### PLAT CHAT

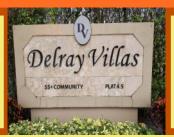
OCTOBER 2024

Delray Villas Plat 4/5 Community Newsletter www.delrayvillas45.com NUMBER 021

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: Tuesday
October 8, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM "B" Building



### **Rec Board Meeting**

Date: Wednesday
October 16, 2024
Time: 7:00 PM "B" Building

The President and the Board of Directors wish the entire community
Happy Holidays!!
Shana Tova (p. 13)



### \* \* \* IMPORTANT INFO INSIDE \* \* \*

- ~ Contact Info for Delray Villas 4/5: pp. 2 & 3,
  - ~ Architectural Review Committee: P. 18
    - ~Theater shows by Lynne Cohen: P. 8
      - ~ Mail-in & Early VOTING Info P. 11



PLAT 4/5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		Parliamentarian AND 55+	
<b>Pres:</b> Mike Montemurno	954-658-7295	Bill Yesowitch	502-905-7973
<b>VPres:</b> Bill Yesowitch	502-905-7973		
Treas. Sheila Lane		<b>HOA FEES and ES</b>	TOPPEL LETTERS
<b>Sect:</b> Dianne Stevens	413-222-7866	Sheila Lane	561-381-7725
COMMITTEES			
Alliance:		ACC Archite	
Alan Rossman	561-901-3002	Alan Rossman	561-901-3002
Rick Mancini	917-865-6563	13834 Packard Te	rrace for application
Architectural: (See P. 19 for details)		DV 4/5 Website:	
Alan Rossman	561-901-3002	www.delrayvillas45.com	
Rick Mancini	917-865-6563	<b>Interview Commi</b>	ttee
Betty Hillier	561-400-2392	If you are selling or renting your home	
Nancy Grasso	203-770-4481	any new occupants must contact:	
Rich Cohen	201-873-0458	Bill Yesowitch	502-905-7973
Inspections:			
Ruth Mirailh	561-907-7884	Maintenance/Landscaping	
Rick Mancini	917-865-6563	Any info needed please contact:	
Betty Hillier	561-400-2392	Mike Montemurn	o 95 <b>4</b> -658-7295
Mike Montemurno	954-658-7295		
Pat Melito	561-933-0170	Plat Chat:	
Rich Cohen	201-873-0458	Hope Greenblatt	954-328-5136
		Todd Stevenson	<b>561-704-3008</b>
Interviews:			
Bill Yesowitch	502-905-7973		ation Representatives:
Alan Rossman	561-901-3002	Pat Lazaroff	<b>561-498-8691</b>
Ruth Mirailh	561-907-7884	Lynne Cohen	201-314-6537
Hope Greenblatt	954-328-5136	Camille Montemu	ırno 561-239-6844
Nancy Grasso	203-770-4481		
Lakes and Canals:		SERVICES INCLUDED IN HOA FEES	
Mike Montemurno	954-658-7295	Pest Control:	
		Wise House	561-727-8239
Lollipop, Lights,			
Roads & FPL		Cable/Internet	
Rick Mancini	917-865-6563	Breezeline Communities	
Alan Rossman	561-901-3002		855-660-9868
<b>Maintenance:</b>		Any questions you are not sure of;	
Mike Montemurno	954-658-7295	call Mike anytime	
			954-658-7295

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 Noel Gordon
 201-310-8626

 Sam Fleishman
 410-493-7842

 Bill Yesowitch
 502-905-7973

#### **PLAT CHAT**

Monthly Newsletter delivered on or around the first of every month.

Harvey Lazaroff 561-498-8691 Alan Rossman 561-901-3002

#### **WE CARE!**

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 Rick Mancini
 917-865-6563

 Paul Mirsky
 917-684-9115

 Sam Fleishman
 410-493-7842

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Pat Lazaroff 561-498-8691 Marlene Mirsky 917-673-7830 Amy Kaplan 203-257-9044

### CITIZENS OBSERVER PATROL (COP)

Lloyd Lukens 561-251-3616

#### **MINYAN**

(call us to help you in your time of need)

Alan Kaplan316-253-7542Rich Cohen201-873-0458Noel Gordon201-310-8626

### **HOA MEETINGS VIA ZOOM**

You can attend from home if you are unable to come to the Viking Room.
You will receive an email from Dianne Stevens with the link for our monthly meeting, you may also access it through our website:

www.delrayvillas45.com (If during the meeting you need help contact via text)

Alan Shwartz 561-376-4040

### WEBSITE/COMMUNITY CHANNEL www.delrayvillas45.com

Our community details are updated on an as-needed basis for all your informational needs. (Community Channel is located on our website under the tab "COMMUNITY INFO). Mike Montemurno 954-658-7295 Alan Shwartz 561-376-4040



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### NEW DELRAY VILLA 4/5 RESIDENTS

Fern Jurgrau 13686 Cord Way

Jean Gayle Shaw, Cherry Marshall 13674 Whippet Way W

Lucien Charles
13971 Packard Terrace

Patrick Batson 6274 Dusenburg Road

HOME SWEET HOME A perfect relationship isn't actually ever perfect. It's just the one where both people never ever give up on each other.



### Honey Bee Facts by Julio Perez

#### The Queen Bee

The queen bee is the largest and most important member of a honey bee hive, but despite her significance, she's not the ruler of the hive as many believe. Here are five fascinating facts about the queen bee:

- 1. **Egg-Laying Machine** The queen's primary role is to lay eggs continuously, ensuring the hive's survival. Remarkably, she can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day.
- **2.** A Shorter Reign in Florida In Florida, a queen's lifespan typically ranges from 3 to 5 years. However, if she's not meeting the hive's needs, the worker bees will cluster around her, raising her temperature until she perishes.
- **3. Royal Treatment from Birth** When a new queen is needed, worker bees select a few of the healthiest larvae and begin feeding them royal jelly. This special diet transforms an ordinary worker bee larva into a fertile queen.
- 4. A Race to Rule The queen is the fastest-developing bee in the colony, emerging after just 16 days.
- 5. Upon emerging, she seeks out and kills any other developing queens before mating and beginning her life's work of egg-laying.

**Preparation for Swarming** The queen is well-cared-for by her attendants, giving her the energy needed to produce thousands of eggs. However, if the hive becomes too crowded or honey-bound, the workers will prepare for a colony split. Because she's been so well-nourished, the queen often becomes too heavy to fly. To remedy this, the workers will withhold food and chase her around the hive until she's light enough to take flight and establish a new colony elsewhere.

#### **Drones**

Drone bees (male honey bee) are the second biggest bees in the hive.

Drones are the male members of a honey bee colony, and while they don't get much attention, they play a crucial role in the survival of their species. Their primary job is to mate with queens from other hives. Here are a few other intriguing facts about drones:

- 1. **No Chores for Drones** Unlike worker bees, drones have no responsibilities within the hive. They don't gather food, build comb, or care for the young. Instead, worker bees feed them and clean up after them.
- 2. A Life of Luxury, with Limits Although drones might seem to live in luxury, being waited on hand and foot, their good fortune has boundaries. If the hive's food reserves start to dwindle, worker bees will bite off their wings and eject them from the hive to conserve resources.

**A Fatal Mating** After mating with a queen, a drone's life comes to an abrupt end. The act of mating is fatal, as the drone dies shortly afterward.





#### **Worker Bees**

Worker bees are the backbone of the honey bee colony, handling a wide range of tasks and making collective decisions for the hive's progress. They are also the ones responsible for producing the sweet honey we enjoy.

When a hive becomes too crowded, it will split in half in a process called swarming.

Here are some fascinating facts about worker bees:

#### 1. A Colony of Thousands

A single honey bee colony can house around 60,000 bees, with the majority being worker bees.

- 2. Aging into Roles Worker bees take on different jobs as they age. Their roles include housekeepers, nurse bees, attendants to the queen, architects, undertakers, HVAC units (keeping the hive cool), guards, and foragers.
- 3. **Special Skills of the Young** Only young worker bees have the ability to produce wax for building comb and royal jelly to nourish the queen and developing larvae.
- 4. **A Short but Busy Life** The average lifespan of a worker bee is just 45 days, during which they tirelessly contribute to the hive's wellbeing.

Honey Production Despite their hard work, a single honey bee will produce only about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

### TOGETHER WE SHARED 1,000,000 SOMETHING GOOD MOMENTS! LET'S CREATE MORE MEMORIES!!!

### **Theater Shows by Lynne Cohen**

### Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach, 561-272-1281

10/18- Allman Brothers Tribute

10/19+10/20 Playwrights Project Festival of New Plays

10/24- Last Night of Ballyhoo

11/8- Joe DeVito- Comedy

11/10- Victory Dolls

11/11- Edwards Twins

11/15- Spaghetti & Matzo Balls Show (Lou Villano & Peter

Fogel)

11/25- Joy Altman Tribute to Barbra

12/3- Songs and Stories of Peter, Paul & Mary

### Hard Rock- 1 Seminole Way,

#### Hollywood, 866-502-7529

10/6- Daniel Habif

10/10- King & Country

10/11- Fists of Fury

10/12- Luis Fonsi

10/13- John Legend

10/20- Kevin Hart

10/25- Carly Pearce

10/27- Stephen Sanchez

10/31- Free Cover Venezuelan musicians

11/6- Babymetal

11/7- Russell Peters

11/8- Cyndi Lauper

#### Arts Garage- 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach 561-450-6357

10/5- One Hit Wonders

10/6- Anthony Geraci- Blues

10/11- Chris O'Leary Band

10/12- Brazilian Big Band

10/13- A Father-Daughter Tale of Growing Up in Brooklyn

10/17- Broadway Meets Jazz

10/18-10/19- Nicole Henry

10/20- Hughes Taylor Band- Blues & Rock

10/25- Mitch Woods & Rocket 80s

10/26- French Horn Collective- Jazz

10/27- Basie, Beatles & Beyond with Deborah Silver



#### Boca Black Box- 8221 Glades Rd., Suite # 10, Boca Raton 561-483-9036

10/4- Jimi Hendrix Memories

10/8- Sarah Hester Ross- Comedy

10/9- Private Event

10/10- Eden Brent- Getaway Blues

10/11- Tribute to Whitney Houston

10/12- The Queen Tribute

10/13- Good Bread- 60s & 70s Rock, Blues & Soul

10/13- Music of Marvin Gaye & Motown

10/15- Standup Comedy

10/16- Don Soledad Flamenco Trio

10/17- Gordon Lightfoot Tribute

10/18- Comedian Ron Feingold

10/18-10/19- Music of 60s & 70s

10/19- Zeppelin Experience

10/20- Chris MacDonald's Memories of Elvis

10/20- Glen Tickle & Ricky Gore: Comedy

10/23-40s 50s & 60s Music

10/24-10/26- Haunted Tavern: Dark Pop Up Cocktail

Experience

10/25- 10/26- Bret Raybould- Comedy

10/27- Jeffrey Wands- Psychic Medium

10/27- Sicilian Tenors

10/30- Micro Wrestling All Stars

10/31- Neil Diamond Tribute

11/1-11/2- Comedy of Rich Purpura

11/2- Beatlemaniax USA

11/2- Rocky Horror Movie and Costume Contest

11/3- Charlie Calello & his Big Band

### Kings Point- 7000 W. Atlantic Ave. Delray Beach, 561-499-3335 x 102

10/18- Whitestone Band

11/1- JayCee Driesen

11/8- Tribute to Michael Buble

11/15- You've Got a Friend (James Taylor & Carole King Trib-

ute)

11/22- Tribute to Journey & Styx

12/6- Tribute to Beach "Songs"

12/13- Jared Freiburg & Vagabonds (50's Music)

12/20- Jayne Curry

12/27- Elton John Tribute

### Broward Center 201 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Ft Laud.dale 954-462-0222

10/4- Gaby Moreno

10/5- Brett Goldstein

10/5- Arts Ballet

10/6-10/8- The Planets

10/10- Taj Farrant

10/11- El Gran Combo

10/12- Pinky Patel

10/13- Koo Koo

10/18- Men at Work

10/19-10/20- Witches of Eastwick

10/24-10/25- Witches of Eastwick

10/26-10/27- Witches of Eastwick

10/31-11/3- Witches of Eastwick

10/19- Ancient Aliens Live

10/22- Eddie Izzard

10/23- Let Freedom Sing

10/23- Let Freedom Ring

### Kravis Center 701 Okeechobee Blvd W Palm Beach 561-832-7469

10/24- Ndlovu Youth Choir

10/29-11/3- Mrs Doubtfire Musical

### The Willow Theater- Sugar Sand Park- 300 S Military Trail, Boca Raton 561-347-3948

12/6-12/15- Clue

1/17-2/2- To Life

2/14-2/23- I Love you- You're Perfect- Now Change

3/14-3/16- Get Happy

4/4-4/13- Sylvia





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### TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

- #1 Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
- #2 "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
- #3 You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- #4 Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5 The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6 "On time" is when you get there.
- #7 Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #8 It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes

### smaller?

- #9 Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- #10 Growing old should have taken longer.
- #11 Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- #12 You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.
- ... And one more:
- "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.



Mail-in Voting & Early Voting Info courtesy of WPBF Channel 25



Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to domestic voters: **Sept. 26 - Oct. 3** 

Deadline to register to vote: Oct. 7

Deadline to request that ballot be mailed: Oct. 24

Early voting period (mandatory period):

Oct 26 - Nov. 2

Election Day: Nov. 5

For more info, go to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections website at:

votepalmbeach.gov/Voters/Vote-by-mail

### **World Record Pumpkin**

The "Super Bowl" of pumpkin weigh-offs is held every year in Half Moon Bay, CA.

The winning pumpkin weighed in at 2,749 pounds! The grower, Travis Gienger of Anoka, Minnesota is a horticultural teacher. For comparison purposes, a Mazda Miata MX-5 weighs 300 to 400

hundred pounds less!





### **Today's CHUCKLE!**



Mrs. Ravioli went to visit her son Anthony for dinner at his place. Anthony shared his apartment with his stunning roommate, Maria.

Throughout the evening, Mrs. Ravioli couldn't help but notice just how charming Maria was, and as the night wore on, she started to suspect there might be more between Anthony and Maria than just a simple roommate arrangement.

Sensing his mother's curiosity, Anthony decided to clear the air. "Mama, I know what you're thinking, but I promise you, Maria and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony with a concern. "Ever since your mother visited for dinner, I haven't been able to find the silver sugar bowl. Do you think she might have taken it?"

Anthony was doubtful, but he offered to ask his mother just in case. He sat down and composed an email:

"Dear Mama,

I'm not saying that you did take the sugar bowl, and I'm not saying that you didn't take it.

But the fact is, it's been missing ever since your visit.

Love, Anthony"

A few days later, Anthony received a reply from his mother:

"Dear Anthony,

I'm not saying that you do sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you don't.

But the fact remains that if she were sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now". Love, Mama Moral of the story: Never underestimate your Mama—she's always one step ahead!

Submitted by: Chelle Lukens



13555 Whippet Way E



2 Bed, 2 Bath home, newly refreshed, upgraded white cabinets, granite countertops, new lighting along with paint, crown molding, refreshed 2nd bathroom w/tub. New garage door opener (newer impact garage door) oversized 1 car garage w/laundry area. A/C is only 5 years old. Double wide driveway, tiled & screened in front porch perfect for enjoying this peaceful & very desirable Delray Villas 4/5 Community.

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High Holy Days, also known as the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe), are the most sacred period in the Jewish calendar, encompassing Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement).

These days are a time for deep reflection, prayer, and repentance. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish year and is considered the anniversary of the creation of the world.

During this time, Jewish people evaluate their actions over the past year, seek forgiveness for their wrongdoings, and pray for a good and fruitful year ahead. The shofar, a ram's horn, is blown during services as a symbolic call to repentance and spiritual awakening.

In 2024, Rosh Hashanah will begin at sundown on the evening of October 2 and will end at nightfall on October 4.

This period of introspection continues with the Ten Days of Repentance, culminating in Yom Kippur, which begins at sundown on October 11 and ends at nightfall on October 12.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism, a day dedicated to fasting, prayer, and seeking atonement from both God and fellow human beings. These High Holy Days serve as an opportunity for individuals to reconnect with their faith, community, and ethical values.

### **Wellness Toolbox**

by Heidi Elias, LCSW, SEP



#### Connection and Joy: Why Having Fun Matters

Having fun in your later years is essential for maintaining emotional and mental well-being. Engaging in enjoyable activities stimulates positive emotions, reducing stress and anxiety, which can be particularly beneficial as life slows down. Laughter, play, and new experiences trigger the release of endorphins, helping to combat feelings of loneliness or isolation. This emotional uplift can foster resilience, encouraging a more optimistic outlook on life.

Staying active and entertained in later years also supports cognitive health. Whether it's learning new hobbies, engaging in social activities, or playing games that challenge the mind, having fun keeps the brain engaged. Research shows that people who continue to seek out joy and novelty in life tend to experience slower cognitive decline. This mental stimulation promotes neuroplasticity, which helps the brain stay sharp and adaptable.

Finally, fun creates connections, which are vital for overall well-being. Participating in social activities or even enjoying a hobby with others can build a sense of belonging and community. Social engagement helps counter feelings of isolation, which is common in mature adulthood, and increases feelings of self-worth. Fun, in whatever form it takes, can remind people that there is still much to enjoy and experience, fostering a sense of vitality and purpose even in later years.

#### LIFE IN TIMES OF OUR GRANDPARENTS

"We met and married a long time ago. We worked long hours when wages were low. No telly, only radio for times were hard. Just a cold water tap and a walk in the yard. "No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors. We'd coal on the fire and didn't lock doors. Our children arrived (no Pill in those days). We brought them up without any state aid. "They were safe going out to play in the park. And old folks could go for a walk when it's dark. No Valium, no drugs and no LSD. We cured most of our ills with a good cup of tea. A mustard plaster we'd place on our back, The only way to calm that arthritic attack. "No vandals, no muggings (not much to steal) We felt we were rich with a full course meal. People seemed happier in those far off days. Kinder and caring in so many ways. Milkmen and paperboys would whistle and sing. A night at the movies was quite a big thing. We got our share of troubles and strife. But we had to face it - the Pattern of Life".

**Submitted by Chelle Lukens** 

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### A Trip Down Memory Lane: The Ed Sullivan Show

The *Ed Sullivan Show* was a groundbreaking variety show that aired from 1948 to 1971, becoming a cultural touchstone in American television history.

Hosted by the charismatic and sometimes stiff Ed Sullivan, the show introduced millions to new forms of entertainment, including music, comedy, and performance art. Sullivan had a keen eye for talent, making his stage a launching pad for some of the most iconic figures in entertainment.

Among the most famous guests were *The Beatles*, whose 1964 debut on the show was watched by over 73 million viewers, marking the beginning of the British Invasion in American music.

*Elvis Presley* also made waves with his performances in the 1950s, though Sullivan famously requested that the cameras only show him from the waist up to avoid controversy over his provocative dancing.

Other notable guests included *The Supremes*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Buddy Holly*, and comedy legend *Richard Pryor*. The show not only entertained but also shaped popular culture, introducing America to new talents and trends that defined generations.

The Ed Sullivan Show featured a wide array of legendary performers across multiple genres. The Jackson 5 made their television debut on the show in 1969, captivating the audience with young Michael Jackson's remarkable talent.

Comedy was also a staple of the show, with acts like *Lucille Ball* and *Carol Burnett* delivering unforgettable performances. *Woody Allen* and *Joan Rivers* also got their big breaks on Sullivan's stage, becoming household names in comedy.

Sullivan was known for his eclectic tastes, and his show featured not only musical acts but also groundbreaking performances from dance icons like *The Muppets* in their early days, and international stars such as opera singer *Maria Callas* and ballet dancer *Rudolf Nureyev*.

Other musical legends like *James Brown, Ray Charles, The Doors*, and *Janis Joplin* also performed on the show, cementing Sullivan's legacy as a curator of world-class talent.

His platform introduced diverse genres and artists to mainstream America, making *The Ed Sullivan Show* one of the most influential programs in TV history.

### \*Attention All Residents

Please update your BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY DATES with us, so that we can include them in Plat Chat

(Even if you've previously done this)

Send an email (or call or text) Hope Greenblatt: hopegreenblatt@gmail.com, 954.328.5136





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### **Tom Lane**

Passed Ad Astra\* September 8th, 2024

I want to thank everyone for the prayers and thoughtfulness by the entire community in response to the passing of Tom. On behalf of myself, our children, and our grandchildren; I appreciate all of you and am so blessed for the community me and Tom lived in. **Sheila Lane** \*(Latin, for "To the Stars")

Camille Montemurno is offering her Notary Public Services



free to all residents of Plat 4/5.

She is licensed and bonded.

561-239-6844

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Iris Pavey Oct. 1

Arnold Haskell Oct. 12

Harvey Lazaroff Oct. 29

OCTOBER
ANNIVERSARIES

The Costas Oct. 1

The Stevensons Oct. 18



### A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree.

Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown,
For the world was intent on dragging me down.
And if that weren't enough to ruin my day,
A young boy out of breath approached me, all tired
from play.

He stood right before me with his head tilted down And said with great excitement, "Look what I found!" In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight, With it's petals all worn, not enough rain or too little light.

Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play,
I faked a small smile and then shifted away.
But instead of retreating, he sat next to my side
And placed the flower to his nose and declared with
surprise,

"It sure smells pretty and its beautiful too That's why I picked it, here, it's for you." The weed before me was dying or dead, Not vibrant of colors ~ orange, yellow or red. But I knew I must take it or he might never leave So I reached for the flower & replied,

"Just what I need."

But instead of him placing the flower in my hand,
He held it mid-air without reason or plan.
It was then that I noticed for the very first time
That weed-toting boy could not see ~ he was blind.
I heard my voice quiver, tears shone in the sun
As I thanked him for picking the very best one.
"You're welcome" he smiled, and then ran off to play,
Unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.
I sat there & wondered how he managed to see
A self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree.
How did he know of my self-indulged plight?
Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see
The problem was not the world, the problem was me.
And for all of those times I myself had been blind,
I vowed to see the beauty in life,
And appreciate every second that's mine.
And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose
And breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose
And smiled as I watched that young boy,
Another weed in his hand,
About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

**Submitted by: Chelle Lukens** 

## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The ACC will meet every other Monday at 10 am to review all ACC applications for exterior work to be conducted by you the homeowner on your property. Have your applications in by Sunday night before the meeting.

If it is exterior work you are *required* to get permission through the ACC committee.

October meetings will be on October 14th and the 28th. Please pick-up and drop-off applications on the porch at Alan Rossman's home: 13834 Packard Terrace.

Questions? Call any ACC member below:

#### **Architectural Committee Members:**

Alan Rossman 561-901-3002
Betty Hillier 561-400-2392
Rich Cohen 201-873-0458

Rick Mancini Nancy Grasso 917-865-6563 203-770-4481

### The LEGAL CHIT- CHAT

By: Alan Jay Lewis, Esq.



#### YOUR PLACE OR MINE - THE SAGA OF THE BLENDED FAMILY

"Once upon a time"... EVERY Fairy Tale ALWAYS STARTS WITH THESE WORDS — there were 2 people who were each living by themselves. Each of those persons had a "family" that was composed of possibly a combination of the following: children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

Each of those 2 people were living "alone"... but they were not necessarily lonely.

They filled their hours with friends, family [their "inner circle"], and with numerous and varied activities, hobbies and travel. During one of those events (or maybe due to serendipity) they found a kindred spirit [a new significant other/partner] and after an appropriate time of getting to know each other, decided to spend the rest of their lives together.

And "they all lived happily ever after... the words that end EVERY FAIRY TALE.....wait—not so fast — is that, in the real world that we live in, how fairy tales <u>ALWAYS</u> end?

Maybe in "real life" a "Fairy Tale" beginning and a middle period may not wind-up having an ending that is described as "happily ever after."

Well, in order in real life for the Fairy Tale beginning to end in "happily ever after", one needs to shake off some of the fairy dust and take a look at their new reality and how it might effect them and their inner circle.

My suggestion is to consider having some in-depth, candid, straight talk, even though it might be rather difficult and uncomfortable. "Fronting" any objections and speaking openly and truthfully about your new situation...not only with your new significant other --- but also with those in your inner circle, who may play a vital role in your achieving the "happily ever after" ending.

Your children or grandchildren might <u>initially</u> be happy and look favorably upon this new "addition" in your life, who occupies your time and takes care of you. Then consider this...after a period of time those warm and fuzzy feelings towards each other might subside to some degree because of various things, such as your inner circle [your children, possible step children, step-grandchildren, siblings] who MAY not be thrilled with the fact that this new addition in your life has become the <u>ultimate financial recipient of your affection</u>. <u>Moreover, those who are part of your inner circle family members may have thoughts that they are rightfully entitled to your lifetime hard earned bounty, which is also known as your "material legacy".</u>

With your new-found significant other, it may be wise to discuss what assets/liabilities each of you have and how you plan to handle "the future" after you have passed-on — in terms of providing financially for your significant other, as well as providing financially for others in your life who you care deeply about.

After a "loss" of your significant other [by death or otherwise] no one, regardless of whether they have their own assets, wants to be surprised and put out on the street shortly after suffering any such loss. So the importance of being transparent cannot be stressed enough.

Whether all "concerned parties" agree to accept your thoughts/decisions....they are YOUR decisions and you should get them on the table early on -- rather than expressing them at a later point in time when a loss is imminent and when emotions are running high. Seriously consider talking specifically and in depth your children, your grandchildren, siblings and others in your inner circle.

Do you and your significant other plan on getting married or living together with or without the benefit of legal protections?

What about your testamentary documents (Wills, Trusts, etc) – <u>do your current documents need to be modified to accomplish your desires and your wishes?</u> Also, does there need to be any changes to your Powers of Attorney and/or your Health Care Directives?

Another "biggie", especially when there is a significant financial disparity between you and your new found significant other is to consider whether a Pre-Nuptial Agreement might be a good idea to pursue in the event of a death or breakup of your personal relationship with your significant other.

Many times discussing Pre-Nuptial Agreements can lead to significant differences of opinion and sometimes "hard feelings" which can rear their ugly head about whether getting married because you "love" each other has morphed into somewhat of a "business arrangement"— because of the discussions and negotiations relating to a Pre-Nuptial Agreement.

What will happen to your primary home? Do you want to consider a Life Estate, upon your passing, to be transferred to your significant other, with the ultimate disposition of your home being distributed to your heirs? What about your significant other's Home .... Sell or rent? What happens to the proceeds?

Seems like a lot of questions and issues ...but they are all important...did you really think those Fairy Tale endings were that easy to experience? Processing your decisions in a thoughtful manner... will go a long way to allow you to say and believe ...And they all lived happily ever after!

Alan Jay Lewis, Esq Admitted to the Bar of the State of Florida and the Bar of the State of New York. I am a Resident of Delray Villas, Plat 4/5

\*This Legal Chit-Chat Column has been written by and is submitted by Alan Jay Lewis, Esq. for publication in Deiray Villas Plat Chat monthly Newsletter, solely for general educational purposes and is not a solicitation nor intended to provide any specific legal advice to whomever reads this Column.



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