

KEY VISTA

The Official
Newsletter of the
Master HOA

FEBRUARY 2015

VOL XIII ISSUE 2

Life is not measured by
the
number of breaths
we take,
but by the moments
that
take our
breath away.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MASTER HOA



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Chris Haines, Property Manager.....727.787.3461
Email.....chaines@melrosemanagement.com

KV MASTER CLUBHOUSE E-MAIL

kvclubhouse@mykeyvista.com

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Lisa D'AquistoClubhouse Manager
Clyde Watson.....Maintenance Supervisor

Lisa's Hours:

Sunday: 8:00am-4:00pm
Monday: 9:00am-5:00pm
Tuesday: 9:00am-5:30pm
Wednesday: 1:30-10:00pm
Thursday: 1:30-10:00pm
Friday/Saturday: OFF

Clyde's Hours:

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Wednesday: 6:00am-2:30pm
Thursday: 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday: 8:00am-4:30pm
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KV Master Clubhouse Fax727.943.0796
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CommunicationsKen Nadler, BOD Liaison
PoolKaran McCaughey

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THIS & THAT

There was quite a turn-out for the discussion of *The Goldfinch* at the January Book Club. Coming up in February is *Peony* by Pearl S. Buck, and our March selection is *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. If you've read either book and want to be part of the discussion (or just a listener), join the group at 7:00pm on the first Monday of the month at the Villas clubhouse.

Besides St. Valentine's Day this month, let's not forget that February also celebrates two great patriots who served as presidents of our country during very difficult times: Abraham Lincoln (February 12th) and George Washington (February 22). Fly your flags proudly in honor of them and others who have led our country to greatness!

The New Year's Eve party at the Clubhouse was a blast with a gathering of 100+ people! Attendees came ready to enjoy the great music, and wore their boogie shoes in anticipation. The buffet was laden with a variety of Italian dishes, and attendees' appetites did it justice. We finally headed home around 11:30 (way past our bedtime), but several Dancing Queens and Kings remained to welcome the new year.

BUNKO players wanted! Contact Jane at: rickjane55@gmail.com if you'd like to be part of a fun Bunko group forming for those residing in the Villas.

Happy 80th birthday to Pat McPherson! You're a role model to all who know you with your zest for life, your creative crafts, your impeccable sewing skills, and more! You're one amazing lady, Pat!!

Are you new to the Villas? We'd like to give you a proper welcome along with some helpful information to guide you in your transition into a gated, deed-restricted community. Please call Kathy Binette (944-5691) or Chris Vlach (938-8727) so they can "officially" welcome you!

WELCOME to Jacqueline Felix who recently moved to the Villas. "Jackie" has moved here from Long Island, New York. She has three daughters and six grandchildren, and loves to travel. She's looking forward to all our KV activities and joining the SINGLES group.

Curious about herbs and their role in natural health care? Join with others in our community to hear Chris Dunnack, a certified herbalist and health care consultant, address the subject. Chris has been answering questions for the past 20 years in her former business, "Useful Weeds". The talk will focus on common ways to promote wellness in our lives (and even our pets lives). Bring your questions, as this will be a question and answer program. This talk will be held in the Villas clubhouse on February 17th at 2 PM *tp



Seizing the opportunity to join the world's largest independent hotel group and the fastest growing hotel chain in the United States, when our contract with Ramada expired, we opted to rebrand as Magnuson Hotel Marina. Magnuson offers us more flexibility and the support necessary to become a premier Gulf Harbors Resort Hotel, with a newly renovated restaurant and closer cooperation with Windsong Charters and Boat Rentals and Island Paradise Cruise Charters both operating from our facility. We only have a few more wet slips available for lease. You may dock your boat, enjoy the pool, restaurant and lounge.



In an effort to continue our conversion to a resort hotel we began by converting one building into an interior corridor building with new rooms and furnishings. This multimillion dollar renovation in 2010 was just the beginning and we have now started renovating the exterior corridor rooms, upgrading the bathrooms, electric and putting in wood floors for a much fresher and home style feeling. With the restaurant and deck renovation already complete we will not stop in continuing to improve our customer experience at the hotel and we invite you at any time to check out our rooms before recommending us to visiting family members. We would love to welcome you as our guest and bring the article for a 15% discount of our already most competitive rates.

Our commitment is to give excellent service, comfortable clean renovated rooms, including free WIFI, complimentary breakfast buffet and free access to family fitness mall. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Magnuson Hotel & Marina is conveniently located at the corner of US HWY 19 and Marine Parkway. Tel.: 727-8498551; check out our website <http://MagnusonHotelInpr.com> and like us on face book.



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PEACEFUL CO-EXISTING IN PARADISE

By Georgie Watson Boehlen

"Hey Girls," I said to my Cavalier and Springer Spaniels. "It looks like you really like that spot in our front yard." They were both sniffing intently on a patch of grass centrally located away from curb and driveway. Suddenly a small salamander shot out from a tuft of grass, racing to the protection of shrubbery around the house. Not realizing the escape, the dogs kept sniffing, until Annie, the Cavalier, saw the bushes rustling out of the corner of her eye. As she bounded to the bush, I yanked her leash and said it was time to go for our walk. Thus, allowing another Gecko live to munch on yet another bug!

As I regarded the upturned turf, I realized that it may be an excellent spot for a flowering tree. It would have to be a Florida friendly plant. One that loves sunshine, and tolerates both rain and drought. As we walked up the block, we saw many trees that were dormant, but obviously would blossom as soon as the warm Gulf breezes reappeared. Then the dogs got interested in a tree with beautifully twisted tangle of trunks and branches. Its bark was light grey with some beige mottling. Its limbs formed a lacy umbrella against the sky. The dogs were unfazed; their interest being more with the biology of the squirrel across the street than the horticulture of the tree they were standing under.

My research revealed the tree in question was a crepe myrtle.(lagerstroemia) It originates from China and Japan, but has been used as an ornamental plant in Florida for at least 150 years! It is loved by horticulturalists because it responds to grafting extremely well; creating different species in size, blooms, and colors.

The crepe myrtle loves Florida and takes thirsty drinks in the summer and only a few sips in the winter. Its blooms range in colors from bluish purple, to various shades of pink, to specialties with vibrant red. They appear in early May and don't fade until late Fall. It can be trimmed into a bushy shrub, or left to grow into a small to medium size tree. Its bark begins peeling throughout the summer, revealing a beautifully smooth and creamy caramel mottled trunk. This gradually fades to grey throughout the winter, and then begins the process again the spring.

It likes to be planted where air can circulate around it as it can be susceptible to powdery mildew if conditions are too moist. Except when initially planted, the crepe myrtle needs little watering and fertilizing. According to the folks at University of Florida, it is one of the most pest resistant plants landscapers can use. According to them, it transplants easily, will adapt to almost any soil,(except wet) needs little pruning, and loves the sun. It not only can be planted for landscaping, but also smaller species can be grown in pots in a sunny location on one's lanai.

"This looks like the tree for us," I exclaimed happily to my loyal spaniel observers. They looked up at me eagerly, seeing that I was so pleased and hoping that this meant some treats coming their way. After a few more minutes of researching near-by nurseries; their hopes materialized in the form of Old Mother Hubbard's mini peanut butter treats. Ah-h-h-h life is good in Paradise.

LOOK AT THE BIRDIE!!

As the new year begins, I'm reminded that this cooler season seems to attract a greater number of our feathered friends. We have a large pond in the back of our house that is bordered on the other three sides by trees and shrubs. This area provides privacy for the plumed visitors, along with fish and vegetation for their meals and water for frolic and bathing.

The eagle has returned after a several month hiatus...even signaling his arrival with several loud screeches! What a beautiful, magnificent creature. I find it amusing that for one who soars so majestically, his gait is so lumbering. When bathing he submerges himself up to his neck in the pond. (Obviously he has no fear of "Allie" our resident gator.) We hope he's nesting nearby and will continue to visit regularly as he's done in past years - sometimes even bringing the wife and kids along!

The egrets are plentiful, as are great white and little blue herons. The double-crested cormorant offers great delight as he dives and surfaces and then exits to dry his wings. He reminds me of a "flasher" as he parades and pirouettes in front of the others with his wings extended.

Just last week five woodstorks appeared, catching a few rays on the perimeter of the pond. I grabbed my cell-phone to take a picture of the gathering, but one of the group, possibly hoping for a handout (or wanting a "selfie"?), boldly approached. I thanked him for stopping by and allowing me the great close-up shot, but told him that feeding the wildlife is a BIG no-no. I slipped back into the house, but watched him through the window for several minutes as he stood dejectedly, patiently waiting for something. I wondered if he thought I was warming up a dish for him?! *tp



KUDOS

We want to acknowledge and thank the many people who distribute the Pelican every month. Without their help, the newsletter would lie dormant in the clubhouse. No doubt those of you in our community wait with bated breath for each and every issue, and thus we want to thank: JERRY GARVUSO, MARLO STACEY-CARLTON, MICHELE KNOPP, JUDY CONWAY, CAROL SMINK, TISH AND TONY PETRICCA, GAIL CONIGLIARO, KATHY BURNETT, MARY LOU RINNIER, MARIA STERIADIS, AND AMY MILLER for their faithful delivery service. Carry on!



HELLO DALI!

While we've explored many of the Florida areas and attractions since we moved here seven years ago, there is always more to see! Over the Christmas holidays we decided to make a trip to beautiful St. Petersburg to see the Dali Museum. The museum itself is awesome - a fortress-like rectangle out of which erupts a free-form geodesic glass bubble known as the enigma. Its 75- foot peak offers 21st century homage to the dome that adorns his museum in Spain. Another outstanding feature is its helical staircase, recalling Dali's obsession with spirals and the DNA molecule. The building resides on the scenic St. Petersburg waterfront, bordered by beautiful landscaping as well as fun learning activities for children. The museum opened in 1982 and contains one of the world's largest collections of paintings by Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali. The collection of oils, watercolors, drawings and prints was assembled over 40 years by a rich Ohio industrialist, A. Reynolds Morse and his wife Eleanor who were friends of Dali and his wife.

Our visit coincided with an exclusive film presentation, Destino, featuring the collaborative efforts of Salvatore Dali and Walt Disney! The project had lain dormant for years, but was resurrected and brought to completion through the talents of many, and it was fascinating!



Me and my "dollies" at the Dali museum

The works of Picasso were/are also on display at the museum until the middle of February. The story of these two renowned men is one of influence, rivalry, and artistic greatness. It is an exhibition of two masterful geniuses who changed the way we understand images and the role of the artist in this process. The body of work produced by both Dali and Picasso is highly symbolic and abstract, and as such I would highly recommend a docent/set of earphones to assist those attending in understanding and appreciating the work of these creative minds. *tp

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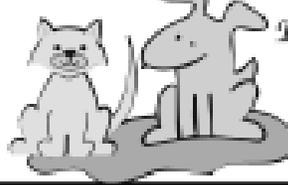
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SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP

 By Kim Keelan

Although we have only been a group for less than a year, we have formed some deep and lasting friendships. Whether single by choice or circumstance, we find our single status does not limit us in any way. We go to the theatre, out to dinner, to the beach in warmer weather, and have our social/cocktail hour on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We mainly get together for fun and a lot of laughs.

We have had Fiesta night with margaritas and Mexican appetizers, pizza night, Chinese carry-out, and martini night on the alternating Wednesdays at the Villas clubhouse.

Renee W. has had the group to her home several times for dinner and had a spectacular New Year's day brunch. Some of the restaurants we've been to are Bonefish Grill, Rumba's, Ciao at Wiregrass, Mystic Fish, Tarpon Tavern, Miss Vicky's, Carrabba's and the Brick House.

Some theatre events so far have been Jimmy Ferraro's Studio theatre in New Port Richey that has presented Church Basement Ladies, Singing Divas of Broadway and Hollywood, Ain't Retirement Grand, and A Christmas Carol at the Show Palace Dinner Theatre. We are planning some day trips to Sarasota, Safety Harbor Spa, and maybe a weekend in Key West.

We have approximately 17 members now, and we would welcome people from both the Villas and the Single Family Homes. The Villas gate is open from 4 to 5pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The only requirement is that you be at least 55 years young.

For more info call Kim Keelan 940-3060 or Janet Ford 943-2412



MY TRIP TO GERMANY

by Monika Kopczynski

(Continued from last month's Pelican)

Sorry to say that we did not make it back to the afternoon coffee and dessert, but dinner was going to be served at 7PM so we had some time to go and have a cocktail or two at the bar. Less calories anyway. Not that you went hungry at any time. At 7 AM to 7:30 AM they served coffee and fresh croissants and from 7:30 AM until 10 AM breakfast was served. At 12 Noon until 2 PM you could eat lunch, hot or cold, then at 3:30 until 4:30 it was coffee time, and at 7 PM until 9 PM was supper. There always was so much food and a variety of it. The chef on the ship offered more local dishes and wines to whatever country or city you had visited, which I thought was great. All the meals were served buffet style and you could go as many times you wanted and you got to sit wherever you wanted. The drinks were served by waiters. The personnel who worked on the ship were mostly young people who came from eastern block countries. They were very hard workers and super friendly.

My sister and I usually ended up the day in the lounge. We had met some really nice people and I was surprised how many women actually were traveling solo. We had a nice group we would sit with, have some cocktails, and did some dancing and visiting. I was the only one who came from the United States, and I think the lone American on the whole ship. I found that out quickly, as the Soccer World Championship games were being played at that time and naturally the game between the American team and the German team was shown on a big screen that evening in the lounge. The excitement was huge and the Germans were strutting around, already basking in their teams' win over the USA. German flags were given out and some people sported hats and other clothing in the German colors. I was strutting around in my blue, red, and white outfit, knowing that the Americans would whip the Germans. But it did not happen that way, even with my cheering and words of encouragement. The only thing that happened was that I earned the wrath of most of the other soccer fans, and the next day I had my sister taste my food before I ate it. Rather be safe than sorry.

On the next day after Budapest, we arrived around 9 AM in Bratislava, Slovakia. Bratislava is the largest city in Slovakia. It is situated in the centre of Europe in the southwestern part of Slovakia. From our ship we could see Bratislava's most famous landmark, the Bratislavský hrad (Bratislava Castle), a square building high above the Danube with peaked towers at each of its four corners. The first record of a castle on this spot came from 907, but the most influential construction happened under Sigismund of Luxembourg in the 15th century. When Bratislava became the capital of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, it was the seat of the kings and queens, and the crown jewels were kept in the Crown Tower. It later became a military barracks, and soldiers accidentally burned the castle down in 1811. Reconstruction didn't start until well into the next century, and it was completed in just 1968. The hill the castle was built on has been inhabited since the stone ages. Artifacts have been found stemming from this time. Imagine that. Today the castle contains exhibits from Slovak National Museum's historical branch. It will take you about two or three hours to see everything from art to antique furniture to the Venus of Moravia, a figure carved from a mammoth's tusk estimated to be 25,000 years old.

There are also many little shops and cafes in which one could shop 'til you drop. But we did not have enough time to visit the castle which I found disappointing, as the ship was leaving again at 4:30 PM that same day.

We had decided to join a walking tour which was taking us to the St. Michael Tower and Gate and the old city of Bratislava. St. Michael's Gate and two sections of wall are the only remnants of the original four of the medieval fortification system. The fortifications were made of stone, the walls being 130-160 centimeters thick. Most of the medieval fortification system was demolished in the year 1775 by the order of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria; the rest being torn down in the 18th and 19th centuries. Attached to the Gate is the narrowest house in Central Europe, 130 cm wide. It is the width between the

inner and outer city wall which they left, and then and built a house in it. I really would have liked to tour this tiny house but somebody was living in it.

To get rid of some of the grey and depressing images of the city while under Communist rule, in 1997 several statues made out of copper were erected around town. There is Napoleon's Army Soldier - A statue leaning over a bench on Main Square (Hlavne namesite) in the centre of Bratislava. This soldier reminds visitors of Napoleon himself wearing a typical hat (Napoleon the 1st visited Bratislava in 1805, then again in 1809. Napoleon's army blew up the Devin Castle near Bratislava, not a nice little man.) Tourists and locals both enjoy sitting on the bench with the soldier behind them.

Another statue is of Schone Naci - the stuff of Bratislava legends. Schone Naci was a well-known figure in the early 20th century. A poor and mentally ill man, he paraded the streets of Bratislava in old, but elegant attire - a velvet frock- greeting passers-by with his top-hat and bowing courteously to ladies passing by. The Paparazzi statue is an even more recent addition adorning the eponymous restaurant in the Old Town. He peeks around the corner to take a picture of some celebrity coming out of the restaurant. Yet another statue is of Hans Christian Andersen, famous fairy tale author, which graces the Hviezdoslav square. He's known to have said about Bratislava: "If you want a fairy tale, your city is a fairy tale itself". After his visit he produced some of his masterpieces such as "The Little Match Girl". (I remember this story)

Cumil - This guy, residing in the Old Town, dates back only to 1997, but Bratislavians and tourists love him. Children like to abuse him by sitting on his head. More than once has he been damaged by car drivers. Heated discussions have taken place as to what actually the man is up to - you have to decide whether he is simply resting, looking up women's skirts, or cleaning up the sewer. You really have to watch so you do not trip over him as he actually pops out of the sidewalk. There are many other impressions which I took with me from Bratislava and I wished we would have had more time there.

One building I wanted to mention was the American Embassy. I felt like I was meeting a good friend. It is a huge, beautiful, older building, very impressive. You cannot get close to it as it is surrounded by a large wire fence. I took plenty of pictures of it, and I am sure I ended up on pictures myself, taken from security cameras. I probably was investigated by the CIA, FBI, Homeland Security etc. I must have checked out okay, as I got back into the country almost without any problems except for one little beagle at the airport who sniffed out a bun I had in my carry-on luggage.

At 4:30 PM we said good bye to Bratislava by joining the party on the sundeck of the ship. The officers of the ship took on the role of bartenders. That also was lots of fun as the sun was shining, the music was great, and some of the officers were easy on the eye.

The next day we were on our way back to Passau. It took us through the beautiful Austrian valley called "Wachau". My sister and I decided just to lounge on the sundeck as again it was another beautiful sunny day. We took in the views of the beautiful countryside, steeped in tradition, blanketed with vineyards, and ornamented with cute villages, castles and ruins.

The cultivation of vines is an important agricultural product and is the dominant feature of the valley. At 11:00 am we attended the Wachauer Fruehschoppen where we ate Zwiebelkuchen (Onioncake) accompanied by a glass of Wachauer white wine which was excellent!

This trip to Germany was a wonderful one; my sister and I saw so many beautiful places and learned much history. Along the way we met some very nice people, ate and drank heartily, and shared a lot of laughter. Our ship, the Bella Rosa was 5-star experience. Most of the amenities one gets on a big cruise ship you will also find on a Riverboat cruise, just on a smaller scale. The entry and egress was much easier than on a larger ship, and the harbors were close to the towns on the itinerary. I really enjoyed the intimacy of the ship, and I'm sure my sister and I will plan another river cruise next year.

I hope you enjoyed reading my travels, and that it gave you a little more insight into the places and the history of some of the beautiful places in Europe. ~Monika Kopczynski

THANK YOU, MONIKA, FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH OUR COMMUNITY!



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SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

There are different theories as to where or how the celebration of Valentine's Day began. History cites that the Romans celebrated a festival called Lupercalia on February 15. This festival was held to ward off the danger of wolves (real ones, not those that frequent bars) that often attacked their flocks, as well as an occasion to honor their god Lupercalia.

Possibly desiring to share a piece of their own history, the Christian Church, having two saints named Valentine, offered two other possibilities related to the day. The Roman Emperor, Claudius the II, forbade young men to marry in 200 A.D. He believed single men made better soldiers, free of family concerns. (Obviously they were not concerned with the feminist movement at this point in time.) However, a priest named Valentine disobeyed the Emperor and married couples in secret.

The second St. Valentine was known and respected as a loving protector of children, but was imprisoned by the rulers of his time because he refused to honor their gods. The children missed him when he was in jail, and responded by writing messages of affection to him, which they threw through the bars of his cell. This may have been the beginning of exchanging messages (and an impetus for the creative minds at Hallmark). Unfortunately his imprisonment ultimately led to his execution, which took place on February 14, 269 A.D. Almost 30 years later, Pope Gelasius named February 14th Valentine's Day after him.

The fourth idea concerning the celebration of Valentine's Day is based on the belief that birds or fowl pick their mates on February 14th. It was thought that love birds in particular chose this day to begin mating. (For those inclined to bird-watching, bring those binoculars mid-month and see if you can verify the authenticity of this belief.)

Yet one more source credits Charles, Duke of Orleans, with writing the first Valentine. He was a Frenchman captured by the English during the battle of Agincourt in 1415. On Valentine's Day he sent his wife a rhyming love letter from the tower of London, where he was imprisoned.

So many stories and scenarios - pick whichever appeals to your romantic side and motivates you to send greetings to someone you love. *tp



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