



**Easter 2019 by Mary Wilson**

On Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, residents and guests of Ocean Resorts and the neighboring condos gathered on the beach for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Easter Sunrise Service. It was a beautiful, sunny morning with just a gentle breeze as we celebrated the risen Christ. Even though Easter was very late this year, attendance was very good.

Claudia Woodhouse was recognized for her part in making the service possible over the last several years. Easter monologues were read along with a New Testament reading. Lou Barbaria led us in singing hymns and also sang a beautiful solo, "I Believe".



A free will offering was collected for Station #9 of the St. Lucie County Fire and Rescue Department, which has provided many services to OR residents throughout the years. Following the service, a delicious continental breakfast was served in the Pavilion.

Thank you to the committee and volunteers who made this year's service possible.

A color version of this newsletter can be found on the Ocean Resorts website at: [oceanresortscopinc.org](http://oceanresortscopinc.org)

## **MANAGER'S REPORT** by Donna Perez

Hello to all! Many of you have already departed for the season, I hope you had safe travels to your destinations. For those of you still here in the warmth of sunny Florida, let's continue to enjoy all of its benefits. If you have already departed, hopefully you remembered to change your mailing address with the office and US Postal Service. For those of you who haven't left this is a friendly reminder.

The construction at the clubhouse is still taking place. I know this has seemed like a slow process, however there have been two changes in plans that had to take place due to rotten pilings that are holding the clubhouse in place. This was discovered once the dirt was dug up for the retaining wall. The pilings have been replaced and we are expecting the frame work to be finished this week and then they will begin the deck and clubhouse. Things should move a lot faster now that the structural part is complete. I thank everyone for their patience and for thinking outside of the box for this season's activities.

A friendly reminder, Hurricane Season begins June 1st, as such By-Law 11.3(i) must strictly be adhered to for the safety and security of all shareholders, residents and their property in the event of a major storm or hurricane. In short, the By-Law says that if anyone will be away from their property for more than 3 days during the months of June-November, all items must be properly secured. If you have a question regarding tie downs, please call the office or refer to your Rules and Regulations.

I have had a few complaints here lately in regards to people not following rules such as dogs on a leash, cleaning up after your pet, smoking at the pool, glass at the pool etc. I have spoken to a few culprits and some were renters whom were not aware of such rules. Please remember it is your responsibility as a Shareholder to give your renters a copy of the Rules and Regulations, as well as have them sign in at the office upon their arrival. When signing in we do give them a lot of useful information, including a packet with the Rules and Regulations. Have a safe and fun summer wherever you may be!

## **President's Message** by David Comolli

The winter season at Ocean Resorts has quickly come to an end. Many of us have headed north to bare trees and cooler weather. It has been a very enjoyable meeting the many new shareholders with younger families and children. We tend to forget what a great place Ocean Resorts is for the young.

The club house is progressing slowly due to unforeseen additional work and permitting. Once the concrete on the east side is completed the rest of the project should progress quickly. Our maintenance crew is giving the park a much needed facelift.

Your Board of Directors is anticipating sending a couple of items out to the Shareholders for a vote in the upcoming months. Whether you approve or disapprove, it is important that you respond. If necessary the Board will have monthly meetings this summer conducted with the use of Zoom Internet . Have a safe and productive summer.



**Joe and Pat Harding's granddaughter, Gracie,  
helping her pap pick up garbage!!  
THANKS Gracie!!**



## EASTER EGG HUNT by Judy Smolarek

Thank you to the activities committee "chicks" for another "Hoppy" Easter Egg Hunt. Thirteen children found Easter eggs, played games, and took home a toy and stuffed animal. A fun time with lots of smiles was had by all.



Photos by Lee Koesema



**MEDITATION by Nancy Wilder** Daily deep breathing and/or meditation allows the brain and the heart to achieve a relaxation response, which is restorative for the entire body. Taking a few moments during the day to close your eyes and breathe will help self regulate your blood pressure. One exercise is to count down from ten, breathing in on ten, out on nine, in on eight and so on, saying each number as you go. Or try meditation: its been found to lower blood pressure, reduce cardiovascular mortality and improve diabetes, among other payoffs. Great apps are available free on line, but if you are internet challenged, the library offers a vast assortment of books on calming the body and mind. Remember to be good to yourself.

## Another 70th Wedding Anniversary!!

### Frank and Joann Koenigsknecht

by Bill Howe



Frank and Joann have been snowbirds at OR since the early 1970s but what a rich heritage they have brought to the park. Both Frank and Joann grew up on farms in central Michigan, he one of 15 siblings and she one of 10. They met when Joann was only 15 and Frank snuck into her heart when he was dating her sister around 1944. Joann's parents were very strict and did not allow Joann to date when they first met. She was only 15 at the time, he 17. In fact, Joann was never allowed to date him without their permission and supervision up to the day they were married three years later. They have been married 70 years.

Thirteen months after the wedding their first son, Michael, was born and a baby was born to them for the next five years; a total five sons and one daughter, Heidi. Tragically, their fifth son was killed in an automobile accident on a scouting activity when he was 14.

Frank worked with the Michigan Department of Social Services until retiring at age 59 when he branched out into sales, primarily buying and selling investment property and other odd jobs. He kept very busy working long hours to put his family through colleges...not only his children but also Joann who earned a master's degree from Michigan State University in Labor Industrial Relations.

Frank's path crossed with OR "camper" Jay Holmes in the late 60s when Jay worked for him. Jay was instrumental in talking Frank and Joann into "camping" for a season at Ocean Resorts to escape Michigan's brutal winter. The Koenigsknecht's bought a 23 foot motor home and came to OR in the late 70s staying near Jay and his wife Delcia at their current site on Loggerhead. It was love at first sight. Neither had any experience in tennis or motor home living, but they were quickly surrounded by new friends Bernie and Myrtis Massat, Andy and Betty Bonetti, Jay and Delcia Holmes, and others where they took up tennis and the social life at Ocean Resorts full speed ahead. The tennis courts were crude at the time and few people played serious tennis. However, with new people moving in, the popularity grew to a major attraction at OR.

Players and residents rallied to improve the courts and build the shelter on site at their own expense and labor. With improved facilities these new players filled the courts every hour of daylight and often into the later evenings. With the growing popularity, the social attraction of the tennis players blossomed. To pay for expenses, the tennis committee sponsored pancake breakfasts once a month, and this was before a kitchen was built into the clubhouse. Joann remembers making pancakes in her home kitchen and running them down to the Clubhouse to fill hungry residents. Others made sausages, juice, coffee in their own kitchen, hustling them to the clubhouse for awaiting ticket holders. This was a dedicated group who knew how to have fun and work hard. Players were also seen frequently sporting T-shirts emblazoned with OR Tennis logo designed by Fran Baxter. Joann says the spirit of fun and hard work flourished in the park in those early days.

Eventually, in 1994 the Koenigsknecht's built the home they currently own on their present lot. Although Frank's health did not allow him to travel to OR this year, Joann considered them blessed and they take great pride in helping make OR what it is today, "our little bit of paradise!". With her 90th birthday approaching soon, she still has pride that she can play tennis and take part in so many other social activities in the park today.



## OR Celebrates our Nonagenarians

by Lee Koesema, with help from daughter, Diane Restorff, & granddaughter, Megan

### Vivian Catherine Thompson

Vivian was born in Washington, D.C. on April 15th, 1929. Her father was Arthur Drew and her mother was Estelle Massino. She was the youngest with two older brothers; Angelo, who died in childhood, and Frank who passed in the 1990's.



Vivian met the "love of her life", Benjamin Thompson, while she was a life guard at a Washington swimming pool. They were married for 67 years. Ben passed in 2017.



Vivian and Ben were the best of friends. They shared a love for fishing, crabbing and time on the water. They moved from the D.C. suburbs to the Chesapeake Bay, where they lived until 2015. They first rented a place in OR 1991, then they bought a unit on Inlet Way, stayed about five years then purchased a home on Ebbtide Way where she lives today.

Vivian and Ben had three children, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Vivian stays active by playing bridge and poker (her passion), attending plays at the Riverside Theater and enjoying her many friends. Although technically Vivian is an Aries, she could be mistaken for a Taurus, for her highly competitive nature, says granddaughter Megan. "Watch your money if you play poker with her", says Megan. She enjoys swimming, and throughout the years enjoyed playing tennis and bocce. One year they even won the championship.

Vivian is a talented Oil Painter and when she left Maryland, she donated all her artwork to the Southern Maryland Senior Center. She's been known to be an amazing chef; American cuisine with an Italian Accent.



After all the traveling her husband and she did, from Europe several times, to Hawaii, their favorite place, of course, was always "OCEAN RESORTS".



## NATURE AT OR by Linda Smolarek

Take a walk on the ocean and enjoy the sight of beach sunflowers as you step off the boardwalk (left side). Bright yellow single, daisy-like flowers with a black disk have simple wedge-shaped leaves and are a member of the aster family. Beach sunflower, dune sunflower or beach daisy is a perennial. This ground cover plant is native to coastal dunes of Florida. It likes our sandy soil and is nicely tolerant of dry conditions and grows naturally on sand dunes along with other native plants in full sun.

Fun fact: the flower heads always follow the sun throughout the day. Another feature of the beach sunflower is its ability to attract wildlife; several

species of butterflies appreciate the flowers and the fruits attract birds. Plants root wherever stems touch the ground and spread by underground rhizomes but need rejuvenation after two or three years of growth. As plants age, they become woody and exhausted. Native Americans used the flowers to produce pale green and purple-black colors for body painting and dyeing their pottery, baskets and fabric. So next time you walk by stop and say hello to this colorful Florida native gracing our beach!

## POOL COMMITTEE by Sue Ertel

The pool has been very busy the last few weeks with family visiting over spring breaks and Easter vacations. Lots of little ones splashing and having fun! Enjoy your last few days or weeks here at Ocean Resorts and hope to see you all next fall. Safe travels home.



Jim and Linda Smolarek's son, Sam, and grandson, Ryan



## OCEAN RESORTS SUMMER "HAPPY HOURS"

by Sharon English

Happy Hour will continue throughout the summer months. The dates are May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th and August 29th. As usual all Ocean Resorts residents and guests are welcome.

We will kick off the Memorial Day weekend with a HOT DOG NIGHT on Thursday, May 23rd from 4-6 PM at the pavilion. Hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. Please bring a side dish or appetizer to share and BYOB. There will be a sign up in the post office so we have enough hot dogs. Last year we had a great turnout!





## A FUN Day at the Island by Cibby Gardiner

About 12 kayaks and 3 pontoon boats = approx. 30 people. Paddling over was great but by the time we left to head home the wind had picked up and it was a true effort to get back! My kayak capsized and some had to be towed in.

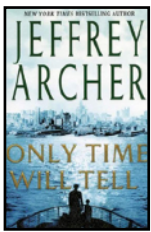




## LET'S EAT OUT by Sharon English



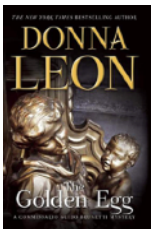
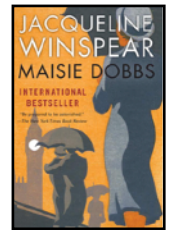
ALOHA! Welcome to **ONO LUAU**, Vero Beach's first and only Pacific Rim/Hawaiian Luau style restaurant. This delightful Hawaiian themed restaurant is in the former Osceola Bistro location, with both inside seating and outside in their beautiful courtyard. We enjoyed the Luau platter for two at \$39.95. We chose the poke Ahi tuna appetizer sampler, fresh maui fish, pork wrapped in a banana leaf, coconut rice, and baked beans. There are many other dishes to select from as well. Check the restaurant website or call for the live Hawaiian entertainment schedule. Ono Luau restaurant is family friendly, with a full bar and moderately priced. They offer brunch, lunch and dinner. **ALOHA Ono Luau!** 2045 13th Avenue, Vero Beach 32960 (former Osceola Bistro). 772-999-2657 [www.onoluau.com](http://www.onoluau.com)



**The Joy of Reading by Nancy Wilder** - Many readers find a new book they enjoy and then back track into the author's previous books. I may win the prize for consecutive book reading of a series, with Jeffrey Archer's Clifton Chronicles. In the first book Only Time Will Tell, we meet the Clifton and Barrington families at the turn of the century in England. Archer is a renown story teller and you become immersed in the characters and the connections between the families. History provides a dramatic backdrop throughout the series. And yes, I read all seven books and in order! I'd finish one and head to the library or Amazon, to get the next book. I know its

binge reading, but what great fun. You'll enjoy them.

Jacqueline Winspear's books were recommended by an Ocean Resort's friend a few years ago. In the first book, Maisie Dobbs, we are introduced to Maisie, a young woman employed as a servant in a aristocratic english home at the beginning of the century. This is a delightful series on mysteries, war stories and romance. The book provides interesting characters and an opportunity to read about the living and working conditions in England during war time. And its a series of more then a dozen books! No need to read in order, but try to start with the first to get acquainted with the characters.



Donna Leon's wonderful crime fiction series was recommended to me recently and I am grateful (there are over 20 books in the series). I am currently reading, The Golden Egg , and I love it. The main character is Commissario Guido Brunetti, who leads us through the nooks and crannies of Venice as he ponders the hidden stories behind the crime. The dialogue is sharp and the humor dry in these unusually reflective detective stories. These are stand alone books, no need to read them in order. Pick one up at the library and settle down for a good read.

I am writing from Cape Cod, where it has rained for the last 20 days, the wind howls and the temps average in the low fifties. This is the time of year and the weather that makes me appreciate the opportunity for uninterrupted reading. So many books, so much rain. Bring on the quilt and a cup of tea!

### Ocean Resorts Island Times Staff

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