

Jul/Aug 2021
Vol. 16 Issue 4

Shell Point *Life*

Annual Shell Point Photo Show

A Focus on
Resident Talent

RESIDENTS EXPLORE

Bailey Matthews
Shell Museum

Shell Seekers

Our Waterfront
Location Brings Shell
Stories to Our Shore



first glance

CELEBRATING SUMMER



6

Summertime is special at Shell Point, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the season's relaxed pace. It's the perfect time to savor some of the simpler things in life – like feeling your heart swell with patriotic pride as the Independence Day Parade passes by, enjoying a picnic lunch with friends, rediscovering a favorite old movie at The Tribby, or simply taking a moment to marvel at the natural beauty that surrounds us every day at Shell Point.



14

They Sell Seashells

Larry and Carol Strange's early love of the beach and sea life translated into a lifelong career, exotic travels, and a thriving family business on Sanibel Island. Learn about their passion for shells on page 6.

Let the Music Play

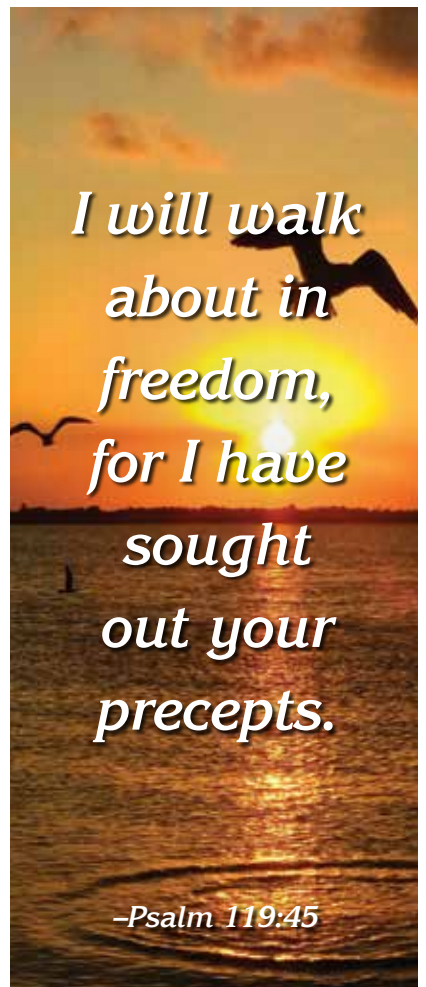
The upcoming 2021-2022 Concert Series in Connie Brown Hall at Tribby Arts Center promises to be the biggest yet. Whether you like Big Band or Bluegrass, there's something for everyone – and knowing residents receive a significant discount on individual tickets and series subscriptions should be music to your ears! Early Bird order forms are available now. Learn more on page 14.



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Celebration of Photography

This year, the annual Photo Contest was reimagined as a celebration of the awe-inspiring talent of 60 residents who shared their best recent images along with favorites from years past. Learn more on page 34.



Shell Point Life

Shell Point Life is published for the residents of Shell Point Retirement Community.

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Shell Point Life is available online. You can find this current issue, as well as back issues of Shell Point Life magazine, at www.shellpoint.org/shellpointlife.

SHELL POINT
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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Shell Point is a nonprofit ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Foundation



Neuropsychiatric Research Center at Shell Point Offers Cutting-Edge Research and Education

BY KARA HADO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Shell Point Retirement Community has announced the opening of

Neuropsychiatric Research Center of Southwest Florida – Shell Point. The new outpatient research facility located within the Larsen Pavilion combines the strength of Neuropsychiatric Research Center, an Evolution Research Group Portfolio Site, and Florida’s largest continuing care retirement community to conduct high-quality clinical trials in Alzheimer’s disease and other neurological disorders.

During an Open House in May, guests toured the new NPRC – Shell Point site and met Dr. Vinod K. Bhatnagar, who will lead a team of board-certified physicians that includes Dr. Wendy Bond and Dr. Andrew J. Cutler. The NPRC – Shell Point team will offer cutting edge research opportunities and education for the residents of Shell Point and throughout Southwest Florida.

“As families navigate cognitive conditions like Alzheimer’s and dementia and neurological disorders, such as Parkinson’s, NPRC – Shell Point will offer the education and support they need,” said Christy Skinner, Vice President of Healthcare at Shell Point. “Shell Point is proud to



Christy Skinner



Dr. Vinod Bhatnagar is the Lead Investigator on the NPRC – Shell Point team of physicians who will provide site visits, tests and treatments.

share this learning opportunity not only with our residents, but our regional community as well.”

Alzheimer’s is the most common form of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer’s disease accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, an estimated 6.2 million Americans

age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s dementia in 2021.

As part of its diversification of central nervous system disease trials, NPRC – Shell Point will also offer an inpatient unit to serve even a greater population of volunteers desiring to participate in clinical research trials and fight back against Alzheimer’s, memory loss, and other central nervous system disorders. Research will also branch into chronic conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, and beyond.



The Rewards are Yours!



Shell Point is pleased to announce
a **new** Dining Rewards Program!

Shell Point's new Dining Rewards Program will allow all residents to earn points that equal a 15% discount on every dollar they spend without any upfront investment. **Every resident can participate regardless of how often they eat in the Shell Point restaurants!**

Whenever You Spend – You EARN!

The Dining Rewards Program will go into effect on July 1, 2021. Each dollar you charge in a Shell Point restaurant to your Resident Account will convert to 1 point. Points convert to dining dollars at a rate of 15%. So, if you spend \$10 you earn back \$1.50. Spend \$100 and earn back \$15. You no longer have to prepay for a dining discount!

We Keep Track for You!

Every resident is eligible to participate in the Dining Rewards Program, as long as they charge their food bill to their resident account. Points accumulate immediately after you make a dining



purchase! On a weekly basis, the accumulated points are placed in your Dining Reward Program within your Resident Account.

There is no physical card for you to carry. Your Dining Reward cash balance will be highlighted on your receipt.

Use Your Reward Points as You Wish!

Points can be earned and redeemed at any dining venue. Just let your server know when you order your meal that you want to use your Dining Reward balance at checkout. Points will remain on your account for up to one year, so redeem them regularly to enjoy the most from your rewards! Points are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash.

*Every individual will have their own Dining Rewards Account. If you share an apartment and would like Dining Rewards to be collected together, please use one of your names consistently when dining in the restaurant to accumulate rewards together.



Independence Day 2021 Celebration

United We Stand

Monday, July 5

On Monday, July 5, Shell Point's patriotic spirit continues its momentum with a special Independence Day Celebration, and the Resident Life team has planned a fun-filled day featuring music, food and festivities! Don your favorite red, white and blue fashions and come cheer on the golf cart and bicycle parade around The Island.

Afterwards, enjoy an upbeat brass band concert at the Village Church and indulge in The Crystal's delicious picnic-themed BBQ lunch. All are welcome to join in this All-American celebration of our country's birthday!



9:30 a.m. Kick off the day with a parade!

The parade will start at the Village Church at 9:30 a.m. and circle The Island. Clusters of chairs out along the road will make it easy for spectators to enjoy the festivities.

JOIN THE GOLF CART/ BICYCLE PARADE!

We still have room in the parade for golf carts or bicycles. **Sign-up is required at either Concierge desk.** A table of 4th of July party decorations will be available at a small cost in the Island Commons on **Thursday, July 1 and Friday, July 2 from 8:30 a.m. – noon.**

10:30 a.m. Lift your spirits at a concert!

Suncoast Brass will play all your patriotic favorites at the Village Church at 10:30 a.m. Sign-up is required at either Concierge desk.

11 a.m. Enjoy a BBQ lunch!

The Crystal will be serving a July BBQ lunch with all the fixings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes southern BBQ pork ribs, grilled Angus burgers, all-American hot dogs, corn on the cob, baked beans, and an array of picnic salads and delicious desserts for only \$18. **Reservations are required no later than Sunday, July 4 at 2 p.m. by calling (239) 454-2199.** Both dine-in or take-out dining are available.



Shell Seekers

BY BETH FALLETTA

Larry and Carol Strange Turned a Lifelong
Passion for Shelling into the Family Business



Larry and Carol Strange of Periwinkle have had a lifelong love affair with seashells. This active couple turned what could have just been a fun hobby into a successful business on Sanibel Island that combined their interests in beautiful beaches, travel to exotic destinations, and locating the most elusive shells on the planet.

Heading for the Jersey Shore

Their journey began when Larry Strange and Carol Martin met and began dating in high school in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, which was about an hour from Ocean City, New Jersey. As children, Larry and Carol had both grown up visiting the Jersey Shore during their summer vacations with their families.

“As teenagers, we worked every summer in Ocean City for our summer jobs. Carol worked at a saltwater taffy place, and I worked cooking nuts at a nuthouse,” Larry laughs as he recalls their early days at the Jersey Shore. They also spent countless hours of their free time combing the beach for shells.

When Larry and Carol graduated from high school in 1958, they went off to college in different directions but still talked on the phone every week and dated during the summers. Carol graduated with a degree in medical technology from the University of Delaware and Larry earned his college degree in Pine Barrens

Ecology from East Stroudsburg State College in Pennsylvania, followed by a master’s degree in Hydrology and Aquatic Biology from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

The couple married in 1962 and settled down in Philadelphia. Larry briefly taught at Cherry Hill High School in New Jersey and Abington High School in Pennsylvania before landing at Montgomery County Community



Shell Seekers

College, where he taught biology for 25 years. Carol also earned a master's degree and worked in the pathology division of Abington Memorial Hospital for 40 years.

During the 1960s, the Strange family grew to five as Carol and Larry had three children: Larry Jr., MaryBeth and Bill. In 1969, Larry received a grant from the National Science Foundation, which moved the entire family to Boston for the summer so that Larry could further study marine biology at the marine field station, located on Cobscook Bay in the Gulf of Maine. This opportunity proved invaluable to his academic advancement

at Montgomery County Community College, where he was the originator and director of a unique marine biology program.

Although Larry and Carol were working full-time in their careers, they continued the family tradition of summering at the Jersey Shore. In 1970, they combined their passion for the beach into a successful side business. Larry and Carol first opened a shell yard where hundreds of species of shells and more than 20 species of coral were displayed. The discovery of these items is credited to Larry himself, along with his wife, Carol, their three children,

and Larry's students from his marine biology program. Through this program, his students had the opportunity to explore, learn and make discoveries in a setting that was close to home while offering a natural habitat at the Jersey Shore. By 1978, the shell yard had grown to become the Discovery Seashell Museum in Ocean City, which is still in business today.

The Strange family's passion for ocean life led them to a lifetime of worldwide travel, visiting over 60 countries. Closer to home, the Ocean City beaches were their focus for findings that made their way to one of the Discovery Shell Museum's



The Strange's Shell Yard evolved into the Discovery Shell Museum in Ocean City, which opened in 1978 and remains in business today.





Larry surveys a shell haul.

many tanks, cases and displays where visitors found unique shells, sponge, coral, snails, a horseshoe-crab shell, a dried-out seahorse, and hundreds of other specimens collected locally or from around the world. When asked about his favorite place to visit and discover treasures, Larry quickly responds, “Oh, Bora Bora for sure,” fondly recalling their trip to the famous French Polynesian island in the South Pacific.

A Family Affair

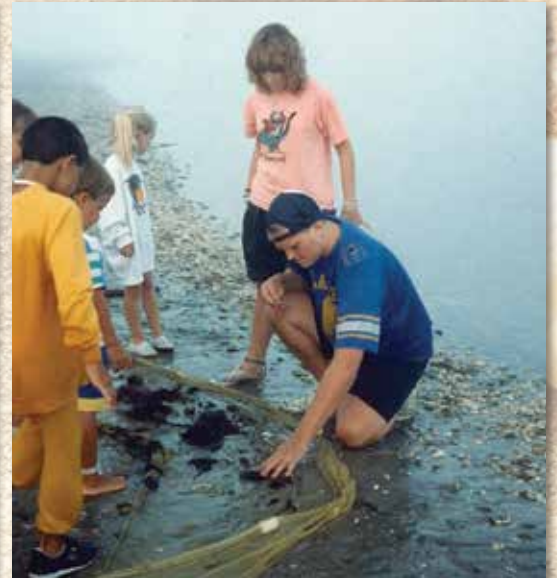
In the late 1980s, the couple expanded their shell empire to Sanibel, Florida. As a boy, Larry often accompanied his mother to Sanibel Island to visit a family friend who owned Sanibel's first shell shop, which was established in 1943. Larry introduced Carol to Sanibel and its reputation for shelling and in 1988, Larry and Carol purchased Sanibel Seashell Industries. For 12 years, the couple juggled three homes, their careers and the two businesses, which were truly a family affair. Although their oldest son, Larry Jr. pursued a career as a technology strategist with Microsoft and now works for Google, the younger two children, MaryBeth Greenplate and Bill Strange, along with their spouses, both decided to join the family business and now run the shop along with their families.

In 2000, the couple decided to sell the Ocean City business and focus their attention on the Sanibel shop. Larry retired from teaching

Continued on next page



The close-knit family of five always had an interesting display of prized shells in their home.



Family shelling expeditions, including trips to Costa Rica with the grandkids, created wonderful memories across the generations.

Shell Seekers

in 1988, and Carol retired from the hospital in 2001. Although Larry and Carol became part-time residents of Shell Point five years ago, they stayed involved in the day-to-day operation of the shop. Today, the family members play a major role in the operations and inventory of the business, and Larry and Carol are now looking forward to spending more time at Shell Point.

Traveling the World

Larry and Carol, their son Bill and his wife Stephanie, and their daughter MaryBeth with her husband Gary all travel around the globe looking for rare and exotic finds. Over the years, the inventory has grown and changed to include rare items from countries such as Indonesia, Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Australia, Belize, and many more. One item that has gained a great deal of attention is a scallop shell from Galápagos selling for several thousand dollars. There are also seashells that are sold for less than one dollar, so there is something to suit every shell seeker's budget. Many of the smaller shells such as cone shells, pecten shells or angel wings, have an abundant selection and are replenished often due to demand. These are also most likely to be used when creating one of the family's designs or for shell lovers who enjoy putting their own personal touch on their collection.

Customers come from as far as China, Germany, Cuba and other South American countries to visit Sanibel Seashell. On one occasion, the family welcomed seven countries in one visit and kept the store open late just to spend time with their guests and answer their questions while satisfying their desire to take home the perfect souvenir.

While a rainy day can be the best opportunity for shell seekers to discover the best selection of shells on the beach, it can also be a great day to spend a few hours touring Sanibel Seashells, a true treasure itself. What makes this attraction extra special is the personal touch placed on every aspect of the business.

Walking through the front door, the challenge for the true shell seeker is where to look first. Following the path toward the back of the store leads to tables and bins with thou-

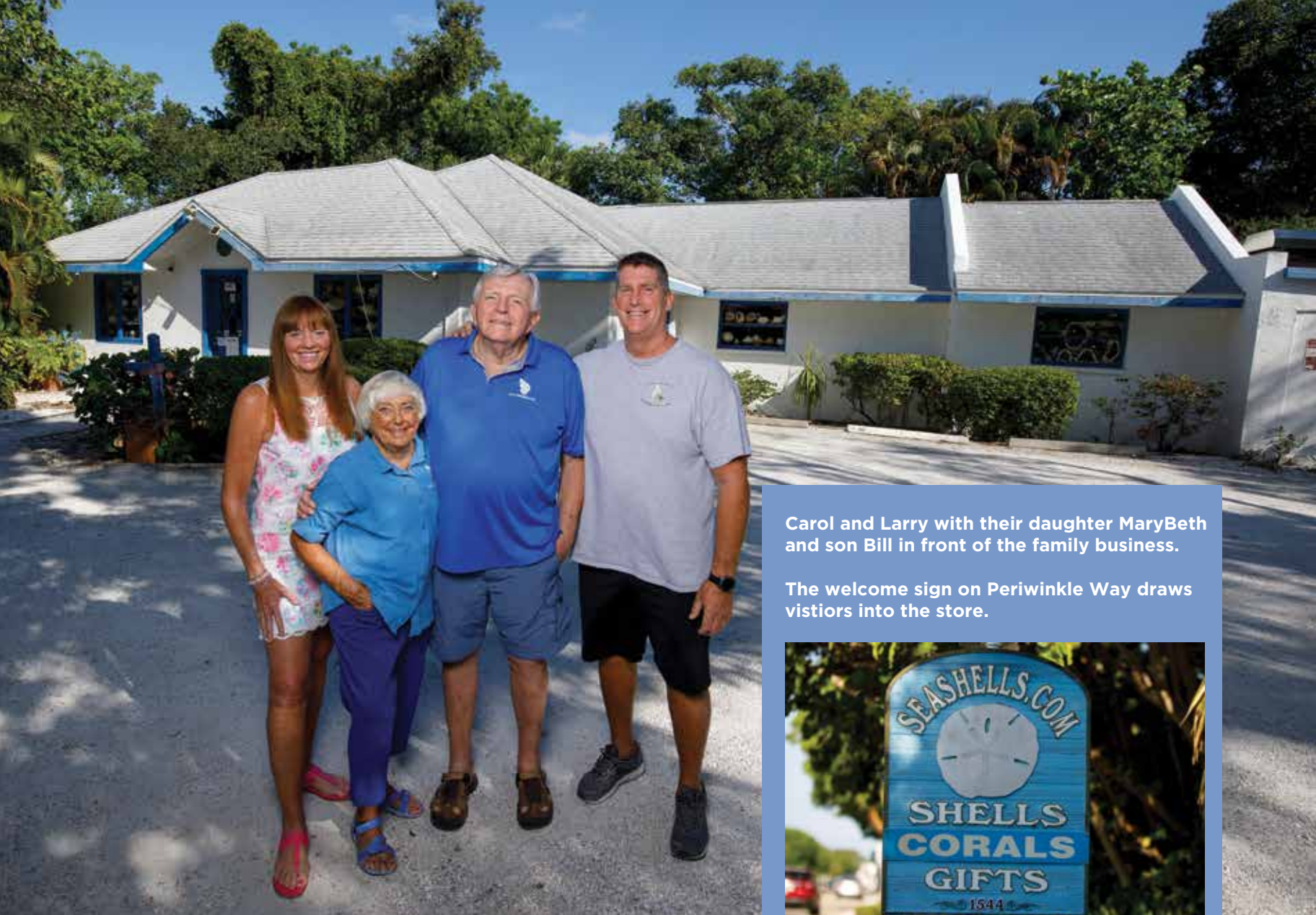


Larry and Carol's collection of specialty license plates from years past reflects their enduring love of shells.



Shell shoppers are inspired when they see the wide variety of shells, sponges and corals, along with shell creations designed by daughter MaryBeth.





Carol and Larry with their daughter MaryBeth and son Bill in front of the family business.

The welcome sign on Periwinkle Way draws visitors into the store.



The beautiful spondylus americanus commonly called a “spiny oyster,” is a shell native to Florida.

sands of shells in all colors, shapes and sizes. Each bin is marked with the species and price, making it easy for novice collectors to learn as they shop. Several hours could easily be spent searching through the abundant varieties while also getting an education from one of the staff who is always happy to give a brief ocean life lesson to curious customers.

What customers are likely surprised to learn is that the shells they see are from all over the world, not just local beaches. Many customers are locals who frequent the store to trade shells and share their discovery stories, while others stumble upon Sanibel Seashell during their vacation.

“They spot the sign ‘Seashells’, and they have to come in,” shares Larry. “We get a lot of grief,” Larry chuckles. “There’s one complaint we often hear: ‘I didn’t get any shells on the beach today.’ That’s a classic statement in here.” His standard reply to this complaint? “You have one of two choices. You have beautiful weather, or you want seashells – take your pick.”



Mad About Mollusks

Exploring the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island

BY MICHELLE EMMETT, ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Shells have inspired builders, architects, and crafters for years, and it is fascinating to see how mollusks and shells have played such a vital role throughout the history of culture, art and design. On Thursday, May 13, a group of Shell Point residents boarded the Special Events trip bus and ventured over the Sanibel Causeway to learn more about mollusks and see some special shells at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum.

Started by a local shell collector in 1984, it is the only accredited museum in the United States devoted solely to shells and mollusks. Over the years, it has grown into a national and international resource for mollusk study and research.

The Shell Point group was among



the first to tour the museum's newly renovated downstairs exhibits that feature shells our very own community knows quite well: the Nautilus and the Junonia! Residents also learned about mollusks from around the world, including the Giant Pacific Octopus, cuttlefish, sea hares, and fighting conchs,

just to name a few. The newest addition to the museum includes an aquarium gallery filled with living mollusks, which are the animals that create shells. After an educational introduction, a museum staff member encouraged residents to engage with the touch pool animals.

Upstairs, the museum offers exquisite shell displays with a wide variety of local, national and global collections. Shells from the Japanese Province, the Indo-West Pacific Province, Hawaii and more are featured in the Great Hall exhibit. Residents also enjoyed an opportunity to see some of the most prized shells up close, like the Junonia and fig snails, as well as some of the largest shells ever found on display, including the Goliath Conch.

A stunning exhibit features shells and cephalopods from around the world.





A display showing some of the shells found on Sanibel Island includes scallops, conchs and clam varieties.



A staff member describes a California Sea Hare, a type of mollusk with an internal shell.



A shell display highlights Florida Horse Conch, Florida Fighting Conch, Apple Murex, Lighting Whelk, Zebra Ark, Prickly Cockle, Common Nutmeg, and Lace Murex.



A live aquarium showcases Horn Corals, Mushroom Corals, and Planting Montipora Corals, as well as colorful Yellow Tang, Blue Tang, Xenias, and Ocellaris Clownfish.

One of the live mollusk tanks provides an opportunity to observe a variety of mollusks — including the Florida Horse Conch, which is both the Florida State Shell and the world's second-largest living gastropod.



Let the



Clockwise From top left: Tony Award-nominee Charlie Rosen, The Vega Quartet, The DePue Brothers Band (center), VoicePlay from NBC's *The Sing-off*, Jazz at Lincoln Center presents *Songs We Love*, Mary Elizabeth Bowden, trumpeter.

Music Play

2021-2022 CONCERT SERIES



GRAMMY-
NOMINATED
VOCAL
QUARTET

A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
WITH ERNIE HAASE AND SIGNATURE SOUND

Announcing Shell Point's BIGGEST-EVER SEASON



MICHAEL WEISS
Fine & Performing
Arts Manager

We're excited to share a sneak peek of our 2021-22 Concert Season

that promises to be the biggest in Shell Point's history. With an array of diverse offerings among five musical series, there is sure to be something for everyone.

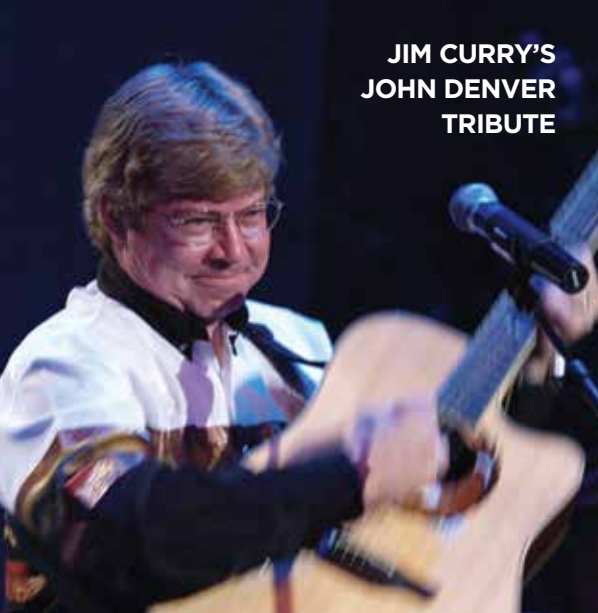
Connie Brown Hall at the Tribby Arts Center is an ideal setting for our 19th concert season, with amazing acoustics that were lauded by Maestro Nir Kabaretti, former music director of the Southwest Florida Symphony, as "the best of any hall in Lee County and far beyond."

Whether you opt for a series or purchase tickets

to individual shows, residents receive a significant discount! The season brochure will be available later this summer with more details, but you can pick up an Early Bird Order Form at the Concierge Desks or at the Tribby Box Office. We expect a sold-out crowd to many of this season's events, so remember to order your tickets early.

Your continued support of the musical series through ticket purchases, along with generous donations to the Friends of the Tribby, allows us to present such a high caliber of performances. I look forward to sharing this season of music with you at the Tribby.

Continued on next page



**JIM CURRY'S
JOHN DENVER
TRIBUTE**



KENNY CETERA'S CHICAGO EXPERIENCE



THE LIMELITERS

BIG BAND, SWING & JAZZ SERIES

CHARLIE ROSEN'S BROADWAY BIG BAND

Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 5, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

Tony Award-nominated Broadway music director, arranger and orchestrator, Charlie Rosen brings his 17-piece Broadway Big Band and a trio of Broadway singers to kick off the concert season with an unforgettable evening of Broadway music, with selections from *Anything Goes*, *Carousel*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Sweet Charity*, *West Side Story*, and more.

GUNHILD CARLING SWEDEN'S QUEEN OF SWING

With Herb Bruce and the Herbicide Jazz Band
Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS SONGS WE LOVE

Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$60 General Public

BIG BAND SWING & JAZZ SERIES SUBSCRIPTION *Get all 3 shows*

SAVE \$15

**RESIDENTS: \$120
GENERAL PUBLIC: \$155**

POP SERIES

THE FOUR FRESHMEN

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

THE PIANO MEN STARRING JIM WITTER

A musical journey through the 1970s, featuring the timeless classics of Billy Joel and Elton John
Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

KENNY CETERA'S CHICAGO EXPERIENCE

Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

VOICEPLAY

Nationally acclaimed, award-winning a cappella group from NBC's *The Sing-Off*
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

POP SERIES SUBSCRIPTION *GET ALL 4 SHOWS*

SAVE \$20

**RESIDENTS: \$160
GENERAL PUBLIC: \$200**

CLASSICAL SERIES

THE VEGA QUARTET with WILLIAM RANSOM, Pianist

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 Residents
\$45 General Public

KASSIA ENSEMBLE with MARY ELIZABETH BOWDEN, Trumpeter

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 Residents
\$45 General Public

THE EROICA TRIO

Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 for Residents
\$45 General Public

PARKER QUARTET

Grammy Award-Winner for Best Chamber Music Performance
Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 for Residents
\$45 General Public

THE HIRSCH-PINKAS PIANO DUO

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 Residents
\$45 General Public

CLASSICAL SERIES SUBSCRIPTION *GET ALL 5 SHOWS*

SAVE \$25

**RESIDENTS: \$150
GENERAL PUBLIC: \$200**





PARKER QUARTET
GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER BEST CHAMBER MUSIC

BLUEGRASS, FOLK & COUNTRY

THE DEPUE BROTHERS BAND
Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 for Residents
\$55 General Public

THE LIMELITERS
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

**JIM CURRY'S TRIBUTE TO
THE MUSIC OF JOHN DENVER**
Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 Residents
\$55 General Public

BLUEGRASS, FOLK & COUNTRY
SERIES SUBSCRIPTION
GET ALL 3 SHOWS

SAVE \$15

**RESIDENTS: \$120
GENERAL PUBLIC: \$150**

FAITH SERIES

**A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
WITH ERNIE HAASE AND
SIGNATURE SOUND**
Internationally Acclaimed,
Grammy-Nominated Vocal Quartet
Friday, Dec. 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 Residents
\$45 General Public

THE HOPPERS
America's Favorite Family
of Gospel Music
Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 Residents
\$45 General Public

FAITH SERIES SUBSCRIPTION
GET BOTH SHOWS

SAVE \$10

**RESIDENTS: \$60
GENERAL PUBLIC: \$80**

SYMPHONY CONCERT

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY
HOLIDAY POPS**
Monday, Dec. 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.
in The Village Church

**ALL TICKETS: \$37
GENERAL ADMISSION**

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

Series Subscriptions offer even more savings on resident ticket prices:

BIG BAND, SWING & JAZZ: Save \$15
POP: Save \$20
CLASSICAL: Save \$25
BLUEGRASS: Save \$15
FAITH: Save \$10

Or for a full season of music*, order the "I WANT IT ALL" subscription for \$495 — a **\$130 savings!**

EARLY BIRD ORDERS

The season brochure will be available later this summer with more details, but you can pick up an **Early Bird Order Form at the Concierge Desks or at the Tribby Box Office**. We expect a sold-out crowd to many of this season's events, so remember to order your tickets early. Shell Point residents who order before September 15 get the same seats for all performances in their subscription series.

**Excludes Faith Series and Symphony Concert*



The Eroica Trio



The Four Freshmen

At the Tribby

BY MICHAEL WEISS, FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS MANAGER

This summer, the Tribby Arts Center is ready to inspire and delight. Music on Mondays brings world-class concerts and opera to the big screen in Connie Brown Hall, while the Shell Point Film Society makes its new home at the Tribby with Sunday Cinema Matinees and Monday Night Musicals. Along with art exhibitions in three galleries, you can enjoy live musical performances and explore the sculpture garden. Want to add some art to your life? You're sure to find something new in Serendipity: The Shop at Tribby Arts Center.



ART

SPARKLE: **ACROSS THE LAND**

JULY 15 – AUGUST 11
TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
THE SHELL POINT GALLERY



TRIBBY CHALLENGE **EXHIBITIONS**

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 11
THE LEGACY AND
OVERLOOK GALLERIES

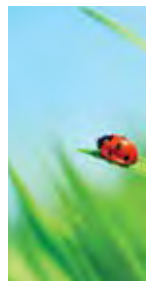


TINY TEXTILES

12" x 12" Works by
Shell Point quilters
and needlework
artists.

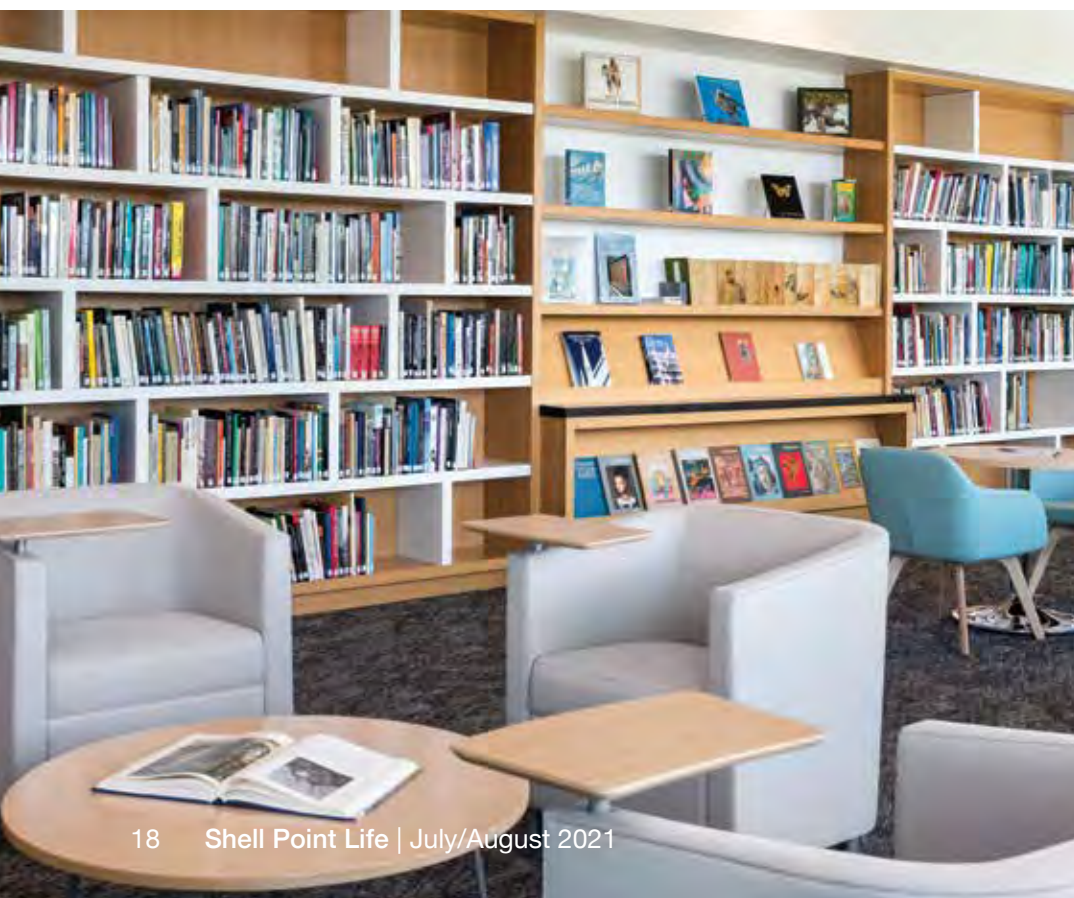
ALL IN THE **DETAILS**

Printed and digital works
by photographers who
were challenged to focus
on a small detail of a
larger object or scene.



SPARKLE: **FLOWERING FORTH**

AUGUST 19 – SEPTEMBER 15
TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
THE SHELL POINT GALLERY



THE ARTS LIBRARY IN **THE LITERARY LOUNGE**

Each month, the Arts Library in the Literary Lounge on the second floor of the Tribby Arts Center will feature a different selection of books from its 1,500-volume collection.

In July, the Arts Library will feature books on American artists Mary Cassatt, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper and Andrew Wyeth. These masters produced endearing works that vividly capture an evolving America and its unique people and places.

In August, the Arts Library will feature books on Vincent Van Gogh, celebrating the 133rd anniversary of one of his most famous works, *Sunflowers*, painted in August 1888.



Jan van Laer
(Turban)

TRIBBY SCULPTURE GARDEN

A new sculpture by the award-winning New Orleans-based artist Lin Emery (1926-2021) has been added to the Tribby's Sculpture Garden. Known internationally for her kinetic artworks that blend form and movement, Emery has exhibited her work throughout the United States and around the world. Her work is included among both distinguished museum and private collections. At 56 x 50 x 50 inches, *Stanchion* was created from polished aluminum. Within the Tribby's sculpture collection, *Stanchion's* dynamic spirit complements the kinetic sculptures from Washington artist Andrew Carson that grace the arts center's lobby.

"Always in motion, Lin Emery's elegant sculptural compositions made from welded and polished aluminum are inspired by nature and powered by natural forces."

— From "Lin Emery: A Force of Nature" exhibit at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum 2018-2019

Stanchion joins the Tribby Sculpture Garden through a generous gift from Shell Point resident Jan van Laer.

TRIBBY CHALLENGE EXHIBITIONS

AUGUST 19 – OCTOBER 20
THE LEGACY AND
OVERLOOK GALLERIES

ROUND AND FOUND

Works by Shell Point glass artists incorporating found items with at least one round item.



SMALL FORTUNES

Works by Shell Point writers in the style of fortune cookie "fortunes."



ABOUT FACE

Works by Shell Point potters incorporating faces.



LIVE PERFORMANCES

RICHARD DOWLING, PIANIST

TUESDAY, JULY 13 AT 7 P.M.
TICKETS: \$30
CONNIE BROWN HALL

"An especially impressive fine pianist."
— *The New York Times*

Richard Dowling appears regularly across the United States and throughout the world in orchestral performances, solo recitals and chamber music collaborations. He has performed at top venues, including Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He has been acclaimed by audiences for his elegant and charismatic style of pianism. This concert will include works by Chopin, Beethoven, Schubert, Gershwin, and Joplin.



JAZZ 'N STUFF

EVERY WEDNESDAY
2:30 P.M.
FREE

This group of Shell Point musicians offers free concerts every week in Connie Brown Hall, featuring standards from the American Songbook.



SERENDIPITY: THE SHOP AT TRIBBY ARTS CENTER

TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
TRIBBY ARTS CENTER

Located inside the Shell Point Gallery, the shop features works by Shell Point artists and craftspeople.



Music ON MONDAYS

A series of world-class performances by renowned artists, Music on Mondays is presented on the big screen in Connie Brown Hall at Tribby Arts Center on Mondays at 1 p.m. and broadcast on SPTV Channel 12 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.



MONDAY, JULY 5

Sir Simon Rattle conducts the Berlin Philharmonic

An All-American program of Gershwin, Copland, Adams, Barber, Kern and Sousa.



MONDAY, JULY 19

Debussy, Ravel & Beethoven

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Orchestre de Paris for an exceptional concert with pianist David Fray. The program includes Debussy's *La Mer*, Ravel's *Concerto in G* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*.



MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Dvořák Celebrated at the Verbier Festival

Weaving Slavic folk melodies into Western-style symphonic and chamber music, Dvořák created a modern Czech classical music, a new style realized in the composer's *Quintet for Piano and Strings*, performed in this stunning Verbier Festival rendition. A not-to-be-missed concert featuring Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Yuri Bashmet, Vilde Frang and Daniil Trifonov.



MONDAY, AUGUST 16

Wagner's *Das Rheingold*

Performed by the Stuttgart Opera, this production abandons the traditional aesthetics of Wagnerian mythology for a more intimate and re-imagined production, in 1930s costumes and an art deco setting.



MONDAY, AUGUST 30

Itzhak Perlman plays Saint-Saëns & Elgar

Remarkable archival footage of two brilliant performances by Itzhak Perlman. The first comes from a BBC recording of Perlman's 1970 appearance with the Sadler's Wells Orchestra, led by Charles Mackerras at the London Coliseum Theatre, performing Saint-Saëns's *Introduction et Rondo capriccioso*, Op.28. Next comes Perlman a decade later at the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky, performing Elgar's three-movement *Violin Concerto in B Minor*.

Music on Mondays is underwritten by the Friends of the Tribby.

NOW SHOWING

at The Tribby

THE ART OF CINEMA

has touched more people than perhaps any other art form. Movies can

make us laugh, can make us cry, can make us think, inform our lives and create a common cultural bond. But most of all, movies can entertain.

This summer, film will take its place among the other arts represented at the

Tribby. The groups that ran movies in the Grand Cypress Room and Social Center have come together under a new name: the Shell Point Film Society. A committee of resident curators selects the programming, and the Tribby Tech Crew volunteers make the magic happen on the screen.

Every other Monday night will be Hollywood musicals, and every other Sunday

afternoon will be comedies, romances, mysteries and dramas. Some will be familiar titles, Oscar winners, films you might not have seen in years, and, perhaps one or two gems that are new to you.

So come enjoy the “air-cooled comfort” of Connie Brown Hall this summer, when the lights go down and the stars come out on the silver screen. Screenings are free.

MONDAY NIGHT MUSICALS

7 P.M. in CONNIE BROWN HALL

SUNDAY CINEMA MATINEES

3 P.M. in CONNIE BROWN HALL



SHOW BOAT (1951)

MONDAY, JULY 12

This film version of the Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein classic stars Kathryn Grayson, Ava Gardner, Howard Keel, William Warfield, Joe E. Brown, Marge and Gower Champion, Joe E. Brown and Agnes Moorhead.



THE PINK PANTHER (1963)

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Peter Sellers stars as Inspector Clouseau in this movie that launched the Pink Panther film franchise. Directed by Blake Edwards, score by Henri Mancini, and a cast that includes David Niven, Robert Wagner, Capucine, and Claudia Cardinale.

THE TOAST OF NEW ORLEANS (1950)

MONDAY, JULY 26

This MGM musical stars Mario Lanza, Kathryn Grayson and David Niven...and keep your eyes peeled for a 19-year-old Rita Moreno in a bit role. This film introduced the Academy Award-nominated hit song “Be My Love.”



SOMEWHERE IN TIME (1980)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour, with Christopher Plummer and Teresa Wright in supporting roles, this film's score—which has sold over one million copies—serves as a romantic musical backdrop for a love story set in two different times.



GIGI (1958)

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jordan, and Hermoine Gingold headline this classic musical romantic comedy. Directed by Vincent Minnelli, and with songs by Lerner and Loewe, the film won nine Academy Awards, including Best Motion Picture.



FATHER GOOSE (1964)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

This romantic comedy, starring Cary Grant and Leslie Caron, won the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. The film also introduced the hit Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh song, “Pass Me By.”

BRIGADOON (1954)

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

Gene Kelly, Van Johnson and Cyd Charisse headline this Vincent Minelli film version of Lerner & Loewe's hit Broadway musical.



THE BLACK SWAN (1942)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Tyrone Power and Maureen O'Hara star in this hit swashbuckler.



An Interview with Professor Thomas Cimarusti



A Summer of Fun, Learning and Music!

BY ANETTE ISAACS, ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Instead of winding down educational programming

during the summer months, the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Shell Point is continuing full steam ahead with a full season of exciting, thought-provoking and entertaining classes and lectures. Professor Thomas Cimarusti of Florida Gulf Coast University – one of the Academy’s most popular presenters – will deliver a pair of programming highlights, including *Celebrating America’s Birthday* on Thursday, July 1 at 4 p.m. in Connie Brown Hall at Tribby Arts Center.

He will return for a fascinating look at the life and music of the controversial 19th century German composer Richard Wagner and the 145th anniversary of the Opera Festival in Bayreuth, Germany in “*What’s all that Screaming about?*” *An Introduction to Wagner* on August 16 at 10 a.m. in the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands.

I recently had the chance to catch up with the busy educator and chat about plans for his upcoming visits to Shell Point.

Q: Tom, over the past few years you have swiftly become one of the Academy’s most popular presenters with your wonderful classes on music and music history. What draws you back to our campus time and again?

A: The answer is simple: it’s the Shell Point residents. There’s a saying in music that you’re only as good as the instrument you play on – in other words, you’re only as good as the company you keep. While I’ve been blessed that so many communities have been receptive to having me provide ongoing lectures, I have also found that not many communities have been as eager to



learn as Shell Point. There’s nothing more intellectually rewarding than presenting a lecture among residents who are so willing to ask questions, make comments, and engage in musical discourse. In addition, several residents have even sent me emails with additional questions and comments. The learning just keeps going!

Q: We are so excited for your new program, *Celebrating America’s Birthday*. What can we expect to learn and which pieces will we study?

A: We often celebrate and recognize musical masterpieces on holidays, such as Easter Cantata by J.S. Bach on Easter, or Handel’s *Messiah* on Christmas. Although our country’s birthday is often celebrated with patriotic music by the likes of John Philip Sousa, a number of masterworks associated with America’s Independence were also composed by classical music composers, including Aaron Copland. I’m looking forward to exploring with residents these works that are not often performed, but nonetheless remain important in the musical canon. We will focus primarily on three works: Aaron Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait*, Charles Ives’s *Holiday Symphony*,

and a third work that I’ll reveal at the lecture. And what would a 4th of July celebration be like without Shell Point residents singing a few classic patriotic songs as well?

Q: In August, I am looking forward to the Academy’s tribute to the 145th anniversary of the Bayreuth Festival in Germany, which celebrates the operas of Richard Wagner. You will, of course, also contribute a lecture to our festival programming. We know that Wagner and his music were quite controversial during his lifetime and beyond. Where does he rank in your list of favorite composers?

A: I often hear among students and scholars that one either loves Wagner or hates Wagner; there’s no middle ground. And yes, Wagner remains one of the most controversial figures in history, both musically and as a person. There are some wonderful moments in Wagner’s music, but I think that the length of his operas and complexity of his musical language proves to be a challenge to many listeners. After all, sitting through a four-hour opera can be taxing on the ears!

That said, Wagner’s music is incredible in many ways and helped pave the way for a “new” musical language in the early part of the 20th century. During this lecture, I will explain Wagner’s unique musical language in a way that residents will better appreciate his intentions, especially as it pertains to his most famous work: *The Ring Cycle* – a 16-hour, four-part operatic marathon that Wagnerians and scholars alike claim to be the composer’s magnum opus.



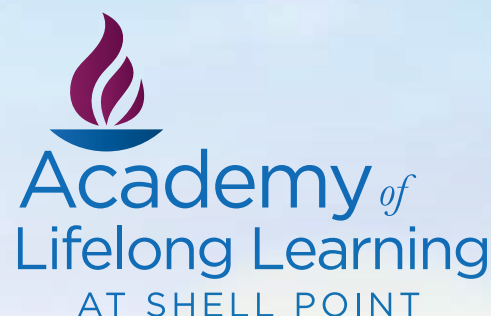
Q: 2021 also marks your five year anniversary of founding The Center for Public Musicology (CPM). Tell us about your mission and share a few of your upcoming projects.

A: Yes, I can't believe it! Actually, the idea of doing public lectures occurred to me long ago as a graduate student when I was introduced to what is known as "Public Musicology." One of my professors told me, "Tom, it's always good to have a Plan B just in case your efforts in becoming a college professor don't pan out." So, with that advice, I did a little traveling to New York, Utah, etc. to offer pre-concert lec-

tures for opera companies and professional symphony orchestras. After I completed my Ph.D. and started a full-time position at Texas Tech University, I began lecturing for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

When I arrived in Florida six years ago, I decided to reach out to communities in the area to see if there might be an interest in engaging residents with musical discourse. And the rest is history! In fact, the CPM currently reaches out to 26 communities and institutions, including Opera Naples, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, FGCU Academy, and a host of resident communities.

My latest idea is CPM Abroad! Can you imagine? How about a pre-opera lecture on one of Puccini's operas at the most famous opera house in the world – La Scala in Milan, Italy!



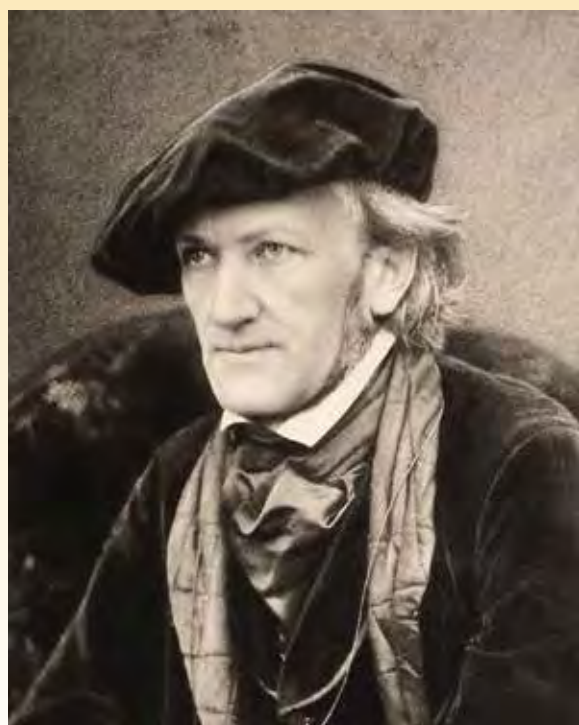
Well, that would certainly make an absolutely amazing *Academy on the Go* trip! Let's continue the conversation on this one. For now, we are thrilled to have Professor Cimarusti here at the Academy for a summer of fun, learning and – of course, music!

For detailed information on these and the many other lifelong learning opportunities, please consult the current Academy brochure available at either Concierge Desk.

“There's nothing more intellectually rewarding than presenting a lecture among residents who are so willing to ask questions, make comments, and engage in musical discourse. The learning just keeps going!”

– Professor Thomas Cimarusti

CELEBRATE WAGNER WITH PROFESSOR CIMARUSTI



“What's All That Screaming About?” An Introduction to Wagner (FLL27)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 16 AT 10 A.M.
GRAND CYPRESS ROOM/WDL**

Like Beethoven, Richard Wagner is often considered to be one of the most influential – and controversial – composers in Western music. Even Rossini claimed “Wagner had some good moments, but some horrible quarters of an hour.” What was this new art form that Wagner distinctly referred to as “the music of the future?” Join Professor Cimarusti and explore the fascinating world of Wagnerian opera! Fee: \$10

Music on Mondays Following the lecture we have a special Wagner Festival anniversary treat for you! At 1 p.m. The Music on Mondays series at Tribby Arts Center is showing *Das Rheingold*, the first installment of the Ring Cycle.

Out & About

Hermanns Support Habitat for Humanity



Along with their mother Ann L. Hermann, a Shell Point resident who passed earlier this year, Shell Point residents and siblings Dick Hermann (Turban) and Barbara Hermann (Turban) sponsored a home in Heritage Heights, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties' new 150-home neighborhood in South Lee County.



Ann Hermann

The Hermanns were able to meet Franny – the homeowner who was blessed by their family's generosity – at a recent special event for the first six families who partnered with Habitat to purchase an affordable home in Heritage Heights.

Each of the new Habitat homeowners received three gifts at the event: an American flag, which represents their achievement of the American Dream, a Holy Bible, which represents the faith aspect of Habitat's mission, and a special ornament representing the hard work and dedication that goes into making affordable homeownership a reality through Habitat.



Dick and Barbara Hermann with Franny



New home by Habitat for Humanity in Lee County

Celebrating Special Days



Anne Chatfield and Anna Marie Tesoriero

Nearly 40 Sundial residents recently gathered in the Atrium for their court's Annual Birthday and Anniversary Celebration. Neighbors mingled, enjoyed cake, and shared stories while residents Anne Chatfield and Anna Marie Tesoriero modeled their wedding veils. A highlight of the event was a presentation of photos from yesteryear, prompting guests to participate in a spirited game of "Guess Who?"



Attendees had fun matching the photos from the past with the correct Sundial resident



Some photos were challenging... there were some real stumpers!



Dog Days

Nancy Helmreich (Parkwood) said her loveable Pomeranian, Pippa, is a living alarm clock who keeps her and her husband Jonathan on a regular daily schedule—including a leisurely afternoon ride with Pippa perched in a comfy basket on Nancy's bike. Together, they head to Shell Point's Dog Park in The Woodlands to enjoy some fresh air fun and off-leash freedom with Pippa's four-legged friends.



Vietnam Veterans Honored

Shell Point has been officially registered as a National Commemorative Partner for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This commemorative program, by Presidential Order, honors all veterans who served anywhere in the military from 1955 to 1975. On Monday, March 29, Shell Point recognized the service, valor and sacrifice of more than 60 residents who served during the time of the Vietnam War.



Shell Point's Vietnam War Veterans received commemorative buttons from WWII Veterans.



Vince Knipfing (Harbor Court)



Shell Point Retirement Community has been named a Vietnam War Commemorative Partner. Thank you to Director of Resident Operations, Laura Slack (Air Force Veteran) and resident Tom Nolan (Parkwood), a Vietnam War Veteran for working together to bring this important recognition to our community.

Out & About

Mangia!



In June, residents and guests were transported to the hills of Tuscany when The Crystal dining team served a delicious menu of Italian-inspired favorites. The smooth sounds of musician Michael Anthony complemented the fun-filled evening. Now, that's Italian!



Michael Anthony



Friends ready to enjoy their tiramisu



Ginny Avery with son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Marlese Avery



Cellana and Nautilus friends made plans to enjoy Italian Night together.



Giving Back

This season, the Men's Golf Association decided to conduct a charity event during one of their league days in order to raise money for a worthy cause. They choose the Edith C. Frazer Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to Shell Point nurses and other healthcare workers who are seeking to attain certifications to further their career with Shell Point.



L-R: Malcolm Harpham, Bart Harrold, Lol Barton, Gif Fischer, Jeff Cory, Fred Stark, George Pacharis and Paul Fitzpatrick



School Ties

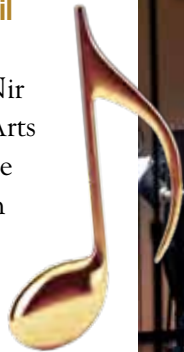
Residents Warrin Meyers (The Estuary), Bill Colehower (The Estuary) and Larry Strange (Perwinkle) attended the all-boys Meadowbrook School in Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania together in the late forties and early fifties. They reunited at this year's Shell Point Games, met for milkshakes at Island Café, and picked up where they left off over 75 years ago.

L-R: Warrin Meyers, Bill Colehower and Larry Strange

Inaugural Concert

History was made in April when Southwest Florida

Symphony, led by Maestro Nir Kabaretti, filled the Tribby Arts Center with music during the sold-out inaugural concert in Connie Brown Hall.



Molly and George Barbee (The Enclave)



Mary Ann and Carl Sheusi (Rosemont)



CHECK *THE WEEKLY REMINDER* FOR UPDATES ON ANY CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMS LISTED IN THIS CALENDAR AS THINGS MAY CHANGE. For questions about upcoming events or activities, please contact any concierge desk. Unless otherwise noted, sign-up for each event will begin on the first business day of the month. If you are unable to attend a program that includes a fee, five business days' notice is required to receive a refund.

5 INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021 CELEBRATION “UNITED WE STAND”



MONDAY, JULY 5

9:30 A.M. ISLAND PARADE

10:30 A.M. SUNCOAST BRASS CONCERT

11 A.M. – 1 P.M. LUNCH AT THE CRYSTAL

Everyone is welcome to join us in celebration of our country's Independence Day. The **parade** will start at the Village Church at 9:30 a.m. and circle the Island. There will be clusters of chairs along the road for spectators to enjoy the festivities. We still have room in the parade for a few more decorated **golf carts** and **bicycles**. **Sign up at either Concierge desk**. A table of 4th of July party decorations will be available at a small cost in the Island Commons on Thursday, July 1 and Friday, July 2 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Suncoast Brass Quintet will play at the Village Church at 10:30 a.m. **Registration is required** through either Concierge desk.

The Crystal will be serving a July **BBQ lunch** with all the fixings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes southern BBQ pork ribs, grilled Angus burgers, all-American hot dogs, corn on the cob, baked beans and an array of picnic salads and delicious desserts for only \$18. **Reservations are required no later than Sunday, July 4 at 2 p.m. by calling (239) 454-2199.** This is for both dine-in or take-out dining.



5

8 A DAY IN MATLACHA VIA SUZY Q

THURSDAY, JULY 8
DEPART: 9:30 A.M.
RETURN: 3 P.M.
SUZY Q DOCK/ISL
COST: \$10

Hop aboard the Suzy Q for a day in Matlacha. We will dock at Leoma Lovegrove's art gallery and garden, which is located close to The Blue Dog Saloon and Old Fish House Restaurant. Join Captain Russ and Program Coordinator Michelle Emmett for a fun, quirky, unique shopping and dining experience. Due to the length of time it takes to get to Matlacha, to obtain speed the trip is limited to 18 people, so sign up as soon as possible. A second trip is scheduled in August!



14 LEE COUNTY RECYCLING TOUR AND LUNCH AT BUCKINGHAM FARMS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14
8:20 / 8:30 / 8:40 / 8:50 / 9 A.M.
IS / WDL / EST / ENC / EP
APPROXIMATE RETURN: 3 P.M.
COST: \$5 (LUNCH ON YOUR OWN,
15% GRATUITY ADDED)

Take an educational outing to the Lee County Integrated Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility. We will be led on a guided tour through both the Waste to Energy plant and the recycling plant for an abundance of information and education. After the tour at the facility, we will make a final stop at Buckingham Farms for a fresh farm-to-table lunch. Prices range from \$10 to \$17.



13 SUMMER SNOBALLS

TUESDAY, JULY 13
12 – 1 P.M. ISLAND CIRCLE
1:15 – 2:15 P.M. WOODLANDS COMMONS DRIVE
COST: FREE

Summer has arrived and your Resident Programming team is here to help you beat the heat with a sweet treat! Stop by the Pelicans SnoBall truck to enjoy this New Orleans favorite of smooth fluffy "snow" combined with delicious flavors. They will be available in the Island Circle from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and the Woodlands Commons Drive from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.



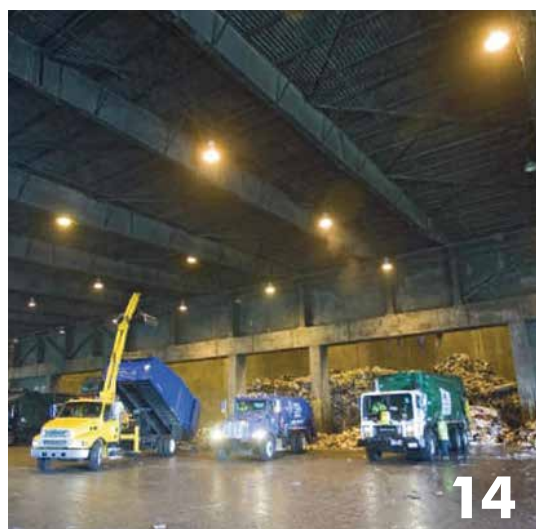
20 KITCHEN SOCIAL: PASTA GALORE

TUESDAY, JULY 20
4 / 4:10 / 4:20 / 4:30 / 4:40 P.M.
IS / WDL / EST / ENC / EP
APPROXIMATE RETURN: 9 P.M.
COST: \$56 PER PERSON

Come along for a cooking class led by a culinary instructor in Fort Myers who guides the participants through the hands-on process of preparing a meal. Upon arrival, complimentary beverages and appetizers will be served, providing the atmosphere of an upscale home dinner party. Each "student" will be provided with an apron and comfortable stool, then, let the fun begin! We will be making a delicious four-course meal including fettuccine alfredo with shrimp and broccoli, as well as linguine with roasted garlic and basil marinara. We work in pairs at Kitchen Social, so you can sign up as partners or get paired with someone upon arrival!



8



14



20

22 AN EVENING IN PARIS AT THE CRYSTAL



THURSDAY, JULY 22
4:30 – 6:30 P.M.
THE CRYSTAL/ISL
COST: \$25 ALL INCLUSIVE

Oui Oui! Join Resident Programming and the staff at The Crystal for an unforgettable evening of all things French. You will be transported to the beautiful streets of Paris right here at Shell Point. Feast on a delicious menu that will feature chicken francaise, beef bourguignon, sole meunière, freshly baked breads and pastries and much more. Solo harpist, Alexandria Renee will be on hand all evening playing beautiful melodies reminiscent of Paris. Please call The Crystal at (239) 454-2199 to book your reservation today!



28 BEGINNER GOLF CLINIC



WEDNESDAY, JULY 28
10 – 11 A.M.
COST: \$15

Are you looking to pick up a new skill this summer or maybe improve on that golf swing? If so, you won't want to miss the summer golf clinic for beginners with our very own Paul Fitzpatrick. He will be on hand to assist you one on one. Spots for this program are very limited, so we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible.

2 NATIONAL ICE CREAM SANDWICH DAY

MONDAY, AUGUST 2
1 – 2 P.M.
THE CRYSTAL PATIO/ISL

Who doesn't love a delicious ice cream sandwich? Join us as we celebrate this fun national holiday the only way we know how... by indulging in this compact treat! Your Resident Programming team will be handing out ice cream sandwiches at The Crystal Patio to commemorate this exciting day in August. We will have plenty of smiles and napkins available.

11 A DAY IN MATLACHA VIA SUZY Q



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11
DEPART: 9:30 A.M.
RETURN: 3 P.M.
SUZY Q DOCK/ISL
COST: \$10

Hop aboard the *Suzy Q* for a day in Matlacha. We will dock at Leoma Lovegrove's art gallery and garden, which is located close to The Blue Dog Saloon and Old Fish House Restaurant. Join Captain Russ and Program Coordinator Michelle Emmett for a fun, quirky, unique shopping and dining experience. Due to the length of time it takes to get to Matlacha, to obtain speed the trip is limited to 18 people, so sign up as soon as possible.



22



2



Sign-up required; call a concierge desk:
Island: 454-2282, Woodlands: 454-2054



Walking
required



Stairs



12 NOSTALGIA

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 12
2 P.M.**

CONNIE BROWN HALL/TRIBBY

After a hiatus, Nostalgia is back to perform a themed concert and comedy show featuring Shell Point's own Don Schneff (Sundial) behind the mic. Join your friends and neighbors at this event for some good-hearted laughter and fellowship.

20 LOBSTER BOIL

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20
4 – 8 P.M.**

THE PALM GRILL/WDL

COST: \$45 PER PERSON ALL INCLUSIVE

Reminiscing about those delicious seafood boils? Well, have we got something for you! Join us at The Palm Grill for a fun lobster boil complete with all the fixin's! Enjoy your choice of a delicious starter, and a fresh boiled Maine Lobster served with mussels, clams, corn on the cob, red skin potatoes, and a delicious apple pie a la mode for dessert. This will be a memorable event that you won't want to miss! Please call The Palm Grill at (239) 454-2059 to book your reservation!



20

31 INTERMEDIATE GOLF CLINIC

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 31
10 A.M.**

SHELL POINT GOLF CLUB

COST: \$15



Are you someone who has the game of golf down but are looking for ways to hone your craft? This clinic is perfect for you! Golf Course Director Paul Fitzpatrick will be on hand to help you work on your putt, swing or drive. Spots are very limited for this clinic, so sign up today!



31

CAREGIVERS CONNECTION

Simplifying Your Communication



“One step at a time” is good advice when you want to accomplish a complicated task. It also is good guidance when caring for someone that has a diagnosis of dementia. A caregiver shared this “jewel”: *When I asked my husband to brush his teeth and shave, having the toothbrush and shaving supplies on the counter confused him. I found directing him to do one task at a time enabled him to be more successful in following directions.*

Providing one-step instructions is an essential caregiver skill. Dementia affects the ability to process language and act upon it. Providing less information verbally and visually for the brain to process helps the person respond appropriately instead of staring or becoming confused or agitated. Depending on the stage the person is in their disease process, a general one-step instruction for brushing teeth may need to be broken down to multiple specific steps: “pick up the toothbrush,” “put toothpaste on the brush,” and “brush your teeth with the toothbrush.” Taking the time and patience to provide this type of direction helps the person with dementia to be successful in self-care and preserve their dignity.

Do you have a caregiver tip or “jewel” to share with others? Whether you think your tip is a diamond, emerald or ruby, all are valuable, so please share the wealth! Please send your tip to Emilyreese@shellpoint.org.



Managing Stress

BY EMILY REESE, CONNECTIONS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

On the memo board in the Healthy Living Coordination office, you'll see

a note that says “Desserts is Stressed Spelled Backwards.” And yes, a few desserts appear in our office from time to time. Stress is a part of life, and our physiological response to stress is protective. It allows us to respond quickly and efficiently to a perceived threat, such as stepping out of the way of an oncoming car. When the threat passes, our physiological response calms the body and clears the elevated stress hormones from the blood.

Stress starts negatively impacting health when it becomes chronic and the stress hormone cortisol remains elevated in the blood. What was a life preserving response now becomes a health concern. Chronic stress is linked to a lengthy list of health concerns

such as increased blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, elevated blood sugars, weight gain and digestive issues, and it may even accelerate age-related memory loss.

The good news is the negative health impact of stress can be alleviated by making stress management techniques part of your daily routine. The *really* good news is effective stress management does not require a lot of time. Simple techniques such as practicing mindfulness and gratitude, exercising, deep breathing and eating a healthy diet may help make a difference.

Having a routine stress management practice can also help us to develop resiliency when stress becomes elevated in our



lives. We can respond from a foundation of calmness and health and not be triggered to unhealthy habits such as eating a box of cookies.

Even with the best stress management practice, there may be times when stress can feel overwhelming. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Shell Point has many resources such as Behavioral Health, Spiritual Services, Support Groups and the Healthy Living Coordination team. For more information on stress management visit <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/stress>.



SUPPORT GROUPS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**THURSDAYS, JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26
4:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

This is a fellowship of those who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other to solve their common problem and help others recover from alcohol addiction. This meeting of AA welcomes those who struggle with alcohol issues. Call the inter-group phone number for information at (239) 275-5111.

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE – CAREGIVER SUPPORT

**WEDNESDAYS, JULY 21 AND AUGUST 18
10 A.M. IN GRAND CYPRESS ROOM/ WDL**

This group offers support for residents or family members that are caregivers for someone with dementia. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with fellow caregivers, share ideas and discuss the stresses, challenges and rewards of providing care for a loved one. If there is a need for respite, a coinciding group offering supervised activities for your loved one with dementia is available. Pre-registration is required. Contact Emily Reese, Connections Program Coordinator at (239) 454-2134 or Channelle Bastardo, Healthy Living Coordinator at (239) 433-7974 to register your loved one for the supervised activity program or questions about the group.

COPD SUPPORT

**TUESDAY, JULY 27
1:30 P.M. IN OAK ROOM/WDL**

The objective of this group is to provide information and discussions that will be relevant to individuals with a range of breathing problems, as well as those dependent on supplemental oxygen. Call Ken Peterson for further information at (239) 482-3779.

DIABETES SUPPORT

GROUP IS ON BREAK AND WILL START AGAIN IN OCTOBER

Anyone impacted by Diabetes or looking to learn more including spouses or family members are invited to attend the Diabetes Support Group. Each monthly meeting covers a different topic and includes an open discussion and an opportunity to share. Call Vivian Ciulla, Healthy Living Supervisor at (239) 225-2929 for more information.

HEARING ENRICHMENT

GROUP IS ON BREAK AND WILL START AGAIN IN OCTOBER

Poor hearing can affect many aspects of one's life. This group seeks to help residents cope with hearing loss, share information, learn about services and products that may help and offer support to each other. This is a great opportunity to try out the assisted listening devices available in the Social Center. For more information, call Robert Torres, Healthy Living Coordinator at (239) 433-7975.

HEART HEALTHY

GROUP IS ON BREAK AND WILL START AGAIN IN OCTOBER

The Heart Healthy group aims to provide support and educational information to individuals living with heart disease. The goal of the group is to allow members to share their experience, fears and solutions in an effort to help everyone from the newly diagnosed to those managing heart disease for many years. For more information, please contact Nola Mokeyane, Healthy Living Coordinator at (239) 433-7976.

PARKINSON'S ENRICHMENT

**TUESDAYS, JULY 6; AUGUST 3
10:15 A.M. IN SOCIAL CENTER/IS**

The Parkinson's Enrichment Group aims to provide support and educational opportunities to those affected by Parkinson's disease as a patient, caregiver, family member, or friend. Meetings include speakers, group discussions, and emotional support. For more information, call Healthy Living Coordination at (239) 454-2299.

VISION ENRICHMENT

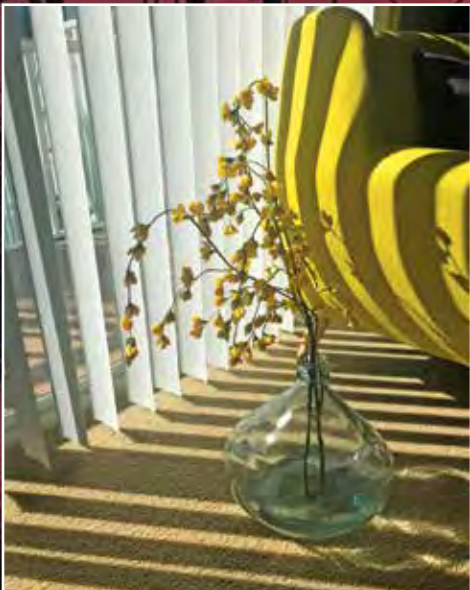
GROUP IS ON BREAK AND WILL START AGAIN IN OCTOBER

This group provides educational opportunities and support for those individuals dealing with low vision. Discussions may include the emotional aspects of vision loss, investigating solutions, helpful tools, and sharing resources. At every session, you will learn a "quick eye exercise" that you can utilize at home and share with others. Please join us to share your story, your knowledge, as well as your experiences with other residents. For additional information, contact Katy Quinones, Healthy Living Coordinator at (239) 454-2101.

Judy Charland (Sand Dollar)
"Summer Solstice"

2021 Shell Point Celebration of Photography

BY DOTTY MORRISON (CELLANA)



Peggy Day (Sand Dollar)
"Stripes"



Karen Meredith (Lakewood)
"Dancing Masai"

Herb Sklar
(Eagles Preserve)
"Red Cap"



Liz Noffsinger (The Estuary)
"Eastern Bluebird"

Celebration Instead of Competition

The annual Shell Point Photo Contest morphed this April from an event that focused on competition to one in which 60 photographers were celebrated for their artistry.

Concerned by the lack of photo opportunities in 2020, the Photo Club board decided to throw out all the rules, categories, judging, and ribbons of past events and concentrate on the artists themselves. Along with submitting up to three photographs, 60 residents also shared a little about their background and why photography enhances their enjoyment of life. From experts with DSLRs and zoom lenses, to beginners enjoying their camera phones, all were celebrated in this year's event.

Continued on next page



Roberta Young
(Turban)
"Beach Shadows"



Cookie Swendsen
(Periwinkle)
"Grand Flag at the
Grand Hotel"



Shirley Fisher (Junonia)
"Under the Sanibel Bridge"



John Abitz (The Estuary)
"Ice Berries"



Doug Wicks* (Lucina)
"A New Day Begins"



Anna Maria Tesoriero (Turban) "DeGrazia's Home"



Paul Goodwin (Royal Bonnet) "Snow-Covered Trees"

2021 Shell Point Celebration of Photography

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Memories of Travel

Audrey Hostetter (Parkwood) loves to share photographs of travel experiences with friends. A few years ago, she visited Iceland, where her son and daughter-in-law live, and experienced the never-to-be-forgotten Aurora Borealis. *Iceland Aurora* shows the wonder of the phenomena across the starry night sky. In the foreground, a lone cabin seems a reminder of the humble place of mankind in the universe.

On a sojourn to the fishing village of Qaqortoq, Tony Quinn (Lakewood) photographed *Coastal Colors* in Greenland. White-trimmed homes of many hues climb the steep hill, looking as if a child had built them from building blocks.

Anna Marie Tesoriero (Sundial) enjoys travel experiences with Shell Point, such as a recent trip to Arizona. While there, she visited the typical adobe home of a local artist. Interested in the textures of the walls and aluminum stars on the door frame, she captured *De Grazia's Home*.

"Photography is an attempt to stop time when something visually moves me," says Karen Meredith (Lakewood). While in Tanzania on an academic tour to see wildlife, Karen also visited a Masai village where the men performed a traditional dance. *Dancing Masai* depicts the brightly-colored robes and the passion of the tribesmen.

Traveling to Mackinac Island, Michigan, was a real treat for Cookie Swendsen (Periwinkle). Her photograph, *The Grand Flag at the Grand Hotel*, featuring the blue sky and water, red geraniums, and American flag blowing in the wind, brings back memories of a wonderful vacation.

Living in Colorado, Doug Wicks (Lucina) enjoyed attending and photographing the hot air balloon festivals in Colorado



Audrey Hostetter (Parkwood)
"Iceland Aurora"

Springs. The inflation of dozens of balloons in *A New Day Begins* shows a feast for the eye as thousands of yards of brilliantly-colored fabric come to life in the early morning, quickly dwarfing the crews and crowds.

An annual trek to the Adirondack Mountains for a family reunion gave Paul Goodwin (Royal Bonnet) an opportunity to photograph *Snow-Covered Trees*. Taken with his iPhone the morning after a day

of freezing rain and snow, Paul timed his photo for the decisive moment as a skier starts down the chilly trail.

Every year, snowbird Robert Hommez (Harbor Court) and his wife Mary travel to their cabin by a Minnesota lake. As the autumn temperatures drop, they enjoy staying long enough to enjoy the brilliant fall leaves. *Nature's Carpet* features a cozy circle around a fire, offering the viewer a hint

of the smell of smoke in the crisp air.

Florida isn't the only place that can produce magnificent sunsets. Judy Charland (Sand Dollar) only began taking photographs in 2017. Some of her first images were taken in the Adirondack Mountains, a place she calls "God's country." A lake glows red as the sun paints the reflected sky in *Summer Solstice*.



Turning the Lens on Local Landscapes

Closer to home, local scenery and landscapes interest resident camera buffs. Roberta Young (Turban) has recently been taking classes in black and white photography. She began searching for subjects that would do well in the monochrome style. In *Beach Shadows*, white waves contrast with the black profile of the

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Above: Robert Hommez (Harbor Court) "Nature's Carpet"
Right: Ed Gore (Cellana) "Firm Foundation"

Tony Quinn (Lakewood)
"Coastal Colors in Greenland"



2021 Shell Point Celebration of Photography

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pier, while the curved shadow lines on the sand form leading lines for the eye.

Ed Gore (Cellana) was on a boat trip under the Sanibel Bridge when he focused on the iconic lines of the bridge supports. He saw this as an example of human-created architecture embedded in nature—land, water, and sky—and titled the image *Firm Foundation*.

The bridge also caught the eye of Junonia resident, Shirley Fisher. *Under the Sanibel Bridge* pulls the viewer's eyes directly to the sun setting in the distance, as the bridge seems to bow in honor of the end of day.

Focusing on Flora and Fauna

Karen Riecks (Eagles Preserve) is an avid fan of snorkeling and bought an underwater camera to document the vivid colors and shapes of animals she knew she would see in the waters off Papua New

Guinea, north of the Great Barrier Reef. The brilliant blue of a starfish stands out against the background of wavy sea grass in *Papua New Guinea Star*.

Having his camera up and focused was the only way that Don Whicker (Sand Dollar) was able to capture *Black Skimmers at Bunche Beach* as the roosting flock lifted off the sand. Don loved the multiple patterns of the pointed black and white wings and red and black beaks.

When Mary Hirsch (Eagles Preserve) visited the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, she noticed a snowy egret sitting on a nest. Mary waited to see what was under the bird and was excited by a peek at three blue eggs. *Snowy Egret Tending Her Nest* was the reward for her patience.

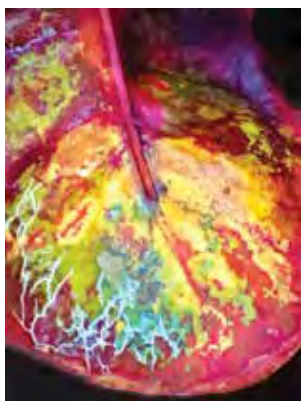
When a sudden ice storm at their Michigan home covered everything, John Abitz (The Estuary) braved the cold. "I try to always be prepared to take a photograph before the opportunity disappears," he says—or in this case, melts. With a background of sparkling blue sky and coated branches, the snow-covered fruit drip icicles catch the morning sun in *Ice Berries*.



Mary Hirsch (Eagles Preserve)
"Snowy Egret Tending Her Nest"



Marcia O'Hara (Lucina)
"Pink Splash"



Gerri Harris (Cameo)
"Leaf of Many Colors"

On her walks around Shell Point, Gerri Harris (Cameo) loves finding original angles for photographing common plants. A multi-colored leaf caught her eye, and then she came in closer to create an almost abstract image in *Leaf of Many Colors*.

Enjoying the Little Things

Herb Sklar (Eagles Preserve) has always shared his talents with other Shell Point residents by leading painting or photography classes, as well as shaping the purpose of the Photo Club during his years as president.

"Still life," Herb says, "is the most difficult genre of photography because the photographer begins with nothing." His skills in composition, lighting, and creating the Wow! factor came together when Herb did a series with the theme of the color red. *Red Cap* takes advantage of the clean lines of a clear glass bottle to focus the viewer's eye on the simple, yet dramatic, red element.

The Photo Club lost a skillful and inventive photographer this year with the passing of Peter Martin (Lucina). Peter excelled in macro photography and captured images magnified in tiny drops of water on a piece of glass. An example of his work is *Flag Drops*, in which each droplet magnifies and reflects a different portion of the American flag behind.

Peggy Day (Sand Dollar) was entranced by the way the vertical blinds in her apartment created dramatic strips of light and shadow. She recognized that the palette of color in the carpet and sofa were repeated in the flowers in a vase on the floor. Called *Stripes*, the pattern of shadows create leading lines to move the eye around the photograph.

"Blue sky and white clouds always speak to me," says Wilma Sanders (Royal Bonnet). She found them reflected in a window pane, their colors set off by red geraniums. She titled the image *Magritte's Sky* in



Wima Sanders (Royal Bonnet)
"Magritte's Sky"

honor of surrealist painter, René Magritte who often uses sky and clouds in his work.

Reaching out to comfort a loved one is the theme of *Soothing Touch*, by Sandy Potter (Eagles Preserve). As a grandmother comforts a grandson by holding his hand, Sandy created a photograph with an emotional connection to everyone.



Sandy Potter (Eagles Preserve)
"Soothing Touch"



Karen Riecks (Eagles Preserve)
"Papua New Guinea Starfish"



Pete Martin (Lucina) "Flag Drops"



Don Whicker (Sand Dollar)
"Black Skimmers at Bunche Beach"

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Passion Creates Purpose for Photo Club Board

Because there was no competition to oversee, this year all the Photo Club board members were able to participate in the annual event. Each one is committed to the club's goal of providing an environment for growth and inspiration.

George Waters (Palm Acres) leads the club as president. Ever generous with his time and talents, in 2019 George went with a group to film traditions of a tribe in the Amazon region of Brazil. **Waura Warrior** shows a tribal leader proudly embodying his heritage with ceremonial body paint, ear pieces, and necklace. At Shell Point, George teaches classes in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom and handles the technical aspects of monthly meetings and annual events.

Liz Noffsinger (Estuary) is passionate about photographing birds. Her work has been featured in many "Ding" Darling Nature Preserve publications and she has shared tips and techniques with the club. **Eastern Bluebird** captures a bluebird who has chosen to perch on a zinnia of just the right color to match his breast.

Pam Blough (Cameo) is one of many Shell Point residents who has grown in her skills and artistry because of being involved in the Photo Club. When Pam heard that monarch butterflies were going to be released in the Butterfly Habitat, she readied her camera and caught **Love Monarch Style**, showing two monarchs as they took to the air and immediately mated. Pam readily assists in all the projects of the Photo Club, as well as being a member of the Craft Guild and Stained Glass Studio.

Both Kirk Gullede (Junonia) and Marcia O'Hara (Lucina) belong to the Fort Myers Camera Club, as well as the Shell Point Photo Club. Their experiences in another organization broaden the ideas and skills they have to offer to the Shell Point Photo Club board.

Marcia attended an FC3 workshop in macro photography involving water drops. The creative set-up with lighting and color allowed her to create **Pink Splash**. Experiences like this inspire her to think "outside the box" in her photography.

Kirk has won numerous awards in the Fort Myers Camera Club with images such as **Canyon Colors**. His knowledge of lighting and camera settings allowed him to achieve the brilliantly-colored photo even though the tour group was hurried through the slot can-



Dotty Morrison (Cellana)
"Hungry Babies"



George Waters (Palm Acres)
"Waura Warrior"



Pam Blough (Cameo)
"Love Monarch Style"

yon. Kirk plans to help tutor residents who want to learn Photoshop post-processing.

Don Adams (Junonia), has an interest in both literature and photography, as well as career experience working across the arts. This allows him to bring a broad point of view to the board. Interested in photographing anything from automobiles to lions, Don was pleased that his zoom lens gave him a photograph of cheetahs on an African safari. He calls the image **Family Photo Cheetah Style**.

The osprey nest behind Lucina gave Dotty Morrison (Cellana) the opportunity for **Hungry Babies**. Dotty is the Photo Club secretary, providing communication to the 80+ members. She enjoys helping residents enhance their photographs through post-processing and has offered tutoring in Lightroom. Watching a photographer grow in their skills brings her joy.

See the Complete Show

In order to enjoy all the photographs of the 2021 Shell Point Celebration of Photography, access the video by going to shellpoint.net, choosing the Media menu, then the Community Video Library. An online link to the 2021 Shell Point Celebration of Photography is also available at <https://youtu.be/PzLRN4h30G0>.



Don Adams (Junonia)
"Family Photo Cheetah Style"

Are you interested in photography and want to learn more? The Photo Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Dance Studio at Tribby Art Center. All are welcome.



Kirk Gullede
(Junonia)
"Canyon Colors"

THE LEGACY FOUNDATION AT SHELL POINT PRESENTS

MONEY WEEK 2021

MONEY *Week*

Monday, August 9 through Friday, August 13
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free Consultation with Professional Advisors

The Legacy Foundation at Shell Point presents Money Week—five days of free consultations with Southwest Florida's leading tax, legal, investment and insurance professionals. These no-obligation, one-on-one, 30-minute consultations are complimentary, and by appointment only. Availability is limited, so call today to reserve your time.

▶ **MONDAY, AUGUST 9**

Estate Planning

When was the last time you had your estate plan reviewed by an attorney? Are you a new Florida resident? Do you have questions about your advance directives? Schedule a consultation on this day with an estate planning attorney.

▶ **TUESDAY, AUGUST 10**

Income Tax Planning

Do you need a check-up on your income tax planning? Want to learn about the new tax changes that may affect you this year? Schedule a meeting with a certified public accountant today.

▶ **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11**

Investment Review

Does the economy or stock market have you worried? This is a good time to discuss your portfolio with a wealth advisor or get a second opinion.

▶ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 12**

Life Insurance, Annuities & Long-Term Care Policies

Have a question about your life insurance, annuity or long-term care policy? Talk with a financial professional about this.

▶ **FRIDAY, AUGUST 13**

Introduction to The Legacy Foundation

Learn about the benefits and services of the Legacy Foundation, which provides Shell Point residents services including daily money management and estate and trust administration services.

**Call the Legacy Foundation at
466-8484 to schedule your complimentary
30-minute appointment today!**



The opinions expressed by individuals participating in this program may not necessarily be shared or endorsed by The Legacy Foundation at Shell Point. Please consult with your professional advisor before making any legal or financial decisions.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY REV. ANDREW HAWKINS, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR, THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. (1 Peter 2.16, NASB)

It's hard to believe that one year ago I wrote the following in this space:

Sometimes it's hard to celebrate. Perhaps the 4th of July this year is one of those times. Our nation is in turmoil. The economy is largely shut down. Covid persists. An election is looming. Politics are contentious. And even if we wanted to, we're not allowed to gather in ways to which we are accustomed. So celebrating is tough.

Well, a lot of water has gone under the bridge in the last year. Perhaps the light is at the end of the tunnel. The economy is moving in the right direction. Most of us are vaccinated. The election is behind us. And as I write, we have seen the lifting of a number of restrictions that we faced due to Covid. Even though many problems persist, we are thankful for some positive developments.

We have, during the past year, found ourselves dependent. Dependent on many things, but especially dependent on Shell Point. We thank God for the Shell Point



administrative team as they have done their best to respond to the pandemic in ways that protected our community from the worst effects of Covid. Now that we're able to spread our wings a bit, we're finding the blessings of freedom again. We're no longer as dependent on Shell Point. We've rediscovered a relative degree of independence.

Perhaps that should inform our celebration of Independence Day. Not only do we celebrate our independence from colonial Britain, but we discover anew the daily freedoms in our families and community that we formerly took for granted. Our Independence Day this year may have multiple meanings.

The Christian faith is characterized by a number of paradoxes. One of them has to do with freedom and independence.

For the Christian, true freedom is not so much related to release from state-sanctioned tyranny. It's related to freedom from the tyranny of sin. And our true enemy is not some far away despot, not some strange ideology. Our true enemy is pretty close to home. If we're honest, we find it within our own hearts.

And the paradox is this: we find our freedom from the slavery of sin through Christ who becomes our new master. We declare our independence from the tyranny of sin through our dependence on the Lord of lords.

So let's add another layer of meaning for our Independence Day celebrations this year. Freedom enjoyed for 245 years from colonial rule. Freedom enjoyed from the Covid troubles of 2020. But especially the freedom that we enjoy through our dependence on Jesus Christ.

We have plenty to celebrate!



An American Hymn Sing

Sunday, July 4
at 6 p.m.
Village Church
Sanctuary

You are invited to join in
singing hymns written
and/or composed by
American musicians.



Nature's Notebook

BY STEVE MORTON, DIRECTOR
OF LANDSCAPE OPERATIONS

Enlightenment

The first time I met Viji he immediately changed my perceptions.

Our store manager introduced him to me as *the new manager*. We shook hands, he smiled, and asked "Would you please make me a grilled cheese sandwich." I stared and cocked my head confused, like a Cocker Spaniel trying to perform long division. The request would seem normal in any other restaurant, but Viji and I were standing at the smoky, billowing broiler of a Bonanza Sirloin Pit. This was a place where people queued up in cafeteria style lines to eat red meat.

Viji wasn't exactly his real name. He tried to teach us how to pronounce his surname, but there were at least sixteen letters and it was suspiciously short of vowels. Like a rock star, he became known to the employees of Bonanza by just one, short name. The most asked question of Viji was "Why did you come to America?" When answering, his dark brown eyes always luminesced and his rich, ruddy complexion seemed to soften into youth. He told us that he fled his country escaping an arranged marriage. We loved him for that because he embraced everything that America and freedom represented, at least, to sixteen-year-old Midwesterners.

Magnus von Lagerström was the director of the Swedish East India Company in 1746. The corporation had just begun shifting its efforts from trading with China to expanding trade with the subcontinent. Magnus became friends with another Swede named Carl Linnaeus who became the 'father of

modern taxonomy'. Linnaeus formalized the method of classifying all living things with just two Latin names of genus and species. The friendship was fortuitous because Magnus would bring Carl unusual plant specimens from Southeast Asia.



By 1850, flowering plants were circling the globe like dowagers on the Grand Tour of the Continent. Plants from South America went to Africa, Madagascar trees traveled to the Caribbean, gluttonous Europe absorbed every plant imaginable, and South Florida received a very rare treat. Named by Carl Linnaeus, *Lagerstroemia speciosa* was in honor of his very good friend Magnus. The tree grows 25-30 feet tall in Southwest Florida, rounded

nicely with lance-shaped leaves. The bark appears to peel off the trunk in early summer to reveal mottled new bark changing in color from cream to dark red to chocolate brown or a muted orange. The best part of Magnus's tree was the flowers of purplish pink appearing in the summer months.

During our lunch, Viji would often reveal stories of his homeland and offer insights to his past. He described the crushing over-population of cities and the strict hierarchy of society, we learned why he did not eat meat and laughed at his employment contradiction. But he also shared stories of the incredible beauty of his country and its flora and fauna. In Viji's home province of Maharashtra, he explained to us, they grow a very special flowering tree that, with proper meditation, could help one achieve spiritual enlightenment. The English named that tree the Pride of India.

At Shell Point, we have only one specimen of *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, and although the common name we use is Queen Crepe Myrtle, the magnificent tree reminds me of Viji. Like him, a stranger in a strange land that has adapted and survived with grace. As Viji enlightened young Missouri teenagers about the world we lived in, the spectacular blooms of the Pride of India offer a unique opportunity for quiet reflection. To find the tree, travel on the perimeter sidewalk behind the Arbor on the East side and consider enlightenment.