



T I M E S



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Signs of the times . . .

Great wisdom for all of us!

Sox, precious kitty of Kathy Giloy and Kurt Suhr (505F), wishes all his furry friends—and one feathered too—here at Island Reef a very happy new year.

Sox's advice is to "Take time each day to soak up the rays!"

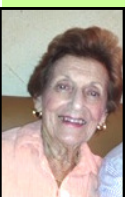


Christmas through the eyes of children

Who are these little cuties? They are the great-grandsons of Bea Newman (407F). At the far right is big brother Jack Shannon and, at left, his younger brother Connor. Their parents are Bea's granddaughter Laura and her husband Ryan Shannon. Jack, age 3, attends Little Learners Pre-school, and Connor, 16 months



when this photo was taken, specializes in 'getting into trouble' (according to Grandpa Jeff Newman, Bea's son). Both boys began taking swimming lessons at the local YMCA in January. Courtesy of the GrandPad through Bea's homecare agency, Bea is able to visit with the boys on video chats and upload the photos that Laura sends her regularly.



One of Bea's favorite memories was her ability to attend Laura and Ryan's wedding in New Jersey even though Irv was unable to at that time because of ill health.



Our daughter Olivia's favorite gift was either marble run or the magnetic building blocks. She kept telling us that she was going to stay awake to see Santa, and when we asked her the next morning if she caught him, she said "Mommy,

I just couldn't keep my eyes open any longer!" Here's her photo of leaving cookies for Santa. She also said we couldn't leave Rudolph cookies because, like dogs, she didn't think chocolate would be good for him!

She got tired halfway through opening gifts from Nana Bonnie, Papa Ed, and Santa, just wanting to "relax" a bit. So we opened gifts in multiple different shifts. It was my most memorable Christmas with her as I think she truly is starting to understand and experience the "magic" of Christmas. She said next year she wants to go see "the big train" that comes Christmas night (Polar Express) and was upset it didn't come for her this year!

Submitted by Mandy, mother of Olivia and daughter-in-law of Bonnie & Ed Rowley

Editor's note: Olivia shared in our last edition that she was thrilled at the news that she would become the big sister to a new little sister this spring! That's the best Christmas gift of all! We too can't wait to meet your little sister, Olivia!



*Baby Girl Rowley
March 2021*



REMEMBER that the first meeting of the Island Reef Board of Trustees is this Wednesday.

Island Reef Board of Directors Mtg.
Wed., Jan. 13, 2021, 1:00-3:00 PM (EST)

Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/646605925>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (872) 240-3412
Access Code: 646-605-925

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when our meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/646605925>

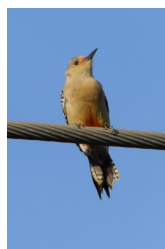
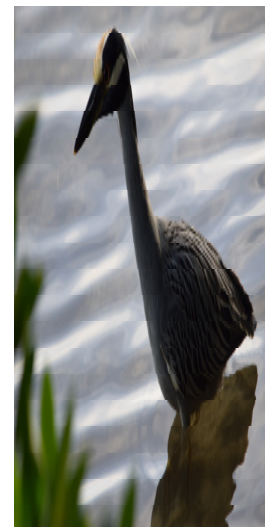
**SEE IMPORTANT
BOARD INFORMATION
ON THE BACK PAGE
of this newsletter.
Be 'in the know'!**

Diane and Rick 'out and about'

Diane and I have enjoyed participating in the local annual Audubon bird count for a number of years, thanks to our friend Tatiana Staats (former IR resident). The count this year, despite a pretty nice day weatherwise, was way down, which frankly isn't a surprise given the fact the Little Sarasota Bay has not recovered from the devastation of the 2018 red tide. We counted a total of only 46 identifiable birds of just 15 species.

Rick Wulterkens, 506H

(All photos compliments of Rick)



"Birds of a feather flock together!"

Top row, left to right—

little blue heron and yellow crested night heron;
bottom row, left to right — red bellied woodpecker,
mockingbird, and osprey.

The ISLAND REEF TIMES is published approximately monthly (during 'the season') and otherwise approximately every other month by the Island Reef Owners' Association (IROA) at 8770 Midnight Pass Road; Sarasota, FL 34242; Phone — 941-349-2844.

Editors: JOHN & KAY MAIER (401H). Suggestions for articles and digital photos may be submitted to John or Kay Maier at IRTEditor@islandreef.net. John also serves as the official photographer for this publication, although your own digital photos are always welcome and may be emailed to the above underlined address.

Thanks to ALL members of our Island Reef Community who contributed news, articles, photos, etc. for this current issue. Credits are given for each submission. Neither the editors nor the IROA are responsible for material submitted for publication or copied from other sources. Articles may be edited for clarity and length. **The deadline for our next edition of the ISLAND REEF TIMES will be Monday, March 1, 2021. We are grateful for your submissions.**

January 2021 IR President's Message



Rick Wulterkens,
Flamingo shirted President
IROA Board

HIappy New Year, Island Reefians! I think I speak for all when I say we bid an *unfond farewell* to the disastrous previous year and look forward to a better 2021.

And while we hope COVID goes away, it's important for ALL of us to remember that it is rampant right now. Everybody needs to take precautions regarding this dreadful malady. Stay away from others as much as possible, and wear a mask anytime you might be exposed, including, for example, when you use the elevators. Wash your hands frequently. Only go to the office if your business cannot be conducted virtually (phone or email). We all want to return to 'normal' and be sociable again, but we must sacrifice that desire right now to keep everybody safe and healthy.

Condo living requires residents to be aware that their actions affect others. That's why we have rules and regulations. Everyone MUST abide by them. Usually Island Reef tenants do. But, some folks seem to believe that rules don't apply to them or that they can pick and choose which ones to obey or flout. This puts the entire community at risk. Please be respectful of others as you enjoy your time at our little slice of paradise.

Along those lines, we have had a recent incident of an owner who was doing unauthorized construction. When confronted, he said he was unfamiliar with the rules, which is untrue and unacceptable. He submitted paperwork after being pressured that was incomplete and offered a construction company that the ARC (Architectural Review Committee) rejected. Despite that, and in defiance of our January through March ban on construction, he had granite countertops installed this week. We have seen evidence of other owners who have had work done on their units without authorization that resulted in leaks, rat invasions, and more! THIS is why we have rules.

As we move into this new year, let's make changes that will allow Island Reef to be the place all of us want and expect it to be.

Rick Wulterkens, 506H
rwulter@hotmail.com
Cell: 941-993-9426



Enjoying indoor
ambiance and
outdoor adven-
ture . . . Read on!



Meryem Billaouadil
On-Site Manager
Call me at (941-349-2844)
with any questions or concerns OR email me at mgr@islandreef.net.

Happy and Healthy New Year!
Welcome back, everyone! The holidays saw few families gathering this year; it was fun to meet new generations. As the season is starting slowly due to the pandemic, it is a good time to review a few important items.

Please put your masks on when you enter any common areas for your safety as well as the safety of your neighbors.

I want to concentrate on Island Reef Rules and Regulations, and I ask you to please share a copy with your family and guests when they stay at your condo.

Our condo documents give owners the right to rent their units up to 8 times per year, a minimum of a month at a time. If you decide to rent your unit out-of-house, please make sure to submit a rental application, a copy of the lease, and a \$100 processing fee 20 days prior to any renter's arrival.

Please check in the office upon arrival, owners and guests. Additionally, any guest staying in your unit needs to stop by the office for a parking permit, even if they park in your assigned spot.

The Island Reef website has been updated and now you can find all important documents on the owner's portal homepage. In addition, we will be updating the calendar with current events on a monthly basis.

Please check the date on your hot water heater. Per IR rules and regulations, owners should replace their water heater when it is 10 years old. Owners are liable for damages caused by water heater leakage if it is more than 10 years old.

Just a reminder that the IR construction ban has begun January 1 and continues through March 31.

I hope you all enjoy the season! Feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is above.



Sincerely, **Meryem Billaouadil**
On-site Manager

Nicki Lawrence, 507F, sent this adorable picture of their dog Picasso whom they had to leave behind in Canada with her son because of travel restrictions. They usually brought him, but they had to fly this year, and she felt he was too old for that. As you can tell from Picasso's long face and sad eyes, he really misses Nicki and Robin!!



Looking for some additional ideas about what to do here in Paradise?
Go to Escape-to-Sarasota.com.
You'll love this website!

Two possibilities for ordering ISLAND REEF logo wear!

- 1) Visit the website www.superior-tees.com. Our IR office orders shirts embroidered with the IR logo for maintenance staff. You can browse through the Special Tees catalogue on their website. You may also visit their store here in Sarasota at 5410 McIntosh Road, Unit C, 34233. The person in charge of this end of the business is Dwight Bontrager (921-9286).
- 2) Queensboro Shirt Company (contact information below); we have ordered from this company before, and they have been very reliable in their logo wear options. Be sure to look into their website, www.queensboro.com/9008.html

Are you interested in getting Island Reef logo wear?

If so, contact . . .
QUEENSBORO SHIRT COMPANY
(800) 847-4478

Note: Free embroidery on orders of 4 or more items sent to the same address!

We are customer #533270.

Queensboro's website is www.queensboro.com/9008.html

GO IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS —

**It's easy to come up with
4 EMBROIDERABLE ITEMS**

**to advertise this wonderful community
here at Island Reef!**



BREAKING NEWS! Mark your calendars! **Joe & Mary Lou Callahan (305H)** would like you to know that their son Andy is a screenwriter, and is currently a co-producer/writer for the CBS TV series "FBI." You may have seen him and his family (photo below) at Island Reef in the past, either at the pool, playing tennis or fishing off the dock! His wife Rena is an oncologist at UCLA; they have two sons, Lincoln (12) and Dean (10).

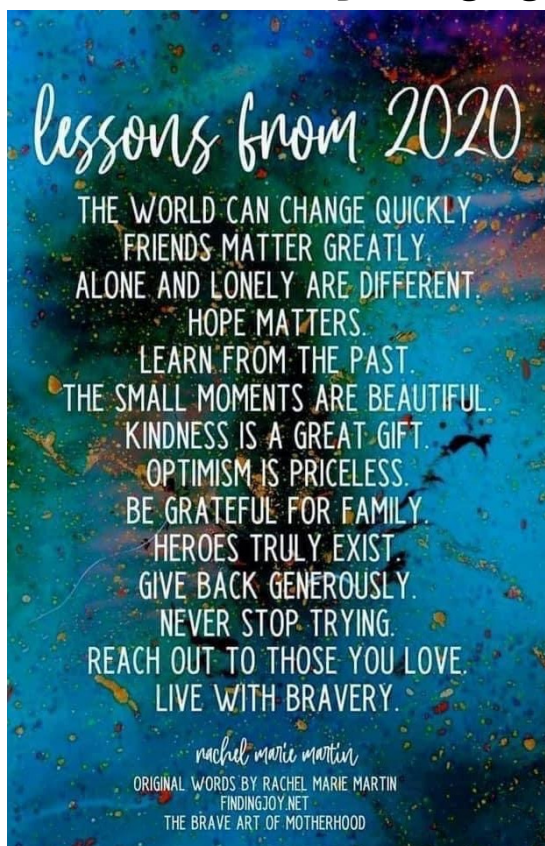
Since so many of us have been watching a lot of TV these days for entertainment, we were thrilled when the writers' rooms got back to work! In the case of "FBI," it hasn't been easy, as they meet on Zoom everyday to exchange ideas, map out the timeline, and ultimately produce the show, one episode at a time.

But they have been working through all of the roadblocks, and although the season was delayed and will be shorter than previous seasons, it is back on the air. And we are thrilled that Andy has written episode 7, which will be aired on **Tuesday, March 2 at 9 p.m.** We'll be back at Island Reef by then and will certainly be watching!

Andy is at far right in both photos



We are constantly changing . . . AND learning new lessons!



A HAPPY and BLESSED New Year ahead!!

Too good not to share . . .

“Good afternoon and welcome to Flight 2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destruct devices; pity, anger, selfishness, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith. There will **BE NO BAGGAGE** allowed on this flight. God, our Captain has cleared us for take-off. Destination – **GREATNESS!**

Wishing you a New Year filled with new **HOPE**, new **JOY** and new **BEGINNINGS!** Stay Blessed! And welcome in 2021!!!”

✈️ Blessings to you all!

Sent by Carol McDermott, 504G



More signs of the times . . .



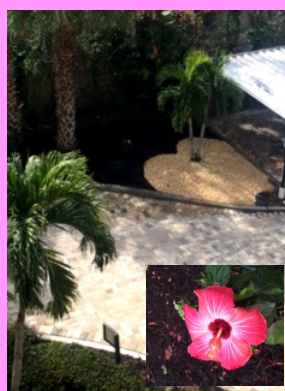
You don't have to go far to be surrounded by beauty, positive thoughts, and all good things.

One 'plus' about COVID is that it has slowed us down and we're more cognizant of the good things in our lives. At top left is Irmingard Novak's (304B) Christmas Cactus, which has burst forth in a brilliant display of color this holiday season following a 'bloom-

less' season last year. Below left is Marge Tichy's (302H) Christmas Cactus, which is overflowing in glorious white blooms! It's amazing that Christmas cacti know exactly when to bloom!



A beautiful 'find' on the beach recently by Bob Jamieson with a gentle reminder to all passers-by . . .



Picture yourself on the walkway outside 401H, and overlooking the railing one morning, I spotted Shawn Stevens of our maintenance team, creating this beautiful design next to the carport below. The heart-shaped outline has been filled with decorative stone and planted therein is a miniature palm tree. At the top of the heart have been planted 4 fuchsia-colored hibiscus which will be in constant bloom of radiant abundant color soon (see insert photo).

And, below right, a new sign of welcome greets residents and visitors to Siesta Key as we turn left from Stickney Point onto Midnight Pass, with the admonition to **SPREAD LOVE!**





MEET OUR NEW RESIDENTS!

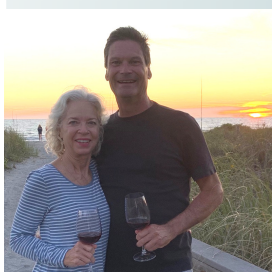
Hello everyone! We are delighted to have found Island Reef, and have made the decision to become residents. We plan to be "snowbirds," as we really enjoy the

summers and fall weather in upstate New York. We currently live in Rochester NY. Mary Kay is a recently retired RN nurse from Rochester Regional Health system, and I am retired, after spending 35 years at Eastman Kodak Company. To shorten the cold Rochester winters, we have been traveling / exploring different parts of Florida (St. Augustine, Jupiter, Naples, Sanibel) over the last few winter seasons. We decided to visit Siesta Key 2 years ago and really enjoyed it. At first, we rented a home near Siesta Key village, and found it nice, but we found it a little too busy for us. As we explored this beautiful area, at the south end, we found Island Reef. Beautiful, great beach access, and much less busy. It was perfect! So we made plans to return the following year, and rented a condo to check it out. We liked everything about the location, and the nice folks that are a part of this community. We really loved it. This year we became owners (unit **101H**) and are very happy with our decision. We still have some work ahead of us to make our new place " home." Things are coming along quite nicely. Mary Kay is decorating (and very good at it) and I'm busy with my " honey-to-do-list." It's going to be great. We have met a few folks, and everyone has been very kind and welcoming. Looking forward to getting settled and enjoying this beautiful place. Our little dog Lexi, a CavaPoo, travels with us. She is very friendly and well behaved. We have daughter Holly who will eventually be down to visit, and she is very excited about that. I plan to play a little golf, and noticed that IR organizes golf outings. I definitely plan to participate. Mary Kay loves walking the beaches, shopping (*of course*), going to farm markets and craft shows. So much to do in the Sarasota area. We look forward to meeting everyone, and our thanks for the warm welcome we have received. See you all in January!!

Mary Kay and Joe LaRue, 101H



We purchased unit 103C in March of 2020. We have been visiting Siesta Key for many years and decided to make it our second home. We resided in Hinsdale, Illinois for over 30 years and now summer in southwest Michigan



on a lake and plan to be here for 6+ months. We enjoy the low-key pace of the south end of the key and IR gulf to bay activities. We look forward to being involved in golf, kayaking, pickle ball, water aerobics and more. Island Reef has so much to offer and we have already met so many new friends!

Laura & Bill Snedeker, 103C

My family first visited Siesta Key in the early 1970's at the invitation of a friend from our hometown of Poland, OH. Island Reef soon became a part of my family some-

time in the late 1970's/early 1980's when my father, **Ron Sanders** and his friend, Ron Pigman, purchased Unit 107F as a rental property. My family spent vacations there for many years until my parents officially became snowbirds. I have many wonderful memories of spending time at IR and introducing my husband and children to the beauty of Siesta Key. With dad's passing in October 2019, my husband and I decided that Island Reef was a place that we wanted to remain in our lives so that we could share it with our extended families. For the time being, we are working on making the unit 'our own' and are looking forward to spending more time there in the future.

John & Kathy Sanders Stone, 107F



With the passage of their Mom, **Mary Joan Blum**, her 3 daughters have now assumed ownership of **501F**. Glad to welcome you as new owners, **Janet Chap (Rick)**, **Marilyn Donovan (John)** and **Mary Beth Hines (Bill)**. We look forward to seeing you, your children and grandchildren on our campus which your parents and all your family have so loved over the years!

Be watching in upcoming editions of the Island Reef Times for more bios of our new owners. We welcome you into our community, and we hope that you will soon discover what makes IR such a special place to live! Feel free to ask for help if you need it . . .

Congratulations, Dr. Shulman!

A most recent honor for **Dr. Stanford Shulman (206C)** was receiving the Clinical Teacher Award for 2020 from IDSA (Infectious Disease Society of America). He retired from Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago September 30 and is now an emeritus professor there and at Northwestern University. Congratulations, Stan! Our IR community is so proud of you and your honors/awards in the field of infectious diseases!



Shout out!



If you or one of your neighbors deserves to be in the spotlight, please let us know. We'd like to congratulate him or her too and give him/her an 'ATTA BOY' or 'ATTA GIRL' shout-out from our IRT staff!

A few words from our readers . . .



Thank you for sending the IRT; we look forward to reading them. This is Lisa, I am sorry I didn't get to meet you, but think I've surely seen you at the pool or about the property.

I wanted to send you the attached photo of the WWII kissing statue (since I saw John Maier's article in the latest Island Reef Times). **We took this one at the Caen Memorial Museum of WWII in Caen, France, near Normandy.** We went in 2016

and recognized it immediately. Unfortunately, I just looked at google maps street view, and it looks like they have moved theirs also (just like Sarasota is most likely doing too!)

Please keep us on your list for the IRT, we look forward to getting back in April.
Lisa Buchanan (and Mark), 303G



Did you know this photograph by Victor Jorgensen is of the same scene as the Alfred Eisenstaedt photograph, V-J day in Times Square that became famous by its 1945 publication in LIFE Magazine.

Unconditional Surrender is a series of computer-generated sculptures by Seward Johnson that resemble the 1945 photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt, V-J day in Times square, but is said by Johnson to be based on a similar, less well known photograph by Victor Jorgensen that is in the public domain. The first in the series was installed temporarily in Sarasota, FL then moved to San Diego, CA and New York City, NY. Others in the series have been installed in Hamilton, NJ; Pearl Harbor, HI; and Normandy, France. Johnson later identified the sculpture at exhibitions as "Embracing Peace" for the double entendre. Also, in 2012, a monumental statue of Unconditional Surrender could be seen in Civitavecchia Marina, Italy. This Unconditional Surrender statue really makes it rounds!

News alert! History in the making!

Sarasota's Unconditional Surrender statue was moved on January 7 to a new location on the Bay Front in preparation for a round-about construction in the area of its former location. "The 26-foot tall sculpture remains on the Bayfront, just blocks away from its original home. Strapped down and securely pinned to the back of a flatbed truck (see picture below), the man and woman, immortalized in this iconic Sarasota sculpture, could still be seen passionately embracing one another en route to their new



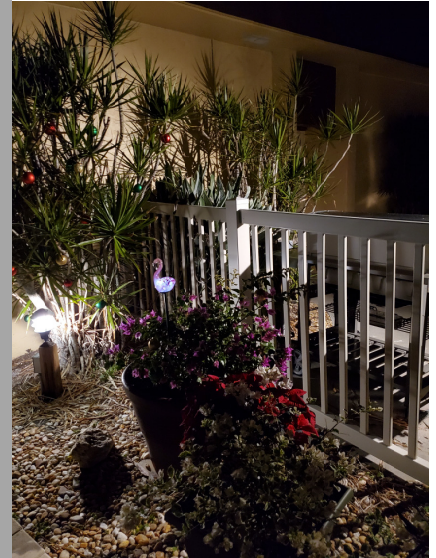
home Thursday morning," according to Tampa Bay 8 News. The article continued to say that "The decision was made in order to make room for a roundabout on U.S. 41 and Gulfstream Avenue to improve the traffic flow and make it easier for people to cross the road. The couple was back on solid ground by the afternoon after being safely bolted down between Marina Jack's and O'Leary's." Thanks, Meryem, for sharing this picture with us!

We are pleased to report that there were numerous compliments regarding the efforts taken by a volunteer committee to add holiday ambiance around the pool area. One of the big highlights was the solar-lit pink flamingo!

Thanks to all who made this happen—Kathy Giloy, Colleen Martin, Bobbi & Frank Bachenheimer, and Shawn Stevens.

Thanks to **Colleen Martin (304F)** who submitted these first two night-time 'Kodak Moments' and to **Malcolm Teas (204F)** for the 3rd picture so we can see what night life is like here at Island Reef!

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Island Reef Golf

Monday Misty Creek Morning
(varies)

Friday Bent Tree 8:00 AM
Call Ed Rowley 941-349-2599

Wednesday River Club 12:00 Noon
Call Larry Standlee 312-933-6547

Women's Golf
Call Nancy Whooley 617-610-4159



2020 is now in the rear view mirror—looking forward to 2021 with new hope . . .

BOOK CLUB 2021

Island Reef Book Club

The first meeting of the Book Club will be Wednesday, January 20 at 3:30 in the Gulfside common patio area near the grills. This will be an outdoor meeting, so you may be wise to bring your own beach chair.

We will discuss Jo Jackson's **Beyond the Margin**. We had hoped that Jo would be with us to lead the discussion, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, she and her friend Olga Levitt (501B) are unable to leave England for the trip over to the U.S. We hope to see her next year, when we plan another gathering to hear her discuss her novel.

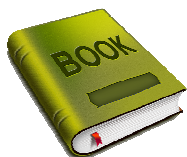


Author Jo Jackson poses with two of her books which are part of IR's Book Club. *Too Loud a Silence* was discussed last year, and this year, we look forward to delving into *Beyond the Margin*.

Here is a synopsis of the book **Beyond the Margin** by goodreads:

Is living on the edge of society a choice? Or is choice a luxury of the fortunate? Joe, fighting drug addiction, runs until the sea halts his progress. His is a faltering search for meaningful relationships. 'Let Luck be a friend,' Nuala is told, but it had never felt that way. Abandoned at five years old, survival means learning not to care. Her only hope is to take control of her own destiny. The intertwining of their lives makes a compelling story of darkness and light, trauma, loss, and second chances.

Since we did not hold a closing meeting in the Spring of 2020, we do not have a list of books for subsequent meetings this season. Please bring some ideas with you. Everyone is invited to attend this January meeting, even if you have not read the book.



Kathy Caltagirone, 404B
caltonekathy@me.com
941-349-1281

Laurie Rossi (206A) writes: Roger and I are delighted to have a new grandson named **Kayden Emmett** who was born on January 2. He weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and is already sleeping 4-5 hours at night, much to his parents' delight. He has a 4 year old sister who loves to give him kisses and sing songs for him. With the COVID travel ban in Canada, we are very grateful for social media so that we can see videos, have face-time, and see lots of digital pictures. Here is Kayden looking very alert at 1 week old.

Now that we are staying in Canada through the winter, we are embracing the snow! We have toboggans and have used them a few times already. We also built a snowman which has been many years since we made one. When there are no ice on the sidewalks we go for outdoor walks. When too blustery, we have a treadmill and elliptical. I am painting and I do digital workout sessions with a trainer since our gyms are all closed.

Roger and I are very grateful to have each other through this pandemic. We play board games and even tried playing internet games which hasn't been very successful but it is entertaining. With COVID, we now order more on-line items that we would normally buy at a store and are purchasing the rights to see live-streamed concerts and performances for entertainment.

Roger is busy with Duolingo to learn Italian, and he continues to manage the finances for IR. In fact he is preparing for this Wednesday's IR Board of Directors Meeting. He is also preoccupied with our cottage maintenance and Road committee via Zoom mtgs. So time is ticking by at a good pace for us.

Water Aerobics. Island Reef has begun its 24th season of water aerobics! Due to COVID, we're limiting class size to no more than 10 in the shallow water, and probably 6 in the deep end.

Fortunately we purchased several belts for the deep water workout, which is even more core work, so that lightens the load in the shallow end. Keeping to these numbers allows plenty of room for social distancing. Please remember to come early to sign in and pay (\$7 per class). It will be on a first come, first serve basis. Class begins promptly at 10 AM. For January, we have Miff on Mondays and Wednesdays, and DeeDee will teach Fridays. Laurie and Anne will join in as subs after this month, so once again we're covered with awesome instructors. Due to current restrictions, we are unable to use the clubhouse for land classes, and in the event of foul weather, I will do my best to text everyone if there is a cancellation.

If you've never tried a water work out, you should! And yes, we have men and women. It's harder than it looks, but it's a wonderful way to get a good, full-body, low impact workout. Call (941-349-2599) or email Bonnie with questions bonniemrowley@gmail.com, or text her at 941-544-8550. **If weather is questionable, go to FB page ISLAND REEF WATER FITNESS.**



Photos by Marge Tichy



A 'New Normal' for 2020 until ?????

Pictured at left are Paul and Louann Cummings' daughter Liz who is holding her son Bodie. They made the trip from Dexter MI to Perrysburg, OH to visit with Grandma & Grandpa on January 5. Paul added that "Liz in her mask sums up what face-to-face visits have been like for our family these last 9 months!" The Cummings are in 505H. **See Page 10.**



Kayden Emmett,
Rossis' new grandson

Did you witness the 'great convergence of Saturn and Jupiter' on December 21?

A phenomenon to be repeated March 6, 2080. Maybe we can get together with Nick Manolukas and Juanita Maxwell (404A) and have an IR Watch Party! We had been watching the two gas giants get closer and closer to each other for months and had been enjoying the telescopic views with our 10-inch Newtonian reflector, hoping that at their closest, we would be able to look in the lens and see Jupiter and Saturn in the same frame. We waited until it was completely dark outside to bring the scope down to the beach and set it up, and within minutes we were ready to take our first look. There they were!

This first view is what it actually looks like through a 10 inch telescope.

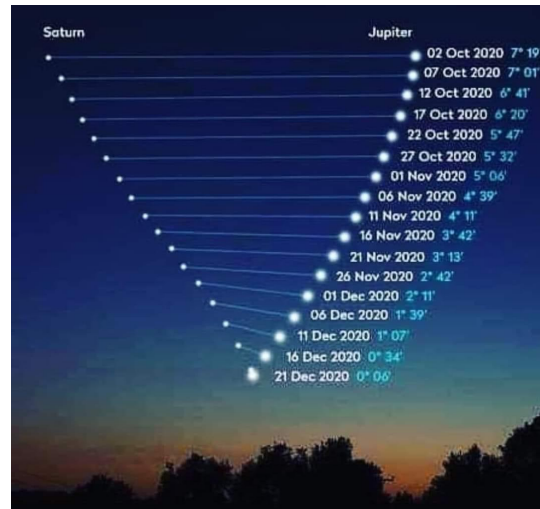


Jupiter circled by 3 of its moons, and across the frame, Saturn with Titan in tow. A closer look revealed the orange and white bands of Jupiter and the glorious rings of Saturn, including the stellar Cassini division; the black gap between the rings.

Most of us Island Reefers will never get to see this again unless we live until **March 6, 2080**, when Jupiter and Saturn will once again be this close. So, whenever you get the chance to see astronomical highlights, head out to the darkest place you can find and look up!



The second view are stock pictures by the Boston Globe but were not taken the day of the conjunction. Nick Manolukas & Juanita Maxwell, 404A



They came within 0.1 degrees of each other, forming the first visible double planet in 800 years! Though the planets appeared spectacularly close together on the sky's dome that evening, Jupiter and Saturn are actually 456 miles apart! Saturn is nearly twice as far away as Jupiter. These conjunctions happen every 20 years, the last one occurring in the year 2000, but not all conjunctions are

created equal. This 2020 conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn was the closest since 1623 and the closest observable since 1226. This extra-close conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn won't be matched again until March 15, 2080.

There is a theory that the brightness of the conjunction of these planets was what

led the Magi to the place where the Christ Child was born more than 2000 years ago.

This December 21 conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn was captured by photographer Kurt Suhr, 505F, overlooking his condo's parking area to the West.



Kurt Suhr, 505F

Convergence of Families . . . We are so thankful for ZOOM-ing with family and friends, especially since it allows us to connect, see them, hear their voices, and receive lots of great news. I married John on 11/30/2002 and inherited a marvelous family! I had no children of my own, but now we have 5 daughters, 5 sons-in-law, 14 grandkids (2 of whom are married and 1 is engaged). During our



Christmas Zoom session, we discovered we are becoming first time **great-grandparents** this year! The precious bundle of joy is scheduled to arrive in late June/early July and take up residence with grandson



David and his beautiful wife Maria in San Antonio, TX. They are pictured above in the 2nd row, 1st column. We are all ecstatic!

Kay & John Maier
IRT editors

Inquiring minds want to know . . . Share your investigations with the Island Reef Times too! Will the next convergence this close be March 6 (Nick & Juanita's opinion) OR March 15, 2080 (Kurt's opinion)? Time will tell . . .

Shirley Ann Watson (March 5, 1935—December 21, 2020)



Together Again,
**Shirley & Richard
Watson**

85, of New Philadelphia, OH, passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020 in the Cleveland Clinic following a recent illness. A daughter of the late Charles and Roseann (Burton) Rothacher, Shirley was born March 6, 1935 in Dover, Ohio. Shirley graduated from Dover High School in 1953. On August 30, 1953, she married Richard A. Watson, and together they raised three sons, Dennis, Randall, and Kelly. The couple shared 38 years of marriage prior to Richard's passing on September 27, 1991. She and

Richard had a love for traveling with some of their favorite destinations being Europe, Hawaii, and Aruba. Following Richard's passing, she wintered in Siesta Key, FL up until January 2019. Shirley had a group of lifetime friends that she cherished. Many of those friends were also former classmates that she enjoyed many luncheons with over the years. Most of all, Shirley loved her family and took great joy in attending the sporting and various other events of her grandchildren. Shirley will be remembered for her sweet personality who was always happy. Also, for being meticulous in everything she did, including decorating her home and her personal attire.

She is survived by her sons, Dennis (Elois) Watson, Randall (Jill) Watson, and Kelly (Michelle) Watson all of New Philadelphia; her grandchildren, Chad (Julie) Watson, Sarah (Steve) Hall, Jay (Molly) Watson, Anne (Dr. Vladimir) Merunka, Tyler Watson, Christopher (Brook) Watson and Matthew (Allison) Watson and her great-grandchildren, Aubrie and Allie Watson, Ethan and Morgan Hall, Caroline, Evie and Stella Watson, identical twin great-grandsons, Maksym and Viktor Merunka, and Zoey Watson. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; a sister, Betty Lou Rothacher; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert "Swiss" and Dorothy Rothacher; a step-sister, Goldie Barcroft and a step-brother, Tom Barcroft.

Private family services were held in the Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home & Crematory at New Philadelphia. Interment took place in East Avenue Cemetery at New Philadelphia. Those wishing to do so may send the family a personal condolence and light a candle in remembrance of Shirley by visiting the funeral home website, www.geibcares.com. Contributions may be made in Shirley's memory to Broadway United Methodist Church, 120 Church Avenue SE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Published in The Times Reporter on 12/24/20

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One of my favorite memories of former neighbor **Shirley Watson (304H)** was sitting down with her and watching her excitement as she shared photos of her identical twin great-grandsons. Here she is pictured with them, Maksym and Viktor, sons of her granddaughter Annie and her husband Dr. Vladimir Merunka (who spent their honeymoon years ago at Island Reef, enjoying the surrounding beauty of Siesta Key). The boys were photographed on December 14, 2018, wide-eyed as they enjoyed their very first Christmas with great-grandma Shirley! Rest in peace, Shirley. You are missed here at Island Reef.



Kay Maier, editor

Erick David Shumway

October 16, 1979 - December 5, 2020



Erick David Shumway, age 41, died December 5, 2020. He was born in Sarasota, Florida.

He enjoyed several hobbies with his girls, Hayden and Ashlyn, including golf, fishing and archery. He attended Sarasota High School and played on the golf team. In addition to his daughters, he is survived by his parents, Gail M. Shumway and Erick H. Shumway; a sister, Jennifer Osterling; his niece Leah; aunts Jane Sue Shumway, PeggyLea Thompson (Lew); uncle, Wesley Shumway (Kathy), and Friend, Sarah Hirz. Also many cousins. Other family included his Step-mother, Susan E. Shumway, Stepsister Sarah and Stepbrother Stephen.

The deepest sympathy of the Island Reef Community is extended to Erick's Dad and his stepmother Susan, 302B, and all their relatives and friends. May the holes in your hearts be filled with wonderful memories of your son. *Published in Herald Tribune Dec. 7-9 '20*

A Note to Yogis

So much has changed in our world; Yoga has not! It still maintains a powerful science for the mental, physical, and spiritual body.

I am offering Balance and Mat classes via ZOOM online. I am also available for private and semi-private classes, if that is an option you would prefer.

If you are interested in either or both classes, please contact me directly at 941-346-2352 and



kindly leave your name and phone number.

We have only to look under our feet to see what we all have in common: *one earth belonging to us all*. May all beings and our beautiful world be blessed with peace and healing in 2021.

Looking forward to seeing you!
NAMASTE'
Joy

"The season" brings return to life

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REFLECTIONS ON 2020 AND WISHES FOR 2021

Louann is back to teaching online and she is about to open up a new virtual interactive class as we speak... t-minus 5 minutes and counting with some 50+ kids from Denison University signed up, which is a lot. Wish her luck! Yesterday, we finally got to hold and hang out with our newest grandson, Bodie, again (see Page 7). He and his parents drove down from Dexter, MI to spend several hours with us mid-day and thanks to the virus, that was the first opportunity we have had to hold him pretty much since he was born on October 19. Go figure! His cousin Izzy in Boston, who will be one year old on February 4, has yet to meet Bodie or our three granddaughters who also live in Michigan. Again... go figure!

Our Christmas and New Year's holidays this time around were for the most part just Louann and me hunkered down with a few Zoom cocktail parties sprinkled in with friends and family. Like many folks we know, it still felt good to decorate the house to some degree for Christmas even though we were just doing it for us. I think we needed to have the holiday feel as normal as it could (if that makes sense). One of our sons put together a Zoom murder mystery game for New Year's Eve with approximately a dozen participants which probably wasn't overly successful as to finding the murderer but a few people really got into their character which made it fun and a couple of us, namely Louann as a gold digger and yours truly as a chef, definitely took "best costume" honors. Thank goodness for Zoom and FaceTime over the last nine months or whatever it's been!

I think you pose some interesting questions for all of us and I suspect everyone living through the pandemic has been thinking about these things in their own unique way. **As to the "three wishes" for myself,** I wish for more time with my family again. Zoom and FaceTime are great, but still not the real thing. I also hope to step up my volunteering efforts, increase my exercise regimens, play more music, and read more. I'm a lousy reader! Louann has also suggested I take an online class of some sort as most are free to seniors, which could lead to more self improvement, so I'm thinking about that too.

As to my wish **for someone else** and not identifying someone else to a specific person, my wish would be for them to be as blessed as I am. In spite of a virus that has been so ravaging to many people, I personally had a wonderful 2020 with two more grandchildren added to the fold. How good is that! Plus the rest of the family has stayed healthy which adds to my blessings. We have tried to be smart as to when we are out and about, we wear our masks, keep our distance, wash our hands and use sanitizer a lot, but Louann still takes her weekly trip to Costco (addict that she is) or the grocery store and then we hunker down again. It's not the normal we want but the normal we've become used to. I guess it boils down to having community to help lift one's spirit- family and friends on Zoom or hopefully in person again soon... and my wish is for those who are lonely and depressed who don't have community to find ways to re-establish it again. Our church has made significant efforts to

Still concerned with the health, safety and well-being of members of our Island Reef Community, we've decided to stay with the e-mailed **ONLY** version of our newsletter until we are certain that Coronavirus is a thing of the past! So we present to you our third edition of the 2020-21 season. Enjoy the read, and know that deep down inside you, there is a story just waiting to be told! Contact **IRTeditor@IslandReef.net**. You'll be glad you did! *John & Kay Maier, editors*

identify members who are lonely and/or without family and to reach out to them on a regular basis. That's my wish **for others** - to have community again.

My wish for the world is obvious- to be rid of the pandemic, number one. Bring on the vaccine! Who would have "thunk" that we'd see a pandemic in our lifetime? Really? My other wishes would include more attempts at world peace, especially peace among our own politicians and citizens, and serious and cooperative studies worldwide on climate change followed by universal efforts to clean up the place. Lastly, I think all of us need to reevaluate where we stand in our spiritual lives and trust me, I'm no authority. My wish for all is for us to be grounded in faith somehow, as a belief in God helps to establish community which helps to smooth out life's many bumps.

May 2021 be a better year for all. Thanks for posing some questions that make each of us reflect. Stay well and hope to see you in March.

Best regards, *Paul Cummings, 505H*

The 2020-21 Board of Directors of the Island Reef Owners Association, Inc.

			Term Expires
President	Rick Wulterkens	(506H)	2021
Vice President	Marge Tichy	(302H)	2021
Secretary	Jean O'Connell	(104A)	2022
Treasurer	Roger Rossi	(206A)	2021
Director	Richard Hummer	(402F)	2022

Dates of BOARD MEETINGS in 2020/2021— location to be determined

Wednesday, January 13 at 1:00 pm
 Wednesday, February 17 at 1:00 pm
 Thursday, March 18 at 1:00 pm
 Wednesday, April 14 at 1:00 pm
 Wednesday, October 13 at 1:00 pm – Budget Meeting
 Wednesday, November 17 at 1:00 pm – Annual Meeting

In the event of a Board Meeting, the agenda will be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Membership or Special Meetings will be noticed and posted following Florida Statute 718 requirements.



ISLAND REEF MISSION STATEMENT Island Reef is a privately owned, residential condominium complex designed to meet the living, recreational and social needs of both individuals and families. While not a resort property, Island Reef provides a casual and friendly atmosphere and strives to maintain the highest standards for facilities, landscape, care and service in order to sustain owners' enjoyment and protect property values.

Special Note: *Our Island Reef owners are the eyes and ears of the community. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself or to reinforce our rules and regulations if they are not being followed or to ask questions when you see people you don't recognize as being part of the community.*

Sarasota Sheriff's Dept. Non-Emergency Number 941-316-1201