



Volume 19, Issue 11

November 2022

## What Are You Thankful For Living at Oak Hammock?

- ❁ I am thankful for early morning walks with a wonderful friend, around our lovely community. What a way to start the day! I am also thankful for the opportunity to meet longtime friends and new members on the boardwalk to relax and chat while enjoying the breezes and beautiful trees and skies! - *Bev Cone*
- ❁ I am thankful for the community of people who become friends. As time passes, we lose family and old friends and God has brought these new individuals into our lives. We are blessed by friends that become our new family. - *Anne Carlson-Bonus*
- ❁ I am thankful for the care we all received at Oak Hammock during COVID: food delivery, mask requirements, COVID shots and boosters as soon as available, and residents who cared about public health. - *Walter Wynn*
- ❁ Having served twice on the Residents' Council, chaired the finance committee four years, met with the Board finance committee, chaired the RC Ad Hoc committee to work to improve the ten million dollar Health Center Expansion, served as a consultant to the Board Executive Committee and to PRAXEIS for designing and constructing the Health Center at the Board President's request, and being a member of two Board Advisory Committees (CEO-Jeff and Expansion) over the past sixteen years, I'd suggest this BLESSING. We are blessed to have a strong cooperative and participative management relationship between the Board, Oak Hammock management, and residents, mainly through our Residents' Council. This has worked for us and portends great progress in the future. When asked how I am at Oak Hammock, I frequently say, "This is Oak Hammock, I'm well blessed." - *Will Shafer*
- ❁ I am thankful for the many people with such good senses of humor. I laugh a lot here and think the people here are very special. - *Mary White*
- ❁ I am thankful for the Oak Hammock community...the residents and the staff who make up a family I have chosen to supplement the family I was born into and the family I created. - *Anonymous*
- ❁ Friendly people and safety from hurricanes and Florida-friendly landscaping. - *Patsy Murray*
- ❁ Our beautiful campus, surrounded by nature for us to enjoy. - *Barbara Dockery*
- ❁ I am very thankful for the
  - Multitude of smiling faces
  - The many kindly services
  - And the green natural places
  - Security and ILR
  - For the artists who make me smile
  - A covered place to park the car
  - Workers who go the extra mile
  - Fun and games plus entertainment
  - Security, the Ice Cream Shop
  - Great music, excellent healthcare
  - There is much more, but I must stop.



- *Gene Ziegler*

## Patsy Murray

Patsy is a new resident of Oak Hammock, living in Building One. Music, particularly folk, swing, and blues, is her passion. She's been playing the guitar by ear since she was 15 and started learning fiddle when she was 40. She has played in bands for many years, performing at festivals and jamming for fun. She feels music is a language for everyone: a "friendmaker." She also loves dancing.

She enjoys being out in nature, and finds at least one little surprise each time she walks outside—the chirp of a red cardinal, a tiny frog, an unusual fallen leaf, or anything that catches her attention. She enjoys gardening and already has a garden plot at Oak Hammock.

She grew up in Charlottesville, VA, and graduated from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA. She has also lived in New York City and Boston, before moving to Gainesville where she has lived for 14 years. She has two sons and a granddaughter. Patsy lived in Paris twice: first as a student and then when she and her husband Gil traded houses with a French couple for five months.

Patsy has had many careers—a secretary for the National Symphony in Washington, DC, a member of "Super Girls" in New York in the late 60's and a salesperson for typesetting in the Boston area. Later, she and Gil shared a business, "Attic Studios," for 23 years. Gil painted tourist scenes of Boston and New England and commissioned house portraits. From these, they produced notecards, prints, and magnets and sold them to local shops and at art fairs. After selling Attic Studios, Patsy coached adults with ADD. She has been in the Writers Alliance of Gainesville for many years, writing memoirs.

Her apartment resonates with music instruments of all kinds and beautiful plants on her sunny, enclosed porch.

Welcome to Oak Hammock!

- Bev Cone



## Bonnie and John Kraft

John, Bonnie, and their friendly Belgian Bouvier des Flandres, Astrid, are settling into their atrium apartment. John grew up in frozen Buffalo and went to St. Bonaventure University with his identical twin where they both majored in mathematics. Both also followed a similar business career becoming deans of their universities.

John earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He and Bonnie moved in and out of Gainesville several times as John honed his career, eventually serving as Dean of the University of Florida Warrington College of Business from 1990 until 2020. He continues to teach Strategy and Decision Making in the MBA program. In the early years, his distinguished career earned him a spot at the Brookings Institute as an Economics Policy Fellow, as a member of the Federal Energy Administration during the 70's energy crisis, and as dean of the School of Business at Arizona State University for several years. The honors and background of John are too numerous to list. I suggest you google his name to get a taste of how fortunate we are to have him as a resident and as a professor at the University of Florida.

Bonnie grew up in Trenton, NJ, and attended the University of Pittsburgh where she and John met. Bonnie earned her B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education and taught for a few years before becoming a realtor. She still has an active career at Berkshire Hathaway.

John's business career has taken him to 88 different countries, including all the "Stans" as well as Russia, Japan, Korea, Finland, Denmark—and there's no chance of listing all of these countries. Bonnie accompanied him on many of the trips.

Bonnie and John's son followed in his dad's footsteps and is the Director at the Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Florida Warrington College of Business. He and his wife have a young daughter.



(Continued on page 3)

Bonnie and John's daughter and her family live in Oxford, MS, where their son-in-law is Chairman of Management at—did you guess? Yes, in their College of Business. They have two young children.

Bonnie is a horsewoman and owns three horses. She and her daughter have been involved in Eventing, a mixture of dressage, stadium, and cross country jumping. She earned an additional degree in Equine Science. The Krafts are also very fond of cats and dogs. Astrid is their 4<sup>th</sup> Bouvier, and she is as sweet as can be. Bonnie and John play a competitive game of duplicate bridge. Bonnie is also an avid crocheter, and it is very rare to see her sitting without a project in her lap. She has made many coverlets for the newborns at Shands. She has a lot of yarn that she is anxious to give away, so if you would like to begin a few Christmas projects, let her know.

These are two very active and productive new residents that I hope you get to know.

- Beth Paul

## Introducing Zari Cooper

Karen VanEtten, Oak Hammock Director of Rehab, manages to keep tabs on who needs what, when, and where. The well-trained staff provides therapy in the Rehab Gym and the Health Pavilion. Zari Cooper specializes in Lymphedema Therapy. She shared her enthusiasm for this dedicated calling. Enjoy her story:

"I'm Zari Cooper and I have been an occupational therapist and certified lymphedema therapist for 5 years. I am a double Gator, with a Bachelor's in Health Science as a student-athlete on the Track and Field team and then a Master's in Occupational Therapy.

"I started my career in an outpatient lymphedema setting helping those with edema or lymphedema in their upper and lower extremities along with acute or chronic wounds from vascular diseases and prolonged swelling. I also specialize in managing post-op swelling and scar release to minimize scar tissue. My passion is to help those who have difficulty doing activities of daily living, keep people living their life to the fullest, and maintain or surpass their current level of function, keeping them as independent as they can be.

"I am an active person. In my spare time, I enjoy working out, plus family time with my husband and our 7-month-old baby boy. I have been serving the community of Oak Hammock with my lymphedema services PRN since 2018 and I am grateful for the opportunity to have started full time in September 2022."

- Barbara Dockery



## Welcome Executive Sous Chef, Jesse Sanchez

Jesse started at Oak Hammock in October and has already made a difference. Originally from New York, she always loved to cook and developed her skills and increased her love of cooking during summers spent in the Dominican Republic, where she helped her aunts run a restaurant. As a teenager, she loved baking bread but, after years in the business, has now expanded to love all cooking. Her career as a professional chef started when she was working as a host at a restaurant and the cook didn't show up. She stepped up and eventually became the lead cook. Her career led her to Pennsylvania where she worked as a chef in an Acts retirement community as well as running a restaurant and graduated from Montgomery County Community College.

Jesse and her wife, who is a case manager at Shands, have two daughters, ages 6 and 12. She is expecting her mother to move to Gainesville and has family in Orlando. So far, she very much enjoys Gainesville.

Having Jesse responsible for dining in IL will offer Chef Justin Cochran the opportunity to step back from also being the chef (although I am certain he will always do occasional guest appearances) and focus more on managing the back of the house at all of the dining venues at Oak Hammock including Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living as well as Treats and Treasures.

The staff appears to be very pleased with Jesse's arrival and will tell you that Jesse is reorganizing the kitchen in such a way that they will be able to work more efficiently (think HOT soup) and improve service. She spoke very warmly of her time at the Acts community and especially of her interaction with the residents. It is clear that she hopes to get to know us. Jesse will be preparing the menus, so be sure to come to the next Dining Committee with any recipes you want to suggest.

- Karen Miller



## Employee Appreciation Reception

What an awesome event for the Employee Appreciation Reception, our annual opportunity to recognize and thank our staff for all the ways they serve us! It was a wonderful time of greeting and sharing appreciation AND treats!

ALL of this very special event was made possible because of YOUR generosity to our staff. Your gift each year provides extra cash that arrives just at the right time for the holidays. Your personal "thank you" to our staff PLUS the checks they receive are a wonderful gesture of gratitude for all that they do.

When I think of what this means to our staff I always think back to when I was younger and starting out with not much money at all. ANY surprise gift of cash was SO important, helpful, and appreciated! I'm guessing I'm not the only one here who had a very tight budget starting out! Any windfall was such a gift!

SO we thank YOU for your generosity once again. May sharing your gifts with our staff bring you the joy that you have brought to them. Holiday blessings to you, our staff, and all the Oak Hammock families.



This is a final thank you to YOU for your generosity in 2022 for the Employee Appreciation Fund. The total raised this year was \$294,676.02 and we thank you on behalf of the Oak Hammock staff for your generous support once again this year.

We all know that it's been a tough year economically for everyone, but so many of you shared what you could for our staff. With that awareness, we especially appreciate your generosity during this difficult time.

One of the easier ways to donate each year is by setting up a certain amount each month that will be added to your Oak Hammock bill. You can call Lori Fishel, Accounting Supervisor, at (352)548-1082 or email her at [lfishel@oakhammock.org](mailto:lfishel@oakhammock.org) and she can answer any questions you might have about this. We, the Brants, did this when we moved here two years ago and it's a very easy way to give to the EAF fund when you spread your donation over 12 months instead of having to write a large check by November.

Many thanks again for your generosity this year. Our hope is that our staff felt valued and appreciated when they opened their checks on November 16!

We wish you and your families a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. We have so much to be grateful for!

- Nancy Wood, Bill Brant, Marcia Brant

## You Make the Difference Awards

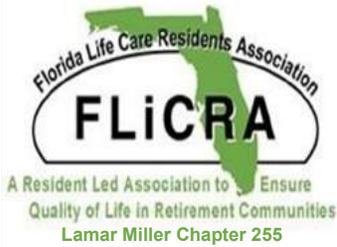
The following employees received the "You Make the Difference Award."

Mark Anderson  
Sherica Brown-Thompson  
Destiny Johnson  
Michael Newton  
Courtney Norman

Security  
Health Care Administration  
Rehab Therapist  
Line Cook Skilled Nursing  
C.N.A. Skilled Nursing

Angela Grace Perez  
Katrina Peterson  
Pattie Shuford  
Leah Watkins  
Shemeka Wood

Server Dining Services  
Security  
RN Skilled Nursing  
Community Services  
C.N.A. Skilled Nursing



Make sure to watch for further news about our chapter's annual meeting that is planned for Wednesday, February 22, in the Oak Room. Bennett Napier, Executive Director of FLICRA, will speak via ZOOM. He will help us understand what will be coming up in the next session of the legislature. This session begins on March 7 and ends May 5. Mr. Napier and his group keep an eye on issues coming thru the legislature that could affect us. We need to pay attention. FLICRA stands for Florida Life Care Residents Association.

- Mary Sanford

## All in the Family at Oak Hammock

This interesting assignment delved into those residents with family members who once lived at Oak Hammock or are still residing here.

**Roanne Coplin's** mother, Sarah Cline, **Marvel Townsend's** mother, Alvera Davison, and **Roy Hunt's** mother, Jane Smith, all moved into Assisted Living on the day that it opened for admission in 2004 and they became friends. Sarah passed away in 2005. To this day, some staff call Roanne by her mother's last name.

**Marvel's** mother lived to see her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday that was celebrated with one of Tammi's cakes and music by Dr. Dell. She remained active by serving on the PCA (now Residents' Council) as representative for Assisted Living and volunteering in the library and Memory Unit where she and Janet Janke read stories and sang to the residents. Roy quipped that Alvera was given the moniker of Mother Superior.

**Roy Hunt's** sister Jane McLin lost her vision so moved from Amelia Island into one of our apartments. She visited her mother in the gardens of Assisted Living each day. Roy recently made a donation to the Health Pavilion specifying the funds be used to create what is now known as the Janes' Garden in honor of his mother and sister, the two Janes.

**Don Collier's** brother, Courtland Collier, moved to Oak Hammock as a founder. He was a professor of Civil Engineering and lived in Gainesville since the early 60's. Courtland was elected to the City Commission for many years, serving more than once as mayor. His wife, Marian, is still in our Skilled Nursing facility.

**Elynn Ahlstrom's** mother, Adele Moody, was a professional classical pianist. Her Steinway Grand Piano, which was too large for her Independent Living apartment, was relocated to the Assisted Living private dining room until walls were knocked out to create a music room. Adele and her little dog, Daphne, practiced each afternoon and soon drew a crowd. Oak Hammock's Rhoda Swerlick, an opera singer, and Dr. George A. Dell, an accomplished blues pianist, both of whom many will remember, joined in. Adele continued to perform concerts in the Oak Room into her 90's.

**Chris Waters's** mother and father moved into a villa in 2005. Her father passed away in 2007, so her mother, Jane Simmons, relocated to an atrium apartment, but she soon transferred into Assisted Living that was more suited to her needs. Chris was widowed in 2015 so relocated to Oak Hammock to be near her mother. Chris and her dog were able to visit Jane daily.

**Margaret Weech** and her brother **Jack Polk** have been lucky enough to share Oak Hammock living. Margaret moved in 2006, Jack in 2007, both founders. Margaret and her husband were active in the military and living in Concord, MA, when they decided Florida would suit them. Jack was a pharmacist in Homestead, FL. In addition, their cousin, Janet Goode, followed them here but she has since passed away.

**Edna Hinson** is a founder and her cousin, **Patsy Nelms**, eventually moved in as well. Edna and Patsy were close growing up, spending holidays together in Lake City. Edna's mother was a Girl Scout leader, so Patsy joined them on summer trips that included Washington, DC, and even Cuba. Edna explains that she tried to invite them (Patsy and Warren) to as many programs and special events as possible. "I requested they present a Natural History Society program on their much-researched Bird Island, the once Indian settlement and soft stone trading route out from Horseshoe Beach. The day of the informative program, the Oak Room was filled with our membership."

**Betty Hilliard**, another founding member, was **Beth Paul's** mother's cousin. She was a professor of nursing and very active in setting up a midwifery program in the poorer sections of Ocala and Gainesville.

**Karl Schwartz** and his sister **Rhoda Morrison** are residing in Assisted Living. While living in Manhattan, Rhoda said that they saw a notice in the *New York Times* advertising Oak Hammock as a good place to retire. They moved into an apartment in Independent Living when it opened in 2004. Karl is a well-known artist who has won numerous awards and has his work in museums around the country, including the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York.

I wonder how many of our children and grandchildren will find their way to Oak Hammock down the road. It is definitely a great place to live.

- Beth Paul

## Art League

The opening reception of the Judged Gainesville Fine Arts Association 2022 show, held in our upper commons, felt like old times. The hors d'oeuvres table was laden with delicious goodies. The crowd sat at carefully arranged tables and drank toasts to the artists until 4 p.m. when the Oak Room filled with art lovers.

The awards were presented to the winners, and the judge, Daniel Stepp of Santa Fe College, commented on each piece. The artwork was shown on the big screen; the critique was read for the audience's edification as each creator went forward to accept the honor. The following are the award winners:

- Oak Hammock: Art Appreciation (for best portrait OR best abstract painting "Reminiscing" by Jane Polkowski
- GFAA: First Place: "Oleno State Park" by Frank Barone (at right)
- GFAA: Award of Excellence: "Prairie Storm" by Adrienne Gonia
- Oak Hammock: George Beckman Award (for artists who've done artwork less than 5 Years): "Marsh Magic" by Susan K. Jacobson
- Oak Hammock: Margaret Zircher Award (for artwork that best depicts human emotion): "Track Jump" by William R. Ragan
- Oak Hammock: Susan Wiltshire Award (for artwork best depicting act of voting): "Victory" by Joyce Hinkle
- GFAA: "The Haenyeo, Women of the Sea" by Celia R. Burger
- Third Place "Bottle" by Ruth Lehmann
- Merit Award "Fear" by Valerie D'Ortona
- Merit Award "Being There" by Michael
- Zietz Merit Award "Close Your Eyes" by Susan Fulford
- Merit Award "Chaos" by Hazel Jopling
- Merit Award "Alone" by Virginia Schrader
- Oak Hammock: Merit Award "Looking Forward, Looking Back" by Judi Cain



Congratulations to all these wonderful artists. If you have not seen the show yet, it will be up in the Oak Hammock Gallery until January 7, 2023.

Be sure to sign up for the next class in the art studio with Instructor Jenna Weston, teaching Japanese Brush Painting, Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the art studio, price \$65. Jenna provides all the materials necessary. Questions...ask Susan Bankston. All levels of interest are welcome.

On Tuesday, November 22, at 4 p.m., in the Oak Room, the Art League presents the 3rd Salvador Dali film, "The Refuge of the Invisible Woman, 1982-1989." A field trip to the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg is planned for January, 2023. Please watch for further notification.

Ginny Schrader's art is on view in the Art Studio to be followed in December by the works of artist Marion Siegel.

Visit the Jungle in the mini gallery, amazing animal photos by Patricia Weingart. Midge Smith is planning ahead for the next show. These photos are still available for sale and thanks to those who have already indulged. We are sure the photographer would welcome talking to interested parties.

*"The imagination is not a state: it is the human existence itself!" William Blake*



- Marion Siegel, content; Michael Levy, photos

## Tradition! Honoring Oak Hammock Veterans

Each year the triple display case on the Lower Level features the photographs of Oak Hammock veterans as they appeared in uniform at time of service and an updated photo. Facts pertaining to rank and service location make for interesting reading. Oak Hammock proudly salutes ninety-two residents and seven staff for their military service. (It is suspected that there are a few more who have not come forward with requests to be represented.) Forty-three individuals served in the Army, twenty-seven in the Navy, twenty-five in the Army Air Corps/Air Force, and two in the Marine Corps. Two individuals wore the Merchant Marine uniform, plus one in the Public Health Service and another in the South Vietnam Air force. Two of our residents served in two branches of the Armed Forces. An extra special salute to the seven Oak Hammock veterans that served in World War II—Leonard Emmel, Dan Siegel, Bill Fox, Fritz Kahn, John Tarapchak, Lonnie Thompson, and Martha Wroe. Appreciation to Ron Hoopes for providing statistics.

*Plan to visit the display case.* Julie Ann Ariet has designed a beautiful history of the Oak Hammock veterans and their service to the United States of America!

- Barbara Dockery



## Art Never Ages

It is always interesting to get into a conversation with Vanda O'Neill because she is full of ideas and good ones too! She reminded me about all the artwork hanging on the walls of Oak Hammock that bring back memories of the Oak Hammock artists that have gone on before us. That is the wonder of good art. It remains long after its creator is no longer with us.

Marge and Doug Hazen were founding members at Oak Hammock. Marge was a very talented oil painter, on a professional level. Doug was a photographer. I first saw his works on the halls that are now called the Oak Hammock Gallery. Those large framed photos can now be seen throughout Oak Hammock, especially along the halls where you enter the Health Pavilion, past the Mini Gallery to the entrance to Skilled Nursing. More of his pictures can be found along the hallway as you enter Assisted Living, coming from the Fitness Center to Apartment #1500.

Evelyn and Gene Hemp moved to Oak Hammock and soon after, Evelyn had a one-woman show of her photography in the art studio. Although Evelyn is much missed, her pictures hang throughout the residential corridors to remind us of her talent. There are two of her pictures gracing each side of the Meditation Room, featuring the Baughman Center on the UF campus. Another pair of nature images can be seen outside the entrance to the Marketing Department.

For those who remember Janet McKenzie, did you know she was a professional photographer? She had a studio in Omaha, NE, prior to moving to Florida, indicated by some of the labels on the backs of her photos. These photos can be found in the residential corridors. A couple are in Assisted Living, near apartments 1509 and 1511. There is large one depicting a midwestern farm/prairie scene, including a windmill, on the lower level of building one, near the Community Service Office.

There are many more artworks around the halls by our dearly remembered artists. There are paintings by Alice Miller, Rosemary Camp, high level oil painters, floral photography by Merle Koontz, and many more to be discovered. Artworks by our current living artists are not mentioned here as this is about nostalgia and art. Sometime in the future, we will describe the works of those who still dwell amongst us.

- Respectfully submitted by Marion Siegel (assisted by the eagle eye of Vanda O'Neill)

## Residents' Haiku Display Window

Calling all Oak Hammock authors! Try your hand at Haiku for the new Library display window. Haiku is a Japanese poetry form comprised of three lines with 5 syllables on first line, 7 syllables on second line, and 5 syllables on third line. The lines don't need to rhyme or contain complete sentences. Write one or more, letting your observations and memories be your inspiration, and submit to Ann Elnicki, cubby 2428, or elnickiann@gmail.com. by November 26.

- Jan Havre

## Oak Hammock Thank-you Letter

Dear Oak Hammock residents,

After four long years of studying, I am finally at the end of my journey to earn an electrical engineering degree from the University of Florida. This is an incredible accomplishment, but it wouldn't be complete without acknowledging the very special group of people that made it possible.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I started working at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida. At first, I thought it was just another job waiting tables that happened to be 5 minutes away from where I lived at the time. Unbeknownst to me, Oak Hammock had simultaneously begun to implement a scholarship dedicated to sponsoring employees to achieving higher education. Of course, as soon as the scholarship was ready to be put into action, I was basically waiting at the door to be let in. It was so unbelievable I just had to see it for myself. The first semester I applied, I was awarded the full amount of my tuition and because of that, I was able to spend more time focusing on school, and four years later, graduating with honors.

This generosity was so unbelievable that I came back to the Oak Hammock scholarship every semester. I am very proud and humbled to be able to say that I am graduating completely debt free thanks to the immeasurable kindness of the residents at

Oak Hammock.

However, even more than just receiving the scholarship, I had the incredible support of the residents at Oak Hammock. Most times I was serving in the dining room, I was giving updates on my grades, classes, professors, and just regular life. Sometimes I was even getting help with homework and assignments! I got all A's on those of course. Unfortunately, this is a double-edged sword. Oak Hammock supported me and cheered me on to complete my degree. Well, it worked! But graduation also means my time at Oak Hammock has officially come to an end. I am so excited to begin this next chapter of life by marrying the love of my life and to have an engineering career on the nearby horizon. Maybe even a career as a concert pianist too! Without the residents at Oak Hammock, being where I'm at today would have been entirely impossible. Thank you all so much for this opportunity. Working with you and forming relationships with you all I cherished and will continue to cherish for years to come.

- Quentin Silic, content; Kathy Cafazzo, photo



## Pumpkin Contest Winners



1st: Youlanda Richardson; 2nd: Jesse Sanchez; 3rd: Katherine Osman;  
4th: HR Team (Kelly, Jennifer, Tammi); 5th: Susan Ashcraft

### Disco Party

Friday, October 28, is a night to remember at Oak Hammock—dancing, balloons everywhere, fancy decorations in the Oak Room, people wearing their finest, and wonderful 1970's disco music! That, plus the delicious food and signature cocktails made it a very enjoyable time to be together.

I've never seen the dance floor as crowded as at this party! And the food was very unusual and special, and completely different too! The roast beef was tender and juicy, to go with potatoes, fondue, salads, fruits, and other veggies. Then the desserts were delicious—cakes, fancy puddings, ice cream treats...yum!

Everyone enjoyed being together in such a festive environment with Oak Hammock friends and neighbors. It is so nice to meet and get to know our new residents who recently moved here, as well as enjoying good friends who have lived here a long time, at such a fun party.

*-Bev Cone, content; Bev Cone, Bill Castine, photos; Prost Photography, photos*



## It's Not Just-for-Kids Any More!

Nutritionists gave peanut butter a stamp of approval a long time ago. This plant protein is a good source of antioxidants that protect heart health and reduce the risk of disease. Kids could care less about all that—especially when dragging a couple of fingers through the creamy delight to enjoy without getting caught. During the month of October, the Florida Peanut Producers Association and Florida Peanut Federations join forces for an annual “Peanut Butter Challenge”. Thanks, Oak Hammock residents, for sharing your love of peanut butter, donating unopened jars of favorite brands. Local food pantries will distribute this nutritious American favorite food to families in need. Thanks, Susan Young, for keeping tab of all the jars and staging them for the photo shoot. And finally: to get that last bit of PNB out of the jar, try a long handled iced teaspoon. No finger licking necessary.

Oak Hammock contributed 108 pounds of peanut butter to the challenge that will be matched by the Florida Peanut Producers Association.

Our contribution will go to the UF Field and Fork that helps needy UF students and employees. Our contribution was lower this year after a two-year absence due to COVID. Onward and upward next year.

- Barbara Dockery, Ray Goldwire



## Street Party Time

The party was in full swing on a beautiful late October afternoon when Pat Toskes and I arrived at the island in the Oak Hammock “Outback”! A hearty contingent of “Street People” was already enjoying lively conversation and, of course, a selection of adult beverages. Our gracious host, Lynn Ryan, was busy making sure that everyone had a chance to sample the yummy treats (with or without cat hair), from several heavily laden tables. We happily joined the revelry that lasted until dusk, and agreed with our fellow guests that this was one of the best in an illustrious assortment of monthly Driveway Socials that have been popular since being introduced by Anne Carlson-Bonus many years ago. A great time!

- Jan Havre, content; Michael Levy, photos



### Recycled Riches

The new SawStop saw for the woodworkers has been received and installed. The old saw was donated to maintenance. We have heard that our staff is happy to have the saw. We hope they use it safely.

The Special Treasures Christmas Sale was very successful. Now we are having our Holiday Sale with lots of special gift items and found treasures. I hope you will stop and see what we have on Friday, November 18, in the Acorn Room.

Our really quick Flash Sales with priced items have been very successful. We will continue those when we have just one item to sell. If you are looking for a particular item, let Doris Greene know and she can contact you if we receive a donation that might work for you. As with all our sales, you can always view the item before you buy it.

Watch for flyers for our sales and respond to our requests for help. If you have items to donate, call Judy Plaut or Doris Greene. We will do our best to help you.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 28, at 11 a.m., in the Acorn Room. Please join us and give us your support. This will be our last meeting for 2022. We do not meet in December.

- Valerie Griffith, Chairman, Recycled Riches

### Corky Bell's

Eleven Oak Hammock Restaurant Ramblers had a wonderful bus trip on October 26, for lunch in Palatka at Corky Bell's Restaurant on the St. John's River. We were served in a private dining room and enjoyed delicious fish and seafood, hush puppies, and great conversation. What a nice way to be with friends, see different places, and enjoy a pretty day.

- Bev Cone



### Benevolent Fund (November 1)



Since we last reported, a total of \$1,600 was received in memory of Gary Olson, John Wagner, and Anne and Claudius Ross.

- Jonathon Mann

### If the Walls Could Talk

The Private Dining Room's new look is a show-stopper! The updated lighting fixtures and subdued color of the walls have created an inviting atmosphere, beckoning private parties and individual dining. If the walls could talk, echoes of hundred-year birthday parties and happy times would tumble out into the hallways.

The walls remain the same. A large mirror is flanked by two "artist's proof" lithographs of paintings of nearby springs by the internationally known painter, Margaret Tolbert. Two Ichetucknee River photographs by former Oak Hammock resident Phyllis Saarinen add to the local interest. A painting over the small buffet is an

original watercolor by Oak Hammock resident Mari-on Siegel. The artwork was carefully chosen from works previously donated to Oak Hammock by residents and resident artists. *And it's waiting for everyone to enjoy.* Stop by when the doors are open to view the artwork. The walls are waiting for new memories to be added. Why not add yours? Call Dining for reservations.

- Barbara Dockery, content; Bonnie Umphreys, photo



## Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11

Beautiful patriotic music played in the Oak Room as the names of all of the Oak Hammock veterans scrolled on the big screen.

A huge crowd came to honor the many who have served our country. Ron Hoopes opened the ceremony with the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the National Anthem. There were several recognitions of veterans—those who have died, and those still with us. Jerry Kirkpatrick had recorded a beautiful video of interviews with Norm Cooney and Tony Lopiccolo about their experience in the military.

The closing remarks were very uplifting after a moving ceremony to honor those who have served in so many different ways. Wonderful refreshments were enjoyed afterwards in the Upper Commons. Another successful event!

- Bev Cone



## An Atrium Trim

Bob and Elisabeth Virnstein, Donna and Marty Johnson, Janice Malkoff, Paul Walker, Himet Bates, and Jan Lowenthal spent over 2 1/2 hours (20 manpower hours) on November 13 just trimming the plants hanging over the walkways. Wait until you get the bill! We filled up Bob's truck and hauled it up to the back 40 (Amanda's brush pile past the bee hives).

It looks better but it still needs a lot of interior thinning to improve the appearance. Building Two Atrium is next and then the Greenhouse floor.

- Janice Malkoff



## Bosom Buddies of Oak Hammock

Once again, on October 21, Oak Hammock residents gathered to celebrate and share stories about our survival of breast cancer.

June Girard is preparing a book and asked each of us to add a page about our experience with breast cancer treatments. It will be available in the Oak Hammock library when completed. This was our eighth year to gather and sing the Bosom Buddies Fight Song. There were about 35 women together, each of us feeling a song in our hearts as we shared with our supportive friends. Publix provided delicious donuts at a big discount for our celebration. Liz Wing continues to be the longest survivor - 56 years!

- Bev Cone



### Eddy Spaghetti Does Tai Chi!

Oak Hammock folks genuinely enjoy sharing personal comments with each other. So do instructors. Tai Chi instructor Pat Bellis frequently updates class members about her three therapy dogs—Ru, Milo, and Eddy Spaghetti. All three are rescue dogs. She has trained them, and they have passed requirements to be certified as therapy dogs. As a Hallowe'en treat, Pat brought tiny Eddy Spaghetti to class, wearing his sparkly ruffled neckwear costume. He knew all the rhythmic moves, sniffing the approval of each person! To ensure a comfy ride home, Eddy changed into his "World's Cutest Rescue" shirt! Pat offers aid to those wishing to train dogs for pet therapy. She is an official tester/observer for the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.



For the continued *Saga of Eddy and Friends*, join Oak Hammock's Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. Tai Chi classes—Chinese martial arts that wag tails to tales.

- Barbara Dockery

*Note: Watch for exciting news about Tai Chi - and more! - classes in 2023.*



### The Bookends: Sunshine and Shadows

Humor began the concert with the performance of "Blow Up the TV" which John Denver made popular. And does anyone know what "Stewball" is? It's a song about a racehorse who only drank wine! How's that for Sunday afternoon fun? Later, during the Shadows part of the concert, they played the lovely "Island of Mercy" and "Loving Arms" but I kept going back to thinking about "Stewball"! The next concert will be Christmas songs, which is always a special treat. Join "The Bookends" in December for that concert.

- Bev Cone

### Board of Directors Reception

The reception is always a good opportunity to speak to members of our Board of Directors. Judy Russell, Mike McKee, Jim Kelly, and Curtis Reynolds were all present and available to residents. And that says nothing about the chance to partake of some fine hors d'oeuvres while we mix and mingle.

- Beth Paul, content; Bill Castine, Patsy Nelms, photos



### Farewell, Amanda

Director of Plant Operations Tony Lopiccolo presented Amanda Reese with a bouquet, cards, and a gift certificate upon her departure. She has given us 18 years of service, having joined the staff four months after Oak Hammock opened. We'll miss her gardening talents and advice!

- Bill Castine

## Trunk or Treat

On October 26, we held our first ever Trunk or Treat here at Oak Hammock. This was such an exciting time and event because it was the first time since before Covid that we have been able to invite children back into our community to celebrate Hallowe'en with the residents. We had a special table set up with Janet Janke passing out Hallowe'en books to the kids that many Oak Hammock residents donated and all 100 books were handed out and much appreciated.

Our community partner, Vitas, came ready to serve with a snow cone truck. Bell's Barnyard Babies put on a petting zoo that residents and their families loved as much as the kids, especially the baby kangaroo. We had a DJ booth with DJ Amp (Husband of Chrissy Smoak, Life Enrichment Manager) set up that the residents and the kids equally enjoyed dancing through the parking lot. We had trunks that had Dobermans and trunks that even had kitties, so lots of great pet therapy throughout the night for all.

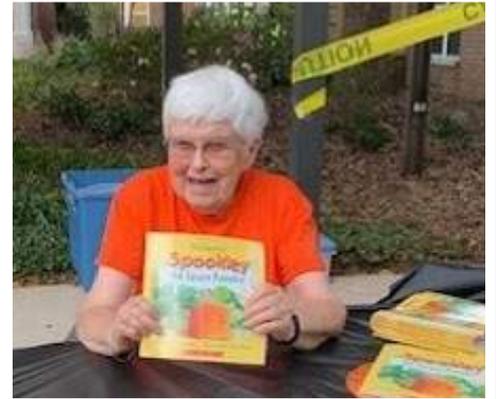
There were spooky trunks and fun trunks. Some had games planned at their trunks for the kids to play like our community partner, Ovation, who had kids do a fun game of "I Spy" and our Medical Records Coordinator, Donna, had the kids "fish" for their treat.

The winning trunk won a golden pumpkin with gift cards and scratch offs and was our very own Maria Capps, ADON, and her family who decorated the trunk as a Minion and her family dressed in character to the movie.

The others who graciously hosted a trunk include: Michelle Parker (DON), Shelbie Miller (Nurse Supervisor), Alisun Branson (Clinical Care Coordinator/MDS), Brittany Matus-Ray (AL Administrator), Ashley Davis Meacham (SN Administrator In Training), Sam Tate (Interim Administrator), Human Resources (Kelly George, Jennifer Holmes, Tammi Mcmann), Life Enrichment (Keora Mincey, Amber Mann, Nicole Rivera, Samantha Albino), Monica Lake (Central Supply), Whitney Barnes (Nurse), Elaine Dotten (Infection Control Nurse), Haley (Elaine's Daughter), Riley (Haley's Friend), Matt Brandon and his wife (Social Services), Life Care Transport, Denise Ward (TMC Therapy), Nancy Perry and Joe (Frankenstein) and The Jaffee Family.

I would like to personally give a huge shout out and thank you to everyone involved to help make this event happen because the success of this event would not have happened without everyone's willingness to come together as they did! Thank you additionally to all of those who came to volunteer and help pass out books/treats/candy and to all of those who donated books/candy, we are looking forward to going even bigger next year!

- Chrissy Smoak



### Oak Hammock by the Numbers, November 1 Independent Living

	Total	Occupied or Reserved	Available to Sell
Houses	57	57	0
Apartments	212	211	1

- Nickie Doria

### Health Pavilion

	Total	Occupied	Available
Assisted	46	40	6
Memory*	12	9	3
Skilled**	73	66	7

\* 12 units are set aside for quarantine

\*\* fluctuates daily

- Mary Sabatella

### Art Fair

Jan Lowenthal, Pat Toskes, and Roshan Mehrad at the Mic canopy Art Fair. They were part of the coach load of Oak Hammock residents who visited the fair at the end of October.

- Larry Lowenthal



### New Year's Eve Dinner and Dancing on South Georgia Time

Watch for details!

DJ, dancing, and a balloon drop timed to celebrate the New Year in South Georgia. Not THAT South Georgia!

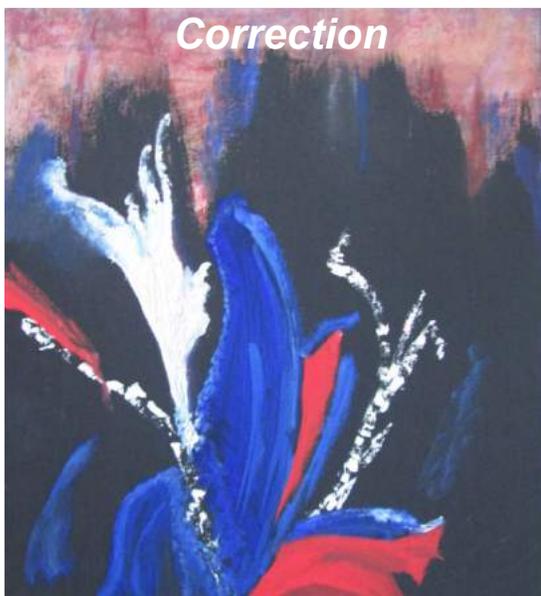
### Oak Hammock Singers Welcome the Holidays

The masks are gone! It's time to welcome in the festive time of year with song and celebrations. The Oak Hammock Singers will present a fall program, "AutumnSong" in the Oak Room on Sunday, November 20, at 3:30 p.m.

And it's not too early to start humming favorite holiday tunes. Save-the-Date: December 11 (7:30 p.m.) for Oak Hammock's traditional "Christmas on the Stairs." This sing-along is guaranteed to fill the upper and lower commons with the joyous sounds of music. Elves have been known to pass out goodies to all the good boys and girls. Definitely, not an event to be missed.

- Barbara Dockery

### Correction



The Red, White, and Blue painting shown on page 6 in the October issue (above) was created by Mary Sue Koeppel.



Lovely Oak Hammock Flowers.  
- Karen Arola



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Katherine Osman, Layout



Orion as viewed while walking the cat on a great clear night. The phone picks up more stars than the eye sees.  
 - Walter Wynn

**A Thanksgiving Story**

Joyce Gorman grew up as an only child in a small town in Illinois called Loves Park. Her father, Walter Bartlett, owned a bakery named after his wife, Mrs. Bartlett's Bake Shop. One of his specialties was a ham wrapped in rye bread dough so it looked quite festive when sliced. At Thanksgiving, he baked many turkeys for the neighbors, giving them a pan to set up their turkey. When it was completely cooked, they would arrive at the shop and carry their turkey in the pan home for their family dinner. One woman had an accident when she dropped the pan, and the bird flopped out, completely ruined. She returned to the shop in distress wondering what she could do. Joyce's father gave her their family turkey. Their holiday was saved when the Bartletts bundled up all the accompaniments and went to Grandmother's house.



- Betty Kramer

**2022 Residents' Council**

President	Martha Rader
Vice President	Norm Cooney
Secretary	Doug Merrey

***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	2nd Wednesday, 3:15 PM	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	4th Wednesday, 3:00 PM	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		Roger Curtis

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