion

(continued from preceding page)



Jeffrey describing a fish from the trawl



Male (l) and female blue crabs



Avian opportunists

On April 10, thirty-nine Fleet Landers got on the big bus to go 1½ hours north to Brunswick, GA, and cross the Sidney Lanier Bridge to Coastal Tide Excursions. There we boarded the *Lady Jane*, a 61-ton former shrimper that is now outfitted for educational and conservation tours on the marshes of St. Simon's Sound. Jeffrey, the boat's naturalist, explained that during our 2-hour tour, the boat would be making three trawls and he would be displaying and explaining the various fish that come up with each trawl. Because commercial fishing within the marshes is not allowed and heavily fined, any fish or wildlife that are pulled up must be returned to the water.

As the first trawl was pulled up, dozens of laughing gulls, named for the cackling sound they make, were already hovering nearby. When Jeffrey opened the net onto a large metal platform, various species fell out—stingrays flopped around, blue crabs scurried into the corners, and dot fish squirmed, among others. Jeffrey showed us a stingray first, both top and lumpy bottom where the lungs are. A few were brave enough to hold it in their own hands. With the blue crabs, it was interesting to see the size difference, with the male much bigger, while the smaller female had a tennis-ball sized egg sac that could hold up to 1 million eggs.

Each trawl brought up some different species, which Jeffrey would hold up, open their mouths, and

show us the inside of their gills. One display was a bit unsettling in that a small white fish had a tiny parasite in its mouth. The parasite had eaten the fish's tongue and was now remaining in its mouth to act as the new tongue. The wonders of Mother Nature.

Other species seen and handled were white shrimp, flounder, pipefish, harvest fish, conger eel, and needlefish, to name a few. After each trawl was examined, Jeffrey would sweep the fish back into the marsh where the laughing gulls, brown pelicans, and even an eagle got a chance for a free lunch. We had our free lunch in a nearby park under the shade of covered picnic tables, enjoying the morning's experience and the company before heading south back to Fleet Landing.

Florida Chamber Music Project Concert

By Mary Durkin



The Florida Chamber Music Project was founded ten years ago by Artistic Director Susan Pardue. The musicians at their April 5 concert were Pardue on viola, Patrice Evans and Igor Khukhua on violin, and Laurie Cassetday on cello. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony. The program consisted of two quartets: Joseph Haydn's String Quartet in G major, Opus 77, No. 1, and Robert Schumann's String Quartet in F major, Opus 41, No. 2.

Pardue gave a short description before each quartet, relating information about the musician at the time of writing—Schumann struggling with a mental illness, and Haydn being in competition with Beethoven. She described one section of a piece as being like a march, and for another said, "Have fun with it."

For me, chamber music provides an intimacy between the musician and the listener, who can focus on one instrument or musician and watch how their fingers and bows fly over their strings. Such was the performance on this afternoon. The music heard from four instruments filled up all of Johnson Hall to the back row. The audience was very appreciative of the group's performance and gave a standing ovation after the hour was over.

Pardue mentioned that the group had not been to Fleet Landing since before the pandemic, and this was their first performance in the renovated Johnson Hall. Let us hope it does not take four years for another performance from them.