

New Year's Eve Ball Drop, Oak Hammock Style

Some folks think it's necessary to travel to Times Square to watch the big ball drop on New Year's Eve. That's *so old hat* at Oak Hammock. Well, credit goes to a certain lady, back in 2006. To sort out fiction from fact, it was necessary to consult someone who was there for that first historic drop. That someone was Bob Taylor.

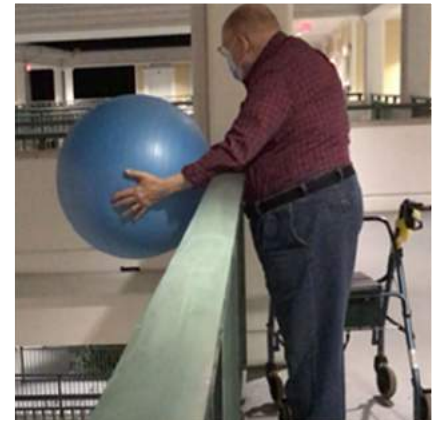
"When Dee and I moved into the first floor of building one in 2005, we found that a group of the residents on the floor got together at 5 o'clock one day a week. We would deviate when New Year's Eve wasn't exactly on the regular day of our gathering. In 2006, as we sat around the New Year's party, someone said that we should have a ball drop at midnight. With that, neighbor Anna Gutekunst got up, grabbed her walker, and took off for her unit. She returned shortly with a large inflated exercise ball! At midnight, the ball was taken to the 2nd floor—out on the atrium—and the first ball drop occurred. We started on the second floor because we were afraid the ball would explode. It didn't. So, the next year we went up to the 4th floor—where we have been dropping it from ever since.

A few years later, Anna and husband Dick moved to AL, but Anna gave her exercise ball to floor one of building one, so we could keep our ball drop on New Year's Eve going. Over the years we've decided that most of us really didn't want to stay up for midnight to drop the ball. We have gradually moved the time for the drop, so it now occurs at

10:30 pm.

Bob has been the mastermind of the huge Christmas tree appearing annually on the Lower Level. And moving untold boxes for Recycled Riches from point A to point B, numerous times. Those have become past tense activities.

Hmmmm. Might he be considering the abandonment of the big ball drop too? Bob assures us not to worry. "I have been in charge of the ball drop since 2006—and I don't plan to give it up!" Let the countdowns continue...5, 4, 3, 2, 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!



- Barbara Dockery, content and photo;
Janice Malkoff, action photo (from video)

2022, not 2020, too

The following comments are from both residents and staff about the upcoming year.

- Life will be good if you don't turn on the news.
- I hope Covid will be more manageable.
- I worry about elections.
- I wonder what's next with climate change.
- We are going to have to get used to living with Covid restrictions.
- We'll survive the year!
- Staying alive, that's going to be the big test.

- Hopefully the new year will be better than the last year.
- Hope to be without any contagious disease so we can restart a normal life.
- Hope people take advantage of that which society has provided us to combat the pandemic.
- Take better care of myself so I can take care of others.
- It's going to be hard for me because I am going back to school to get a bachelor's degree.

- collected by Barbara Herbstman

Susan Young

If you were to ask me to describe our receptionist, Susan Young in one word, it would be—indispensable!

She has been at Oak Hammock in one way or another almost from the beginning. In 2005, although she wasn't employed by Oak Hammock, she assisted many new residents in un-packing and getting settled when they moved in. So when a part-time job in Marketing opened up in 2006, she was a logical choice. In 2010, she moved from Marketing to Community Services reception, and from there to her current position as Lead Receptionist.

Prior to moving to Gainesville, Susan was Recreation Coordinator for the Town of Davie in south Florida. During her fourteen years there, she was in charge of all programming citywide as well as two Senior Centers. In summer months, she commanded a staff of 100 employees. This experience equipped her well to deal with the 400+ residents of Oak Hammock, a demanding position at which she excels.

"What would we do without Susan?" is a question asked frequently at Oak Hammock, for very good reason! Susan's "ordinary" days consist of fielding myriads of incoming phone calls, distributing mail and *The Oak Leaf* to residents, organizing package delivery to us during the pandemic, cataloguing resident out-of-town forms, training new receptionists when necessary, booking guest suites, directing traffic around the reception area and answering literally dozens of questions on dozens of subjects from dozens of people. "Ask Susan" is the constant refrain one hears every day. And if, on rare occasions, she doesn't know how to solve someone's problem, she will find out! She knows every resident by name, and perhaps even more importantly, she knows their pets' names, and keeps jars of "cookies" on her desk, insuring that no dog, cat, or parrot ever visits the lobby without getting a treat from "Auntie Susan"!

Susan is very proud of her son, who graduated from Santa Fe College in 2020, and now lives with her while working for Charles Berg in the AC refrigerant business. She is also proud of her home, which she loves to decorate. This talented lady also enjoys sewing, making jewelry, gardening, and reading, especially books having to do with Florida.

She loves her life at Oak Hammock with us, her extended family. "What would we do without Susan?" We hope that we never have to find out!

- Jan Havre



Audiology Update

Dr. Emily Gainer, our new audiologist, was born in Gainesville and grew up in Lake City. She attended the University of Florida for her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Dr. Gainer (she prefers to be called Emily) actually did some of her early training here at Oak Hammock with Dr. Martin.

Dr. Gainer notes that there are numerous reasons to consult an audiologist in addition to a loss of hearing. For those who are unsteady or have a sense of vertigo, balance testing is also one of the services that are offered at the main UF center at the Oaks Mall. Other concerns may be problems associated with ENT illnesses and there are tests designed to examine the middle ear and look for tumors. Implants, for those needing them, are also part of her

concerns. It is important that everyone over 55 get a base line hearing test.

Should you visit the audiologist? If you have trouble hearing, ringing in the ears, vertigo or often ask people to repeat themselves, then the answer is yes. The audiology services offered by Dr. Gainer will help determine how best to serve Oak Hammock residents for those with hearing and balance concerns.

Welcome Dr. Gainer or as the British would say, "Hear here!"

- Barbara Herbstman



You Make the Difference Awards

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

Brittany Matus-Ray
Amanda Foshee

Skilled Nursing
Skilled Nursing

Denita Robinson

Skilled Nursing

A New Life in the New Year!

Are you expecting? For a good part of 2021, for Rachel Stortz Rocks, the answer was a joyful YES! With a due date of January 7, 2022, Rachel has been counting the days! Rachel grew up and went to school in Gainesville. After two years at Santa Fe College, she went to work for Publix, as had her parents before her.

After four and a half years, Rachel grew restless with her job. One day she was driving around and noticed the Oak Hammock sign on Williston Road. On a whim, she went in, filled out an application, and was soon hired as a dining room server. She had very little experience, but she learned quickly, and though it was hard and stressful at first, she found support from other staff members and developed her own mantra: "If I were a resident at Oak Hammock, what would I expect from a server?" In answering her own question, she soon became a highly skilled and popular member of the dining room staff.

And then there was Chris! He was already on the dining staff and was kind and supportive. They got to know each other when attending staff parties and found that they had much in common. According to Rachel, they were both very nervous during their first date, but obviously that didn't last long! They continued to work together on the dining room staff after their marriage, but Chris was promoted to Assistant Dining Manager, and HR was concerned about the possible appearance of favoritism, so Rachel was transferred to the Health Pavilion, where she served for three years, eventually becoming Assistant Dining Manager.

At that time, Linda Atkins ran the Ice Cream Shop and when the weekend clerk quit suddenly, Rachel stepped in on weekends until Covid hit. Not feeling safe from the virus, Linda retired, and Rachel took over. She began thinking about how she could provide people with enough services and resources that they wouldn't need to leave the campus. In finding a creative way to deal with Covid, she greatly expanded the function of the little shop, making it a friendly hub where staff and residents alike met for lunch, ice cream, or shopped for such widely varied items as toiletries, greeting cards, or postage stamps. Before our eyes, the Ice Cream Shop had morphed into Treats & Treasures, our very own convenience store! Now we happily depend on Rachel! Meanwhile, Chris was again promoted, and we now depend on him as well, as our Dining Room Manager!

"So," I warned Rachel, "your little girl is going to have not only her biological grandparents, but about 400 Oak Hammock residents happy to fill in if needed!" Rachel told me that both she and Chris would welcome the extra attention. She was very close to

her own grandmother, as well as her grandma's best friend, who actually crocheted a dollhouse—walls, furniture and all—for Rachel! She still cherishes this masterpiece and is thrilled to be able to hand it down to her own daughter. And she is passing on more than the dollhouse! Chris and Rachel have decided to name their little girl Lillian Jewell. Lillian was her grandmother's middle name, and Jewell was the name of the dollhouse lady. Both of these ladies who loved Rachel so much have passed away, but would be honored to know that Rachel's memory of them will live on in her daughter. Rachel and Chris are both family oriented and Chris is adored by young kids in his own family, so Rachel is confident that he will be a great dad.

And they have two dogs and two cats, all of whom want to be close to her now and like to lie on her tummy. Hopefully they'll still be as happy with Lillian after she expands the household.

Did I mention that Rachel was counting the days? She's not the only one! Chris insisted on packing a bag in mid December for Lillian to bring home. And I had asked to be on speed dial so that I wouldn't miss *The Oak Leaf* copy deadline, which just happened to be on January 7! But babies have minds of their own, as we all know, so little Lillian Jewell decided to surprise Chris and Rachel by arriving on December 30. She will be a very welcome addition to our Oak Hammock family, now that she has made her grand entrance!

- Jan Havre



Oak Hammock's Ghostbuster

The movie industry hit paydirt in 1984 with the movie "Ghostbusters". The film featured three parapsychologists that set up a unique ghost removal service in New York City. It was meant to be a farce. Today's problems, caused by the "marvels of electronics" are creating new skeptics. Oak Hammock has its own team of Ghostbusters, headed up by Bob Stott. When mics are screeching in the Oak Room or Zoom meetings go haywire, Bob's team jumps to the rescue. He shares, "Luckily for me, I have a great team and we share in the receiving of SOS calls! If it is a BIG emergency, usually it will be in the form of a text or phone call. We have many automated notification sensors on campus that send alerts when there's trouble. That's how we try to stay ahead of the game and hopefully fix issues before they cause trouble for others."

Bob, wife Andrea, and daughter Meadow arrived at Oak Hammock in late July 2019 from Alaska. They were offered a place to stay (building #2) while they researched Gainesville's housing and schools. His favorite activity at Oak Hammock is meeting residents. Participating with the Bonsai tree group on Saturdays is a new experience.

The IT/Computer Services "command center" is located on the lower level between the postal area and the pool table. Bob remains mobile, ready to tackle *misbehaving electronic ghosts*. His cheery "hello" and warm smile (even while masked) provide confidence in keeping us all up 'n running.

- Barbara Dockery



Barbara Perry, Security

Barbara Perry joined our security staff about five months ago on a PRN (as needed) basis. She works any shift when regularly scheduled officers need some time off.

Officer Perry was born in Florida and lived in Gainesville and Alachua, graduating from Santa Fe High School and attending a Christian college and City College. She is new to security but, thanks to previous training in CPR, was comfortable stepping into her new assignment. She previously worked as a teacher at Abeka, a Christian school, and as a civilian at Camp Blanding, where she met our current Security Chief.

Her husband, who works at UF, is approaching retirement. She has two children, one of whom works in Orlando and the other who is now in college. During her leisure time, she enjoys listening to music and listening to birds. Officer Perry gave the impression that she enjoys being at Oak Hammock and spoke glowingly of the purchases she made through Recycled Riches of jewelry, which she enjoys collecting along with coins and trinkets. Please join me in wishing her a belated welcome.

- Karen Miller

To Oak Hammock, with Gratitude

Rebekah from Dining here :) The Oak Leaf staff allowed my words of gratitude, which I must express upon the end of my tenure here.

In the days since October 2019, blessings have taken countless shapes. On my way into my most recent shift, I had a go at the monkey bars on the corner and reflected on the structure of communities. Play, and the movement in pursuit of it, supports vitality. And in my time serving, delivering, expediting, discussing, and eating food here, I had fun.

Thank you. The laughs we've had are treasures. Each one, a golden bar to grasp in the air. Forward I may go, without my feet on the ground, because I know joy as momentum.

Joy's extinguishment did not prompt my leaving; it was a retreat of spirit that did. And, what I hope not to be, to the point of detriment, conflating with some

insatiable craving for change, ignited in place; granting me permission to leave before things get better.

I study sustainability at university and learn about systems, awakening values which I must learn to support. Acting on unfolding knowledge feels like swinging airborne between sure things.

Mr. Sowell said once, "Old people make the best cheerleaders!" It's true. And to receive such encouragement is to gain a head start in regenerating it, and all things. The stories, skills, sayings, and time we have shared stay with me. Thank you everyone!

I wish you the best, 'till we meet next. :)

- Rebekah Browne



Singing Along in the Health Pavilion

As you can tell, everyone is having fun singing favorite tunes. Our group now meets weekly to have fun and sing loudly with our neighbors and friends in the Health Pavilion. AND, on January 6, 2022, we welcomed a new drummer to play with Keith Berg: Roger Curtis has joined our group and we all enjoyed the additional accompaniment to add to our musical afternoon. Welcome, Roger! Please contact any member of the group if you'd like information about joining us.

- Bev Cone



Santa's Grab Bag

These happy, but tired, elves celebrated a fun day on 12/16 by inviting our staff to come to our workshop in the Acorn room for the Santa's Grab Bag event to select up to six gifts each for themselves and their families from our Special Treasures stock. Over 85 staff came to find presents for themselves and their families from a wide variety of home decor, holiday decorations, small appliances, tools, linens, china, and glassware. This was another way to say thanks to our staff for all their extra hard work this year in keeping us safe from COVID-19.

- Judy Plaut content;
Jan Lowenthal, photo



Bell Ringers

It was a joyful performance by two groups of carol ringers from First Presbyterian Church. Margaret Weech arranged for the Joyful Carol Ringers and the Jubilate Ringers, conducted by Mitch Rorick, to play Christmas music for us. Carol Christiansen started this group years ago, and she was in attendance to hear them. The performers provided commentary about the music and demonstrated techniques for playing the bells. It's a huge undertaking to transport the equipment but it was enjoyed by everyone.

- Bev Cone



Holiday Magic

P. K. Yonge drama students performed scenes from "A Christmas Carol" in the Oak Room—both a treat and an education. Dr. Catherine Price, UF neuropsychologist/neuroscientist, explained how the presentations activate brain networks. Transforming words to the stage encourages senses to engage attention and work memory. This is a great incentive to attend plays or lectures in 2022.

P. K. Yonge is one of the four laboratory schools in Florida. Other locations are FSU, FAMU, and FAU. State regulations maintain high standards for enrollment and gathering of research.

The P. K. Yonge drama students will be presenting the stage presentation "Little Shop of Horrors" as their spring musical. *Sounds like a fun way to jolt memories.* Hopefully, Oak Hammock will be able to offer transportation.

- Barbara Dockery



Around the Health Pavilion

1



1. Learning about Dreidels
2. Jim Piety and daughter, Susan Duncan, in the Gator Lounge
3. Bill Earley
4. Peggy Weigle
5. In the spirit!
6. Bus trip to see the Christmas Lights in Gainesville
7. John Shafer enjoying the Gator Lounge



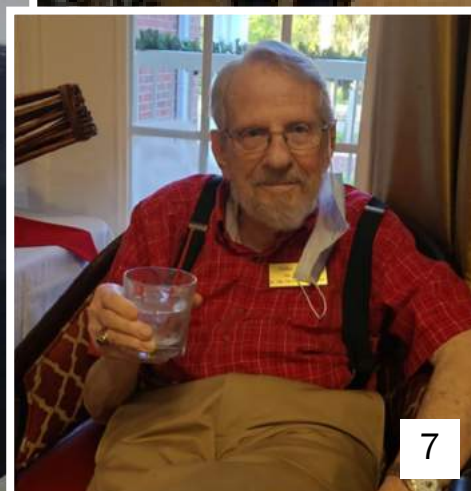
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4



5

6



7

Around the Health Pavilion, continued...



1

1. Santa and Jim Piety
2. Elf in training
3. Visit from CEO Kevin Ahmadi
4. Cocktails by the tree with Vern McKenzie
5. The Grinch and Patti Thompson
6. Kevin Ahmadi with Donald Schrader and Jane O'Donnell
7. The Gator Women's Basketball team stopped by to sing carols and do the chomp!



2



3



4



5



6



7

Chrissy Smoak, photos

Christmas Eve Buffet



- Bill Castine, photos

Recycled Riches

Contrary to all the rumors, Recycled Riches is still in business. However, due to many factors, we are working on a smaller level than before. We need help in many areas, and we would be happy to have you join us. Judy Plaut is looking for someone to take over our Christmas/holiday donations. Please contact Judy if you are interested in working with this fun and rewarding area. We also need someone to take the lead with our Jewelry sales. Please call Joni Simon or me if you have an interest in this area.

We will be having an apartment sale soon. Transitions are complicated, but we will be sending out notices as soon as we have a definite date for our next sale. Thank you for your patience and interest.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 11 a.m., in the Acorn Room. Please observe current rules for Covid-19.

- Valerie Griffith, Chairman, Recycled Riches

Guitarist Dan Flok

Crowd favorite Dan Flok will be back at Oak Hammock as soon as conditions allow. We've had to reschedule a show, but he knows that we want him back as soon as possible!

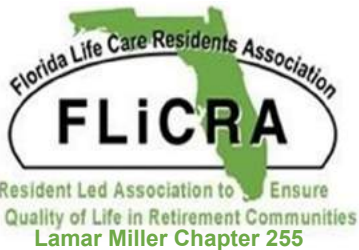


Lincoln High School- A Quin Jones Center

This is a photo of what was Lincoln High School here in Gainesville prior to desegregation. As was common all over the South, black schools were named after the Great Emancipator and all their students were black. I was a student in the segregated Alachua County Schools, graduating from Gainesville High School in 1955, well before desegregation.

The school was closed and now is reopened as the A Quin Jones Center, named after the long time principal. I knew Principal Jones as a kid. He traded at my dad's Amoco gas station on NW 13th St. at Fifth Avenue. I filled his gas tank, washed his windshield, checked the oil and water and air pressure. He was a good customer and a very nice man. I asked Daddy what was the limit if he wanted to cash a check – "whatever he writes it for."

- Walter Wynn



Our FLICRA representatives in Tallahassee are monitoring all the bills and amendments that come before the Florida House and Senate. They pay special attention to bills that relate to CCRC's, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living, Health

Care services, Taxes, Insurer Insolvency and Insurance.

They could be monitoring over 100 bills. Before taking a position on a bill, FLICRA looks at several key criteria:

- Does the bill or amendment: restrict or enhance residents' rights
- Increase or decrease costs
- Do other groups support or oppose the bill and how controversial is the bill. This is taken very seriously.

A public position can be Yes, No, or Neutral.

The first day of the Florida State Legislature was January 11, 2022 and goes for 60 days - until March 11, 2022.

Your local FLICRA board will also keep watch.

- Mary Sanford

The ILR YouTube Channel Availability of Recorded ILR Lectures

Did you happen to miss one of the sessions of an ILR course that you were taking? Alternatively, did someone tell you about a particularly intriguing lecture from a course that you did not take? All of these sessions are now available for you to watch on the ILR YouTube Channel!

Here's how to access any of the ILR recorded sessions:

- First access the Oak Hammock web site at www.oakhammock.org
- Click on the "ILR" tab (third from the left at top of page)
- Click on "Link" (left side of page in index)
- Click on "ILR YouTube Page"

A playlist will appear with videos of all recorded ILR sessions. These videos are listed chronologically with the latest session listed first. Simply double click on your desired video, sit back and enjoy the recorded session. If you want to search for a specific session, click "Search" in the ILR Learning Hut and enter a key word. Key words could include the presenter's name, or the topic covered (Dudley Farms, for example). Your desired recording will appear.

All ILR sessions recorded during the previous 12 months are contained on the ILR YouTube Channel. If you want a session that was presented at an earlier time, email Julie Ann Ariet at jariet@oalhammock.org with your request and she'll send you a link for the session.

The ILR YouTube Channel is an ILR resource created for you. Use it and enjoy it.

- Bill Rossi

Community-Wide Solstice Celebration

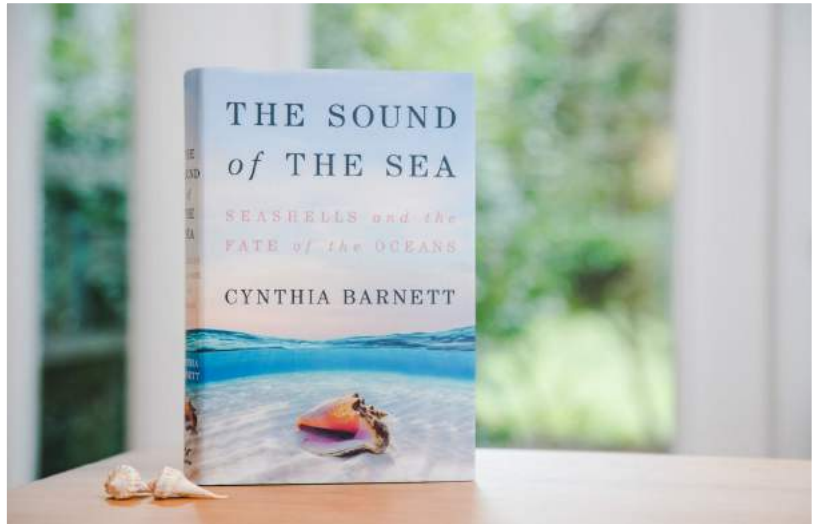
The shortest day of the year—and Oak Hammock was enjoying it in the Upper Commons! It's wonderful this year to be able to get together and meet our friends, and have delicious treats together. What a wonderful celebration and special time to be together. We are grateful for every minute and appreciate the great food created by our dining staff. There was also a hot chocolate bar by local company Cereal Rush, and Katherine Osman was serving mimosas. A big snowman (Chrissy Smoak) appeared, too, all dressed up to add to the fun!

- Bev Cone, content; Bonnie Umphreys, Chrissy Smoak, photos



Liz Wing, Referenced

I am reading *The Sound of the Sea, Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans* written by local author Cynthia Barnett, recommended to me by my college roommate and friend, Jean Chance, retired reporter and UF journalism professor. All of a sudden, a familiar name jumped out—our very own Oak Hammock resident, Liz Wing. On page 87, Cynthia refers to “zooarchaeology pioneer Elizabeth Wing’s lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History, and she went on to do her doctoral research with Wing on marine shells from Mississippian sites.” It is amazing that we have so much expertise among the residents at Oak Hammock! - Patsy Nelms, content; online photo



Swingin' Singin' Firefighters Return

Nine “Gainesville Caroling Firefighters” stepped off their red *firefighter express* to entertain and pump up the holiday spirit in the Oak Room. A lively crowd joined the firefighters, singing and clapping to familiar tunes such as “Jingle Bells” and “Feliz Navidad. Everyone was invited to join them ‘round the big Christmas tree in the lower level for taking photos and enjoying cookies. Happily, this trip into Oak Hammock was a happy one for everyone.

Prior to performing, they showed that they were really kids at heart by admiring the train and peppering Jerry Kirkpatrick with questions. Afterwards, they stayed to take pictures by the tree with all who asked.

Thank you, firefighters, for being on call 24/7 to provide assistance. Happy New Year to you and your families.

- Barbara Dockery, content;

Barbara Dockery, Alice Gridley,

Katherine Osman, photos



Covid at Oak Hammock

This photo, taken early in the morning on January 15, 2022, by Janet Janke, is the view from the window of her apartment, which faces the eastern sky. She and I are both positive with Covid, as are many other Independent Living residents at Oak Hammock, and are quarantined for another week. What does it mean on such a beautiful start to a new day, to be locked in our apartments, by ourselves?

At first thought, I was devastated. I love walking outside, riding my bike, swimming in the pools, playing for sing-alongs and hymn sings in the Health Pavilion, and best of all, being part of the social community at Oak Hammock—So this forced time alone in my apartment? Not the way I want to spend a day!

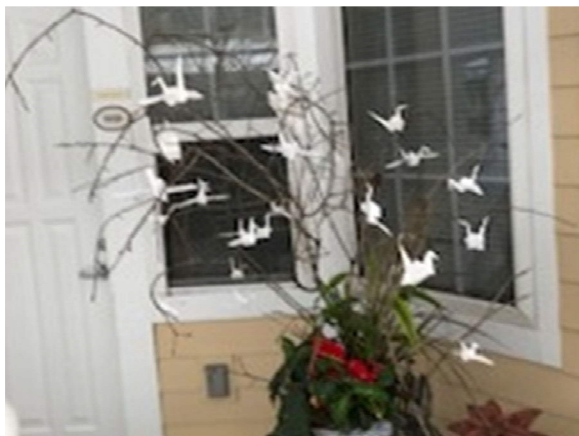
But here are the positive aspects of living here, which I am appreciating. The dining menu available is very tempting and wonderful sounding. Then, when the food is delivered promptly, and is right outside my door, I bring it in and have a delicious feast.

This morning my fire alarm went off unexpectedly in the kitchen. (I was NOT cooking anything, honest!). A maintenance person has now replaced the batteries, and Security has already called me to see if all is well. Yesterday the sink in my bathroom filled with “gunk”. That has been cleaned and cleared as well. A friend is delivering my mail and leaving it outside. When I need trash removed, I just leave it outside and it disappears. So my needs are well managed. But how do I spend my time alone?

I do not have to wear a mask when I’m by myself. Lots of Zoom meetings, and ILR classes are available on my iPad, I am reading about four different books on my kindle, and share reactions to these books with a friend at Oak Hammock who is reading the same and shares her thoughts. The worship service on Channel 1960 is there on Saturdays. And, other Oak Hammock friends continue to check in by email, text, phone, or even a wave and smile when I see them from my window. Their thoughts and concerns mean the world to me. I also play songs on my digital piano, enjoying music.

Thank you, Oak Hammock, for continued care from so many different aspects of this wonderful community. I will soon even be in touch with a receptionist in Assisted Living about helping me create a new word packet of fun songs to use in the Health Pavilion, too. Sharing expertise and caring are ways to find joy at this time. And many Oak Hammock residents and staff are reaching out to me.

- Bev Cone, contents, Janet Janke, photo



At left, beautiful handmade origami birds. (Janice Malkoff, photo)

At right, beautiful non-origami birds (Catherine Morsink, photo)

Oak Hammock, Christmas Morning

- Karen Arola

The Musical Guest

As soon as I turn my outside music on, this dapper fellow shows up! I'm going to have to get some dance cards printed soon! And I am shopping for a ball gown!

Whenever he hears music, he shows up to the driveway, front door or back door, as seen here. Maybe it's Fred Astaire reincarnated?

- Nancy Perry



Bahama Breeze

On a beautiful afternoon in January, Oak Hammock residents visited the Bahama Breeze Restaurant in Butler Plaza North to enjoy marvelous Caribbean food and beverages for lunch. During lunch, there was very active and fun sharing of personal stories of visits to areas like the Bahamas and elsewhere and their thoughts on drinks and meals. The Active Lifestyle Committee of the Residents' Council sponsored the visit and is planning a regular—likely monthly—series of restaurant visits open to all Oak Hammock residents. Fifteen residents had originally signed up to make the trip but virus and other issues limited the final group to seven. This and future visits are being arranged to minimize the chances of exposure to the Covid-19 virus by visiting restaurants with either outdoor seating or separate indoor room reserved for just Oak Hammock visitors, and insuring that wait staff are masked and fully vaccinated.

- Keith Berg, content; Robbin Stubbins, photo



REMINDER

Please remember to check the Lost and Found in the front lobby. You'll be surprised what's there: car keys, glasses, books, small electronics. You name it! So...before you panic, check with us!

Art League

On January 9th, 2022, we opened a new show in the Oak Hammock Gallery, titled "Senior, Seniors". This is a black and white photography show, featuring our Oak Hammock nonagenarian residents. A labor of love, this is the third show that Dr. Michael Levy has put together. For many months he has visited our residents, assisted by his wife, Dr. Jane Polkowski Levy, and performed his magic to create these amazing photos, demonstrating to us that being in our nineties can be a special time in life too!

There will be a notification posted if it is deemed possible to allow us to assemble for a reception for this show. The photos will remain in the Gallery until April 9, 2022. Many thanks, Michael, from all of us!

For a close up view of the current "2022 Senior Seniors" exhibition in the Oak Hammock Art Gallery, go to: <https://youtu.be/sjMTFtieXyA>

Susan Bankston, our Art League Director, reports that on January 8th, there was a beginner's watercolor class and we are delighted to report that there was a full signup. The next class will be a full day workshop in Acrylic on February 19th. More information can be found outside the Art Studio on the wall. In the Art Studio we are again featuring the 12 Days of quarantine art by Mary Sue Koeppel. Watch the video of Mary Sue describing her thoughts on each piece of art and what inspired it. Go to <https://youtu.be/sCAPWyKxunaU>. This video was played for our residents in the Health Pavilion recently. Right now it is easy to relate to Mary Sue's art and thoughts.

On Tuesday, April 25th, at 4 p.m., in the Oak Room, we have arranged for a program featuring the outstanding Gainesville artist Anthony Ackrill. Anthony will be discussing his classical art journey, studying at the Florence Academy of Art, and describe his current process. Watch for announcements regarding whether we will be able to go forward with this program in these days of isolation.

Midge Smith has found another very talented, award-winning artist, Sue Kelman, whose colorful and well designed art is eye candy in the Mini Gallery. Her artworks feature watercolors and collage, characterized by forms that reflect the beauty and fragility of the natural world. The Mini Gallery is in the hall between the Wellness Center and the Health Pavilion door.

"All art is autobiographical; the pearl is the oyster's autobiography." Frederico Fellini - Marion Siegel



Midge Smith and Deb Rossi present an award to Jim McCowen.

Behind the Art: The Mahjong Game

Before COVID vaccinations became available, people continued to socialize with precautions. At Oak Hammock, the weekly mahjong players enjoyed their games while wearing masks. I observed several games during August-October 2020, sketched and took many photographs. A photography session was arranged after I decided on a composition based upon behaviors observed during their games. Then, the five ladies who volunteered to be the models posed around the table to display some of those behaviors. Four were seated and a fifth who wore a Chinese outfit that fit within my theme stood at the focal point.

I began with multiple drawings and color sketches, then transferred the final drawing sketch onto the canvas. My painting process begins with an under painting on a toned canvas. It was necessary to tweak the drawing during the multi-layer painting process that took several months to complete. And here is the painting of *The Mahjong Game* that won the Margaret Zircher award during this fall's Gainesville Fine Art Association show at Oak Hammock. The award is for an artwork that best depicts human emotions.



- Jane Polkowski Levy

Oak Hammock by the Numbers, January 1

Independent Living

	Total	Sold	Available
Houses	57	57	0
Apartments	212	209	3

- Nickie Doria

Health Pavilion

	Total	Occupied	Available
Assisted	46	40	6
Memory*	24	10	2
Skilled**	73	62	11

* 12 units are set aside for quarantine

** fluctuates daily

- Mary Sabatella



- Cathine Morsink, photo

The Day After (Building 1, Floor 2).

Puppy Love

Rolf and Linda Hansen and their dogs, Luke and Lili, know that Susan loves to feed all dogs. Each has its own container of treats. All the pets love loving Susan! - Margarete Ruth



Contributions to the Oak Hammock Benevolent Fund

Since we last reported on the contributions to the Benevolent Fund, a total of \$1057 was received in memory of Arthur Kluge and in honor of Pat Liston and Jack Martin.

- Jonathon Mann

In this New Year, we welcome **You** to write an article of interest to Oak Hammock residents. Submit it to: patsynelms1@gmail.com

New Year's Resolutions

- ♦ Slow down. Stay fit.
- Jack Martin
- ♦ To listen more and talk less and to take better care of myself to better care for others.
- Kevin Ahmadi
- ♦ Don't sweat the small stuff.
- Anonymous
- ♦ Let myself relax and enjoy the ride. Maybe.
- Katherine Osman



- Karen Merrey, photo

The ILR Board and Curriculum Committee gathered at the home of Sara Lynn Gibbs for a holiday party on December 8.

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

Oak Leaf Committee

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

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Robbin Stubbins, Bonnie Umphreys, Walter Wynn

Additional Proofreaders

Beth Paul, Martha Rader

Graphics

Katherine Osman, Layout



- Karen Merrey, photo

Pickleball players gathered at the home of Connie Brill for a potluck dinner on December 7.



2022 Residents' Council

President
Vice President
Secretary

Martha Rader
Norm Cooney
Elisabeth Virnstein

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

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
Active Lifestyle	1st Monday, 11:00 AM	Keith Berg
Planning and Design	TBA	Dick Suttor
Buildings and Grounds,	2nd Thursday, 10:00 AM	Jan Lowenthal
Communications and Marketing	4th Friday, 1:30 PM	Mary Kilgour
Community and University Partnerships	1st Friday, 10:00 AM	Michael Plaut
Dining Experience	1st Friday, 10:00 AM	Bruce Blackwell
Finance	3rd Thursday, 1:30 PM	Al O'Neill
Health and Well-being	1st Thursday, 3:30 PM	Henri Logan
Technology and Services Innovation	3rd Friday, 10:00 AM	Bill Zegel
Assisted Living Representative		Jim Piety

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