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# ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

E

## December • 2017

## Issue 10 41st Year



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## Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

**Managing Editor:** Kenn Brody

**Managing Co/Editors:** Linda Walker, Suzanne Jones

**Resident Photographer:** Open

**Media Delivery Team:** Denny Blank, Ernie Grow, Tommy Gunn, Tom Johnson, Dick Nesco, Tom Rupe, Bill Shiels, Larry Taylor, Jim Walker, Tom Watson, Rick World

**January 2018 Media Deadline: December 10, 2017**

Please send all articles and photos via e-mail to: [iits.hoa.media@gmail.com](mailto:iits.hoa.media@gmail.com)

There is a drop box at Lot #84 for articles not sent via e-mail.

**Representative to the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners (FMO):**

Kenn Brody Lot #84 [iits.hoa.media@gmail.com](mailto:iits.hoa.media@gmail.com)



Ken & Chandra lot #84

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Chorus .....	Wayne Cleveland #183.....	727-600-6773	Co/Chair .....	Bill Shiels #133.....	734-751-3494
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Liasion Committee 2017.....	Tom Watson #68, Ned Grove #77, Robert Newman #48				
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Potluck .....	Linda Webster #27.....	732-915-2458	Co/Chair .....	OPEN.....	
Remembrance Corner.....	Dottie Newman #46.....	727-724-6283	Co/Chair .....	OPEN.....	
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## From the HOA PRESIDENTS DESK

---

### DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

2014, by the time you receive this we will be celebrating the month of December. What a great time of the year, the excitement continues to grow with each passing day. John, Dennis, Dawn, Linda and their supporters are busy making arrangements for our upcoming events. They continue to exceed our expectations for a newly created activity committee.

The Halloween Party was splendid success, many residents spending some time in the jail with a few ending up in the electric chair. The sheriff was very busy arresting those that were chosen by the members to be confined and have someone bail them out.

The BUBBLE Girl (Pat Henderson) won first place for the most realistic costume; what a creative person she was. I heard there were a few looking around for something to burst her bubbles, thankfully she made it through the night.

The music was great, the DJ played many choices of music and worked the audience very well. I am sure he will be requested for future events.

The Holidays are upon us, every weekend in December an event scheduled. The choir has been practicing and will have some great songs for you. Check the enclosed calendar and you should find an event of interest that you might like. We will use our telephone system to notify the residents of u On Sunday November 9th, we had our Greet the New Residents Program. We had a great turn out. Julie Sanders, our new Park Manager, attended. Our committee chair people presented each event and explained how to become involved. Food was supplied by Brick House Tavern + Tap. Please visit their restaurant and enjoy some great food. Free appetizer cards were left at the Club House.



I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My wife and I will be traveling to Ohio to be with our family. My mother is in poor health and I feel it is very important that we are home for this Holiday season.

Each and every resident, we have made our home in Island in the Sun and you have become our family. Please have a great time, enjoy the Holidays, and see you at the New Year's Party. Thomas Watson.

**Some of you may remember this article, I wrote it back in 2014 for the media.**

3 Years have passed, 2018 is upon us, time continues, and we continue to move forward, addressing the same issues, some new people and long-term residents.

People have come and gone, new people have joined our Island in the Sun Family. We strive to make changes to the better with a everchanging world.

Have a very merry Christmas and New Year's, may God be with everyone and protect us during and after the Holidays.



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## November Spotlight On Kathy Reed

By Sally Harkness, lot #318

---

I would like to introduce Kathy Reed. She is a native Floridian, born and raised in Tampa. She has two children, Robby, who lives in Sunnyvale, CA and Kim, who lives locally.

She has always enjoyed the Gulf and was thrilled to move to Clearwater Beach in 2012. Her employer, the Hyatt Regency, was within walking distance. When the new owners of her apartment building started converting the property into vacation rentals, she began searching the internet for a new home. Unit 238 kept appearing in her search. "It was as if the home picked me! I liked the photos but had been disappointed in other properties that didn't look at all like their photos, so I was cautiously optimistic."



Much to her delight, the home was as nice as the photos. She loved the entrance to the park and it's beauty throughout. Kathy was also impressed with how clean and well maintained the park is as well as individual homes. It showed her a genuine pride of ownership. When she toured the clubhouse and pool, she was met with kind greetings and warmth. She knew this is where she wanted to live.

She began moving-in the first of September and just after all the boxes were unpacked, she and her kitties had to pack up again and evacuate for Hurricane Irma. She returned Monday and fortunately her home was fine; however, her phone battery was dead so she didn't get the news until noon on Tuesday that the power had been restored earlier that morning. She was very happy to get the air conditioner going!

Kathy is a delightful lady with a myriad of interests. She used to be on a ladies billiards league and still enjoys a friendly game. She likes to draw cartoon characters in vivid colors. She is passionate about holistic health and wellness with natural supplements and essential oils. She likes to share and help others with her knowledge.

She loves the Clearwater location and how close it is to everything important to her. It has also made it convenient for her to accept a part-time position at Ruth Eckerd Hall, where several of her friends work. She believes it will be fun.

When you see Kathy at the pool, billiards or social functions, please say "Hello!"

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## Pet page at IITS Santa Goes to The Dogs

Submitted by Karen Custy #229 (See related flyer)

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On Saturday, December 16th, at the entrance to the clubhouse, Santa will be waiting for your pets to get their picture taken with him. He is looking for all the dogs that have been especially good this year. So, if that is you, then get your owners to bring you up for photos with Santa.

If there are any children visiting relatives in the community, they are welcome to come see Santa as well.

There will be dog treats, sweets for the humans and eggnog. The photo shoot



*...continued on page 9*



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will take place between 2 and 4 o'clock. It's a great opportunity to get a picture with Santa for your pet. Photos will be emailed, or hard copies given to those without access to computers. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this event. HO-HO-HO!!!!

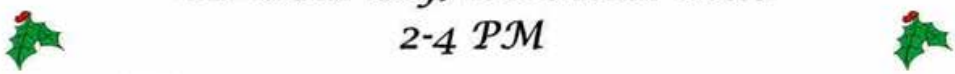


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# Poetry Chapbook

Kenn - March, 2001

## Pale and Shadowed

Trees  
Stretched moonward  
Like cold fire.

Steps crackled  
The ice-rimed leaves.  
Fog-breath whooshed  
As we climbed that last slope.

They were there  
Dancing in their colored lights  
Round a tall stone.

We were shadows  
And they,  
Whatever they were,  
They were real.

Real pays no tribute to shadows.

In the measure of their own time  
They winked out in pairs and threes.  
In the pale glen, in shadows,  
We inherited  
What they left of the world.  
Blew on our hands  
And trod our shadows  
Back  
Down the path.



## Recycling Facts

Sally Harkness, Lot

**L**ouAnn Smith, Jack Allen and Sally Harkness Allen, IITS residents recently toured the Pinellas Co Recycling and Solid Waste Operations. It was an interesting program and tour. These are some of the things we learned.

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*...continued on page 13*

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Recycling tips:

Keep food out of recycling bins.

*Do not* recycle pizza boxes, the oil and food on the cardboard cause contamination.

*Do* rinse plastic containers once or twice and put the lid back on before recycling. It is ok if some of the liquid soap or beverage is inside.

Lids reapplied, keep the other recyclables dry.

*Do not* put plastic bags of any kind in recycling bins, it wraps around the sorting machines and requires a machine shut down and manual removal.

*Do not* attempt to recycle rubber hoses.

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# What Volunteering Should Mean

By John and Linda Opaczewski

When you sign up to volunteer for any event anywhere what are you thinking? It will look good on my resume? It will be fun?

But then you stop and think: oh I don't want to take out the trash, wash dishes, clean up afterwards or stand up all night. You start to rethink the whole volunteering idea. But there is so much more to volunteering.

John and I started doing volunteering while we lived back in Indiana. Our most rewarding was volunteering with the Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis is all for the children. We did big events where we serve thousands at our annual salad bar luncheon. The proceeds sent lower income children to a paid week at camp. We volunteered at the horse ranch so children in wheelchairs could ride a horse, free. That is volunteering - giving your time, your ideas or expertise to help others.

Volunteering at IITS is a little different. We have no children to worry about. We have a COMMUNITY consisting of older people, both genders, and every race. Events are planned and we need help to run them.

John and I put on events for 4 years till we were asked to step down. We graciously did. Yet we still volunteer. Not because the event wants our help or they do not have enough volunteers but because of what volunteering means to us.

We have always pushed for our IITS Community and the great people here. A community should be a strong togetherness of individuals, families and friends, neighbors who live and play together. We need no other incentive, just being good neighbors.

Being a volunteer in a Community like IITS is a rewarding experience IF you volunteer for the right reasons.

Never expect anyone to come and say, "Thank You". Volunteering is a thankless job. Never expect it but graciously accept it when it is said to you.

Volunteers always give 110%. Why? Because you volunteered, no one made you do it. Give your best to each and every event. If they bash you afterwards or say negative things, think about what was done to cause negative remarks and ask yourself whether you did your best. Maybe you could have done something differently. Never give up. If you are volunteering for the right reasons let it just "run off your back" and move on. You still need to give 110% for the next event. You are volunteering.

There will always be those who hate, those who are negative. Those are the ones who have NEVER EVER provided any kind of event, or those who come and set up a few plates and say I did my time, or those who just have a bad heart and have no other thing to do but complain. Those people need to actually run an event and see what is involved and then they can state any discontent. To those I say: "Do you feel better now" after they do nothing but complain.

Volunteers should never complain. You wanted to help, so help. If it is not being done your way, suggest things but never believe the person will change to your ideas. Those who are new to having events sometimes have to learn "the hard way". And they will. Some people who put on events do not have an idea of what they are doing. It's their first time but they did volunteer to provide some type of program for you.

If you are volunteering to have people say, "Oh, so and so does this and does that and does

...continued on page 17



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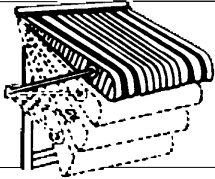
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so much.” Do not volunteer. You are only looking for your own praise. That’s not in the spirit of volunteering.

Yes you work your butts off. You are tired as hell because it is usually a long day. Planning, purchasing, setting-up, getting it together and hoping others help. You never really know who will show up to help, but when others do show up to help you feel so blessed that others care enough. Your spirits become alive because they are helping you. You feel energized and the work seems much less like work. The smiles come out and dispel the frowns and the anxieties.

The real joy of volunteering is when we come out of the kitchen, look at the hall and see everyone laughing, drinking their wine, hugging their friends and neighbors, dancing, enjoying life and having a good time. People can leave their problems, their concerns, and the world’s events at the front door for a few hours. Takes me away. That picture just soothes the soul.

That is what warms our hearts each and every time we volunteer. We have never needed a “Thank You” to do what we had set out to do, seeing it in action is all we have ever needed. We have been blessed by the events that we have provided to this community. All of the events we have provided. The smiles on everyone’s face are so greatly appreciated.

If you want to volunteer, please do it for the right reasons.

## **Annual Halloween Events – October 2017**

*By Linda Walker*

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**A**lthough this is the December issue, due to the publishing deadlines December articles are submitted by Nov 10. Therefore, we are writing about October events, and advertising December and forward events . The related photos are just a sample taken from our FB pages. Thanks to our residents!

### **Halloween Party, Saturday, October 28**

IITS celebrated their annual Halloween party with the usual flair. ‘Sheriff’ Tom Watson arrested a number of residents, and escorted them to the jail. I will say that I hid in the ladies room anytime I saw Tom headed in my direction – not sure I could have relied on my friends to bail me out! Luckily, their friends thought enough of them to bail them out of jail. The annual ‘jail’ event helped to raise funds for our IITS HOA.

Several of the residents dressed in costume to commemorate the Halloween event. Pirates, witches and goblins came out in full force. The vote for the winning costume was very close – the wolf costume ended up with 1st place, with Little Dead Riding Hood a close 2nd.

Kathy McGuire filled in for us as DJ, as our contracted entertainer could not fulfill his contract. While it was a little bit of a slow start, by the end of the evening she and the DJ she brought had everyone on their feet and dancing.

Thanks to our chairpersons, Rich and Vickie Kiszka, and their assistants- Kay and Mike Siudzinski, Dave and Sharron Horr, Tom and Cassie Watson – and others who stepped up to assist, ensuring we had another successful event.

### **Halloween Dog Costume Party and Parade, Sunday, October 29**

Hosted by Karen and Keith Custy – This annual event was enjoyed by many current and new residents. The not so great weather didn’t seem to deter the die-hard pet owners! As always, the Custy’s put on a great event to honor our IITS pets. 1st prize went to the police dog and his prisoner, 2nd prize to the two pumpkins, and 3rd prize to the Princess.



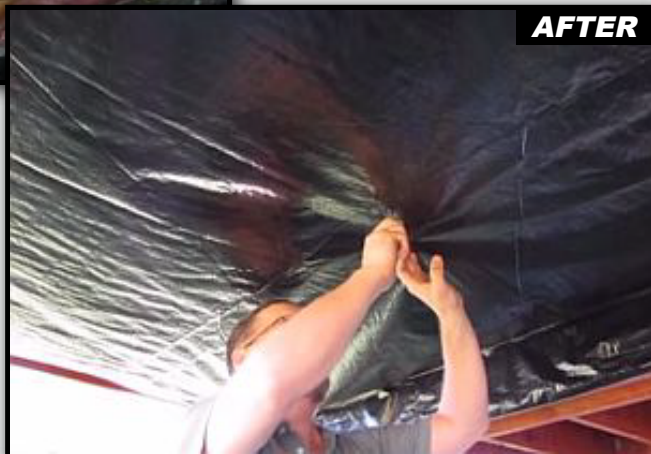
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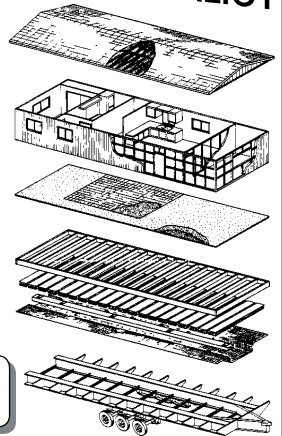
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# Halloween Golf Cart Parade

*Kenn Brody, Lot 84*

Our annual golf cart parade is a delightful tradition combining both golf carts, our symbol of serene retirement, and our unsatisfied creative spirits. We had 10 golf cart entrants this year. Every one was a testimony to the season of spooks and goblins.

We all met in the Club parking lot to be lined up organized by Bill Shiels. Yes, we had jello shots. Carts were lined up single file and the routes and judges announced.

Residents without entries brought their lawn chairs to their sidewalks to watch.

First place golf cart winner was Ciel Gordon assisted by Chandra Wood whose golf cart sported a luggage-rack cemetery. Second prize went to John & AnnMarie Mackay. Third was Jim and Linda Walker.

One of my favorites was the two-wheel entry by Sharon McKinley, whose bicycle sported a broomstick. Question to any aspiring witch: Can you drive stick?

Costumes were as creative as the carts. First prize for costumes went to Wally and Christie Riley. Second costume prize went to Joseph Outlinger and Audin Boan. Ned and Susan Grove took third place with their costumes.

We also thank the judges, who were had picked by Bill Shiels for their objectivity: Mike Poarch and Christine Nordin, Art and Jean Robinson, Richard and Bonnie S.



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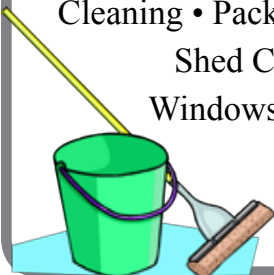
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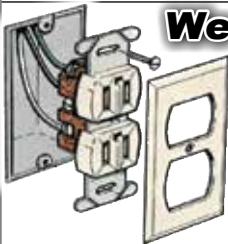
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JANUARY 2018		
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6		
7 8 9 10 11 12 13		
14 15 16 17 18 19 20		
21 22 23 24 25 26 27		
28 29 30 31		
1-5 PM Royal Rummy 7 PM Texas Holdem	3 12:45 Dominoes 6-7:30 Choir Practice 7 PM Pickleball	4 10 AM Noodle 12:45 Rumm 7 PM Memb
1-5 PM Royal Rummy 7 PM Texas Holdem	10 12:45 Dominoes 6-7:30 Choir Practice 7 PM Pickleball	11 10 AM Noodle 12:45 Rumm 5:30 Potluck
1-5 PM Royal Rummy 6 PM Sunday Sundae 7 PM Texas Holdem	17 12:45 Dominoes 6-7:30 Choir Practice 7 PM Pickleball	18 10 AM Noodle 12:45 Rumm 6:30 Anniv
1-5 PM Royal Rummy 7 PM Texas Holdem	24 1 PM Annual Christmas Luncheon 7 PM Pickleball	25 10 AM Noodle 12:45 Rumm 7 PM Memb
8 - 12:30 New Year's Eve	31 New Year's Eve	
	New Year's Eve	Christmas Day



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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1 PM MaJongg 7 PM Texas Holdem	2 12 PM Cal-AM Christmas tea
I Pool 5 e Aerobics PM ikub HOA ership Mtg.	6 6:30 PM Sci Fi Club 7 PM Pickleball 7 PM Texas Holdem	7 7 PM Bingo   Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 1 PM MaJongg 7 PM Texas Holdem	9 11-2 PM Bake sale 7-9 PM Trivia Party
I Pool 12 e Aerobics PM ikub M Monthly k	13 6:30 PM Sci Fi Club 7 PM Pickleball 7 PM Texas Holdem  Hanukkah	14 7 PM Bingo	15 11AM Cal AM Mgr's Meeting 1 PM MaJongg 7 PM Texas Holdem	16 10 AM Activities Meeting 2-4 PM Santa goes to the Dogs photo op! 6-10 PM Private Party
I Pool 19 e Aerobics PM ikub M BD/ ersary Party	20 6:30 PM Sci Fi Club 7 PM Pickleball 7 PM Texas Holdem  Last Day of Hanukkah	21 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch 7 PM Bingo	22 1 PM MaJongg 7 PM Texas Holdem	23
I Pool 26 e Aerobics PM ikub HOA ership Mtg.	27 6:30 PM Sci Fi Club 7 PM Pickleball 7 PM Texas Holdem	28 7 PM Bingo	29 1 PM MaJongg 7 PM Texas Holdem	30

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## CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADE:

*Submitted by Bill and Marci Shiels*

---

**S**o You want to be part of something really special?  
Here's how We're going to do it! It's all FREE. No tickets required.  
**JUST SHOW UP:**

**Clubhouse on Friday, December 22 at 6:45 pm.**

Decorate your golf cart ,bicycle or whatever in the Christmas Holiday theme.

Dress yourself up (if you're into that kind of thing).

The IITS Chorus and all residents who love to sing Christmas songs will be parading thru the Park caroling and stopping at homes of shut-ins and special friends. We will be accompanied by live music played on a keyboard and speaker secured to the lead golf cart.

Sound familiar? Well that's how we did it last year and believe me it was really special! Coffee, donuts soda & prizes for the Best 3 vehicles will be available when we return to the clubhouse.

The 4th of July parade had 14 golf carts, 1 bike & 1 motorcycle. The Halloween parade had 10 carts & the same bike. Now that many Northerners are back we're looking for a Bigger turnout!! Let's really do it up for Christmas. BE THERE, or Santa may miss your house this year (just saying'!!!)



## Community Christmas Bake Sale

*Submitted by Karen Custy #229*

---

**O**n Saturday, December 9th, we will be holding a Christmas Bake Sale at the clubhouse. The bake sale will be held from 11 until 2 PM. It will be a great way to raise money for the HOA as well as giving residents the opportunity to stock up on holiday goodies for their guests.

We are looking for bakers who are willing to bake cookies, pies, cakes, candy or anything worthy of selling at our bake sale. It doesn't have to be limited to sweets, we can also sell biscuits, homemade meat pies etc.

Our last bake sale brought in a lot of money and the residents enjoyed it immensely. Let's see if we can outdo the previous sale, and have fun along with it.

If you are willing to donate baked goods, please contact Karen Custy by stopping by #229, calling 727-729-3441 or emailing [karencusty@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:karencusty@tampabay.rr.com).

Let's make this bake sale a huge success for our community!



# Christmas



Saturday December 9th

11 - 2

*We need bakers!!!!*

*Come and buy your holiday goodies!*





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## Men's Breakfast

*Jerald Cardin Lot 145*

---

The Lucky Dill was a complete thrill....for 12 hungry guys from IITS. We met Oct.19th at the restaurant in Palm Harbor. Billed as the "Home of the Sandwich that ate Brooklyn" it did live up to its name. A New York style deli with a decor highlighting all the NY boroughs the Lucky Dill was certainly a unique experience.

Although they do not take reservations we had no problems with seating and the service was prompt and friendly. They kept the coffee coming and that always makes us happy. There was also a wide range of breakfast choice-prices being on the upper end but still affordable.

We are hoping to increase our numbers as our Northern friends arrive so we can keep the Ladies on the run. Check out our number Island Belles!!

As always look for the sign up sheet in the Clubhouse. If you have any questions call Jerald at 256-490-8587 or stop by #145-the door is always open!

## FMO Headlines

*Ken Brody, FMO Representative, Lot #84*

---

### Membership

John Hisiro, FMO Regional President, presented his experiences as an MHP resident and FMO officer to the IITS community on October 25. A dozen or so IITS residents agreed to sign up for FMO membership due to that meeting.

I will attend the FMO representatives meeting in Clearwater on November 15.

### Retention of HOA Records

The HOA is required to retain certain records, such as contracts and meeting minutes, for at least 7 years. Any resident may request these records for inspection on 10 days notice.

### Certification of Board Members

As of October 1, 2017, all elected HOA Board members are required to be certified under Florida State Law 723.0781. The FMO conducts these seminars and has certified 1,303 persons to date. Six seminars are scheduled for 2018, the nearest of which is in North Fort Myers on Friday, January 19, 2018. Pre-registration ends on January 5. The \$25 per person charge may be paid by the HOA, if approved.



### Selling Your Home

FMO provides a long list of source material including legal information. I ordered Item 291, "Know Your Rights When Selling Your Home", and I'll make it available when it comes.

FMO Legal Counsel, Lee Jay Colling, can be reached through the FMO office by email to [Joyce@fmo.org](mailto:Joyce@fmo.org).



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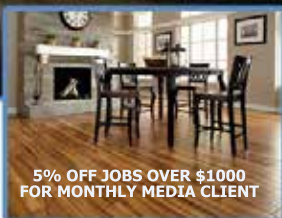
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## Neighbor Helping Neighbor

by Larry & Kris Taylor, Lot #296, 727-286-7740

---

**T**he First Saturday of each month at 1PM we will pick up any donations of canned food, boxed food, soaps and paper goods. Just place your donated items by your mailbox in a plastic bag. Monetary contributions accepted also.

Thanks to all who gave last month's supplies and monies, it was greatly appreciated. If you know of someone who could use a little help, please let us know.

---

## IITS Game - Dominoes – October- November

Submitted by Patricia Clarke

---

October 3 Rick World  
10 Rick World  
17 Rick World  
24 Pat Clark  
31 Rick World



---

## Activities Report - November

**H**ello from Linda Walker and the IITS Activities Committee

Phone: 540-272-1992, E-mail: [Lindawalker.va2006@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindawalker.va2006@yahoo.com)

**WELCOME BACK TO ALL OF OUR NORTHERN FRIENDS!!!!**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone in our IITS Community! It has been my privilege to serve as Activities Director.

**Meeting Notes:** We are changing the regularly scheduled activities meetings to the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 AM, effective with the **December meeting on Dec 16**. Please consider attending to see what we have planned for the residents of our community. This month's meeting will be on Saturday, **Dec 16, at 10 AM**

### Looking forward into 2018:

Thanks to our **AWESOME!!!** activities committee, we have set dates and finalized events through March of 2018. I am very excited to see our activities committee working together to provide entertainment for our residents.

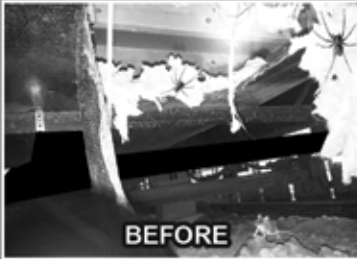
That said, for the most part it is the same group who are stepping up to chair and make events possible for all our residents. **I stress again:** There are quite a few residents who have been here for several/many years. For the most part, these residents have 'done their time', by leading activities, acting as HOA board members, hosting events, etc. As we provide details of our 2018 events and the chairs in subsequent media magazines, you will notice they are mostly familiar names.

*"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".*

~Author Unknown

*...continued on page 38*

# LOOKED UNDER YOUR MOBILE HOME LATELY?



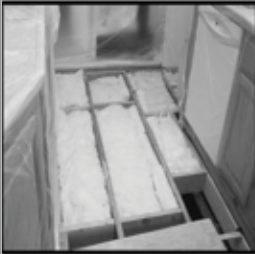
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We have many new residents in our community. I encourage all of you to become an active part of IITS – while quite a few of you (like me), still have full time careers, volunteering and being a part of our community can be very rewarding. Best of all, you have a say in what happens where you live!

Since this is our last magazine for 2017, I am going to get on my soapbox (which I try not to do!). I work for Kforce, Inc., whose slogan is “We love what we do, and we love who we serve”. My opinion is this can also be applied to our IITS community – to paraphrase “as volunteers, we love doing what we do to serve our community”. As I attend events, lead activities meetings, attend HOA meetings, ride around the community in our golf cart with Jim and the dogs (Betsy and Lacey), I hear a recurring theme “no one appreciates what we do as volunteers”.

I STRONGLY believe that is not the case! It is very true there is a small minority who have a negative mind set. We have all heard the old saying, “the squeaky wheel gets the grease”, so the negative comments seem to rise to the forefront.

Over the past year, I have seen people step up to fill in where there are vacancies, and have seen people step down because of friction/lack of appreciation, etc. In looking back at our FB posts over the past year, there has been a lot of friction! Everyone has their opinion, and as active 55+ adults, we are all entitled to express them. Not saying anyone is right or wrong, but it saddens me to see this conflict in our community.

That said, my point is this: whatever happens, our volunteers keep on doing their jobs – “serving our community”.

Thank you to everyone who supports our community, in whatever fashion. I truly believe that for the most part, our IITS residents want what is best for us, and are willing to work together to make that happen. I appreciate the support the community has given me over the past year+ as Activities Director. It would not have been possible without all of you who have helped make our community a success. I would provide names, but the list is too long, and I would not want to leave someone out – anyone who has attended activities meetings and submitted ideas for events, chaired an event, helped set up for an event, helped with setup/serving/decorating, donated door prizes, worked in the kitchen, helped with clean up (I salute you! – who wants to clean up after the party is over, after having helped with set up, serving dinner, etc. (and dancing to the Electric Slide!)).

Please know that all of you are MUCH appreciated. You make my job look easy – I just try to manage the administrative aspects, and help where needed – but it is you – **the IITS volunteers**, who make our community a great place to live.

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”*

~Elizabeth Andrew

Happy Holidays!

Linda Walker

Activities Director, IITS





## Holiday Events in the Area

---

See below for holiday events in our area during December. This is only a sampling of what is available. Please review the following websites to check out other events going on – there is a wealth of activities/events available in our area, suited to all ages! Note the visitstpeteclearwater website has a ton of information on various activities throughout the year.

<http://pinellascounty.wtsp.com/news/events/602802-upcoming-holiday-events-pinellas-county>

[www.visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com)

### Holiday Lights in the Gardens

Nov. 24, 2017 – Dec. 31, 2017

The annual "Holiday Lights in the Gardens" is a seasonal escape into a wonderland of twinkling lights and fun entertainment. Over 1 million LED lights shining throughout our Botanical Gardens highlighting our plants and in nature-themed or holiday-themed light displays. This is a family-friendly event with nightly entertainment, including visits with Santa. Refreshments are available, as well as Holiday-themed gifts at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop. The event begins at 5:30 pm and a \$4 suggested donation is encouraged for entry. For more information, visit <https://www.flb foundation.org/news,holiday-lights-in-the-garden>

### Gift and Plant Sale:

Dec 8, 2017

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation will present its Gift and Plant sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular annual sale will feature vendors offering an assortment of tropical plants, orchids, bromeliads, Florida native plants, herbs and bamboo. The Botanical Bounty gift shop will also be open with an array of gifts and goods for sale. Entry and parking are free for visitors during daylight hours. Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. [www.flb.org](http://www.flb.org) or call (727) 582-2100.

### Christmas Town at Busch Gardens

Nov 19 – Dec 31, 2017

Head to Busch Gardens for some great thrill rides and to see the park transform into a holiday wonderland of Christmastime entertainment, holiday shopping and more than a million twinkling lights! Santa will be available to take photos and the park will be open until 10 p.m.

### Annual St. Petersburg Holiday of the Arts

Dec. 16, 2017 – Dec. 17, 2017

Whether you're an art collector, seeking art to beautify your home or office, searching for a unique holiday gift, or just looking for an excuse to be in the warm Florida sunshine, head to in South Straub Park for this showcase of local, regional and national artisans. This outdoor art show is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Admission and parking are free. Bring your sense of discovery and appreciation for the beautiful!

Gulfport Holiday Art & Gallery Walk

Dec. 16, 2017

Feel the funky beat and shop for unique treasures during this bi-monthly event held in

*...continued on page 40*

# We Need Cover Pictures! Send in Your Interesting Photos!

Get Your Picture on the Cover - We select a new and interesting picture every month to be printed on the cover of your newsletter. If you or your neighbors have fun events or activities please send in a picture and we'll enter it to be selected. Please include a description of the image and a brief release allowing us to reprint the picture. Our mailing and email address are here:



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### EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Carport Sale: Saturday December 2nd, 2017 8 am to 2 pm. Park Royale MHP 10611 66th St., Pinellas Park

Holiday Craft Bazaar Sunday Dec 3rd @ 9am-2pm. Sunset Palms Community 3401 Gandy Blvd 33781.

SOUTHWIND CRAFT FAIR and BAKE SALE: December 2nd, 9am-1pm. 795 County Road !, Palm Harbor

Palm Hill Country Club Bazaar, Craft & Bake Sale. Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 9am-1pm. 8:30am early entry \$1.00. North Clubhouse 401 8th Ave. SW, Largo.

ANNUAL CARPORT SALE. 12/2 & 12/3 8am-2pm . Lincolnshire Estates 1071 Donegan Rd, Largo. Carport sale, furniture, nick nacks, glassware and more. Over 100 homes participating.

Moving/Estate/Yard Sale: January 6, 2018 8am-3pm 124 Ranch Ave. in Ranch Mobile Park. Antiques, Household goods, furniture. Everything priced to sell.

Ranch Mobile Park Wide Yard Sale, Saturday, January 6th, 8:00am - 2:00pm at 6800 - 150th Ave. N., Clearwater, (Largo).

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - December 16th, 10am - 2pm. Vacation Village 6900 Ulmerton Rd.

Christmas Gift Market & Silent Auction. Crafts, Vendors, Lunch 12/2 9am-2pm. Connect2Christ Church 9398 Oakhurst Road, Seminole, FL 33776


### ATTENTION RESIDENTS!

Did you know this Emporium/ Classified listing reaches over 21,500 homes in Pinellas County? It goes into 60 community newsletters (just like this one) from Dunedin to St. Petersburg. This is a great market to sell items, advertise your next event, try and get help for a function, and many other great things. Remember to think about this the next time you're planning something.

-Monthly Media Staff

## JANUARY AD DEADLINE - DECEMBER 10, 2017

- Advertise BUY, SELL, TRADE ITEMS by sending copy & check to Monthly Media at 220 Bahama St, Venice, FL 34285.
- Ads over 10 words must be accompanied by \$.80 per extra word or publisher will edit. • No mobile home sales, no professional products or services. SORRY: No ads accepted by phone or email. DEADLINE: 10th OF EACH MONTH.



downtown Gulfport from 6-10 p.m. every first Friday and third Saturday. Over 35 locally owned boutiques and artists line the streets along with live musicians to keep you movin'. Don't miss the opportunity to dine at one of the area's delicious restaurants or belly up to the bar for a cocktail or two.

### **Largo's Annual Holiday Stroll: Let it Snow**

Dec. 16, 2017

Bring a blanket to enjoy a movie in the park, play in the snow or take a stroll around beautiful Largo Central Park to gaze at the holiday displays featuring over one million LED lights. Enjoy a snow zone and a visit from Santa from 6:30-9:30pm. This event is FREE. Limited on-site parking for \$10 will be available, along with free park and walk from Largo Middle School. Largo Central Park is located at 101 Central Park Drive.

### **A Rockapella Christmas**

Dec. 21, 2017

The world's most loved five-man contemporary pop vocal phenomenon Rockapella returns to the Capitol Theatre at 7:30 p.m. for a must see holiday show! With their completely original take on the holidays, Rockapella creates a light-hearted and unforgettable holiday experience as they travel the country spreading musical holiday cheer.

### **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical**

Dec. 22, 2017 3 and 7:30 PM – Ruth Eckard Hall, Clearwater

This spirited performance practically transports audience members into the television special (that originally aired in 1964) as songs drive the plot while familiar and nostalgic set design with projections, costumes and characters are brought to the stage

### **Safety Harbor Tree Lighting**

Dec. 1, 2017

Bring out the family and friends to enjoy the lighting of Safety Harbor's giant Christmas tree. Choirs will warm up the crowd for a visit from Santa Claus. The fun starts at 11 a.m. at the John Wilson Park Gazebo.

### **There's Snow Place Like Tarpon Springs**

Dec. 1, 2017

Venture out to downtown Tarpon Springs for a great free holiday event! The event will have a snow play area, music, children's activities and a visit with Santa himself. The fun takes place from 5-10 p.m. on Tarpon Avenue.

### **Annual Tarpon Springs Boat Parade**

Dec. 1, 2017

Vessels will proceed down the Anclote River and into the bayous where Santa will give out treats. Your best bet for viewing these holiday decorated vessels is from Craig Park/Spring Bayou. The event is free and boats are expected to enter Spring Bayou around 8 p.m.

*...continued on page 42*





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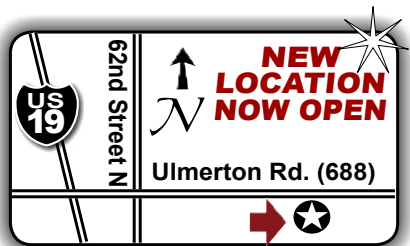


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**(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). This month's cash winners are:**

Andrew Shaffer .....	\$100 .....	Royal Enterprise	Rose O'Mara .....	\$5 .....	Debbie's Salon
Sandra Olson .....	\$10 .....	Professional Plumbing and Design	Frank Hemming .....	\$5 .....	Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control
Nancy Poling .....	\$10 .....	Hellers Mobile Home Washing	Donald Johnson .....	\$5 .....	Jones and Sons Plumbing
Irene Mason .....	\$10 .....	Bob's Appliance Service	Lynn McGraw .....	\$5 .....	Bob's Mobile home Washing
Greg Stonebraker .....	\$10 .....	Sunset Appliance Service	Lois Ayotte .....	\$5 .....	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Carol Snyder .....	\$10 .....	Bob's Mobile home Washing	Robert Pyne .....	\$5 .....	Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control
Denise Morgan .....	\$10 .....	Jones and Sons Plumbing	Bill Malofey .....	\$5 .....	Heller's Mobile Home Washing
Kathy Sweetman .....	\$10 .....	Modern AC and Appliance Service	Ed Becker .....	\$5 .....	Air Masters of Pinellas, Inc.
Carl Simmons .....	\$10 .....	Dunedin Plumbing, Inc.	Kevin Osborne .....	\$5 .....	Suncoast Auto & Tires
Phil Stillwell .....	\$10 .....	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	Lois Torres .....	\$5 .....	Boss Electric Corp.
Richard Green .....	\$10 .....	Ron Wyngarden MH Washing	Daniel Davis .....	\$5 .....	Jones and Sons Plumbing
Harry Swank .....	\$10 .....	Boss Electric Corp.	Isabelle Lane .....	\$5 .....	Auto Service Experts
Joseph Caserotti .....	\$10 .....	Discount Computer Repair	Robert Hopes .....	\$5 .....	Bob's Mobile Home Washing
Lilly Porter .....	\$10 .....	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners	Mary Marks .....	\$5 .....	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Robert Gattone .....	\$5 .....	Air Masters of Pinellas, Inc.	Ron Beardsley .....	\$5 .....	Hellers Mobile Home Washing
Chip Relyea .....	\$5 .....	Sunset Appliance Service	Ruth Marmarose .....	\$5 .....	Modern Pest Control, Inc.
Cheryl Kittle .....	\$5 .....	Bob's Mobile home Washing	Dolly Rooker .....	\$5 .....	Jones and Sons Plumbing
Dena Clark .....	\$5 .....	Payless Paingint Services, Inc.	Bob McGrath .....	\$5 .....	Bob's Mobile Home Washing
Lisa Lynch .....	\$5 .....	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners	Jackie Smith .....	\$5 .....	Modern AC and Appliance Service
Joan Zarlink .....	\$5 .....	Sunset Appliance Service	Joyce Lee .....	\$5 .....	Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control
Carol Silver .....	\$5 .....	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	Darlene Batdorf .....	\$5 .....	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Al Taufiq .....	\$5 .....	Bob's Appliance Service	Linda Wagler .....	\$5 .....	Debbie's Salon
Eleanor Malloy .....	\$5 .....	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners	John Barns .....	\$5 .....	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Richard Lyle .....	\$5 .....	Appliance Specialty, Inc.	Dolores Curtin .....	\$5 .....	Hellers Mobile Home Washing

• Limit of one ticket per visit • Advertiser may have up to 4 winners per month • Advertiser must have bill paid current to qualify • No purchase necessary • Contest void where prohibited by law • Green tickets available at participating Monthly Media advertisers.



### **Tarpon Springs Christmas Parade**

Dec. 9, 2017

This annual holiday parade weaves through downtown Tarpon Springs starting at 10 a.m. Parade route: starts at Manatee Plaza and goes north on E. Lemon Street, then south on Ring Ave and finishes its last leg on Tarpon Ave. all the way to Spring Bayou.

### **Clearwater Holiday Lighted Boat Parade**

Dec. 9th 6:30p at Coachman Park

The decorated boats will assemble in Mandalay Channel located between Island Estates and Clearwater Beach at 6:00 pm. At 6:30 pm, the lead boat will proceed northward through Mandalay Channel. Then the parade will weave in and out of many of the Island Estate canals before heading over to Coachman Park around 8:00 PM. From there the boats will go under the new Memorial Causeway Bridge turning into the Clearwater Marina Channel before navigating to the Clearwater Yacht Club.

### **Christmas Market & Parade on St. Pete Beach**

Dec. 9, 2017

Join Santa along St. Pete Beach's parade route! The Parade starts at St. Pete Beach City Hall (155 Corey Ave) and heads west down Corey Ave, south on Blind Pass Rd, east on 73rd to Bay St and back to City Hall. Santa will finish the parade route at the St. Pete Beach Library (365 73rd Ave) to meet with all the Whos in Whoville. While at the library, enjoy Grinch themed crafts, face painting and light refreshments. An interactive holiday movie "The Grinch that Stole Christmas" will be shown at 11am.

### **Treasure Island's Lighted Boat Parade**

Dec. 15, 2017

Like Las Vegas on the water! This year's dazzling nautical spectacle features boats of all kinds making it the biggest lighted boat parade in Tampa Bay. Boats will depart from The Club at Treasure Island at 6:20 p.m., sail past the Treasure Island Causeway Bridge at 7 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. at John's Pass.

### **Redington Beach & Indian Shores Holiday Boat Parade**

Dec. 17, 2017

Festively decorated boats will meander through the intra-coastal waterways from the Tom Stuart Causeway to the "The Pub" restaurant in Indian Shores. The parade kicks off at 6 p.m. Free and family-friendly!

**View this Newsletter in full color at [www.monthly-media.com](http://www.monthly-media.com)  
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## Monthly/Special Events at Island in the Sun:

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**M**onthly/Special Events at Island in the Sun: December 2017 – Jan 2018  
(This listing does not include all recurring weekly/monthly events – the intent is to showcase those events that do not happen every month, or are ‘special’ events). For recurring events/activities, refer to the calendar in the centerfold of the media magazine.

### **December**

#### **Christmas Tea – Cal AM**

Dec 2 – 12 PM

#### **Holiday Bake Sale**

Dec 9, 11 – 2 – See related article

#### **Trivia party**

Dec 9, 7 – 9 PM - Re-scheduled from December 16th.

#### **Activities Meeting**

Dec 16, 10 am (Note this is the new permanent date/time – 3rd Saturday at 10 AM).

#### **Santa goes to the Dogs**

Dec 16, 2 – 4 PM – See related article

#### **Private Party, reserved through Cal-AM**

Dec 16, 6 – 10 PM

#### **Birthday/Anniversary Party**

Dec 19, 6:30 PM

#### **Golf Cart Caroling**

Dec 22, 7 PM – See related article

#### **Annual Christmas Luncheon**

Dec 25, 1 PM – Details to be provided.

#### **Annual New Years Eve Party**

Dec 31, 8 – 12:30 AM

Ticket price \$10

The theme is ‘Hollywood Nights’. Use your imagination and come to the party dressed as your favorite famous (or infamous) actor/actress/singer/etc. No need to bring anything except your own drinks for the party, as we will have hearty appetizers (both hot and cold), and champagne at midnight. There will be a photo booth set up so you can have your pictures taken to commemorate New Years Eve 2017. We will have random door prizes, prizes for the best costume, 50/50, etc.

Steve Wayne will be our entertainer, and he has promised us a fun filled evening of dancing and music.

### **Jan – March 2018 (Save the date)**

**Taking Down the Tree - Jan 1, 2018 – Un-trim the tree.** This is the not so fun part! We need to take down the Christmas tree and store the decorations for next year. Two to three strong people are needed to remove and store the decorations, unstringing the lights, and wrestle the Christmas tree back into the box, then into the storage room.

We will be updating details as events get closer to the date. The choir will be performing at several of our events, stay tuned for details.

*...continued on page 44*



## Monthly Potluck January

January 9, 5:30 PM

Comedy show after dinner – who knows who may show up from a previous event!

## Monthly Potluck February

Feb 13, 5:30 PM

Valentines Day show

Canadian-American Party, February 24

St Patricks Day Party, March 17

Broadway Show, March 31

## Fred Mecke Memorial Thanks

*Betty Mecke and daughters, #255*

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I would like to express my sincere thanks to Linda and John Opaczewski for coordinating the beautiful memorial service to my husband, Fred. Thanks to all that have taken the time to send cards, prayers, contributed food or extended their sympathy. Our family appreciates everything you have done.

## REMEMBRANCE CORNER

*Dottie Newman Lot #46 724-6823 pcfriar64@yahoo.com*

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Fred Mecke, #255, passed away on October 25th after having surgery. If you did not know Fred and his wife, Betty, you really missed out knowing one of the loveliest couples in the park. They came to every event dressed to the “nines” and looking much younger than a couple in their 90’s. Luckily, for Betty, one of her daughters lives here in the park for family support. However, Fred and Betty have a very large family of friends here at IITS. To Betty and her family, our sincere condolences.

Ed Dennison, #210, was hospitalized for chest pains and breathing problems. After tests, he was sent home to recover from that very painful condition, Pleurisy. Feel good soon, Ed.

Wally Riley, #290, lost his 39-year-old son to a brain tumor. So sad. Our sincere sympathy to Wally and Chrissie.

Stay safe & stay healthy!



# Anniversaries and Birthdays

Bob and Dottie Newman Lot #46 - 727-724-6283 - pcfriar64@yahoo.com

If you would like to have your anniversary or birthday published in the Media please give us a call or drop us an e-Mail.

## December Anniversaries

- 3 Jim Dudley & Kathy McNay-Dudley
- 7 Ron & Judy Koonter
- 20 Stanley & Bonnie Baldwin
- 24 Paul & Barbara Daniele
- 31 Charles & Jean Richardson  
Jim & Linda Walker



## December Birthdays

- 1 Kathy McNay-Dudley
- 6 Don Salisbury
- 10 Kristie Taylor
- 11 Jim Norwick
- 14 Horrace Mathews
- 15 Margaret Arnold  
Keith Johnstone
- 19 Rose Simmons
- 22 Ann Louise Reinhart
- 27 Ann Marie Mackay



# December Sudoku

			7				5	
					1	2	4	
1			6	9				
				2				
	2					5		4
	6	3	8			7		
6						9		
				3	4		6	5
	5							2



3	5	1	9	6	8	4	7	2
9	7	2	1	3	4	8	6	5
6	8	4	2	7	5	9	1	3
4	6	3	8	5	9	7	2	1
8	2	7	3	1	6	5	9	4
5	1	9	4	2	7	6	3	8
1	4	5	6	9	2	3	8	7
7	3	6	5	8	1	2	4	9
2	9	8	7	4	3	1	5	6



Halloween Dog Party



Halloween Party

## Book Recommendation:

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### Here Vultures Fly

by Rudy Rodrigues

This is the narration of the personal experiences of the author, Rudy Rodrigues, during his ten years of service with the United Nations in Afghanistan, where he was engaged in emergency relief and later rehabilitation programs in close collaboration with the Communist government, the mujahideen, the Taliban, and the post-Taliban government.

The author was responsible for opening the first UNICEF office in Kyrgyzstan soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union in a unique environment and culture. During this time, he was working with a government unfamiliar with the United Nations and its goals and objectives. In addition, the Kyrgyz population was traumatized by this sudden period of transition and uncertainty. A major focus of the author's work was gaining the confidence of the government in Uzbekistan and to ensure the building of meaningful partnership programs for women and children.

This book also covers the adventures, romance, and thrill of being born and raised in Kenya; serving as an officer in the army; the challenges of working in Papua New Guinea; and having the glorious opportunity of working in the UN in different parts of the world with a multiethnic/multicultural community.

#### About the Author

*Rudy Rodrigues was born and raised in Kenya. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the British Army Staff College. He was commissioned and served as an officer in the Kenya Army in both command and staff appointments. Resigning after sixteen years of active service, he then immigrated to Canada with his wife and three children.*

*Later, Rodrigues was appointed country director of a Canadian NGO in the Sudan, with a mandate to provide leadership, strategic planning and the delivery of UN (WFP) emergency relief supplies to the more than three million starving people displaced by the famine of 1985. He did so using a fleet of 350 cargo vehicles and a staff of over 3,000 people. This trucking operation was later taken over by the UN, and Rodrigues served as its Director.*

*In 2006 Rodrigues ended his career, and moved from Afghanistan, where he was last working with the United Nations. He retired to Winter Park, Florida where he lives today, and enjoys traveling, writing and spending time with his family, children and grandchildren.*



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