

Gazette ACE

Arts • Culture • Entertainment



JOHN KNOX
VILLAGE

Where possibility plays

Music From The
Brill Building



JKV Leadership Team's On-Campus Presence Provides Calm During Storm

'It takes our Village to keep you safe during a storm'

– Doug Folsom, JKV CFO

When all indicators warned South Florida would feel a significant impact from Hurricane Milton, the John Knox Village Executive Leadership Team jumped into action putting the residents' safety first.

According to Chief Financial Officer Doug Folsom, "We truly embody the 'boots on the ground' approach. Being present on-site during critical situations like Hurricane Milton ensures that residents' needs and safety are prioritized in real time. Instead of managing from a distance, we address concerns and challenges as they arise."

The dedication shown by the Team before, during, and after natural disasters is a prime example of the exceptional leadership and care residents have come to expect at South Florida's premier Life-Plan Continuing Care Retirement Community.

By tirelessly securing the 70-acre campus and spending the night on-site, they ensured the safety of both independent and more vulnerable residents in higher levels of care, as well as guests in JKV's short-term rehab areas.

This commitment to being physically present during such a critical time reinforces trust and a strong sense of community.

Their efforts to quickly resume Dining, Lifestyle, and Fitness activities after the storm further demonstrate their ability to restore normalcy and provide comfort to the residents. The residents' gratitude reflects how their proactive and hands-on leadership contributes to a secure and supportive environment at JKV.



JKV resident Carol Redd consults with JKV CFO Doug Folsom during a recent approaching storm.

With its five apartment buildings and three villa neighborhoods, JKV is a not-for-profit, internationally award-winning community of choice for those seeking an upscale, enriched lifestyle that provides long-term medical care for its nearly 1,000 residents.

For 57 years, JKV has allowed realistic seniors to plan for their future health care needs while enjoying resort-style amenities, life-long learning programs, and a full range of services that promote wellness of mind, body and spirit.

JKV residents are entitled to unlimited use of health care services on campus, with 24/7 Emergency Medical Technicians. JKV has three health care residences with assisted, skilled nursing, and supportive memory care in The Woodlands, Seaside Cove, and Gardens West. The Woodlands is Florida's first GREEN HOUSE® Project that is the most comprehensive effort to reinvent the nursing home recognized by the Governor's Gold Seal for "Skilled Nursing Center in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties."

**To learn more, join us for an informative lunch on
Thursday, November 7th at 11 a.m.
RSVP to 954-904-0006**

John Knox Village 400 SW 3rd St. (Main Entrance), Pompano Beach, FL 33060



Johnknoxvillage.com | 954-904-0006

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Nestled on a picturesque 70-acre campus, John Knox Village is celebrating its 57th anniversary as South Florida's premier Life-Plan Continuing Care Retirement Community.

JKV offers a holistic approach to retirement living, focusing on health, wellness, and an enriched lifestyle.

Residents have the peace of mind knowing they will enjoy a continuum of care designed to meet their changing needs as they age—spanning independent living, assisted living, supportive memory care, and skilled nursing care.

Our spacious and elegantly designed residences promote comfort and independence, while our vibrant community spirit encourages connection and lifelong learning.

Residents enjoy a rich tapestry of amenities, including an Aquatic Complex boasting resort-style and lap pools, eight dining venues, fitness studios, cultural and recreational activities, award-winning life enrichment programming and beautifully landscaped grounds.

Our dedicated team of professionals delivers personalized care with compassion and respect, ensuring peace of mind for both residents and their families.



Piano accompanist John Boswell and vocalist Scott Coulter on stage in the JKV Cultural Arts Center.

Innovative Music from the Brill Building ***Launched the Music and Legendary Careers of Neil Sedaka and Carole King***

The Brill Building at 1619 Broadway, isn't just an Art Deco structure in midtown Manhattan — it's also the name of a musical genre popular during the mid-1960s and still remembered fondly by fans today. The *"Brill Building Sound"* became synonymous with groundbreaking pop music. During its heyday, the songwriters, arrangers, musicians and producers who worked in the building contributed hundreds of Billboard hits and introduced the world to rock and roll.

Home to legends like Carole King, Neil Sedaka, Burt Bacharach, Hal David and Gerry Goffin, the authors and stars of iconic hits such as *"Breaking Up Is Hard to Do"* and *"You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'."* The building was a hub for songwriters who influenced music for decades and inspired the work of artists such as Dione Warwick, The Ronettes, and the Righteous Brothers.

The magic of the music of The Brill Building was brought to vivid life in a concert at the JKV Cultural Arts Center by well-known Broadway performance veterans, vocalist Scott Coulter, and piano accompanist John Boswell. They artfully took the

4.



audience on a delightful musical journey down Memory Lane from the '50s, '60s and into the '70s. Scott and John reprised the unforgettable lyrics, songs and music, plus the stories and anecdotes that define a generation.

With so much music from which to select at the Brill Building, Scott and John focused their attention primarily on Sedaka and King. Both were initially accomplished songwriters, and yet each, in their own way, became vocal driving forces of their generation.

Neil Sedaka

Scott let us into a little-known fact, that Neil Sedaka was the songwriter for Connie Francis in the '50s with her hits: "Stupid Cupid," and "Where the Boys Are," the song that holds a special place in the history of our area. It was the theme song for the 1960 motion picture, "Where the Boys Are," in which Francis starred as one of four female students on Spring Break in Ft. Lauderdale.

John and Scott continued to reprise the hits from Neil Sedaka like: "Calendar Girl," "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do," "Laughter in the Rain," and "Love Will Keep Us Together."

Against a backdrop of Neil Sedaka, John and Scott performed, "Love Will Keep Us Together."

Carole King

Yet part and parcel to Sedaka's string of musical memories was the entrance of another songwriter, and soon to be a cherished part of American music. King's success began in the '60s when she and her first husband, Gerry Goffin, wrote more than two dozen chart hits. King's success as a performer in her own right did not come until the '70s, when she sang her own songs, accompanying herself on the piano, in a series of albums and concerts.

Her breakthrough album "Tapestry," topped the U.S. album chart for 15 weeks in 1971 and remained on the charts for more than six years.

Scott and John brought back memories with King's hits: "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "I Feel the Earth Move," and "You've Got a Friend," the song that reached number one on the charts by King's friend, fellow musician and singer James Taylor.

For most of the JKV residents in attendance, the songs from the Brill Building are the tunes they remember and are the music of their lives.





Con Brio on stage in the JKV Cultural Arts Center. Left to right are: Violinists Valentin Mansurov and Marina Lenau, violist David Pedraza, and cellist Aziz Sapaev.

Con Brio: Classical Strings

The Quartet Performs Compositions from 18th to 20th Centuries



In so many ways, the tonal quality of the stringed instruments results in a collaboration of sound that is perfectly matched to create emotion, joy or somber elegance. The four talented string musicians who comprise the Con Brio Quartet have performed together for more than a decade, first as fellow students at Lynn University. This writer/photographer remembers them at Lynn, when I took publicity photos as they were just beginning their musical quest as the string quartet: Con Brio.

The four musicians originate from different parts of the world, but blend together in harmony and grace: Violinist Valentin Mansurov from Russia, violinist Marina Lenau from Ukraine, violist David Pedraza from Mexico and the Uzbekistani cellist Aziz Sapaev.

Many of the JKV music aficionados recognized Valentin, Marina, David and Aziz from their participation in on-campus concerts with MusicFor America, Symphony of the Americas, and the South Florida Symphony Orchestra. The talented area musicians

Left: Violist David Pedraza guided the audience through the performance by Con Brio.



Left to right: Violinists Valentin Mansurov and Marina Lenau.

perform with many organizations to further their love of music and to make a living at their craft, but for the group known as Con Brio, it is the string quartet that keeps their enthusiasm vibrant.

The late great English conductor, Sir Jeffrey Philip Tate once said: "The most perfect expression of human behavior is a string quartet." Others have said the string instruments mimic the human voice: The soprano of the violin, tenor of the viola and the baritone of the cello. Regardless of how you interpret the music of a string quartet, there is no doubt that your interpretation will be positive.

Con Brio brought us their thoughtful renditions of classical quartet compositions beginning with W.A. Mozart's 18th century "*Il Seraglio Overture*."

Moving into the 19th century, the JKV Cultural Arts Center audience was treated to Giuseppe Verdi's "*La Donna e Mobile*," from "*Rigoletto*"; "*Crisantemi*" by Giacomo Puccini; and George Bizet's "*Aragonaise*" from the opera "*Carmen*."

Not to be outdone by the classic European compositions, Con Brio next turned its attention to 20th century American composers: First with two selections from Leonard Bernstein's popular musical, "*West Side Story*." In arrangements not often heard by a string quartet, the group performed the beautiful "*Maria*," followed by "*America*," to the appreciative audience.

As its closing composition, the group performed the four movements from Maurice Ravel's impressionist composition, "*String Quartet in F Major*."

The appreciative JKV audience gave the four members of Con Brio a standing ovation, with hopes for a return performance in the near future.



Right: Con Brio cellist Aziz Sapaev.

Author...Author!

JKV Resident Writers Present Their Literary Works



JKV Authors (left to right) David Somers, Phillip Collins, Chuck Ross, Jeannie Piazza-Zuniga, David Haun and Mack MacVicar.

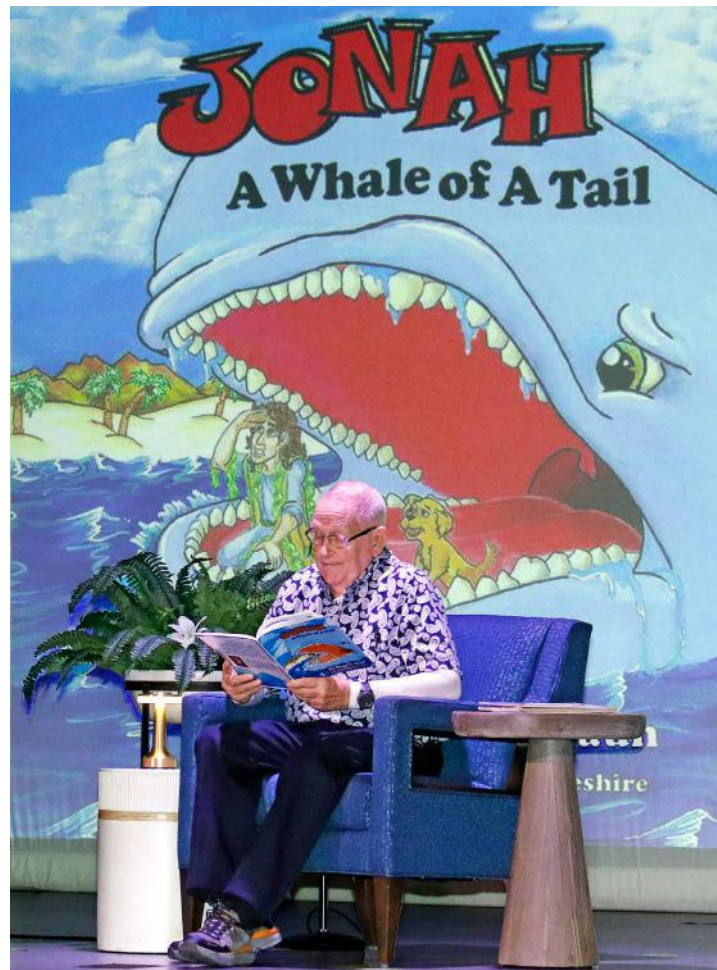
JKV recently celebrated its Second Annual Writer's Feast, a showcase of resident authors who gave sample readings from their published works. The audience in the JKV Cultural Arts Center heard stories that ranged from children's books to educational efforts, dog-inspired stories, Miami's theatrical and performance history, words of inspiration, and so much more. In all, six JKV authors showcased their literary artistry.

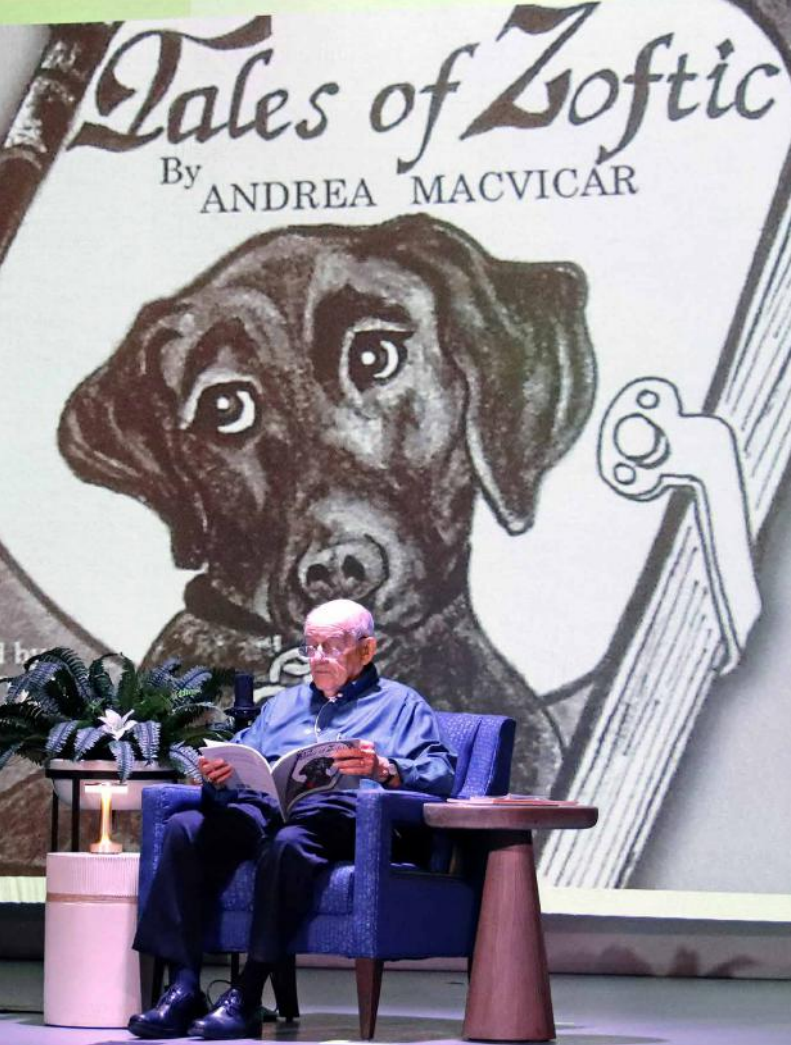
David Haun

Dr. David L. Haun is a retired pastor, who at the age of 75 decided to start writing with a lifetime goal of publishing five books. Now at 84, "Jonah: A Whale of a Tail" is his seventh book. David's graduate studies in family life and child development, along with his Doctorate in Education, gave him the special insight to focus on children's literature.

David's reading from "Jonah: A Whale of a Tail," showcased a meaningful story, in poetic form, that was written to entertain children. The story traces the journey of a young man who ran from God, and experienced an amazing adventure as God guided his steps.

Right: Author David Haun.



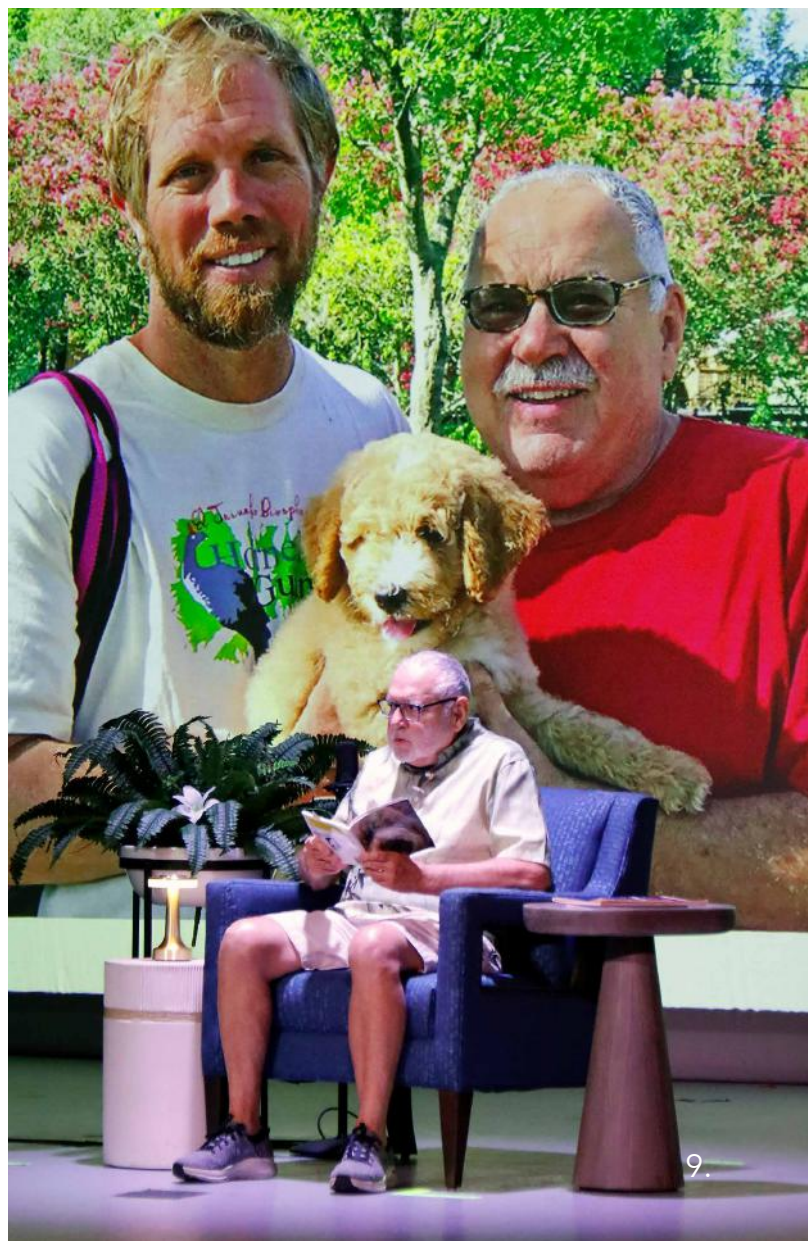


Left: Mack MacVicar read from his late wife's book, "Tales of Zoftic." Below: Chuck Ross read from his book, "Stella, A Dog's Thoughts."

Chuck read from his book, "Stella, A Dog's Thoughts." Many in the audience knew Chuck's dog Lena, but before Lena, there was Stella. The book captures, in words and pictures, what a dog thinks about the world and her owners.

David Somers

David published "Learning Functional Words and Signs" in 1976. After earning a Master of Education from Wayne State University, he focused on training special education teachers in Michigan and Florida. Moving to Florida in 1970, he taught students with mental challenges just as special education was becoming mandatory in 1975. David realized traditional methods, like using existing books, were ineffective for these students.



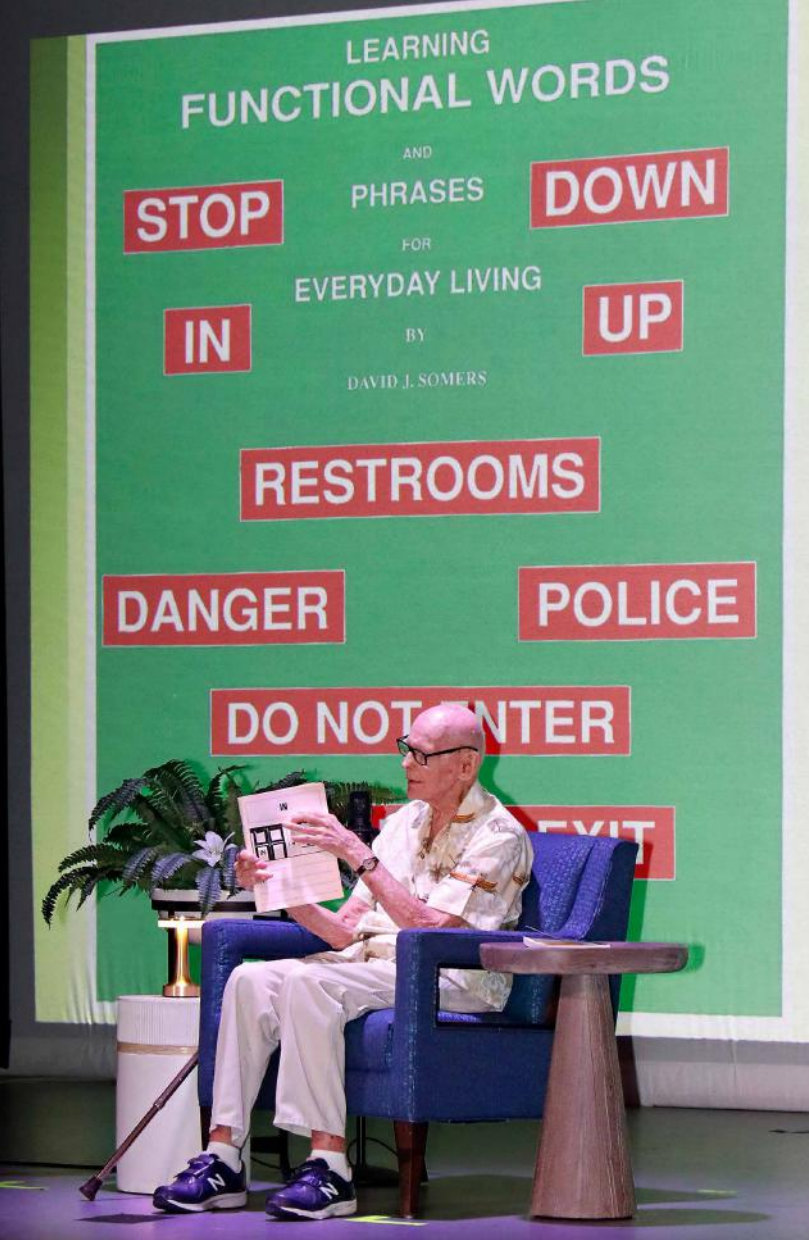
Mack MacVicar

Mack was not the author of "Tales of Zoftic," but read selections in memory of his late wife Andrea MacVicar, who was a poet, teacher, counselor, college president, writer and editor, columnist, speaker at conferences and an author.

Andrea spent more than 40 years as a Pastor/Counselor. She wrote extensively on a number of topics and the book her husband, Mack MacVicar, shared was, "Tales of Zoftic," a poetry book about the adventures of a black Labrador named Zoftic. Appealing to ages, from four to 94, it has 58 pages with 18 illustrations. The book has sold more than 2,000 copies to date and all proceeds go to various charities including, Humane Society of Broward, JKV Foundation, and Labrador Retriever Rescue, to name a few.

Chuck Ross

Chuck was the Art Director of *Architectural Digest* from 1978 to 1985, and co-founded *Veranda Magazine* from 1987 to 2004. After he moved to Ft. Lauderdale, he designed exhibitions for the Stonewall Museum & Archives. He currently designs exhibitions for NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale.



Left: Author David Somers.

He developed a new approach, resulting in “*Learning Functional Words and Signs*,” a workbook with 120 signs, illustrated lessons, review pages, and tests to teach practical, real-life skills.

Jeannie Piazza-Zuniga

Author Jeannie Piazza-Zuniga has written for *Preservation Magazine*, the Theater Historical Society of America, and the *Miami Herald*. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Theater from Florida International University and attends the Miami Writers Institute. Jeannie is a member of several organizations, including the South Florida Writers Association and the Theater Historical Society of America. She was the Director of Theater Operations at Miami’s Olympia Theater, after interning at the Colony Theater and Gusman Center. She studied music at the New England Conservatory, sang with its chorus, and has also performed with the Civic Choral of Greater Miami and the rock band The Dreamcatchers.

Jeannie read from her book, “*The Magic of the Olympia Theater, A Peek Behind its Curtain*.” It is a memoir of drama on and off stage at Gusman Center. The book walks through the 18-year journey of the author’s career from Florida International University as a student intern to director of theater operations in the city of Miami’s 1920s

Below: Jeannie Piazza-Zuniga.





Jennie Piazza-Zuniga looked at the history, and personalities of Miami's Olympia Theater.

styled, historic treasure: The Olympia Theater.

Phillip E. Collins

Phillip E. Collins is a prolific writer of more than 20 books, ranging from human origins to the afterlife. His styles include adventure, poetry, metaphysics and essays. With 50 years in New York City, he's a true New Yorker and a former Marketing Director for George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic. Phillip believes in the power of interactive reading and is currently writing a screenplay based upon one of his books.

Phillip's book, "The Refounding of America," tells the story of a divine experiment to create Earth as a reflection of creation, centered on love. A key part of this experiment was forming a nation with a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," aka the United States.

The story is told through three proxies, including Ascended Master St. Germain, guiding humanity in the spiritual age of Aquarius. Their mission is for the U.S. and the world to embody love, peace, and harmony, reflecting creation's energy and fulfilling America's original divine purpose.

Below: Prolific writer of more than 20 books Phillip E. Collins.



'We Are the World' Finds JKV Resident Travel-Photographer Tom Regan in France



Tom Regan

If you have been following the Gazette ACE and the photographic features from JKV Resident Tom Regan, you know that his displays have followed The JKV Life Enrichment Department's year-long theme for activities and events in 2024, titled "We Are the World."

The theme is centered upon the "Blue Zones:" Those regions in the world are where people claim to live longer than average.

Although France is not on the Blue Zone list, it is a country that is very popular for travelers; particularly since Paris was the host city for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

In this final photo display of 2024, JKV's intrepid resident travel-photographer Tom Regan showcases France. Tom has been a frequent visitor to France over the years, and has spent extended time in the country, often from an apartment in Paris.

Coincidentally, Tom is currently in France, but this time spending a few months in an apartment in Nice.

Tom shares his images over the next six pages from Paris; a second photo display of the Cathedrals, Châteaux and Countryside; a final photo display from the south of France, Provence and the Riviera.

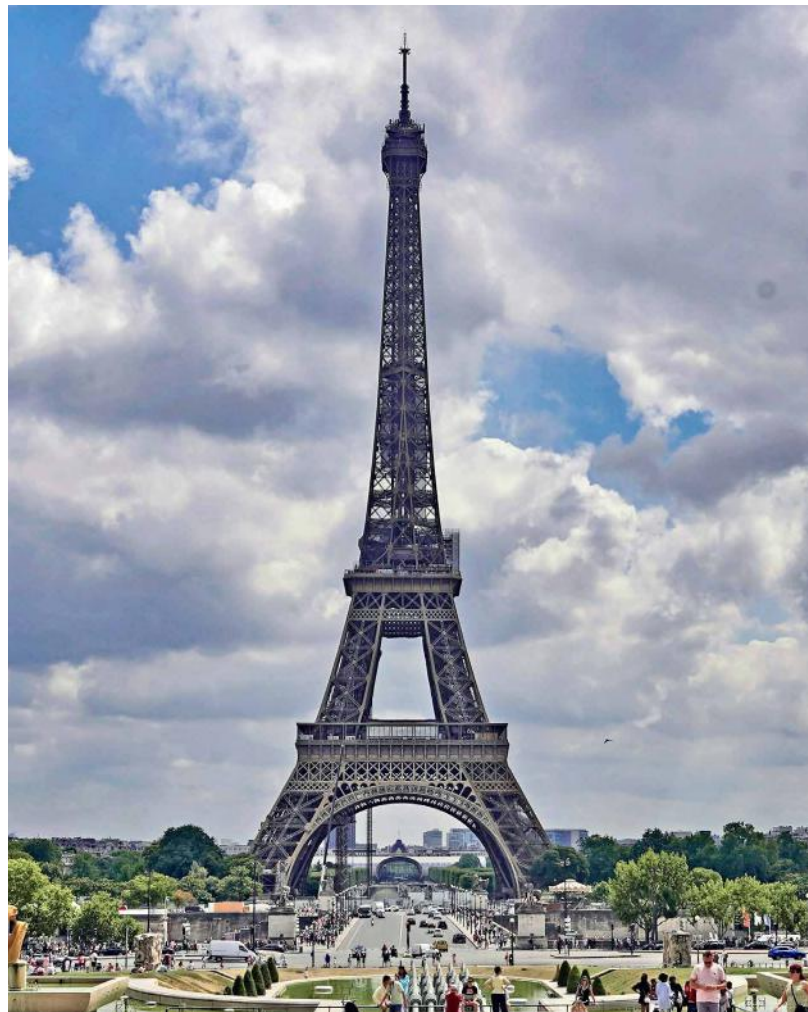
Paris The City of Light

Known for its leading role in the arts and sciences, as well as its early and extensive system of street lighting in the 19th century, Paris became known as the City of Light. It is the largest city in France and is its capital city. With a population of more than 2.1

Right: Paris' landmark Eiffel Tower.



Paris' Arc de Triomphe.





Sacré-Cœur in Paris.



Café de Flore, a Paris street-side bistro.

million residents, Paris embraces a rich heritage for its architecture, its appreciation for the arts, and as a center for style, fashion and culture.

While many *Gazette ACE* readers may not have visited Paris, they will immediately recognize images of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame Cathedral. While Notre Dame is currently under reconstruction after a devastating fire in 2019, the main structure has stood the test of time. It was

built during the Medieval Era beginning in 1163 and was largely completed by 1260, though it was modified in succeeding centuries.

Notre Dame is just one example of the timeless beauty and culture of the city. If you watched the 2024 Olympics, you surely noticed the Eiffel Tower, which was the backdrop for many of the competitions. Everywhere you turn in Paris, you will notice a city steeped in arts, culture and tradition.

Click below to view a video of Tom Regan's photo tour of Paris, France.

France at a Glance: Cathedrals, Châteaux and Countryside

Tom is a fan of architecture and many of the photos in this display showcase the various styles throughout France. From the Galo-Roman buildings and Pont du Gard aqueduct in Nîmes, through the Modernists headed by Robert Mallet-Stevens and Le Corbusier of the 20th century.

An example of notable contemporary architecture is the glass Pyramid (designed by the Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei.) at the Louvre shown on the previous pages.

The architectural styles over the centuries are often reflected in the magnificent Cathedrals and ultra posh Châteaux found throughout the country. After the influences of the Galo-Roman period came the Romanesque style, distinguished by strong walls and columns from which domes sprang, which emerged in Europe during the Middle Ages. A primary example of the Romanesque style is the Abbey of Cluny.

During the mid-12th century through 1500, French Gothic architecture dominated Europe. Even today, it is among the most distinctive French



Mont St. Michel on Brittany's Atlantic coast.



Above: Vaux le Vicomte Moat. Below: Château de Chambord.





Left to right: The Chartres Cathedral, the Cesar Tower of Provins, and the Amiens Cathedral.

architecture styles, with a distinct character. It is the style we closely identify with the iconic Cathedral Notre-Dame; Amiens Cathedral, the tallest cathedral in France; and the Chartres Cathedral, a UNESCO World where nearly all of the original stained-glass windows are still intact.

As the visitor travels France, one sees the many opulent Châteaux and Palaces inspired by the Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical eras of French architecture. The Château de Chenonceau,

Palace of Versailles, Hôtel de Soubise, and The Palais Garnier are all examples of distinctive French architecture that are must-stops for any visitor to France.

From Paris to Versailles to the south of France, many wonderful gardens are focal points adjacent to the architecture. Some are French formal gardens with their hedges and flowers in symmetrical patterns and long allées of trees lining the path, while others in the countryside are more relaxed and colorful, such as Claude Monet's Garden in Giverny.

Click below to view a video of Tom Regan's photo tour of France's Chateaux, Cathedrals and Gardens.



The Pont du Gard in southern France is the highest Roman aqueduct bridge in the world.

South of France, Provence and The Riviera

When we think of France, many of us immediately vision the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées and Notre Dame. Yet the south of France is home to several landmark touristic hotspots that have riveting historical events and stories attached to them. Romans occupied the southern region of France for a considerable amount of time beginning around 125 B.C. As a result, the area is still home to several theaters,

amphitheatres, aqueducts, highways, arches, monuments, mosaics and relics.

The south of France offers nearly year-round tourist opportunities, with pleasant winters. More than 300 days of sunshine a year in Marseille, make the winter weather bearable even when the strong, cold, northwesterly Mistral wind blows through the region.

The beaches and opulent lifestyles of St. Tropez are the words synonymous with the idea of south of France. The glamorous Cannes Film Festival attracts famous celebrities from all over the world,

Fields of sunflowers and lavender in Provence, France.





Left to right: Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild and a view of St. Tropez.

and instantly becomes the world's focus for art, film and fashion. The clubs have exclusive guest lists and the parties are legendary.

The south of France is also famed for its lavender fields, which are primarily found in Provence.

Located only 15 km from Cannes, is the city of Grasse. It is the center of the French perfume industry and is known as the world's perfume capital.

There is so much to see and do in the south of France: From the Mediterranean port city of

Marseilles with its historic sites and monuments, including its most famous landmark, the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde, to the fashionista playgrounds of St. Tropez. Our intrepid resident travel-photographer is spending the next few months in Nice, a resort town that is a popular fun-in-the-sun destination that caters to everyone.

We'll be seeing more photos of France from Tom in future issues of the John Knox Village Gazette ACE.

Click below to view a video of Tom Regan's photo tour of the south of France, Provence and the Riviera.

CFO IN THE *Know*



Dear Doug: Is moving to a Life-Plan Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) like John Knox Village a wise investment?

— **Undecided in Deerfield**

Dear Undecided in Deerfield, As the CFO at John Knox Village (JKV), I would consider it a wise investment for several reasons. First, it provides comprehensive care and services under one roof, offering residents stability and familiarity as their health needs change. A Life-Plan Community, like JKV, ensures access to a full continuum of health care options, from independent living to assisted living, skilled nursing, and supportive memory care. This guarantees that as your health evolves, you remain within the same community, surrounded by familiar faces and settings, alleviating the stress of relocating during a health crisis.

Financially, it makes sense to invest in a Life-Plan Community, like JKV. The cost of health care, particularly long-term care, continues to rise in the U.S., making it essential to plan proactively. By paying a Life-Plan entrance fee, you secure lifetime access to unlimited health care services, which can provide significant financial stability.

For example, a non-JKV resident in skilled nursing care would pay privately an average of \$15,000 per month, versus a Life-Plan resident paying a current average monthly service fee of \$5,000 – a significant cost savings!

This is particularly important given the unpredictability of health care needs and costs.

Douglas Folsom "CFO" (Chief Financial Officer) has been with John Knox Village for six years, serving as its Controller prior to being named Chief Financial Officer in 2023. He has been at the forefront of the Village's fast, but disciplined growth, while keeping a close eye on JKV's financial steadiness. He is often asked important questions regarding living at JKV, which is why we started this informative column—to help you make well-educated decisions regarding your future.

Additionally, a Life-Plan Community, like JKV, offers a rewarding lifestyle, filled with rich social and cultural experiences, peace of mind, and a sense of security. Many of our residents would recommend considering a CCRC as it provides quality care and ensures that residents do not become a burden to their families or the state as they age.

By choosing John Knox Village, you are making a sound investment in your future that not only ensures access to high-quality health care, but also promotes an active, purposeful, and fulfilling retirement.

**Do You Have
Financial
Questions?
Ask Doug!**

Call 954-904-0006 today or email:
Johnknoxvillage@jkvfl.com

John Knox Village 400 SW 3rd St. (Main Entrance), Pompano Beach, FL 33060



Johnknoxvillage.com | 954-904-0006

Music for Its Own Sake

Resident Stu Schwartz Performs Daily throughout JKV



Former math teacher, Stu Schwartz moved to JKV in January. An accomplished pianist, Stu performs mini-concerts throughout JKV on a nearly daily basis.

This writer has always been enamored with folks who have talent, and choose to share their talent, knowledge and experience with others, not for financial gain but just because they can.

Think of your favorite high school teacher, who was always there to share his or her talent whenever you asked for, or needed it. We have a resident, a former teacher, here at JKV who shares his love of music daily throughout the Village.

Stu Schwartz moved to JKV in January. Without immediate family in the area, Stu understood the importance of health care security over home ownership. During his short time at JKV, residents have come to appreciate the talents of this retired teacher, who is also an accomplished pianist.

"I taught math for 35 years at the high school level in the Wissahickon School District in Ambler PA (just north of Philadelphia)," Stu said. "In my last 10 years, I taught pretty much all Advanced Placement Calculus and Statistics classes. I loved teaching and was a very enthusiastic teacher.

Right: The Piano Guy Stu Schwartz at Westlake.





Songs of Boublil and Schonberg Songs from Les Mis, Miss Saigon and Martin Guerre	Songs of Frank Loesser Anywhere I Wander, Wonderful Copenhagen, Guys and Dolls, Brotherhood of Man and more
Torch Songs Bewitched, I'm Sorry, Crying Time, Cry Me a River, These Foolish Things, and more	Songs containing Numbers Two Sleepy People, 12th of Never, One Boy, 45 Minutes from Broadway, One, and more
Songs of the 1910's Moonlight Bay, I Want a Girl, Roses of Picardy, Danny Boy, My Mammy and more	Songs of Jerry Herman Songs from Hello Dolly, Mame, Mack and Mabel, and La Cage aux Folles
Wishes and Dreams If I Were a Rich Man, I Dreamed a Dream, Imagine, Where is Love, and more	Popular Waltzes Lara's Theme, Moon River, Que Sera Sera, Annie's Song, Edelweiss, Today and more
Songs of Inspiration Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, Let it Be, Chariots of Fire and more	Hummable Songs No Matter What, Pretend, When I'm 64, Lambeth Walk, Feed the Birds and more

Stu Schwartz publicizes his concerts through The Weekly, a resident-produced newsletter.

"I was honored to win the Presidential Award for teaching in 2003. This is the highest award given to teachers in the United States."

While math was Stu's career, music is his passion. "It all started when my family visited my mother's mother when I was about six years old. She had an old upright piano in the basement. I'd say hello and then disappear downstairs to play the piano. My dad always said that I'd have a piano someday.

"One day, when I was 12 years old, we as a family went down to Center City Philly, and went into a piano store. Next thing I knew, dad bought a piano for me." From then, the piano playing never stopped.

Upon moving to JKV, Stu saw the opportunity to share his musical talent with residents.

"People here want the songs that they are familiar with, the songs they heard growing up. They know them and can sing along with them. And I play with a lot of passion and simplicity."

Stu has found a following at JKV. He performs several days a week during the lunch hour adjacent to BV's French Press & Wine Bar in Westlake. He also does regular concerts and singalongs in Gardens West, Seaside Cove and The Woodlands. On Friday afternoons, you can catch him at Bayer's Poolside Pub.

Impressively, Stu performs for all the right reasons, not for money or for recognition. "I do it because I can," he said. "But I also enjoy it and people seem to love it. All good reasons to continue."

Click below to view a video of Stu Schwartz, the Piano Guy, at JKV.

Sharing Our Talents and Gifts with Others

Resident Shaun Zahn Shares Her Joy Daily Throughout JKV

Phillip E. Collins

Gazette ACE Contributor

One of the most wonder-filled things in life is to bring joy to others through our talents and gifts. One of the best examples of this action is Shaun Zahn, a Sage at JKV's skilled nursing center The Woodlands. A former ballet student and a past Ice Capades performer and teacher, Shaun emotionally explains her motivation in creating outstanding holiday and birthday events for The Woodlands. She remembers her own mother's needs, similar to those Elders in The Woodlands.

Later in her career, in one of New York City's largest hotels: The Marriott Marquis on Times Square, Shaun sharpened her event-planning skills. There she produced grand weddings, symposiums, and a multitude of large corporate events for many Fortune 500 companies.

Now retired and a JKV resident herself, Shaun finds fulfillment in sharing her talents in The Woodlands. Paying for all the supplies herself, representing thousands of dollars over the three years she has been



Above: Shaun Zahn delivers a Halloween-themed balloon bouquet. Right: Shahbazim from The Woodlands share a happy moment with Shaun.





Left: A Shaun Zahn birthday display. Right: Shaun visits with Woodlands' Elder Beth Peebles.

producing events at The Woodlands, Shaun shares, "That my helping others feeds my heart and soul. Even when the person cannot verbally explain their happiness in what I create, I can see it in their eyes and smiles, and I know it affects their self-esteem."

Many outside The Woodlands have never seen the exciting, beautiful designs Shaun has created for the Elders, and the sheer joy she brings to those around her. "It is a privilege to be a part of The Woodlands, and now to open the curtain upon what I have been doing is fun," Shaun shared.

In addition to the outstanding events Shaun has produced, she has found time to take Elders to Sunday service and individual visitations that may include a wheelchair spin around the campus.

"Sometimes The Woodlands' Elders request a theme or a color choice to be incorporated in what I do and I run with that," she explains. "Occasionally, I have created an event for Team Members, as well."

It has been said, "a picture is worth a thousand words," so please enjoy the video photo montage below of the events Shaun has created. She simply brings happiness into someone's day and life that otherwise might not be there.

Westlake resident Shaun Zahn is living proof, in a short period of time (three years), we can be a positive force in so many ways for so many.

It is people like Shaun who make JKV the best of what it is.

Click below to view a video of Shaun Zahn's decorative creations celebrating Elders' birthdays and the holidays.

A Pet Welcoming Village

The Culture of Pet Ownership at JKV



Archie and Leo, two Sphynx cats owned by JKV resident Michael Halton pose for their portrait.

American humorist Josh Billings once said, "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." Given that, as we get older, we may be looking for ways to lighten our responsibilities, some people may wonder – are pets good for seniors? If you're currently a pet owner or considering getting one, there are some very real benefits of having a pet in your retirement years.

JKV Is Pet-Welcoming

At John Knox Village, we understand that pet ownership is a joy. While some retirement communities allow pets with strict size restrictions, JKV understands that from the smallest Maltese and Yorkies to the larger Labradors, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds, our pets are cherished family members. That is why JKV is not only pet accepting, but PET-WELCOMING. It's part of the DNA of South Florida's premier

JKV resident Jane Schonagel with Jazzy.





Bandit (left) and Pearl (right) love their lifestyle at John Knox Village.

Life-Plan Continuing Care Retirement Community.

The value of pet ownership is such a vital part of the Village that in 2016, with input from residents, administration and the JKV Foundation, plans were implemented to construct the Wellness Park, aka the Dog Park: "A Place Where People and Pets Can Be Unleashed."

Resident Driven Initiative

Resident Tom McKay was Chairman of the Wellness Park Fundraising Committee in the mid-2010s. McKay said at that time, "Many residents have worked for a number of years to bring this much-needed park to our campus. They have been

disappointed in the past when it did not materialize, but this time we will make it a reality."

And reality it became. The Wellness Park's location was earmarked for a 1/3-acre site east of The Woodlands and adjacent to the Heritage Tower Circle.

At Long Last: The Dog Park Opens

During the Nov. 30, 2016 grand opening and dedication, Frederick Tanne, Chairman of the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals), the nation's largest anti-cruelty-to-animals organization, was the keynote speaker.

The \$86,000 project was resident driven, from conception to construction. In his comments, Tanne

JKV resident Tom McKay, a driving force behind the JKV Wellness Park, addresses the audience during the Wellness Park dedication in 2016.





JKV resident Reed Brown with his two mixed breed terriers Lola and Sadie.

spoke to the importance of pets and wellness.

In his remarks, McKay said during the dedication, that as “JKV moves to include wellness in all that we do here, having an outdoor space for people and their pets to gather and play is a natural addition to our campus.”

The Wellness Park’s Amenities

The Wellness Park includes plenty of open space for pets to socialize, play ball and run to their hearts’ content. The fenced area also includes water fountains on two levels: One for residents and the other at pet height. Plenty of outdoor patio furniture allows Residents and friends to meet daily for conversation while their pups enjoy their own “Dog Park.”

As JKV ACE Contributor, Yael Fishman recently wrote, “One of the most rewarding aspects of having a pet is all they do for our emotional well being. Pets love us so fully and unconditionally that the bond created between pets and their owners is unlike any other. They hold us in the highest esteem and see us as the best version of



Right: Bonnie Currie and Linda Cardillo with Leo.
26.



Left: Len and Carol Bartello with Bear. Right: Karen and Pete Audet with Lizzy.

ourselves. Who wouldn't love that?

"Pets are great listeners. They think we're 'the cat's meow' for being nothing more than our genuine selves. Spending time with your pet and experiencing the love that goes both ways can promote the release of endorphins, brain chemicals that help us destress."

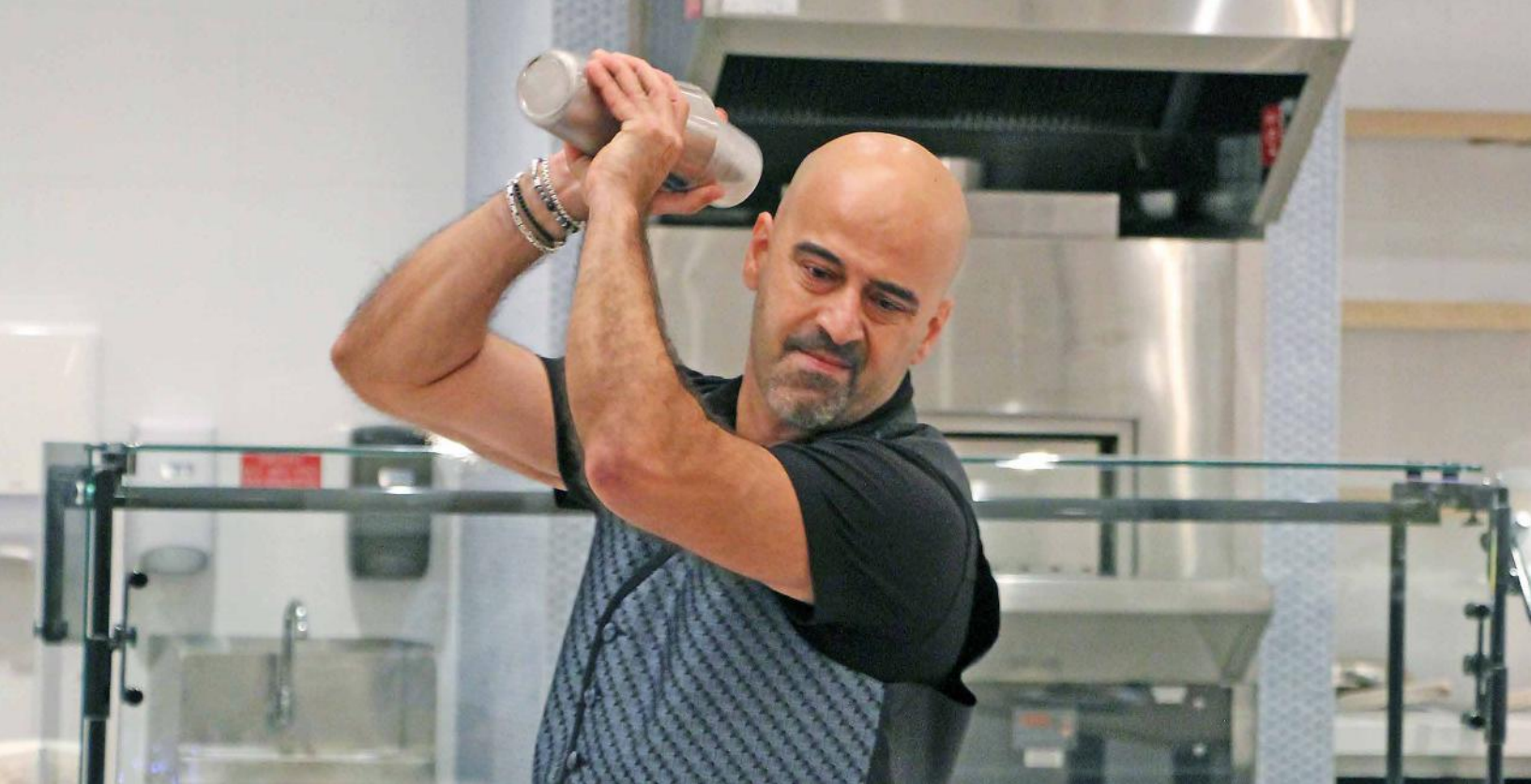
Last month, JKV sponsored Pet Portrait sessions, so that pet moms and dads would be able to

share photos of their pups and kitties to family and friends. The portrait sessions also provided the opportunity to enter the competition for bragging rights as one of the 12 "Pet of the Month" features in the 2025 JKV Pet Calendar.

Several of the pet portraits are featured in this Gazette ACE. Keep your eyes open for information on the availability of the 2025 JKV Pet Calendar later this year.

Left: Diane Delorey with Corey. Right: Bea Wilbur with Leo.





Master Mixologist Ulas Gungor presided over a cocktail-making class at JKV's Westlake Eatery.

Cocktail Class Had Residents Buzzing

Pineapple Martini Captures Tropical Summers in a Glass

In an engaging community event that buzzed with excitement and camaraderie, John Knox Village residents were treated to an exceptional experience that blended the art of mixology with the joy of gathering.

The mastermind behind this delightful evening was none other than the Village's own Master Mixologist, Ulas Gungor. With a genuine passion for his craft and a willingness to share his expertise, the Istanbul, Türkiye native led residents through a captivating journey of flavors and stories.

The meticulously crafted cocktails Ulas introduced were the evening's highlights.

Pineapple Martini

First on the list was a pineapple martini, a refreshing concoction

that managed to capture the essence of tropical summers in a glass. Its sweet and tangy profile was an instant hit among the attendees, setting a high bar for the night.

However, Ulas was just getting started. Next, he showcased his versatility with Margaritas, a classic favorite. But it wasn't just any Margarita; Ulas delighted the crowd by using both tequila and its smoky cousin, Mezcal.

This artisanal twist added depth to the drink, making it a fascinating topic of conversation among the residents.

An Old Fashioned

Not to leave the whiskey lovers out, Ulas also prepared a traditional bourbon-based Old Fashioned. This cocktail, steeped in history and beloved

for its simplicity and elegance, was another testament to Ulas' skill and respect for the classics.

Each sip was a journey through the rich, amber flavors of bourbon, perfectly balanced with just the right amount of sweetness and bitters. Complementing the exquisite drinks was a carefully curated charcuterie board.

The Pairings

Laden with an assortment of cheeses, fruits, and some perfectly grilled steak, it was the ideal accompaniment to the evening's libations.

The combination of savory and sweet, alongside the expertly mixed drinks, created a symphony of flavors that danced on the palate.

The event was more than just a showcase of Ulas' mixology skills;

it was a celebration of community, shared experiences, and the simple joy of coming together over good food and drink.

As hearty cheers filled the air, it was clear that this was an evening to remember for residents of JKV. One that would be talked about and reminisced over for a long time to come.

Pineapple Martini Recipe

- **Whole pineapple**
- **1-liter favorite vodka**
- **One 6 oz. can pineapple juice**
- **2 cups quality orange liqueur**
- **2 cups simple syrup**
- **½ cup fresh lime juice**

Preparation:

Cut pineapple into cubes. Put in a jar. Fill jar with one liter of vodka and pineapple juice. Marinate for five days. Then add orange liqueur, simple syrup and lime juice. The martini is ready to be shaken, not stirred.

French-Themed Steak & Wine Dinner Dec. 5

John Knox Village Food and Beverage Director and Level II Sommelier Ulas Gungor will be taking his considerable culinary and wine knowledge outdoors, when he hosts a French-themed Steak and Wine Dinner at Westlake's fourth-floor Terrace patio grill, Thursday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.

The menu includes grilled Steak Au Poivre and asparagus, roasted red potatoes, French wine pairings, assorted mini desserts and a demonstration on making the perfect chocolate martini.

Seating is very limited. **Call 954-904-0006 for more information.**



Ulas Gungor pours Pineapple Martinis during his class.

JKV residents enjoy their cocktail-tasting adventures with JKV's Master Mixologist Ulas Gungor.





John Knox Village Administrators and Members of the Board of Directors broke ground for the new Heritage Tower in 2002.

The Spirit of Heritage Tower:

Connecting Generations for 20 Years

When the John Knox Village Heritage Tower apartment building opened its doors in 2004, it didn't take long for it to become the talk of the Village.

Tom McDowell, a current building resident, shared this sentiment with a gathered crowd under the sunlit Porte-cochere on a glorious recent morning, as they came together to celebrate the building's 20th Anniversary.

Memories of Heritage Tower

"My parents, Dr. Ellis and Lucille McDowell, were one of the first couples to move into Heritage Tower," Mr. McDowell said. "The building immediately got a reputation: It was where the young people were, and it was also the place where the Fun People were at, and where the Party People were at."

The 10-story luxury apartment building boasting 119 units, has been a significant landmark in the Village. On this special occasion, the building honored its 13 original residents, whose ages now range from 85 to 101 years, with a Mimosa toast.

Their continued presence in Heritage Tower is a testament to the vibrant and supportive community that flourishes at JKV, South Florida's premier Life-Plan Continuing Care Retirement.

"We are so grateful to commemorate these 13 legacy residents of Heritage Tower who remain a vital part of our bustling Village," Kim Ali, VP of Sales and Marketing told the *Gazette ACE*. "The fact that we can celebrate our older residents alongside our new residents, with an average age of 75, is an honor and a blessing. A majority of our residents enjoy decades of active, independent living and healthcare at JKV."

We Were There on Day One

Dr. Paul Loree spoke about being a "first nighter," along with his late wife Sally, in 2004. Rev. David and Twylah Haun reflected on helping bring David's mother from Oklahoma to JKV. The Hauns were South Garden Villa residents for a year before moving into Heritage Tower.

Perhaps JKV CEO Dr. Sal Barbera said it best when he raised his Mimosa glass and added:



Top left: The newly completed Heritage Tower in 2004. Top right: The first move-ins to Heritage Tower celebrate their arrival in October, 2004. Dr. Paul Loree (fourth from the left) is still enjoying his Heritage Tower apartment.

“Here’s to a grand old building—Heritage Tower. May it continue to inspire and shelter. To hold within its walls the memories of the past and the promise of the future.

“To the stories it tells and the ones yet to be written. Here’s to a place that time cannot erase.”
Heritage Tower’s 20th Anniversary celebration

was not just a commemoration of a building, but a tribute to JKV’s enduring spirit, its capacity to foster connections, and its unwavering commitment to providing a fulfilling life for its nearly 1,000 residents.

For more information about Heritage Tower and JKV, please call 954-904-0006.

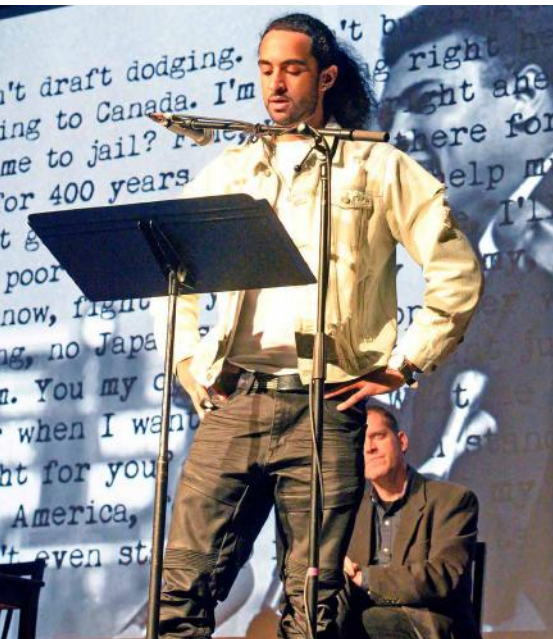
Click below to view a video featuring Heritage Tower residents who reflect on their lives at JKV.



The Brazilian Voices return to JKV on November 19.

Join Us at JKV for Arts, Culture and Entertainment

Fri., Nov. 15 at 7 p.m.
"Letters Aloud: Thanks, But No Thanks. The Greatest Rejection Letters EVER!"



"Letters Aloud" on Nov. 15.

"Letters Aloud" has been delighting audiences with thought-provoking, relevant, hopeful and humorous stories told through the real voices of real people via their personal correspondence. In this show, the road to success is paved with rejection and, boy oh boy, have we got the letters to prove it. Among the dozens of gems in this program: Andy Warhol is asked to pick up his painting at the front desk before it is hauled away, and a young Sidney Poitier tries to borrow \$100 from President Franklin Roosevelt (he said no).

Funded by the John Knox Village Foundation.

Tickets
JKV Resident \$20
Village Arts Circle \$16
Non-Resident \$26

Tues., Nov. 19 @ 7 p.m.
Brazilian Voices

"Jazz Across Cultures" highlights the significance of jazz as a universal language. The repertoire includes songs by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Geroge Gershwin, and Cole Porter. Brazilian Voices, a 14-time Brazilian International Press Award winner for Outstanding Brazilian Musical Group in the U.S., has released seven CDs in the U.S. and Canada and performed extensively, including in Europe, and over 700 performances in Florida. Celebrating 22 years, the group has brought its Bossa Nova to diverse audiences.

Tickets

JKV Resident \$20
Village Arts Circle \$16
Non-Resident \$26

Wed., Dec. 4 @ 4:30 p.m.
38th Annual JKV
Holiday Parade

Since 1983, the John Knox Village Holiday Parade has been one of the most anticipated events of the calendar year. This year's 38th Annual Holiday Parade will step off at 4:30 p.m. along the streets of JKV on Wednesday, Dec. 4.

More than 30 parade units will participate including employee departments, local government officials, the Precision Motorcycle Unit from the Broward County Sheriff's Department, high school bands, antique cars, Pompano Beach Fire Department, and entries from local businesses.

Fri., Dec. 6 @ 2 p.m.
Jazz History Lecture Series
Featuring Chuck Bergeron

"Swinging Through Time: Tracing the Evolution of Jazz" is an enthralling jazz history lecture series featuring the illustrious Chuck Bergeron. Hailing from the vibrant city of New Orleans,

Mr. Bergeron has enjoyed a remarkable four-decade career as a highly sought-after bassist. This lecture will feature: *Sinatra: The Man and His Music.*

Tickets
JKV Resident Free
Village Arts Circle Free
Non-Resident \$10

Fri., Dec. 13 @ 7 p.m.
JKV Broadway Series
"A Christmas Carol"

The concert is the classic Dickens' tale, as you've never heard it before, complete with full symphony orchestra, choir and rock/pop rhythm section accompanying a narrator and four soloists. Composer Bob Christianson and lyricist Alisa Hauser have created a glorious new score with musical styles ranging from classical to Broadway to blues to gospel.

Funded by the John Knox Village Foundation.

Tickets
JKV Resident \$20
Village Arts Circle \$16
Non-Resident \$26

Wed, Dec. 18 @ 7pm
JKV Choir Holiday Concert
"Songs of the Season"

We wish you a very Happy Holiday with the best "Songs of the Season," performed by JKV's choruses: The Villagers and The Choristers. Enjoy beloved classics like "Silver Bells," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Maoz Tzur," and "White Christmas," among others. This festive concert is directed by Birgit Djupedal Fioravante, with Carolyn Morgan on piano and Mark Schubert on percussion.

Funded by the John Knox Village Foundation and Resident Auxiliary Services (RAS)

Tickets
JKV Resident FREE
Village Arts Circle FREE
Non-Resident \$26

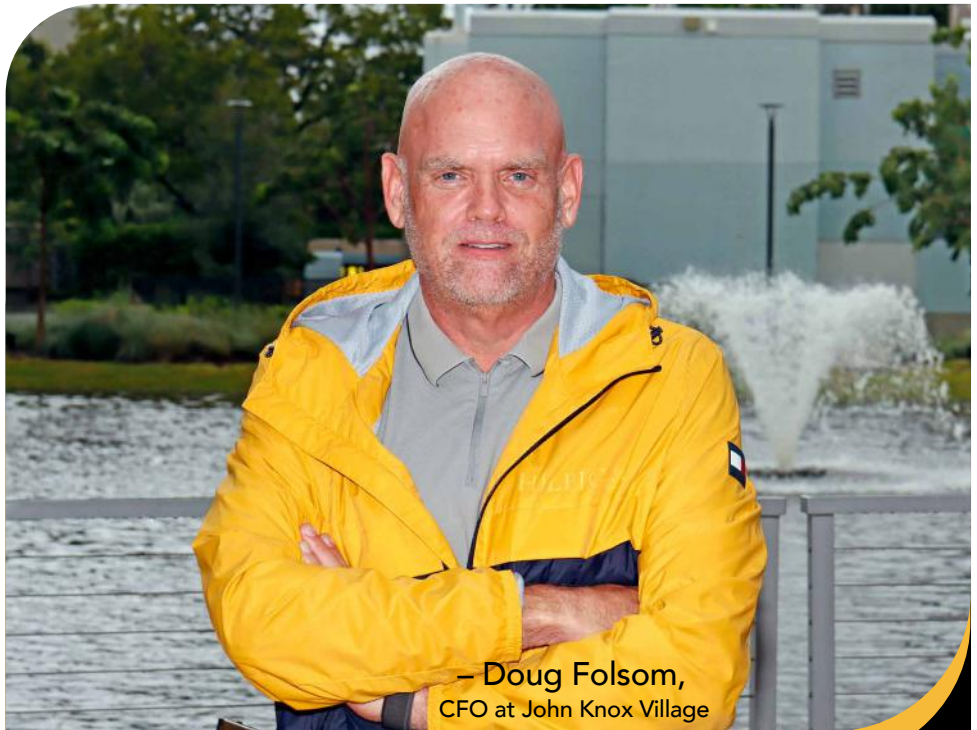
To reserve your spot for these events at JKV, please visit www.johnknoxvillage.com/events/ or contact the John Knox Village Life Enrichment Department at 954-783-4039.

The 38th Annual JKV Holiday Parade is featured on December 4th, along the streets of John Knox Village.





**“It takes
our
Village
to keep you
safe during
a storm.”**



— Doug Folsom,
CFO at John Knox Village

Dear Doug:

How does John Knox Village keep its residents safe during a hurricane?
— *Pensive in Pompano Beach*

Dear Pensive,

At John Knox Village, we believe in being there for our residents when it matters most. When we received word that Hurricane Milton was heading toward South Florida, our Executive Leadership Team didn't hesitate—we were on-campus, ready to take action. We practice a “boots-on-the ground” approach, meaning we're physically present during critical situations like this, so we can prioritize residents' needs in real time.

Throughout the storm, our Team worked tirelessly to secure the campus and provide support to both independent and vulnerable residents, as well as our rehab guests from the greater community. After the storm passed, we focused on restoring essential services like dining and fitness activities as quickly as possible. It's this commitment to hands-on leadership that builds trust and reinforces our strong sense of community here at JKV.

If you or someone you know has been affected by recent storms, consider John Knox Village for life-plan options tailored for seniors aged 62-plus.

Doug Folsom has been with John Knox Village for six years and CFO since 2023. He has guided JKV's growth while ensuring financial stability. His CFO in the Know columns address questions he receives about living at JKV, providing information to help you make informed decisions about your future.



Resident
Carol R



Residents
Robert P
Runar P

**Join Us To Learn
More At Lunch!**

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.

Dine like our residents do! Sample one of our delicious daily lunches and learn how you too can benefit from a supportive Life-Plan and vibrant lifestyle at John Knox Village.

Call 954-904-0006 or Visit bit.ly/jkvcontact



400 SW 3rd St. (Main Entrance)
Pompano Beach, FL 33060



web JohnKnoxVillage.com
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