

Sandwich Newcomers & Neighbors

MARCH 2020

Co-Presidents' Message:

We committed to the Bookcase Project being run by Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod. Basically, we will buy the materials for a child's bookcase (\$35) from the Habitat people, then build, paint, decorate and fill the bookcase. The bookcase would then be presented to the child and his/her family on what they call Dedication Day. However, Candice Murphy advises that there is a waiting list of volunteer groups, so we're looking for a new project in the interim (see bottom of page).

This month, Marie And Gary Luck are submitting QUITE a memory piece, a remembrance of the Arab Spring and beyond, done in the third person.

Kit & Mike Sullivan

Read to Me Redux

From Leslie Zicko: If you love reading and are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in a young child's life, please consider becoming a Read To Me volunteer. You will be able to share the joys of reading with Head Start preschoolers, many of whom are rarely read to on a one-on-one basis, if at all. From 2015 until 2018, SNN was involved with "Read to Me" in Bourne. The children and teachers always looked forward to having us come and read. Unfortunately, that program closed.



Stu Parsons, from the Sandwich Public Library, and Amanda Coleman, from Head Start, have asked SNN if we would like to be involved in a Read to Me program at the Sandwich Head Start Preschool. This new program, operating out of YMCA's Camp Lyndon, has one classroom this year and hopes to have another in September. As readers, we would go into each classroom and read to one or two children for a half an hour on a bi-weekly basis. Having participated in the program for three years, I can assure you, it is an hour well spent! The children love the one-on-one attention. If you think you would like to become a reader, please let Lesley Zicko know at lazicko@comcast.net. Hopefully, with enough interest, we will begin Read to Me in the fall.

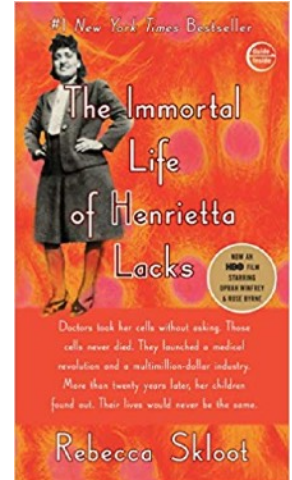
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH 2020

TUESDAY, MARCH 10: BOOK CLUB

The Book Group will meet March 10, 1:00 pm at the home of Catherine Morrison. We will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Please let Catherine know if you will be attending. twobayberry@aol.com



NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM HBO® STARRING OPRAH WINFREY AND ROSE BYRNE



TUESDAY, MARCH 10: Line Dancing:

When: Tuesday, March 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: Cape Cod Brewery in Hyannis

Details: The \$20 admission includes a beer or a glass of wine, and two hours of fun and exercise! You can register in advance on their website (or pay at the door). Just drop Jean Dorcus an email at jeandorcus2@gmail.com so we'll know how many to expect and maybe arrange a carpool. This is offered on the second Tuesday of each month.



FRIDAY, MARCH 13: Game Night

When: Friday, March 13, 7:00-10:00 pm

Where: Home of Steve and Suzanne Hansmire, 16 Quaker Road, East Sandwich,



Details: The game nights have become very popular and we're having fun learning new games and mastering the more familiar ones.

At this point we've enjoyed Hearts, Mexican Train, RummiKub, Giant Jenga, Cribbage and Crokinole. For this month we'll add at least one new game to try.

Please bring a simple game snack (pretzels, cheese, popcorn, M&M's, cookies, etc.) to share and your beverage of choice. Due to tables/space needed, this event will be limited to 20 players.

RSVP: jeandorcus2@gmail.com by Tuesday, March 10



SATURDAY, MARCH 21: Wine Social

When: Saturday, March 21, 7:00-10:00 pm

Where: Home of Lorraine and Henry Jablecki, 32 Easterly Drive, East Sandwich

Details: Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share and your beverage of choice. There is some driveway parking, but, if on the street, please park on the house side only, as the street is narrow.



RSVP: Contact Lorraine at hljablecki@comcast.net or at 508-833-1077 by Tuesday, March 17 to sign-up for an appetizer or dessert.



SAVE THE DATE



What: ART in BLOOM,

Where: MUSEUM of FINE ARTS, Boston, MA

When: **Friday, May 1 – Preview Day**

Cost: Self-guided exhibit is free with admission on preview day only. Museum admission is \$23 for seniors.



Celebrate the return of spring with ART in BLOOM, the Museum's annual festival of fine art and flowers. Enjoy exquisite art from across the MFA's collection paired with magnificent floral interpretations created by New England-area garden clubs (including Sandwich's Donna Rumph). Wander the galleries with a program map and discover this year's freshly designed arrangements.

We hope to carpool into Boston, sharing the cost of parking and will need 3-4 drivers, depending on the number of registrants. I will reserve spots for a group of 15-20 right away as they fill up fast. A possible schedule may look like this...leaving Sandwich about 9:00-9:30 am, museum time and lunch till about 3:00pm and then leave for home. These are general plans and changes are possible with the interest of the group.

For that reason, please email jeandorcus2@gmail.com to get on the list now. You will still have a month to confirm your spot. Also, let me know if you have an MFA membership.

SUPPORTING SANDWICH

Sandwich Arts Alliance: Fourth Fridays Coffeehouse Series

is a new coffeehouse-style music series at Town Hall. This series will feature musicians who perform and discuss their work in an intimate, family-friendly setting. Check the Arts Alliance website (www.sandwichartsalliance.org) for specific performers and tickets.

When: The Fourth Friday of each month

Time: 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)

Where: Sandwich Town Hall



June 13, Saturday: The CC Symphony is presenting “**Sinatra!**”, a show for those who enjoy the music of Old Blue Eyes, on Saturday, June 13, at 3:00, at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center in Barnstable High School.



All will enjoy hearing well known vocalist Brian Duprey who looks and sounds like Frank! Beth Houlihan has reserved 24 seats for SNN in the orchestra left section. The cost is \$46.80. Email Beth ([ebhouli@gmail](mailto:ebhouli@gmail.com)) if you would like to go. Final confirmation and payment will be due later in May.

LAST MONTH'S SPECIAL EVENTS

SUPER BOWL PARTY AT THE DODSON-EDGARS



COTUIT ARTS CENTER MEET & GREET



GAME NIGHT



NOTES

From Jean Dorcus: Have you missed an opportunity to host a gathering at your home? Or just love to have a crowd of very amiable friends?

* We're holding MONTHLY game nights. If you'd like to host, suggest a game or want details, please contact jeandorcus2@gmail.com

* We are in need of a location for a Kentucky Derby Party - Saturday, May 2, 2020

The format for the host of the Derby party is same as Wine Socials. Members will provide food. Email jeandorcus2@gmail.com for questions and details.

A NOTE FROM THE MEN OF POKER

SNN Men's Poker Group is still seeking new players

Games are evenings on Tuesdays, 7 pm to 11 pm

\$.25 - \$.50 bet limit, 3 raises per card

Texas Hold'em; Five Card and Seven Card Stud; high only or high low split, Omaha high - Low Split

No wild cards...

Friendly, Fun Game... members rotate hosting at homes

Contact: Henry Jablecki at 508 833-1077; or Jim Doherty at gumperjg1@comcast.net



THE SNN CALENDAR FOR MARCH

March

2020

Sandwich Newcomers and Neighbors

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7 pm - Men's Poker @ Ron's	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	9	10 1 pm - Book Club @ Catherine Morrison's 6:30 pm -Line Dancing at CC Brewery RSVP to Game Night	11 8 am – Men's Breakfast	12	13 7-10 pm Game Night at Suzanne & Steve Hansmire's	14
15	16	17 7 pm - Men's Poker @ Jack's <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	20	21 7 pm Wine Social Lorraine & Henry Jablecki's
22	23	24	25 8 am - Men's Breakfast	26	27 <i>4th Friday Presented by Sandwich Arts Alliance</i>	28
29	30	31				
		<i>Save the Dates!!</i> May 1 – Art in Bloom at Boston's MFA	June 13 – CC Symphony presents "Sinatra"			

MEMORIES



FROM THE EYE OF THE CAMEL

Gary, "Marie, I've been offered a job to Manage the Operations and Maintenance of an ammonia plant in Egypt. Should we go?"

When Marie said, "Yes", they didn't realize that they were about to embark on the best adventure of their life!

Gary asked the senior management of KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root) if Egypt was safe for Americans, safe for Christians and safe for women. The answer was yes for all these questions since the Egyptians were the calmest people and never asked tough questions to their government and leaders.

Gary arrived in Egypt on Jan 19, 2011 and headed for Stella di Mare, an Italian Golf Resort on the Red Sea.

He called Marie to let her know that he was safe in a beautiful and peaceful place. Marie's responsibility then was to organize the move out of the leased home in PA and store all the possessions in a local storage facility.

One week later on Jan 26 while Marie, back in Pennsylvania, was in the bedroom sorting out the 200 pounds of personal possessions allowed, CNN had a news flash showing Cairo's revolution as part of the Arab Spring movement. Police shooting Egyptians and vice versa, the Army who reported directly to Mubarak shooting towards the Police. Every Friday after prayers it was violent. At one point a worker at the Stella De Mari hotel basically dared a soldier surrounding the hotel to shoot him, which he did. That word got to the hotel and Gary basically took over the action plan for the hotel. Shut all the lights, lock all the doors, strike the US flag, make announcements to entire hotel guests, get the KBR Corporate Safety team back in Houston to arrange transport to the airport and subsequent air travel.

Gary called soon afterwards telling Marie that he was flying with his expatriate crew to the safe haven of England at midnight. Gary gave his team 10 minutes to pack essentials and be ready to leave for airport. Utter chaos at the airport, wall-to-wall people, no directions, no plan, people getting knocked down in the scuffle and then laying on the floor in tears. The metal detector archway had been knocked over and was out of service.

A Security guard was happy to take almost all the cash Gary had in order to allow his team to get through. CNN had a field day with sensationally exaggerated fake news. The family became very worried about Gary's safety as well as Marie's if she traveled to Egypt. Tense times.

Gary was allowed by KBR security to travel back to Cairo after three weeks in London. Marie wasn't sure if she would ever see a pyramid or get to ride a camel.

However, 2 months later, Marie arrived in Egypt, greeted by Gary and their personal driver/ guard, Mohammed. As they headed out to the desert for an hour and a half drive, their car whizzed past many unusual sites. Imagine a bike rider with a basket of bread on his head dodging chaotic traffic and trucks loaded with camels; buses passing by within inches; cars heading for them...Marie wondering, "Where are the lanes?" She soon would find out that there are no driving lanes or people lining up anywhere in Egypt. Could this be because of the poor education and the disorganized society promoted by the government?

After the long drive passing by nothing but wind carved sand mountains, abandoned burned out cars, a few concrete benches and a couple of deserted concrete structures, they asked Mohammed, "Where are the gas stations? Towns? Stores?"

As their car pulled up to the enormous white concrete walls that surrounded Stella Di Mare, Mohammed stopped at the security gate. The guards came out to check the car with mirrors to look under the car and peek inside the car. Over

the next year and a half, this security practice happened every time that we pulled up to a hotel, mall, public building or parking lot. (Something that we should think about doing here in the U.S.)

Driving forward through the gate, the scenery became astonishingly serene! You can look up this Italian Resort located in Ain Sokhna: Stelladimare.com

Living at Stella di Mare was magical...towel toys and flower petals EVERYDAY!

The Stella Di Mare hotel was one of three hotels in the complex that were surrounded by many villas, flowering gardens, pools, a wellness spa, and access to the private beach resort. Missing, were the people! Because of the revolution, Gary and his team were the only guests staying at the hotel.

Marie was able to make friends with a few Italian visitors from the Villas and enjoyed tea in the afternoons with the locals out in the hotel souk markets.



Due to the lack of visitors, Marie and Gary were treated like royalty. Breakfast delivered in their room each morning and dinner in a formal dining room each night with entertainment. The waiters taught them Arabic and they taught the nightly Egyptian singer how to sing American songs by Patsy Cline!

Gary would head out to work while Marie put on her uniform, a bathing suit, and headed to the spa and beach. The Thalassa Spa is built as a replica of Cleopatra's Temple and most days Marie was the only person on the beach! Gary was able to golf 3 to 4 times a week and Marie helped the pros with local tournaments. Gary got his first hole in one! And won many trophies.

The food was authentic middle eastern, and the hotel chefs prepared many varieties of gourmet dinners.

The hotel chef invited Marie into the kitchen to teach him how to cook Gary's favorite chicken. From then on, "Gary's Chicken" was on the dinner menu at least once a week!

The only thing that Marie had to cook was Starbucks Coffee in the French press with kettle-boiled bottled water.

Mohammed would take Marie to The Mall in Cairo weekly, especially so that she could get the needed coffee. Starbucks in Egypt? Oh yes, and Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut. Huge favorites of most Egyptians!

The body images were very different from Western civilization. The fatter your wife is, the more affluent is the husband!

If you go to Egypt, make sure to stop at the Duty-Free airport shop for real booze. The only alcohol sold in Egypt is in plain glass bottles with black labels; mystery booze!

Gary was not sure how long the work assignment would continue, so he and Marie took advantage of many side trips very soon after their arrival.

There were Felucca rides,
and a 4-day cruise down the Nile to the 5000-year-old
temples in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens and special
spices of Luxor.



The Pyramids, of course!

First and last time; Marie will never ride on Camel. Next time, when son Jason came for a visit, Marie was on a horse instead! There was also a special armed-guarded trip to Sharm El Sheikh and a hike up Mt. Sinai.



While in Sheikh they watched The Wedding of Prince William and Catherine on the beach in a British Bar. Soon to find out that Osama Bin Laden was killed that day by Americans.



Marie's blonde hair did not help her to blend well. She turned heads in most places and was chased by locals who wanted to have their picture taken with her.

This was the best foreign assignment by far! It was a chance of a lifetime to live for over a year peacefully amongst the very friendly Egyptians who were as curious about us as we were about them. If the world becomes a calmer place, we recommend going to Egypt on a guided tour. There are excursions that fly you into Cairo and whisk you to a hotel overlooking the Pyramids with a fantastic light show. The Sphinx lights up and talks to you! Then they fly you down to Aswan, where you will be put on a 4-day mini cruise down the Nile. Each day you are taken on private tours into the 5000-year-old Valleys of the Kings and Queens. You will end up in the ancient village of Luxor, remarkably unchanged over time. Hope that some of you will be able to enjoy this experience! Don't forget the kettle and coffee press!



Cheers!
Marie and Gary



Activities

The Women's Daytime Book Club meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00PM. New members are welcome. Coordinator is Patty Williams, (mpatty3@comcast.net)

Men's Poker Group meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM . Coordinators are Paul Pronovost (paulernest@comcast.net) and Henry Jablecki (hljablecki@comcast.net)

Girl's Night Out: Ladies go to early movie, and then supper at local restaurant. Contact Anne Sayer, (asayer3@gmail.com)

Special Events (maybe with lunch or dinner): Contact Jean Dorcus with any of your ideas.(jeandorcus2@gmail.com)

Kayak Caucus: Sliding Quietly through the Cape's bays, ponds, marshes and rivers. All levels of Kayaking welcome. Please email Coordinator Ed Houlihan at (ebhouli@gmail.com) to confirm you want to be included on the Kayak Caucus list. Please include your email address and the phone number where you can be reached on the day of the scheduled kayak trips.

Walking/Hiking Group: Discover new walking trails in the streets and backroads of Sandwich. All levels of walkers welcome! So far, we have explored Shawme Pond, Boyden Farm Conservation, the Game Farm, Green Briar Nature Center, and downtown Sandwich. Members who show up are encouraged to plan the next excursion. We GENERALLY have been walking at 9:30 am on Fridays, weather permitting. Emails to all members with planned routes are sent out weekly. Step away from that boring treadmill and enjoy the fun of socializing while exercising! Coordinator Candice Murphy, contact Candice at murphyrc6@comcast.net

Fishing: Surf casting for blues and stripers in the bay or the canal. Welcome to beginners or experienced anglers. Seeking a new Coordinator.

Biking: Riding the pathways and the rail trails of the Cape, lunch at a local favorite. Patty Williams, Coordinator, (mparty3@comcast.net)

Guy's Get Together: Guys meet for coffee-breakfast and discussion of issues, large and small. 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month at the Marshland Too . Wade Sayer Coordinator (wsayer@aol.com)



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