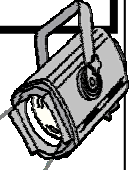




The Retreat Newsletter

January/February 2006

Volume 3, Issue 1



THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON RETREAT VOLUNTEERS

By Bonnie Becker

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit."

--Greek Proverb

Thanks to our Volunteers!

This year has shown what a wonderful group of people we have living in the Retreat and why it is such a popular place to be.

As our **Board of Directors** (BOD) winds up its first year, it is important to thank those multitudes of volunteers who tirelessly work behind the scenes to ensure that our community

runs smoothly and without the high overhead that would be with us if it were not for their great talents and hard work.

We want to thank our board members for their dedicated, hard work and for the exemplary job they have done for us this year. They have invested innumerable hours to make sure we had a smooth transition from DiVosta to homeowners. Being a board member is often a thankless job. It is easy to criticize but hard to do this work. Other communities are not as well run and do not have the volunteer resources that are available to us and to our Board. It would be a nice gesture to mention

to our Board members how much we appreciate their dedication and hard work the next time you see them.

The committees that have been formed at the Retreat over the last two years have been many. Starting out small on an ad hoc basis, they have grown to be well organized, vibrant committees that have contributed greatly to our community, our environment and the cost of living here.

From *Architectural Review* to the *Neighborhood Watch*, committees at The Retreat do the nitty gritty day to day work that our community would have to hire to be done.

For example, *did you know* that the
(Continued on page 2)



Retreat residents Ruth and Jim Dudziak at the 2005 South Martin Relay for Life

SPOTLIGHT IS ON JIM DUDZIAK

By Bea Kozlowski

The Retreat Newsletter

is pleased to spotlight resident **Jim Dudziak** in this issue on Volunteering. Jim and his wife Ruth moved from Cleveland to Hobe Sound in May 2002 and were literally the first residents to move into The Retreat. Jim and Ruth were very honored to have been chosen to cut the ribbon at the Clubhouse

opening ceremonies.

During the course of Jim's career he has lived in seven different states. He attended graduate school in Gainesville, Florida and thus began his dream to eventually retire to Florida.

Jim's volunteer accomplishments are awesome to say the least. In 2004 Jim assumed a leadership position at the Martin County United Way Volunteer and Community Resource Center and was bestowed the "Champion of the Community" award for his role in coordinating disaster services. Also in 2004 Jim was the startup chairman and is now a board member of the Martin Interagency Network for Disasters (MIND). Since 2002 Jim has been a

board member at St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph's Conference which entails establishing case work history and home visits. He was just elected President and began a three year term last month.

(Continued on page 2)

Thursday, February 16
6:45 pm
SeaWind Elementary School

There will be an all member meeting and election of the **Retreat at Seabranh Homeowners Association.**

Please attend. Thank you,
 Your Board of Directors

Clubhouse Committee was responsible for the motion sensors that turn lights on and off in the postal center and rest rooms in the clubhouse, along with all the other upgrades to our Clubhouse that you may have noticed?

Did you know that the **Drainage and Lakes Committee** is responsible for stocking our ponds with several varieties of fish this year?

Our **Irrigation and Maintenance Committee** has worked with the BOD to save us a great amount of money and has kept us from having to pay special assessments. Sprinkler head and tree negotiations saved the Retreat from having a special assessment.

Did you know that one committee discovered that the heads of our sprinklers were an inferior and discontinued product? They did not retract, causing many to be cut off and malfunction. The committee volunteers kept digging and kept after the problem and today our sprinkler heads are going to be replaced with a top of the line product. There are 10,000 of them. This has saved the Retreat \$60,000 to \$80,000 and kept us special assessment free this year.

The diligence of the board and committee members are responsible for replacement of trees, cleaning up of upland planting areas and the slopes of lakes, which was done without additional cost to our residents.

Did you know that one of the water coolers in the tennis courts had not been working? Estimates were obtained from three plumbers to replace it ran from \$1,000 to \$2,000. A committee member replaced the thermostat for \$20.00.

Neighborhood Watch has taken on the job of stopping burglary, robbery and other crimes in our community. **Did you know** the good news about Neighborhood watch? There is no news. The committee has about a dozen members and has nothing to report. This is a very safe community to live in.

The **Social Committee** plans events for the entire Retreat Community and last year held six major events from a St. Patrick's Day party to a Holiday Dinner Dance.

The **Women's Club of the Retreat** has done a wonderful job bringing people together. Besides social activities, there is something of interest for everyone to do from the social activities and luncheons to the great volunteer organization that works tirelessly raising funds for several charities. They accomplish this through their membership dues, bake sales and other fund raising activities.

Did you know that there is an **Outreach** group from our Women's Club that goes to the Hope Rural School in Indiantown four to five times a month to work in the library? They tirelessly manually catalog the books as

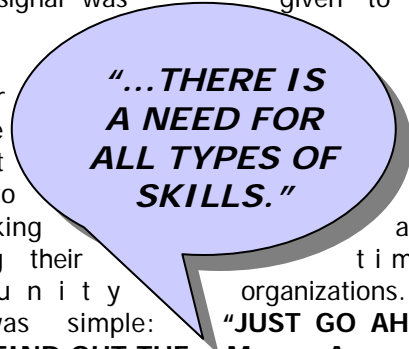
(Continued on page 6)

Jim is also president of St. Vincent de Paul District Council of Martin County where he recently raised \$100,000 in hurricane funds for the Treasure Coast. In 2003 Jim received the Florida Award for "Best of Best Volunteer" for emergency management where he developed and oversaw testing for managing hurricanes and natural disasters for Martin County Volunteers. Beginning in 2003, Jim was a SCORE volunteer business consultant for the Treasure Coast area. In addition to the above Jim volunteers as an inmate mentor at the Martin County Jail each week.

How did Jim get started as a volunteer? Well, the story is quite an interesting one. After 9/11 Jim filled out a questionnaire on the Homeland Security website in hopes of finding some way to offer his services. As a result the Martin County United Way Volunteer and Community Resource Center contacted Jim and thus began his involvement in disaster relief assistance.

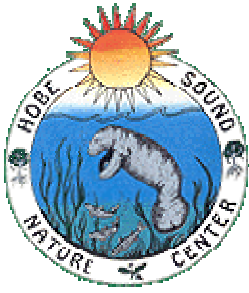
After attending a Red Cross training program Jim was called on to help out at Port Salerno Elementary school to manage the shelter for people who evacuated their homes prior to Hurricane Wilma. The evening before Hurricane Wilma hit, Jim and Ruth helped provide food and comfort to 370 people at the shelter and remained with them until Wilma passed through the area and the "all clear" signal was given to leave the shelter.

In our interview with Jim we asked him what advice he could offer to those who are thinking about volunteering their time to community organizations. Jim's answer was simple:



"JUST GO AHEAD AND DO IT TO FIND OUT THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE - THERE IS A NEED FOR ALL TYPES OF SKILLS."

Ruth and Jim Dudziak have six children and eight grandchildren. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS GO OUT TO JIM!



VOLUNTEERING AT THE HOBE SOUND NATURE CENTER

by Susan Mariani

I am a snowbird from Bay Village, Ohio on Lake Erie, living in the Retreat for about five months each year. I volunteer one day a week at the Hobe Sound Nature Center. The Center is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental awareness in the community. The Nature Center cooperates with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and is located at the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge on US 1 South of Bridge Road.

Having met the friendly, well-informed naturalists Debbie Quincy, Desta Hansen, and Tracy Boothby, I began volunteering in the gift shop and helping with educational programs. Imagine wading in the Indian River Lagoon with 25 or more school children dragging seine nets in the sea grasses to discover aquatic life. What fun! Desta, Tracy, and the volunteers help children collect, categorize, and return living species to the lagoon. Clams, oysters, snails, hermit crabs, fish, shrimp, tube worms, and even sea horses and starfish can be found. "Cool" and "awesome" are the words I hear from the children as they participate in this hands-on experience. How great it is to see them fully engaged in learning about the rich Florida environment!

Some students who have participated before, notice that sea grasses are not as plentiful as they used to be. Hurricanes have taken their toll on the Indian River Lagoon. Afterwards, children discuss possible effects of damage to sea grasses on aquatic life all the way up the food chain. The tiny creatures we have just seen - the base of the food chain - need sea grasses as habitats for the babies. Won't it be interesting to check out the condition of the grasses in 2006?

Coming from the north, I realize how little I know about Florida ecosystems and wildlife habitats. The Hobe Sound Nature Center offers many programs for people of any age. Programs such as Sand Pine Scrub (endangered habitat) hikes take place at the Wildlife Refuge. Others, such as the Wakodahatchee Wetlands birding trip or the Night Prowl at Riverbend Park, are farther away and often involve car pooling. An amateur birder can even participate in the annual Jonathan Dickinson Christmas bird count on Monday January 2, 2006. Perhaps we could learn to conduct a bird count at the preserve in the Retreat. How about joining the naturalists for the January 31, 2006 van trip to Big Cypress National Preserve, a vast wilderness in southwest Florida? Doesn't that sound interesting?

To learn more about the fragile and beautiful biodiversity of Florida or to find out how you can help, call the Center 772.546.2067. The friendly staff members are: Debbie Quincy, Director; Desta Hansen and Tracy Boothby, Instructors and Naturalists.

HE'S NO ORDINARY JOE!

By Mark Elliott



Special "hats off" to **Joe Boucher**, the "Joe of All Trades," here at the Retreat. As Hurricane Wilma approached, Joe dropped all he was doing to help all those in distress with putting up their shutters, cutting wrong size shutters to fit, helping those whose shutter contractors didn't show, and doing anything else he could to secure home and lanais.

Along with his helpers **Paul Larcom** and **Bill Tarquine**, Joe worked tirelessly at least 18 hours a day until everyone was set.

Joe is strong and mighty, does the work of an army, belongs on the front of a Wheaties box, and will fearlessly wrestle an alligator or two if called.

Thanks, Joe Boucher, from all your neighbors, for being there for us!



HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERING

By Jane Stokes

I have been a Volunteer at Martin Memorial Hospital South (MMHS) for one and a half years. It has been the most rewarding experience for me. I work in PACU (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit - Recovery). The nurses there are by far the nicest group of caregivers that one could imagine.

I chose to volunteer to "give back to the community" which we now call our home. I have met many wonderful people and have made many new friendships. Everyone at the hospital is so appreciative of all the volunteers, and they treat us with the utmost respect.

While I preferred a more fast-paced area to work in, there are many other areas where volunteers are needed (Courtesy Cart, clerical tasks, patient transport, ICU waiting room liaison, etc.). There are several other sites within MMHS where volunteers are welcomed.

Stopping at Walgreen's on the way home, a cashier (a younger lady) saw my uniform and said, "I respect you ladies" and she proceeded to tell me her experience while accompanying a family member to the hospital. Her comment made my day even more rewarding.

Volunteering for me has been a very satisfying experience. I would encourage anyone who is looking for a meaningful way to occupy four hours of their time to consider this.



MY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES

By Kay Campbell

My volunteering experiences have involved both church and civic organizations. Serving others has always been rewarding to me in both the help I give to others and the people I have met in the process. When the children were young, my activities were centered around church activities of teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Volunteering took a backseat when I became a working mother with active school age children. My husband, home, and child responsibilities took up any free time that became available.

In my retirement years, I have been involved in several service projects: delivering Meals on Wheels, teaching VBS in an intercity mission, preparing mailings for a retirement community, serving Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless, and being involved in a unique project called Books for Babies. In this project, retired teachers delivered books to the mothers of newborns in a local hospital. We gave the mothers a few words of encouragement while stressing the importance of reading to their children in developing language skills and success in school.

Currently in Ohio, I work in a hospital sponsored thrift shop called The Bungalow and VBS. Here in the Retreat, I serve on the Outreach Committee of the Woman's Club. I have enjoyed working at the Hope Rural School, and their appreciation of our efforts have pleased all of us. My only regrets are that I have difficulties making long term commitments because I live in two places and travel. Life is Good.



VOLUNTEERING IN HOBE SOUND

By Jerry Blumengarten

I am the official "Cybrarian" of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce. I do computer work and editing for the Chamber. In particular, I have been helping them out with my online expertise. I have helped Jennifer Ferrari, the Executive Director of the Chamber, set up for the tree lighting ceremony and parade.

In addition to helping out at the Chamber, my wife, Gail, and I are the SeaWind School Advisory Committee representatives from The Retreat.



VOLUNTEER JOY CURRIER

By Helen Larcom

Fifty years ago, Joy Currier became a volunteer. When her twin boys were six months old, they developed Leukemia and were sent to Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore for treatment. While they were there, Joy spent a lot of time with the other babies. Unfortunately, both her boys passed away. Her daughter, Bambi, developed cancer, and Joy continued to volunteer for 14 years. She later moved to California and volunteered at City of Hope. Again she spent her time comforting sick babies.

Several family relatives were diagnosed with cancer. Joy also lost her father to this dreaded disease. During these trying times, she continued to volunteer her services to bring comfort to the sick. When Joy moved to Florida, she took up a new cause - feeding street people. She continued this mission for 25 years and received five Governor Awards for her work as a volunteer.

Joy Currier continues to volunteer in many ways at The Retreat. She is very active in the Woman's Club and has taken on many causes; one of which is helping the migrant workers' families by collecting clothes and household items. In the most recent collection, Joy collected over 100 bags for them. Joy is also active in the Relay For Life by running cake sales and donating equipment and time. Joy has one thing to say to anyone who volunteers for a cause, "Give 110%." Many thanks go out to Joy.

Volunteers at The Retreat

By Marlene Boobar



Bosha Stone and Mary Pratt have taken the lead in arranging groups to go out to the Hope Rural School in Indiantown each Monday and Friday to work in the school's library. Each and every week these women donate many hours of service to the school. The women in the Women's Club have supported this school, both financially and with hours of volunteer service.

Sandy Goldfarb, Gerri Strong and Marlene Boobar completed a 12-hour training with ProLiteracy America in conjunction with the Literacy Council of Martin County this past November. Sandy will be placed with the S.T.O.P Camp, working with adolescents trying to complete their GED while incarcerated. Gerri and Marlene have been placed at the Dunbar Center, helping young mothers with their English speaking skills. These Retreat women are donating two days each week; several hours each session to this program. These women were called to this program after learning that 20 % of the residents of Martin County are illiterate.

SEAWIND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

By Geri Ciocia

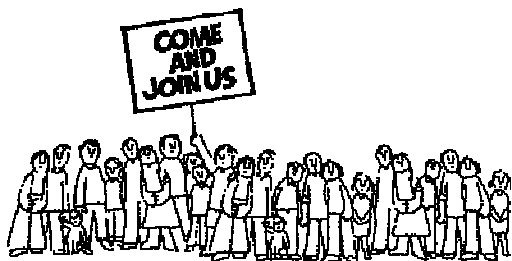


This past November, I volunteered at SeaWind Elementary School (our young neighbors) to help decorate their float for the Christmas Parade. Requirements: One form to be completed and returned to the school. That's it. Experience: No experience needed. I have watched many parades but never decked them. This was a new project. It's amazing to see how great minds can come together to form one large accomplishment. All attending contributed their expertise adding to Susan's idea for this year's parade theme "Christmas in Paradise," a great way to start off the season (Susan teaches 3rd grade at SeaWind). It was certainly eventful, funny, oh enough, I could go on and on and on. I met people from our neighboring communities and also met our friends from The Retreat.

SeaWind's award on Friday in the Stuart Parade, "Best Use of Theme!" Saturday in Hobe Sound, "Best Overall" trophy was received. Stuart News credited SeaWind as the winner, but showed the wrong float in the picture!! OH WELL!! Crowds of people attended and enjoyed both parades. Hope some of you were there.

SeaWind can use volunteers any day, everyday. Enjoy and give some of your time to a great cause. Support our future politicians, presidents, plumbers, electricians, teachers, mothers, and fathers. Shall we go on and on... Hopefully we will!

Editorial comment: *The Retreat News* has the *correct* float picture!



MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

By Lill Malinowski

I wish to commend our Retreat friends and neighbors that volunteer via the committees, charitable organizations, and other organized groups. These folks as well as many others also *volunteer in different ways*. These are some of the ways these people make our world a better place to live:

- ✓ Watch your home and take care of your plants while you are away
- ✓ Bring meals to your home when you need them
- ✓ Do shopping for you
- ✓ Take care of your pet
- ✓ Put up your holiday trimmings
- ✓ Take care of putting up and taking down your shutters
- ✓ Visit you in the hospital
- ✓ Call, e-mail, send cards to make sure all is well and to offer support
- ✓ Offer their professional advice whether it be nursing, physical therapy, nutrition or whatever
- ✓ Offer to pick up friends and relatives from the airport

We used to say, "Life is good". We love our Retreat community. Our children are doing well. One of our daughters is happily married and the other was just engaged. We spend our summers at our Michigan cottage.

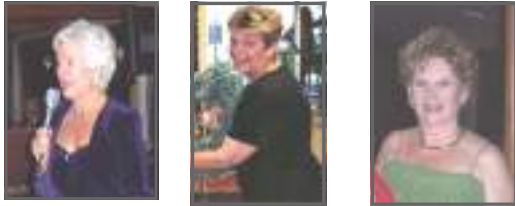
And then our lives were turned upside down when my husband was diagnosed with cancer this past fall. Wally is currently undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments. We cannot believe the support that we are receiving from this community. Many of these folks we met through our volunteer efforts. What we gave to this community has been returned to us many times over.

You know who you are—from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all your prayers and support. You are the best!

Please **COME AND JOIN US**, the Retreat team, *The Retreat Remembers...*, in the fight against cancer. The American Cancer Society sponsors The Relay for Life events across the world. Our Team will have several fund raisers at the Retreat prior to the Relay. The Relay is scheduled for March 31 to April 1, 2006. This is Martin County South's Relay which will be held the same place as last year, R.V. Reed Park in Hobe Sound, US1 South of Bridge Road. We hope to see many Retreat residents participate in the event and support us.

Social Committee

By Mary Paukstys



Co-Chairs Mary Paukstys, Nancy Galiher, Dottie Sacco

After three years of planning social events for the community Mary, Nancy, and Dottie decided to step down as co-chairs. The **Holiday Dinner Dance** on December 12th at Mariner Sands Country Club was a grande finale and a huge success. At the dance everyone was commenting on how nice we all looked instead of the usual uniform of shorts and t-shirts.

Special thanks to all those volunteers who worked so hard on the party and to those who donated the raffle prizes. Congratulations to all the winners! The money made on the raffle will be turned over to the new committee of Elaine Quinter, Sandy Morrow, and Mickey Vernacchio to start off the 2006 season. We are all looking forward to the next social function at the Retreat AND mark your calendars for **December 15th** for our holiday gala next year at Mariner Sands Country Club.



The following are the new co-chairs of the Retreat **Social Committee**:

Sandy Morrow	545.1936	sandymorrow@adelphia.net
Elaine Quinter	545.7927	elfquint@aol.com
Mickey Vernacchio	546.4236	N/A

We are in the planning stages of the first two events which are the **Super Bowl Party** at the Clubhouse in February and the **Valentine's Dance** at the Knights of Columbus. Please watch for detailed information to be posted in the mail room.

Spotlight Is on Retreat Volunteers (Continued from page 2)

nothing in the library is computerized. And **did you know** that the Women's Club donated a new washer and dryer to the Women's Shelter in Stuart so they could have an in-house laundry?

Besides the BOD, Retreat Committees and the Women's Club, there are numerous clubs and groups that have sprung up within our community. All are open to everyone and usually headed up by one of your neighbors who have worked hard to bring social activities, education or fun events to you.

We have the **Book Club**, the **Singles Group**, **Social Bridge**, **Men's Poker**, **Ma-Jongg**, **Tennis**, **Computer Club**, **Moms and Tots** and much, much more.

Did you know that it is volunteers who put up the Holiday decorations at the Retreat each year? This is done by volunteers who work long and hard to complete this task instead of hiring a firm to do it.

Have you heard about the "**Stuffettes?**" This is a group of ladies that stuff Retreat related mass mailings into envelopes and stamp them. This saves our community the expense of using a mailing house.

In addition we have **The Retreat Newsletter**. Our newsletter is an excellent publication that communicates everything going on in our community. This requires a lot of work by many people to pull this off. The newsletter and our **Directory** are both published and supported by members of our community. In addition there are the numerous folks that design flyers, tickets, place card, etc. to announce Retreat Activities.

Did you know that the official WEB site for the Retreat is **www.retreatatseabranh.com**? This terrific WEB site is a product of our **Communications Committee** and was built and maintained by one of our residents. Yes, I said one individual did this. Our WEB master has been working on this site since the spring of 2004. Please try to use this site and furnish our WEB master with information you would like to share with others in the community.

Our board and committees have done an exemplary job. We are off to a great start to making the Retreat the premier location to live in Martin County. Our volunteers have taken it upon themselves to protect all of our investments. Please join us in making and keeping The Retreat one of the most sought after communities on the Treasure Coast by becoming a Retreat Volunteer. It will not only assist our community but will bring you closer to your neighbors and give you a great sense of fulfillment. What a great way to make friends and to become involved in the things that you like to do best.

Please join us for love of community to make our community the place to be. Remember, keep the food coming....."**Many hands make light work.**"

NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Bill Cole



Our Officers, Phil Kemp, Muriel Barry, Dave Williams, Coni Mc Guinn, and Bill Cole at the Retreat 2005 Holiday Dinner Dance

Photo by Joe Giordano

1. Total cost of Hurricane Wilma to your HOA was **\$125,000**.
2. December 15th marks our first anniversary of turnover from DiVosta Homes. Steady progress was made on infrastructure repairs, landscaping, financials, management, and amenities.
3. DiVosta Homes has our engineering and accounting reports. We will keep you advised of settlement progress.
4. Some 16 groups of our owners use the Clubhouse--more than 200 people monthly. Any new groups/clubs, etc., contact Gina for a time slot.
5. A reception was held by the BOD for our volunteers after the Board meeting on December 7th. **A BIG RETREAT THANK YOU** to all of you who help so much to make The Retreat so special.
6. Our **Annual Meeting will be Thursday, February 16, 2006, 6:45 pm, at SeaWind Elementary School Cafeteria**. The purpose will be to elect two Directors to the Board and any other business. Please plan to attend.
7. Thank you for your very generous contributions to the Christmas fund for all the Concepts in Greenery workers. Your gifts totaled **\$1,086.00** which is being distributed to all 16 Concepts workers at The Retreat.



Thank you for your support in this our first year. Best wishes for a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

2006 Retreat Telephone Directory

By Bea Kozlowski

The 2006 Retreat Telephone Directory will be published in the spring. New residents who wish to be listed in the 2006 directory should fill out the form located in this newsletter on Page 8. Residents listed in the current directory can make changes or additions by using the form in this newsletter. Only residents who list their email addresses in the directory will receive periodic Retreat Homeowner Association email notices. Any questions, call Bea Kozlowski at 545.3505.

RELIABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS

By Lill Malinowski

Several of our readers have asked us to put together a list of reliable service providers. **If you know of a service provider that does outstanding work, please forward that information to me.** In future newsletters, we will list your input. Gene Gillis will include the list on our WEB site for future reference.



On **December 15, 2005**, your Association, **The Retreat at Seabran**ch, was one year old. Thanks to each and everyone of our members for their support, encouragement, suggestions, and help in this our first year.

A year ago on this date, we came together as a new organization of 555 homes. During the past year, we have worked together, became friends, enjoyed a wonderful quality of life experience, and made progress sorting out a number of inherited issues. 2005 was challenging but our volunteers and our members were up to the task. 2006 will present more opportunities for friendships and enjoyment of this beautiful, unique property.

Best wishes for the holiday season and **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE RETREAT!**

Your Board of Directors



RETREAT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FORM

If you are not currently listed in the 2005 Telephone Directory and wish to be listed in the 2006 Directory, please fill out the form below. If you are currently listed in the directory and would like to update it with a change or addition, please fill out the form below with the updated information. Note that if you do not choose to list your email address in the directory, you will not receive periodic Retreat Homeowner Association email notices. Please sign the form and place it in the Drop Box in the Property Management Office located in the Clubhouse or mail it to Retreat Homeowners Association, 8700 SE Retreat Drive, Hobe Sound, FL 33455, ATTN: Communications Committee **no later than February 1, 2006.**

List your information exactly as you want it printed in the directory

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

LAST NAME _____

FIRST NAME(S) _____

(For example: Jane and John)

RETREAT ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CELL TELEPHONE (optional) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (optional) _____

* Signature

* Signature (spouse)

*Signature(s) are required to have information published in the directory.

DISCLAIMER:

Information contained in Directory is confidential and not for dissemination outside the Retreat community.

REMEMBER TO RETURN THIS FORM BY FEBRUARY 1, 2006

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Todd Jackson, LCAM and
Gina Cotto, LCAM

In the holiday spirit, we thought you may enjoy a brief history of Hobe Sound. Have a very safe and happy holiday season!

In the late 1600's, three predominant cultures interacted in Hobe Sound including Native American tribes (Jove/Jobe, and Tekeostas), Spanish and British descendants. In 1696, a British ship in convoy from Jamaica to Philadelphia, sank north of Jupiter Inlet close to the shore. Carrying 25 passengers and crew and its most notable passenger Jonathan Dickinson, the barkentine (three masted) ship, named **Reformation**, had cargo of sugar, rum, beef, molasses, and Spanish currency.

The Dickinson party encountered two groups of Indians, the inhabitants of the area, during their unplanned visit. The Tekeostas (from which Tequesta got its name) and the Jove Indians, whose name the Spanish pronounced "Ho-bay" and who gave Hobe Sound its name, were helpful to the small Quaker party. Officially, Hobe (sounds like Robe) Sound received its original identity by 1699. Parts of Hobe Sound were included in the 12,000 acres of the Gomez grant given by Spain to Don Eusebio in 1815. In 1821, Gomez sold 8,000 acres, including Jupiter Island, to Joseph Delespine, for \$1 per acre.

During the land boom of the 1920's elaborate plans were announced for Hobe Sound by Olympia Improvement Corporation. Their goal was to create a town, in Greek style, where motion pictures could be produced. Street names bore the Greek theme with names such as Zeus, Saturn, Mercury, Mars, Olympus, Plutus and Athena. For a brief time Hobe Sound was renamed 'Picture City' and plans were presented for a movie picture production center. The boom collapsed after a devastating hurricane in 1928 and the original name was restored. Street names remained, however, as did the cement streetlights along Dixie Highway.

In 1924, the building which soon would become the new schoolhouse in Hobe Sound was constructed. The Martin County Board of Public Instruction secured the use of the new school building from Picture City Corporation in 1925, and in October of that year, Olympia School opened. The school was designated the "Picture City School" of Martin County. It remained in use as a school until 1962. There is a local interest in restoring the school, now known as the Apollo School.

Other mementos of the past are gone, including the ice plant, which was South of Bridge Road, and the old train station, which now, refurbished and relocated west of Hobe Sound, serves as an office building for Becker Groves.

Hobe Sound is positioned at the southern end of environmentally-sensitive Martin (named after Governor Martin) County. It has been stated that at Hobe Sound's

front door lies the Gold Coast and that at her back door lies the Treasure Coast. Hobe Sound has been tossed about not unlike the ship that discovered her, with its waterway and lands, and that once belonged to:

St. John's County	1821-1824
Mosquito County	1824-1844
St. Lucie County	1844-1855
Brevard County	1855-1866
Dade County	1866-1909
Palm Beach County	1909-1924

Despite seven county identities in Hobe Sound's history, Martin County is now indeed graced with pride as Hobe Sound is a **Jewel** in any *treasure or gold coast*.

Sources: *Shipwrecks in Florida Waters*, Robert F. Marx; *Places in the Sun*, Bertha E.

Retreat Mom's Group

By Lisa Rothenberg



The **Retreat Mom's Group** continues to keep busy - both with and without their kids! We had a fabulous Halloween this past October - we started the weekend

with a Halloween themed Family Night at the Clubhouse with games and treats for all. On Halloween we had a costume parade around the rotary and then the kids went out into the neighborhood for trick-or-treating. A big thanks to all residents who participated in making it such a special holiday for our kids! We know we missed some of you but those little feet could only go so far - hopefully next year!

The moms have been busy with several Mom's Nights Out - we went to the Dolphin Bar and Shrimp House in October and then back to Bonefish in November - that is our favorite place so far! And our big outing was a day all by ourselves at the Sawgrass Mills Outlet Mall in early December - we will definitely be making this an annual event!

We haven't had many playgroups lately, as a lot of us had children go off to preschool and kindergarten this fall. However, there still are a few little ones around so we hope to get playgroups back up and running in the new year. If you are interested in any of our events, please contact Lisa Rothenberg at 561.6131 or Katrina Collette at 546.9880.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

By Becky Freedman

On Saturday, December 17, *Kay-Bowen Smith, Cynthia and Gene Gillis, Helen and Paul Larcom, Dottie and Nick Sacco, Carol and Jim Stone, Mickey and Otto Vernacchio, Tim Ward and John Schultz* gave, to our community, the most splendid and incredible of holiday gifts. They opened their doors, and their hearts, for the **First Annual Holiday Home Tour**, to benefit the American Cancer Society, through the Retreat Remembers...Relay Team.

About one hundred ticket holders were treated to the sights, sounds and fragrances of holiday decorating and hospitality at its finest. They viewed rich displays of traditional favorites combined with creative artistry. Winter wonderlands sparkled bright like diamonds. Style and taste were brought together in each home.....twinkling lights....warm, soft sounds of the season....magical collectible surprises...all lovingly placed, coming together in the loveliest of arrays.

A most appealing reception, of delectable confections, was provided, at the Clubhouse, by **dedicated and talented team members**, who really know how to "deliver the goodies."

The event raised over **\$1,300**, which will be donated to the American Cancer Society, from the Retreat. The afternoon was about sharing what is wonderful in our community. If you missed the heartwarming and inspiring event...be not discouraged...homes are already coming into place for next year's event.

The **Retreat Remembers...Relay Team** functions single mindedly to create financial and emotional support to those in our community suffering because of cancer. It is our hope, to see the disease become a historical fact only.



CERT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Dottie Williams

On the first weekend in November, Dave and I took part in the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training. The program was presented by the Martin County Emergency Operations and was designed to educate people about disaster preparedness. It trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations.

The two days of classes included lectures on how to prepare you and your family for a disaster; organize teams to work in the community; conduct simple search and rescues; assess the severity of injured people and triage them accordingly; treat life-threatening problems; and extinguish small fires.

Since a disaster such as hurricane, tornado, bio-hazardous accident or terrorism would likely overwhelm the first responders in the County, it would be beneficial for our Community to have our own emergency response team in place. Presently, our Community has only four CERT trained residents. In a community of 555 homes, many more are needed. **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE TEAM?** There is no set class schedule for CERT training. Martin County Emergency Operations Center holds the classes when they have at least 12 people who are interested in attending. If you are interested and committed to attending the training, call me at 546.3866.

UPSILAMBA ROUNDTABLE

By Becky Freedman

The Retreat Book Club will meet regularly through 2006, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 PM, in the Clubhouse. January's selection is "Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China," by Jung Chang.

On January 12, we will be choosing reading selections for the year. Any resident who loves reading is cordially invited to join the group and bring ideas forth for selections. It has proved to be, over the last three years, such fun to share ideas and discuss issues that our readings bring forth.

We are planning a **Book Fair in the Spring!** This will be held at the Clubhouse, open to everyone to bring read books to sell. All proceeds will benefit **The Relay For Life Team**, to be donated to the American Cancer Society. Keep watch for more information.

Photo by Patti Greaves



Marian and Ernie Spengler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

By Dottie Williams

Friends and neighbors managed to surprise Marian and Ernie Spengler with a party to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. Hosted by Patti and Dave Greaves and catered by all who attended, the event was quite a success.

The highlight of the evening was Marian opening her gift box to find a pair of multi-colored polka dotted boots. Now she and Ernie can officially be called Mr. and Mrs. "Boots." We all expect to see them modeled at the 2nd Annual Eldorado Regatta.

ARTISTS OF THE RETREAT

By Marsha Levine

We have many fine artists at the Retreat. There are painters, watercolorists, illustrators, photographers, graphic artists, pen and ink, stained glass, jewelry designers, fashion designers, interior decorators, decorative arts, fiber, potters, and crafters, etc..

We are many, therefore we would like to create a group and ***Directory of the Artists of the Retreat***. Please let us know if you would like to be represented. Contact one of us:

Marsha Levine 546 6438 MarshaArts@adelphia.net

Marsha Mark 545 2888 marshamashka@adelphia.net

Jeanette Hayes 545 2327 haye7161@bellsouth.net

Little Artists of the Retreat

I entered artwork from ***Ryan Hoefling***, almost 7, into the annual Hobe Sound Tee-Shirt contest. It is a fund raiser from the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce. The contest is open to older children. Since he is so talented for his age, they allowed him to enter! We wish him luck.

Regarding our young artists, children, we would like to know about you, too!

RECIPE CORNER

PECAN PIE BARS

Received from Kay Campbell

I made this recipe for the bake sale and several people asked me for it. My friend Mae gave it to me. This makes 16 large bars.

2 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup butter

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup butter

4 large eggs lightly beaten
2 1/2 cups finely chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine first four ingredients. Cut up until mix resembles fine crumbs. Press firmly into greased 9"X13" pan. Bake at 350 degrees from 17-20 minutes.

Bring next three ingredients to a boil over medium heat. Stir gently. Remove from heat. Stir 1/4 of hot mix into beaten eggs. Then add to remaining hot mixture. Stir in pecans and vanilla. Pour filling over crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 34-35 minutes. Cool completely. Cut into bars. Enjoy!

CHOCOLATE MINT SQUARES

Received from Helen Larcom

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup margarine or butter
1 cup flour
4 eggs
12 teaspoon. salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 (16 oz.) can chocolate syrup (Hershey's)

Mix all ingredients until well blended. Bake in a 9 x 13 inch, greased pan at 350 for 30 minutes (325 for glass pan for 35 minutes). Cool before putting on mint layer.

Mint Layer:

2 cups. confectioners sugar
2 tablespoons crème de menthe
1/2 cup margarine

Combine and spread on cooled cake. Let set completely before adding glaze.

Glaze:

6 oz. chocolate chips
6 tablespoons butter

Melt over low heat. Cool slightly then spread over mint layer. This will harden after refrigerated, then cut into squares. Chocolate lovers love these.

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

By Brenda Frank

On November 21st **The Women's Club of the Retreat** had its last meeting of the year 2005. It's difficult to believe that the year has gone by so quickly. There were many accomplishments completed and fun during this time, and we more than doubled our membership. The meeting was well represented, and we voted on the new slate of officers.

The officers for the year 2006 will be **Karin Ryan, President, Martha Tarquine, Vice President, Barbara Farley, Secretary, and Virginia Darcy Treasurer.**

A review of projects fulfilled from the **Outreach Committee** was reported by Mary Pratt and Bosha Stone. The library at Hope Rural School was completed with many hours of devoted work by our members. Also a check will be presented to Hope Rural School in the near future. Thank you to all the members on the committee and all those who gave of their time and energy to making this charity--a successful effort for our Women's Club. A feeling of accomplishment was felt by all.

Under the direction of Catherine Klinger, a collection of many personal items was also collected for another charity of ours, Safe Space Shelter, Inc. for Victims of Domestic Violence. The representative was overwhelmed by the generosity of The Women's Club of the Retreat.

Many bags of clothes, small appliances, furniture was also collected and delivered to the Mobile Park in Indiantown to help the people who lost so much. Thanks to Joy Currier and her team who collected and delivered to those who need so much and appreciate everything we do for them.

In September The Women's Club of The Retreat sponsored a collection for the Hurricane Katrina victims. A collection was organized and a donation of **\$1,970** was presented to The Salvation Army.

On December 3rd and 4th we sponsored the **Second Annual Art and Craft Show**. We would like you crafters and artists to please **plan on another show in early November next year**. We hope to get more crafters for next year. Thanks to Mickey Vernacchio and Lucille Sanchez for organizing the show. The bake sale was also a great success under the direction of Joy Currier, Billie Krone and Margaret Dara. The bake sale raised \$300 for our organization.

Besides all of our charitable attributes, we had lots of fun during meetings and special events. We were visited by the executive director of Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, a florist, a beverage creator, a representative from the Relay for Life, and a local chiropractor. We shared vacations that we have taken with the rest of our members.

Thanks to Audrey Ruggier for planning and setting up

visits to Café Protégé, Kravis Center to see **Chicago**, an Island Princess boat/luncheon cruise, a visit to the Breakers Hotel for lunch and bowling each month.

I would also like to thank Angela Bibby, membership chairperson, and Denise Felipe, monthly luncheon chairperson for working so hard to make our club a success. Thanks to Lucille Sanchez for making us feel so important from the Sunshine Committee.

Thank you to **Mary Regan, Barbara Farley and Virginia Darcy** for working together as a team this year.

Remember always WISE WOMEN CELEBRATE!!!

Good luck to our new officers and be sure to attend our January meeting when we rejoin our Women's Club for the year 2006.

TRIM THE TREE PARTY



Photos by Billie Krone

The Women's Club started the holiday season early by holding their annual **Trim the Tree Party** and cookie exchange on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Once the Clubhouse was decorated, members participated in a grab bag exchange and left with lots of yummy cookies.



Hope Rural School Donation

By Sandy Goldfarb

The Board of Directors of the

Women's Club of the Retreat generously voted to give a donation of \$1,000 to Hope Rural School. Pictured above, presenting the check, are from left to right Patte Kessler, Sister Mary Dooley, Sandy Goldfarb, and Marlene Boobar of the Outreach Committee. The check was presented on Friday, December 16th, 2005.

Retreat residents make bi-weekly visits to the school. Volunteers meet at the Clubhouse on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am to carpool. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Bosha Stone or Mary Pratt. The monies and all of our volunteer hours are greatly appreciated by the staff and students of Hope Rural School.

USEFUL COMPUTER LINKS

By "Cybrary Man" aka Jerry Blumengarten
www.cybraryman.com

Resolutions—Happy New Year!

Many people make resolutions to usher in the New Year. Hopefully, we will set realistic goals and focus on behavioral change. The most common resolutions are getting into shape, obtaining a better job, spending less or paying down debt or giving up smoking.

About.com provides valuable exercise information. Here is a link to "Making Your New Year's Resolutions Work All Year Long."

<http://exercise.about.com/od/weightloss/a/newyear.htm>

I enjoy getting weekly emails on exercising from About.com. One thing I learned was that the "Captain's Chair" (in our gym) is the second most effective "ab" and obliques exercise.

You can also sign up for a variety of exercise and health email newsletters from About.com. After clicking on the above link look for "Stay up to date!" (on the right side of the screen). The following are free About.com newsletters you can subscribe to: Exercise Newsletter, 12 Weeks to Weight Loss (E-Course), Bust Belly Fat with Exercise and a Low Carb Diet (E-Course) and About Today Newsletter which features the best from About.com.

My wife and I enjoy watching Suze Orman, a specialist in retirement issues and a Certified Financial Planner. She provided "10 Resolutions for a Fruitful Fiscal Year" for the 2005 year. They are tips that are guaranteed to improve your bottom line.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/pfg/e23newyear/>

Volunteering Links:

<http://www.angelfire.com/stars3/education/volunteer.html>

[Singles@Seabranh](#)

By Bonnie Becker

[Singles@Seabranh](#) to meet at the Clubhouse on January 14th for our first get together of the season. This will be a pot luck supper followed by games. I hope you all will attend. RSVP to Bonnie Becker 545.2951 or Joanne Cichon 545.7547. Look for our flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

The Silent Treatment

Received from John Condon

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 am for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and lose), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 am." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning the man woke up only to discover it was 9:00 am, and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 am. Wake up."

Needlework-Knitting Group

By Sandy Morrow



We invite all ladies who have an interest to join in this group. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm and the 2006 meeting schedule is as follows:

January 10, 24; February 7, 28; March 14, 28; April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 22; September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 14, 28; December 12.

Please mark your calendars. For more information, contact Sandy at 545.1936 or Liz at 546.5673.

BEING A GOOD CITIZEN

We can all be proud of this beautiful community and our wonderful neighbors who make it a paradise in which to live. As another season begins, your editors welcome everyone and ask that we keep in mind some courtesy reminders that show our appreciation for this community and its residents.



- ✓ Do not park vehicles in such a way as to block the sidewalk.
- ✓ Pick up after your pets.
- ✓ Trash pick up is Wednesday and Saturday. Saturday is recycle day. Be sure trash barrel covers are on securely to avoid trash mishaps.
- ✓ Maintain posted speed limits at all times.
- ✓ Go counter-clockwise around the turnabouts.



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OFFICE
MANAGER**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Speaking of volunteers, we are grateful to those of you who contribute articles to this newsletter. Without you, there would be no **Retreat Newsletter**. Everyone is welcome to submit articles. We look forward to reading your future articles. Thank you!

We wish you a peaceful, happy, and healthy
NEW YEAR!!!

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