



Volume 18, Issue 11

November 2021

Kevin Ahmadi, President and CEO

Kevin joined “the Oak Hammock Family” on October 8, coming to us from Cape Coral, FL, where he was the Regional Vice President of Operations of Volunteers of America, a four-community organization. In Cape Coral, he was active in civic organizations and was named the 2019 Nonprofit Executive of the Year by the Cape Coral Community Foundation.

Originally from Cleveland, OH, Kevin has lived in five states: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Arizona, and Florida. In addition, he has traveled in Montana, Wyoming, California, Texas, Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Iowa plus Sicily, Italy, France, Spain, Mexico, and Canada.

Kevin says he “grew up in senior living services,” as his mother worked in that field and he developed a passion for “grandparent care.” He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Toledo, focusing on health care management, strategic planning and organizational leadership. He has been a licensed nursing home administrator in four states, and plans to add Florida as a fifth. His first position was in Elkhart, IN, where he “cut his teeth” in skilled nursing. His first CCRC was a community in the Hyde Park area of Chicago. Kevin says it bore some similarities to Oak Hammock, such as having a membership of whom about three-fourths were University of Chicago

alumni and being affiliated with a hospital system somewhat like Shands.

Kevin is enjoying becoming a part of Oak Hammock, as he is familiar with a lot of what we do and is comfortable with it. He especially likes meeting the residents and sharing their thoughts, especially their passion for being involved.

He and his wife, Sandy, have two children. Their son, Maxwell, attends the University of South Florida, and their daughter, Caroline, is a freshman at the University of Florida. Kevin’s personal interests include boating, gardening, and cooking. One of his favorite quotes is, “Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t—you’re right,” attributed to Henry Ford.

We welcome Kevin to Oak Hammock and share his positive attitude!

- Bill Castine



The Real First Thanksgiving?

“Nearly a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the first Thanksgiving celebration was at Tampa Bay in 1529, held by the Spanish to give thanks for a successful landing. A second was celebrated in Pensacola in 1559 and a third in St. Augustine in 1565 when the Spanish shared their meal with the Timucua Indians. Historians believe the meal in St. Augustine consisted of salted pork and garbanzo beans....” (James Clark, Florida Historian)

- June Girard

At right, depiction of a Spanish Thanksgiving mass in St. Augustine, 1565



Welcome New Neighbors: Kenny and Penny Whitley

New residents Kenny and Penny Whitley are great additions to Oak Hammock. They have lived throughout the country and abroad and have wonderful stories they are willing to share.

Penny grew up in Alabama, but her father's business caused them to move around the southeast. She attended a small women's college in Maryland where her roommate fixed her up with a blind date. And yes, that turned out to be Kenny, her future husband. Penny majored in mathematics.

Kenny grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and attended the University of Houston. He was in the ROTC program that led to a career in the army. He was part of the First Infantry Division and in Viet Nam his armored battalion was conducting a reconnaissance mission when his armored personnel carrier was blown up by the enemy. His medic was killed, and Kenny suffered serious injuries to his spinal column as well as being showered with shrapnel. He eventually recovered and was sent to Maryland where he met Penny.

The couple has lived in Germany, Massachusetts, Michigan, Kansas, Hawaii, and Alabama and this list is probably incomplete. Kenny was offered a two-year stint in Saudi Arabia in the diplomatic corps. The couple lived in a military compound, but outside it Penny had to wear an abaya (a scarf and a robe) but she had a car and a driver. They were once stopped by the religious police because she had taken off the scarf. It was Kenny who was about to be arrested for her transgression. Fast talking got him out of trouble. Penny admitted that the clothing made it hard to breathe and cannot imagine how the poor women survive their burqas.

Kenny earned an MBA at Babson and a second master's in economics from the National War College in DC. He retired from the military and earned a third master's degree from Alabama's Jacksonville

State University where he taught English. He had many other accomplishments that cannot all be listed, but make sure you get together with him to hear some of the stories.

The Whitleys have three children; a daughter born in Maryland lives in Gainesville where she and her husband both work for the university. They have two grown children.

A son was born in Germany and he and his family of five children live in Raleigh, NC. Another daughter was born in Massachusetts and now lives in Texas with her husband and two boys.

I was happy to meet Aggie (short for Agatha because their children attended Texas A & M), their beautiful cream-colored Persian cat.

Their apartment is filled with beautiful artwork, Penny's needlework, and some unusual antiques. An accomplished needleworker, Penny even sewed her daughters' wedding dresses. She now owns an embroidery machine for her projects. Their Gainesville daughter, Kelly Herring, inherited her mother's talents and has two pieces of art in our current exhibition. Kenny enjoys reading and has joined the men's book club; he also enjoys working with his hands. He put together two large and complicated model cars.

The interview ended all too soon, and I can't wait to get together with Kenny and Penny again for more stories. I know you will agree how lucky we are to have them as Oak Hammock residents.

- Beth Paul



I Am Thankful...

- ♥ I'm thankful that I never ever have to cook another Thanksgiving dinner. - Missy Ziegler
- ♥ That I live at Oak Hammock and they prepare good Holiday Feasts. - Margarete Ruth
- ♥ That my family used to celebrate Thanksgiving as a tailgate banquet on Long Key! - Tallulah Brown
- ♥ We are thankful for family and friends who, for more than fifty years, have gathered at Thanksgiving at a cousin's 700-acre ranch. Immediate families, aunts and uncles, cousins, and special friends look forward to this gathering every year. Some live close to the ranch, while others may travel hundreds of miles or fly across the country to be there. We eat, talk, laugh, and catch up on all that has happened since we last saw each other. Some might play cornhole or soccer, some ride 4-wheelers through the woods, some go horseback riding, and others enjoy fishing in the pond. The older ones enjoy swinging or rocking on one of the several porches. The group may be somewhat different each year if there have been births, sickness, or deaths, but for all who can be there, the Thanksgiving gathering is a priority. We are blessed and thankful to have these strong family ties that we celebrate each Thanksgiving. - Charles and Penny Nicholson

Mary Salvamoser

Executive Assistant to the Oak Hammock CEO and Board of Directors

Mary Salvamoser was born in Pennsylvania, grew up in Buffalo, NY, then returned to PA to attend Clarion University recently renamed Penn West University. After graduation, she returned to Buffalo and began a career in banking.

In 1989, she accepted a transfer to St. Petersburg, FL, where her grandmother lived. Mary moved to Gainesville in 1990, worked for various local banks, then spent eight years fundraising for Shands Children's Hospital and the Florida Museum of Natural History. In 2003, when M&S Bank won the bid to be Oak Hammock's bank, they recruited Mary to manage the branch. She began working with our residents in November 2003, and set up the bank space in February 2004.

When the first residents moved in on March 8, 2004, Mary, joined by Sherry Graddy, was here to meet and assist all who needed banking services. In 2015, when M&S Bank sold to Ameris, they helped with the transition and stayed until the branch closed in January 2019. That's when Mary officially became a member of the Oak Hammock staff, first as a part time receptionist before taking her current position in

October of 2020.

Mary is the executive assistant to the CEO and the Board of Directors. She also assists the leadership team. Her job is interesting and fast-paced; however, she does miss the day-to-day contact with residents. Mary recalls many birthdays, weddings, and milestone celebrations with residents and staff over her seventeen years here.

Mary no longer rides a motorcycle. She was quite the Harley Davidson girl. She now confines herself to a bike, and enjoys riding and hiking, being a great outdoors person. Her hobbies include sewing, particularly quilts, embroidery, and reading. She says, "I feel as if I am part of the cement (here at Oak Hammock) because when I started working here, they were still finishing the building." What a great foundation for Oak Hammock!

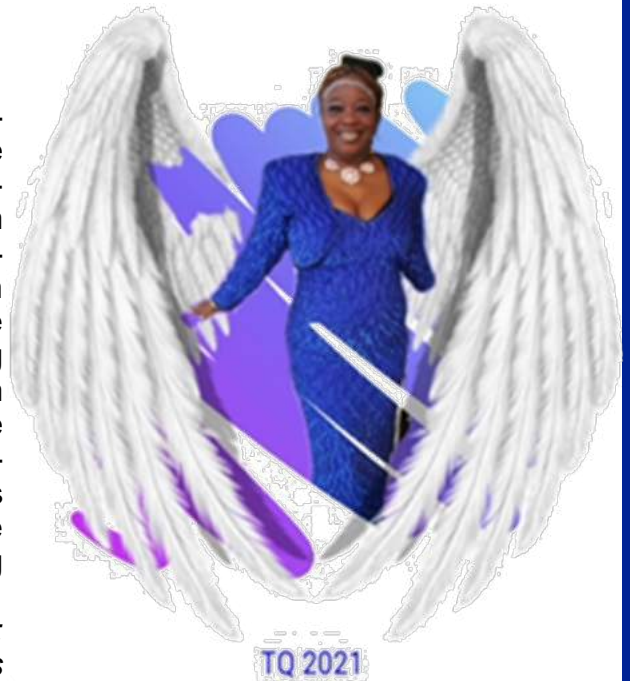
- Barbara Herbstman



An Oak Hammock Celebrity!

Flora Vinson, in Security has only been here three days as of this writing, but just got back from the Talent Quest International Karaoke Contest in Las Vegas. She won the Florida competition singing "Why Haven't I Heard from You?" She won first place in women's masters. Florida sent her to Las Vegas where she ended up in the top ten. A celebrity working at Oak Hammock!

- Kathryn Clark, content;
Gail Robinson, photos



You Make the Difference

The following employee received the "You Make the Difference Award. Details of the accomplishments are located on the board by the Oak Room. Congratulations!

Lakeisha Jones

Housekeeping

Halloween Costume Contest



1. Contestants
2. Judge Martha Rader showed off her new hair do
3. Youlanda Richardson, Assistant Restaurant Manger

4. Finalists, including our Winner: Rat with Purloined Bird Feeder

- Margarete Ruth

Halloween Spooktacular

On the night of October 29, the Oak Hammock Bus took us to a special event in Gainesville at the University Auditorium, followed by a spectacular performance in the Century Tower. Tricks and treats were abounding, as the students performed lovely music on the gorgeous organ and piano on stage inside. However, they were tragically attacked by a knife-wielding masked ghoul after their respective performances. Next, we were treated to music outside, played inside the carillon tower and shown on a screen where we were sitting. Some of the performers were costumed as they played.

What a combination of the talents of the UF students, a fun Halloween "Spooktacular", and all of that performed in such a beautiful setting...even though we think one witch flew off on her broom after the concert.

- Bev Cone, content; Mike Plaut, Pushpa Kalra, photos



Veterans Day, 2021



The Oak Room was packed to overflowing, with patriotic music playing and photos of our veterans, then and now, scrolling on the big screen. The celebration started with the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of our national anthem. We then solemnly remembered our veterans who had passed away this year, and recognized our WWII veterans.

Our guest speaker, Major General Bill Hodgkin, USAF (retired), reviewed the history of Veterans Day, explaining why there is no apostrophe in the word Veterans. He also explained how other parts of the world celebrate November 11,

calling it Armistice Day or Remembrance Day, plus other historical background of Veterans Day in America.

Everyone was there to honor all American Veterans in every branch of the armed forces in our country, in a very meaningful way. Afterwards, we enjoyed refreshments and conversation in the Upper Commons - *Bev Cone, content; Bonnie Umphreys, photos*



An Active Lifestyle at Oak Hammock

The COVID pandemic has certainly put a crimp in Oak Hammock's travel and in our events programs. The Active Lifestyle Committee has a bulletin board that has been just as quiet with information as our activities have been. As we begin to emerge from our days of relative inactivity, the Active Lifestyle Committee's bulletin board is back up and running. Maybe you didn't even know it existed. It is located on the opposite wall from the mailboxes. This bulletin board will give you the information you need about trips, activities, and events this committee is sponsoring. Check it out so you are up to date with the events of an active lifestyle. - *Joe Gilkey*



Lubee Bat Conservancy Visit

On November 8, a beautiful Monday morning, a group of 16 hearty Oak Hammock residents took a short trip north into the Florida “wilderness” to visit the Lubee Bat Conservancy, home to some 200 fruit bats. These bats are not native to Florida but are one of the many endangered species of bats in the world. Unlike most bat species that live on insects, these bats eat all kinds of fruits and fruit juices as well as several kinds of vegetables. And they also love certain kinds of baby food! We were guided on our tour by a wonderful UF zoology trained, and widely experienced, staff member, Angela, the Lubee Education Coordinator.

Most of the fruit bats are much larger than the typical Florida insect eating bats, the largest having a wingspread of 5½ feet! They are also active during the daytime and move around a lot, though mostly by “walking” a bit as they hang upside down from the cage ceiling. It was mating season during our visit so there was the occasional “disagreement” among some males. When they spread their wings, it was impressive to see how beautiful their very delicate wings appear as the sunlight glows through them. To add to this, many have striking gold body fur. Of course, our Oak Hammock residents peppered our tour guide with all kinds of questions that showed us not only how well she knew each species but each individual bat by name!

After our wonderful and enlightening tour ended, we proceeded to lunch at Crafty Bastard’s Pub. This very pleasant restaurant had a large menu, interesting food choices, and great atmosphere. And 60 different draft beers are available! The staff was very efficient and helpful, making this a great way to end a beautiful trip and day.

- Keith Berg, content; Connie Brill, photos



Board of Directors Reception

It was a well-attended reception to welcome the Board of Directors and Kevin Ahmadi to Oak Hammock. Kevin’s wife, Sandy, also attended and it was a pleasure to have her there. Others in attendance included Judith Russell, Board Chair, our Oak Hammock residents board members, Martha Rader and Nancy Wood, along with new board member Curtis Reynolds who seemed to enjoy his new role. He is very excited about the solar project and was anxious to discuss it. Ed Poppell looked extremely happy to have passed the mantle on to Kevin, and Oak Hammock residents all seem to believe his successor was a good choice. Chef Jon, as always, put on an excellent spread for those in attendance.

- Beth Paul, content; Patsy Nelms, Margarete Ruth, photos



Boat Trip on the St. Johns River

On October 23, twenty-nine Oak Hammock residents and our two wonderful bus drivers had a delightful cruise on the St. Johns River. Piloted by Captain Kim Walther and First Mate Bill Davis, we boarded the City of Palatka's "Pride of Palatka" pontoon boat at Corky Bell's Seafood Restaurant in East Palatka and went up-river (south) 6 miles and then back down-river toward Palatka.

We were fortunate to have two local guides. Janice Mahaffey told of some of the history of the area. A special treat was the first-hand account by William (Billy) Bartram, aka Mike Adams, who magically returned from the past to tell of his travels along the River in the 1760s and 1770s. Billy regaled us with animated stories of some of the strange creatures he had seen in his travels along the River. He later published these accounts and many detailed drawings of plants and animals in his now widely acclaimed book "Travels".

We arrived back at the dock at Corky Bell's and enjoyed a great seafood lunch on their outdoor deck under a large canopy, enjoying the view from a bluff overlooking the River.

The trip was organized by Dr. Bob Virnstein, as one of the field trips by the Natural History Society. The Thursday before the trip, Bob had presented a program describing the loss of seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon and in the St. Johns, losses that have had a devastating effect on Florida's manatee population. Although we saw no manatees, we enjoyed perfect weather, a smooth boat ride, and each other's company. We returned to Gainesville with a new understanding and appreciation of one of Florida's most important natural resources, the mighty St. Johns River. We had a good day.

- Bob Virnstein



Attending any meeting to discuss food at Oak Hammock always draws a crowd. Especially, with our new CEO, Kevin Ahmadi, eager to share his past experiences and listen to concerns. His vision for Oak Hammock is to offer exceptional care with world-class hospitality. Who could argue with that goal? Food services is a number one concern for everyone—from purchasing to preparation and serving. From training and standard portion control to food waste. No set of rules and mandates guarantee a successful outcome or everyone's being happy. So, what's new for Oak Hammock menus and dining? Stay tuned as Chef Jon and Executive Chef Justin continue to juggle schedules and work with the new kitchen staff, many of whom are untrained. Together they are striving for consistency in the food preparation, kitchens, servers, and staff. Keep in mind that the health department continues to find *zero deficiencies* in all Oak Hammock kitchens, which is cause for applause! Kevin's keen interest and vast experience will continue to help guide our food services.

Thanksgiving invites reflection and appreciation. Kindness always seems to aid digestion. Parents and teachers taught kind words—please and thank you. Oak Hammock has a wonderful staff. Want a smile? Give a smile.

- Barbara Dockery

Breast Cancer Survivors

October is *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. On October 22, Oak Hammock survivors gathered for a Bosom Buddies Coffee to celebrate! Margi Sidman, Margaret Boonstra, and June Girard have planned celebrations for seven years here, (except for 2020 during Covid). Many of us have been cancer free for a long time, but Liz Wing, a member in AL, is the longest survivor—55 years! She joined us in the MPR

for donuts and coffee, along with about 35 other women, with lots of us wearing pink and ready to share our stories about when and where we were treated for breast cancer. It was a meaningful and beautiful celebration, ending after our sharing time, by singing the “Bosom Buddies Fight Song”, led by Jan Havre. It was a very emotional morning for all of us.
- *Bev Cone*

Holiday Train

The Holidays are coming! Jerry Kirkpatrick is our resident Train Master. He is preparing to set up the annual Holiday train display in the lower commons. This year he is using a Ping-Pong table as the base. Funds were requested from Recycled Riches and a table was purchased. Seemed a shame to use this new, heavy-duty table, only once a year. So, the old table was switched out with the new model. Visiting families enjoy the chance to burn off some energy and now they have a bright new table for both table tennis and trains!
- *Hank Wake*



Christmas Village and Décor Sale

The Special Treasures team of Recycled Riches received such a generous donation of three huge Christmas Villages from a resident's daughter, and so many other nice holiday decorations and décor from many residents who have been busy clearing out storage closets during these many months of adapting to COVID-19, that we needed to schedule a special sale on October 25. Over twenty residents pitched in to research and price items, unpack or re-pack, move all those boxes to the MPR, set up our lovely store displays, then clean up, for a very successful all day sale. Staff and residents loved our bargains and went home with big smiles to create new holiday memories. We made \$1225 for future special projects sponsored by Recycled Riches. Our regular biannual sale of Vintage and Special Treasures finer items, home décor plus some other unique things we collect all year will be held in the Acorn Room on Friday, November 19. Let Judy Plaut or Jan Lowenthal know if you want to join our team. It's work, but we divide up the tasks and do different shifts. We guarantee laughter and a fun way to get to know lots of staff and residents better.
- *Judy Plaut*



Garden Groupies Social

On November 7, a perfect 65° sunny Sunday afternoon, 24 members of the Garden Groupies club met in the Community Gardens for their first social in over 1 1/2 years. As it was our first meeting since Covid, a large group appreciated the beautiful day in the gardens, enjoying the company of fellow gardeners and sharing tips and interests. A lovely table of snacks—deviled eggs, curried chicken tartlets, teriyaki meatballs, spice cake, and cupcakes—were enjoyed by all. Most of our gardeners grow flowers and vegetables in their plot, so it was most interesting to hear from Nelson Logan, one of our members, who grows bonsai. He had an engaging program explaining bonsai basics and the contrasts and similarities to the plants that most of our members are used to growing. Several bonsai were on display and our members got to tour the bonsai cages that are part of the community gardens. Also speaking were Jan Lowenthal and Edna Hindson. There was some lively discussion and a good number of questions both about bonsai and about general vegetable gardening. It was a great party and we look forward to our next garden social in the spring.
- *Gail Robinson*



The Bookends

What a way to enjoy a beautiful November Sunday afternoon, on our Outdoor Deck on the boardwalk! Patrick Duff and Kelly Kirkpatrick entertained us, singing and playing an acoustic guitar and fiddle—songs by The Beach Boys, Rolling Stones, the Kingston Trio, and many more. It was relaxing to listen, and later visit with each other, and have cookies and coffee during the break. The bright, sunny afternoon was refreshing after a few days of rain, wind, and cold temperatures, and it was fun to be outside with Oak Hammock friends.

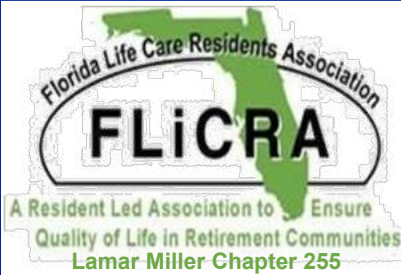
- Bev Cone, content; Marie Okronley, photo



Donations Always Needed

The Lifesouth Community Blood Center's blood mobile rolls into Oak Hammock four to five times a year. The blood center needs at least 100 donations a day to keep the local blood bank at a safe threshold. Thanks to the Oak Hammock residents and employees who continue to make life saving donations!

- Barbara Dockery



On Wednesday, November 3, FLiCRA held its Annual Membership meeting with the Board of Directors and delegates on Zoom. FLiCRA has 8 regions in Florida. Our chapter President, David Rader, is the Director of Region 8, our region. Florida has a total of 71 CCRCs. One of the most important things that I learned from listening to the presentations was how well LeadingAge, the organization that represents the owners, and FLiCRA, the organization that represents us residents, are working together. This is really important for our future.

More about the annual meeting later.

- Mary Sanford

Attention Oak Hammock!

Jazz up your outfit by accessorizing with jewelry! Wearing jewelry is a custom that dates back to ancient civilizations, symbolizing elegance and prosperity. Wearing a unique item or two makes a woman feel stylish and beautiful.

A wide variety of pieces have been donated to Recycled Riches, including earrings and necklaces in all styles, ranging from luxurious to whimsical.

While "all that glitters is not gold," wearing a distinctive piece of costume jewelry can enhance any ensemble. The jewelry displays are in the cabinet by Treats and Treasures. A piece may be calling your name right now, so come visit the jewelry display!

A "shout out" to Sandra Smith for helping me with watch batteries.

Remember, donations are always appreciated and if you have any questions, contact me at safetynetfi@aol.com or call me at 954-655-4104.

- Joni Simon



Plan a Trip!

Do you have a desire to plan an Oak Hammock trip? If so, simply submit a Group Transportation request form at least a month in advance and then invite your group. The trip can be opened to all of Oak Hammock and others may sign up to join you.

I never knew that this was possible until I signed up for a shopping trip to Jacksonville that Karen Miller organized. It was a wonderful day. Our driver took us to the shopping area, we were given specific instructions about where and when to meet, then we were on our own to shop or eat, or whatever, as long as we were back at the appointed time.

The important thing is for the trip leader to make a very specific agenda so that everyone knows what to expect. Karen did and it was a real treat! - Bev Cone



Art League

As we are opening up Oak Hammock to our families and visitors, a great way to entertain them is to take a tour of the Gainesville Fine Arts Association's Judged Fall show in our Art Gallery that can be found in the Hallways surrounding the Duckworth Garden. In mid-October, we held an opening reception for residents and artists, featuring a delicious repast created by Chef Jon's excellent appetizers, and an Oak Room gathering to hear Judge Kyle Novak, Gallery Director at Santa Fe College, make his choices known.

The award-winning artists are: Best of Show: Kate Murray (shown at right), George Beckman award: Susan Fulford, Margaret Zircher award: Jane Polkowski, Judge's Choice award: Kathy Faraone and Peg Richardson, Award of Excellence: Judi Cain, Third Place award: Larry Wilson, Merit awards to the following: Harold Barand, Troy Brett, Anda Chance, Susan Kelman, Keith Berg, Linda Zidonik. Many thanks to Judge Karen Miller, Jack Martin, Billie Fisher, and anonymous donors for helping to make these awards possible.

Kudos to Dick Martin for making a lovely video of this show that can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/bvbDX7DITG4>.

The November/December art studio show features the artworks of Mary Sue Koepfel, with oils, watercolors, doodles, and pen and ink, demonstrating the versatility of Mary Sue's artistic talent. A reception for this show is being planned for a Sunday afternoon in early December. Watch for the announcement.

Susan Bankston, Art league Director, has organized a variety of classes for us, starting with November 12, a one day watercolor workshop taught by renowned artist Lynn Ferris. It will be followed by Anda Chance's Holiday Ornament Colored Pencil workshop on December 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All supplies are furnished. Cost is \$45. Other classes are being planned for 2022.

There will be no monthly Art league Programs in November and December. On January 25, 2022 at 4 p.m. in the Oak Room, Master artist Anthony Ackrill, guest speaker, plans to share his journey to becoming an artist of note, who shows his works in Galleries and Museums throughout the United States.

In the mini-gallery, the current show by Jim McCown will be taken down at the end of November and residents will receive a ballot for voting for "Residents' Choice Award" in the next few days. The next exhibitor is Sue Kelman, past president of GFAA, with her show going up during the first week of December.

"Creativity takes courage." — Henri Matisse

- Marion Siegel



Nature at Oak Hammock

On Oak Hammock's Nature Trails, a native Southern Magnolia tree is marked with a numeral 2 sign. If you haven't been on our Nature Trails, you are missing a treasure! The trees and plants are natural, but the system of trails was started by residents in 2004-2005. Read all about it in an article by Fred Harden in *The Oak Leaf (TOL)* in the 2020-5 issue on page 18.

Through the seventeen years of publication, *TOL* has included many articles and photos of the beautiful natural setting of our community. To find more on magnolias, check the back issues of *TOL* that you may have in your home and **IF** you have saved them. For a convenient short-cut to **ALL** of the back issues and topics covered over the years, turn to the *TOL* Index available on infoh.us. In the M table, you will find two articles/photos on magnolias that have appeared in the past. To look at Karen Arola's closeup photo of a magnolia bloom, see issue 2018-7. If you click on

the blue hyperlinked date designation 2019-6, you will go to that issue and see the photo on the first page.

A second issue of *TOL* contains an article and photo of magnolias. After clicking on 2020-5, you will find on page 7 a photo of magnolias accompanying a poem on summer. To learn more about using the index for *TOL*, select the section in blue: "Click here to view the Searching Instructions".

Another resource created by a resident for Natural History Society sessions should not be missed. In 2017, Tom Gire presented *The Trees of Oak Hammock*. The first session is preserved as a videotape and available on infoh.us. To locate it there, navigate from the homepage to the Resources & Archives tab, log-in if needed, and when the list appears select Tom Gire – The Woods of Oak Hammock. Magnolia blooms and a section on trees is included in the early part of the video. The second session in 2017 was a guided tour of the woods by Tom; several times were available for the tours.

- Sybil Farwell

Bill Rossi's Trophy Tarpon

I journeyed to the Rio Colorado in Costa Rica in early October for some tarpon fishing. This has been an annual trip to the same fishing lodge, Silver King Lodge, for the past several years, although COVID interrupted the tradition for the past two years.

I was disappointed at not being able to go for trophy tarpon since 2019, but felt that the lack of fishing pressure during the COVID time might result in some really good tarpon action. My patience in not traveling since 2019 for the annual fishing trip paid off. Not only did I catch enough tarpon in four days to make my arms feel like limp spaghetti, I was rewarded with a trophy catch, a 260 pound tarpon that was the lodge record for the past seven years!

The pictures show that 260 pound fish jumping clear of the water an hour into what was ultimately an hour and a half fight to land it, and the guide getting ready to release my trophy to fight another day. The COVID delay in making this trip was worth the wait. Not only was it a lodge record, it was my personal tarpon record.

- Bill Rossi



An Inspiring Afternoon

Remember the unfinished quilts that were donated to the Oak Hammock Quilters to resize and give to Skilled Nursing patients?

Recently some Oak Hammock quilters went on a "Field Trip" to see many finished quilts by the same quilter, Linda Anderson, sister-in-law of Susan and Art Kluge. Linda began quilting in 1989. Through the years she has perfected her craft and developed a gift for color selection. Also the Kluges have been on Linda's #1 gift list and happily display her talents. We enjoyed our wonderful visit with Susan as we wandered from room to room, admiring quilts on the walls, tables, chairs, and beds. So inspiring!

- Pat Martin, content; Peg Owens, photo



Benevolent Fund Contributions

(As of November 1)



Since we last reported on the contributions to the Benevolent Fund, a total of \$58,516.26 was received, including donations made in memory of Susan Wiltshire and Bunny Blood.

- Jonathon Mann

A Tale of Two Kitties

What could be more fun than having a cat? Having *two* cats. So says Anne Margoluis—a lover of all animals—with a soft heart for creatures in need. Anne has supported organizations that assist with "saving & relocating" animals. Frequently, that results in an animal at home. Anne volunteered with Operation Cat Nip, acquiring "Bootsie" as a tiny abandoned kitten. That was nine years ago. Today this beautiful tuxedo cat shares sunshine naps with fourteen-year old "Charlotte"—a seal-point Siamese—courtesy of the Gainesville Pet Rescue.



So, what's it like living with eight cat paws? They're not into traditional cat toys. They prefer watching television, especially animal programs. Sleeping at the foot of the bed is allowed, but not under the covers. Charlotte sounds the wake-up call every morning. Anne's recent *reclassification* from street person to building 2, fourth floor atrium has proven a plus for the cats. They enjoy the windows. Especially the sunshine —purrrrr-fect for taking naps.

As a side bar: Anne likes snakes too. She's been known to wear them in her hair (not lately though). Approach apartment 4210 with a bit of caution. There just might be an asp encircling the wooden knob of the welcoming fence at the doorway.

Not real, of course. But it'll sure get your attention! Heck, she even likes live snakes.

- Barbara Dockery

Eightieth Birthdays Celebrated Behind the Green Door!

In August 1956, a song called "Behind the Green Door" was released. In the song Jim Lowe expressed frustration about not being part of the party he heard behind the green door. "Green door, what's that secret you're keeping?" On November 7, Oak Hammock residents born in 1941 finally discovered what's behind the Green Door.

Ann Elnicki and Elaine Skeel opened the green door to the Oak Room they had decorated in 50's style with Elvis, a jukebox, guy in a white sport coat and a pink carnation, and poodle skirts! Everyone laughed and enjoyed 50's music while trying to guess who the youngsters and teenagers were in the photos displayed on the walls! Pretty cool looking group! Mike Plaut acted as emcee and played all our favorite high school songs! We all learned new inside stories of our fellow celebrants! Al Goebel accompanied us as we ended the evening with "Irene Goodnight," a serenade to Irene Goebel.

The guests enjoyed the results of the careful planning of the Committee: Laura Berns, Roanne Coplin, Marilyn Crosby, Ann Elnicki, Judy Gire, Doris Greene, Madeleine Mitchell, Michael Plaut, Elaine Skeel, and Carole Zegel. The Dining Staff prepared a delicious buffet and the wait staff made the evening atmosphere rock!

We left overjoyed and looking forward to celebrating the next decade! - Carole Zegel, content; Mike Plaut, photos



New Bonsai Houses

As made famous from the movie “Field of Dreams” (with a slight misquote), “If you build it, they will come.” Well, it was so for the Bonsai houses. It all started in about 2017; three residents built a “container” to keep two and four legged critters from “walking off” with their little trees. That first wooden structure was soon overflowing with plants as more residents took up the hobby. Now with a club membership of about 20, two more (more permanent, attractive with ADA considerations) structures were built. The tables and shelves inside were constructed in the Oak Hammock Woodshop. Now we have a delightful addition to the Oak Hammock Gardens that expands the variety of plants for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. And many thanks to the residents who have donated to support this construction. So, “If you build it, they will come”—and they did.

- Nelson Logan, content; Leon Glaze, garden photo;
Gail Robinson, Nelson Logan photo

Here at Oak Hammock we now have, due to these enclosures, a safe place to keep and care for our bonsai, thanks to Nelson Logan (pictured above) and his ability to design and build appropriate structures.

- Edna Hindson



They Served Everywhere

Oak Hammock residents and staff have worn military uniforms on the land, on the sea, in the air—with pride. A tribute is given to these individuals in a display case, Lower Lobby level (near the postal area). Photos show these special veterans wearing the uniforms worn during their actual time of service, plus an updated photo as a civilian of today. Interesting military service-related memorabilia are included in the display, that was fabricated by Julie Ann Ariet.

Author Amit Kalantri expresses the gratitude due to all veterans: “*Civilians enjoy their time—because soldiers sacrificed their time*”.

- Barbara Dockery



Beautiful Lighting in the Duckworth Gardens

-Margarete Ruth



Staff Pumpkin Lineup

- Ann Carlson Bonus



A Thanksgiving Guest

- Doris Greene

LEGO Challenges Adults

In the 1960's, LEGOs were introduced into the U.S. and became a highly popular brand of children's toys. No doubt many adults said a few *unkind words* about the popular hard plastic building blocks—mostly those that children/grandchildren left scattered about on the floor. Ouch! They were a painful hazard for adult bare feet. Children continue to enjoy LEGO building blocks that promote fine motor skills plus hand-eye coordination. Now, those clever LEGO folks offer designs and kits for adults—from travel and history to art, design, music, and more. [LEGO.com/adults-welcome](https://www.lego.com/adults-welcome) website offers additional product information. Locally, several Gainesville businesses offer a variety of subjects and prices.

Could be the perfect gift selection. Or a GOKO "give one-keep one".

- Barbara Dockery



Employee Appreciation Fund Thank You!

As I write this article for *The Oak Leaf*, my heart is filled with gratitude. When I heard the total contributions for the Employee Appreciation Fund at \$233,435 and climbing as of last Thursday, October 28, I was thrilled. Today I write to say a huge thank you to all of you who have contributed to the Employee Appreciation Fund this year. (Editor's note: the fund received the highest donations ever, at \$318,884.99.)

When I think back to when I was in my 20's starting out, a surprise check would've been a huge gift that could've helped with my teaching "wardrobe" (sounds far more proper than my clothes would convey) or much better birthday and Christmas gifts for my folks and siblings. Today when you hear staff talk about receiving their past EAF checks, it was to help out with serious bills, car repairs, and/or trips to be with their loved ones again. Their stories touch my heart because I remember what it was like to have wants far greater than my paychecks could afford. Being able to help others now is a way to pay it all forward. So, I thank you for helping our staff to have just a little extra again this year. Giving joy to others definitely gives joy back in return.

One more bit of information I'd like to pass on. For those of you who want to contribute to the EAF annually, you may want to ask Lori Fishel in the billing department if they can add whatever amount you prefer to your monthly bill. We've done that since we moved here a year ago. It's easy, it's painless, and you don't have to think about writing a larger check amount come November.

Many thanks to all of you who have given to the staff who serve us daily. Your contribution will bring joy to many lives as well as let our staff know how grateful we are to them for being here. We wish you and your families a fun, safe, and blessed Thanksgiving. Thank YOU for your generous hearts from all of us on the EAF Committee.

- Marcia Brant, content;
Kathy Cafazzo,
Katherine Osman, photos



Oak Hammock by the Numbers, November 1

Independent Living

	Total	Sold	Available
Houses	57	57	0
Apartments	212	207	5

- Nickie Doria

Health Pavilion

	Total	Occupied	Available
Assisted	46	39	7
Memory*	24	9	3
Skilled**	73	66	7

* 12 units are set aside for quarantine

** fluctuates daily

- Mary Sabatella

Spread the Word

Peanut butter FIGHTS hunger – and time is running out for Oak Hammock to meet the 2021 Peanut butter challenge! Thanks again to the Florida Peanut Producers Association and the Florida Peanut Federation for sponsoring this challenge. Last year Oak Hammock donated over 120 pounds of nutritious peanut butter. As Thanksgiving approaches, let's do even better this time. Help spread delicious-nutritious smiles to local food pantries, to feed families in need.

Drop unopened jars of peanut butter in the designated box at the transportation desk (by the bank). **Better hurry: deadline is November 24th.**

Then stop by the Grille to enjoy a PBJ. Thanks for the memory.

- Barbara Dockery



Least Favorite Thanksgiving Food

- If God were to eliminate rutabaga and parsnips from every Thanksgiving dinner, the world would be a better place. - Beth Paul
- I hate to admit this, but I don't really like turkey. - Katherine Osman
- Pumpkin Pie! - Name withheld for fear of Pie Reprisal



Delving into the Past

Chronicle: a factual written account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence. A chronicle of Oak Hammock's development and history is contained in back issues of *The Oak Leaf*. This chronicle is readily available via infoh.us, the website developed and maintained by and for Oak Hammock residents. Each issue since inception is available—and the website also contains a very comprehensive index of articles, so access is streamlined. Each issue is searchable and may be downloaded and/or printed if desired.

Dig around a bit and review the Garden Groupies, the Mutt Strut, or a member profile of your nearby neighbor. Or see the very first issue produced by residents: Volume 1, issue 3, in 2004. Prior issues were published by management as the *Oak Hammock Times*. Enjoy perusing a bit of history! Visit infoh.us/oak-leaf-2/.

- Bill Castine

Awards and More

Michael Plaut is a 2021 recipient of the Roy Ernst Award from New Horizons Music. Oak Hammock's Chamber Group is part of New Horizons.

At their annual meeting, Michael was also elected president of the New Horizons International Music Association (newhorizonsmusic.org). His one-year term begins in January.

Golf Tournament

Congratulations and thank you to Norm Cooney and the Oak Hammock Golf Tournament Committee who donated \$50,000 to the Oak Hammock Benevolent Fund. This was the best tournament yet!

Oak Hammock Golf Tournament Fund		1234
Oak Hammock at the University of Florida		
November 12, 2021		Date
Pay to the Order of	Oak Hammock Benevolent Fund	\$ 50000
Fifty Thousand and 00/100 dollars		
For	Donation	

REMINDER

There is still time to donate to the University of Florida Campaign for Charities. For more information, go to <https://ufcc.ufl.edu/>



Editor: Patsy Nelms; **Assistant Editor:** Janet Axe;
Proofreader: Bill Castine

Oak Leaf Committee

Janet Bostrom, Bill Castine, Kathryn Clark, Cynthia Clements, Bev Cone, Barbara Dockery, Jan Havre, Barbara Herbstman, Beth Paul, Jack Polk, Bonnie Umphreys,

Additional Contributors (This Issue)

Keith Berg, Marcia Brant, Tallulah Brown, Nickie Doria, Sybil Farwell, Joe Gilkey, June Girard, Doris Greene, Edna Hindson, Nelson Logan, Jonathon Mann, Pat Martin, Charles and Penny Nicholson, Judy Plaut, Gail Robinson, Bill Rossi, Margarete Ruth, Mary Sabatella, Mary Sanford, Marion Siegel, Joni Simon, Bob Virnstein, Hank Wake, Denise Ward, Carole Zegel, Missy Zeigler

Photographers (This Issue)

George Arola, Karen Arola, Connie Brill, Bill Castine, Kathy Cafazzo, Ann Carlson Bonus, Barbara Dockery, Lori Fishel, Leon Glaze, Doris Greene, Pushpa Kalrah, Catherine Morsink, Patsy Nelms, Marie Okronley, Katherine Osman, Peg Owens, Judy Plaut, Mike Plaut, Gail Robinson, Bill Rossi, Margarete Ruth, Joni Simon, Bonnie Umphreys, Bob Virnstein, Hank Wake, Denise Ward

Additional Proofreaders

Beth Paul, Martha Rader

Graphics

Katherine Osman, Layout

Calling All Models

The Oak Hammock therapy team would like to adorn the walls of the Outpatient Therapy Clinic with active lifestyle photographs of Oak Hammock residents. We are looking for models in the following categories: swimming, trail hiking, fitness center classes, weight training, boxing, cycling, golf, etc. Contact the therapy department at 352-378-7108 if you wish to participate.

- Denise Ward, Director of Rehab

*Below, Oak Hammock Resident
 Robert Virnstein*



Save the Date to SING!

The Oak Hammock Singers have been hummin' for months. At last, they're really singing—*without masks*. Covid cancelled a lot last year, including Oak Hammock's traditional "Christmas on the Stairs". Planning and plotting have begun for the 2021 celebration. The huge Christmas tree will adorn the lower lobby. Everyone's invited to gather in the upper and lower levels to SING for an old-fashioned holiday sing-along.

Save the date Sunday, December 12th – 7:30 p.m. Time to dig out festive attire and plan to join in the fun. Refreshments? Of course. The Oak Hammock Singers would never forget that.

- Barbara Dockery, content; Bill Castine, photo



2021 Residents' Council

President
 Vice President
 Secretary

Martha Rader
 Norm Cooney
 Barbara Francis

The Council meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month in the Oak Room and via Zoom.

Committee

Active Lifestyle
 Master Planning
 Buildings and Grounds,
 Communications and Marketing
 Community and University Partnerships
 Dining and Nutritional Services
 Finance & Cost-Effective Management
 Health & Well-being
 Technology & Services Innovation
 Assisted Living Representative

Meeting Time

1st Monday, 11:00 AM
 2nd Wednesday, 3:15 PM
 2nd Thursday, 10:00 AM
 4th Friday, 1:30 PM
 Varies
 1st Friday, 10:00 AM
 3rd Thursday, 1:30 PM
 1st Thursday, 3:30 PM
 3rd Friday, 10:00 AM

Chairperson

Keith Berg
 Doug Merrey
 Jan Lowenthal
 Mary Kilgour
 Michael Plaut
 Bruce Blackwell
 Al O'Neill
 Henri Logan
 Bill Zegel
 Jim Piety

**Committees are meeting using a variety of formats.
 Please contact the Committee chairs for specific information.**

