



SARASOTA BAY CLUB's SCOOP

July August 2026

News of the Residents - By the Residents - For the Residents

250th America Birthday Tribute

Sarasota Bay Club Gallery

Presents

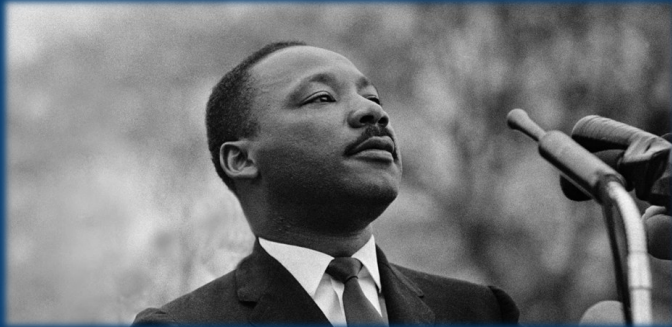
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

250TH
YEAR ANNIVERSARY
1776 - 2026



"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

— Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863)



"I have a dream, my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!"

- From Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech



"Fight for things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Many of you have asked what inspired me to create the latest display in the Art Gallery. The idea grew from a desire to portray our country's beauty while featuring excerpts from famous speeches throughout U.S. history. However, I cannot take full credit for the concept. Like many presentations and activities offered by the Lifestyle Department, it developed through a conversation between Lifestyle Director Joan McGarry and myself. I implemented the plan and selected the images and quotes, but Joan helped shape the idea of creating a special display to commemorate the 250th birthday of our beautiful country. We are delighted that so many residents have responded positively to the current show. It reflects a shared sense of pride in being American, which was exactly our goal. Goal achieved! Kathleen Rhem, Lifestyle Department



HAPPINESS INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN WADSWORTH

By: Nancy Schlossberg, #902N

Emoji symbol of happiness!!



One hour with Susan Wadsworth, Director of Dining Services at The Inn at The Sarasota Bay Club and you will feel happy, **happy** to have met Susan, **happy** she is in a leadership role at the Inn, **happy** her goal is to make others (staff and residents of the Inn) feel and to remain **happy**.

Susan joins us after a diverse and extensive career spanning all aspects of food service from fast food to fine dining. She has a degree in Food Service Management along with certification in Culinary Arts and as a Certified Dietary Manager. She combines her passion for food, culinary excellence, and team leadership.

She is happy to be part of the Sarasota Bay Club team, where she can put policies and practices into place. Alongside the “big picture” is her attention to small slices of happiness whether it is picking out a special pastry for someone or designing platters that attract the senses of smell and beauty.

Seek Susan out. You will be happy to have met her.



FERRARI

By: Carol Green, #321S

For those who watched the movie Ferrari, about Enzo Ferrari, you may also be interested in this follow-up. In the movie you are introduced to Enzo's young son Luca, born out of his romance with the woman who would be his second wife. For those who did not watch the movie, Ferrari's first wife will not give him a divorce. She is angry because his first son, her son, died. At some point she allows him to legitimize Luca.

Luca Ferrari has gone on to possibly eclipse the fame of his father. He, along with business associates, formed a company now known as Bending Spoons. He has taken the company public, traded as BSP on the stock exchange. Luca is the CEO at 41 years of age.

The company has a market capitalization of \$20 million. The development of the company has led to a full-page feature in the Wall Street Journal. Bending Spoons has developed an employee screening procedure to seek out the most elite candidates. Apparently, according to the feature, their elite system allows only the top .04% of applicants to succeed. To put this into numbers, the company received 800,000 applications for employment and only 286 were hired. Along with business skills, being polite and respectful were characteristics that were required.



LIFE BEFORE DEATH, MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FINAL YEARS

Nancy Schlossberg, Special for USA Today

A doctor noticed a swelling on my left ankle.

That led to X-rays, an MRI and eventually a full body bone scan. Some reports hinted at cancer, others at major arthritis, and others at more testing.

I felt as if I were dancing with death. But for some reason, I was not concerned. I am 97. Even if it is cancer, it will not change my life. The good news—there was no cancer.

Frankly, I am amazed at how calm I was about the whole experience. And this led me to think about sharing thoughts about the final dance. This period is unique with which we of a certain age are dealing with the final transi-

tion—waiting for death. Yet, while I feel old, I do not feel next to death. My doctor was right—I am not eligible for hospice. But I am right around the corner.

The real question is how much this is impacting my life. I can no longer fake it. Before, if my back and legs hurt, I could still walk almost upright. But now I really must have my cane and am most comfortable with a walker.

I am not delighted with this new transition. For example, I need to go to Dillard's Department Store to buy some lingerie and get a makeup lesson for older women. My dilemma—I can drive to Dillard's, but parking and walking in is another matter.

And that puts a spotlight on changes in my relationships. First of all, most of my close friends have died. And even though I know many people, I do not have anyone I could ask to take me to the doctor. Or maybe I do, but I want to keep those who remain in my life as friends, not caretakers. To get a handle on this time of life, I asked each member of the group I co-led at the Senior Friendship Centers, "The Aging Rebels," to articulate both the best and most challenging parts of their current lives. There are contradictions, fears and surprises—positive, like become a great grandparent, and negative, like dealing with divorce.

We are struggling with many questions. Am I still competent? Is my sense of self changing? Am I still experiencing joy? Do I have meaningful relationships? Do I still have a purpose?

Free to be me.

Over and over, the word freedom emerged as the key to happiness. One woman shared that her life had "fewer boundaries. When my husband died and my children were themselves parents and grandparents and I was no longer working as a nurse, I was free."

Others chimed in that they were free of watering plants and pet care, free to set their own schedule, financially liberated and simply free to fill the hours however they pleased. On the other hand, there was agreement that major challenges revolved around losses such as physical decline. There was the loss of energy, good health and good sleep. There was the loss of one's competency as summed up by one man who asked, "Have you recently bought a smart TV?"

One's time perspective shifts between feeling that time is running out and feeling that you have too much time on your hands. Many in my group complained they no longer had a reason to get up in the morning.

And one person asked how to handle simultaneous, conflicting thoughts: "I want to die in my sleep, but at the same time I want to live," they said.

Other losses included less intimacy with a spouse, partner, children and friends; the feeling they had no purpose, as well as financial challenges.

LIFE BEFORE DEATH, MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR FINAL YEARS Continued

With so many questions, concerns and feelings, what can we do to make this a meaningful, positive time in life?

1. Examine your financial portfolio. One woman claimed that after a career during the era when one had pensions, she can afford to keep living. For many, however, reductions in health care insurance make this a frightening time in life. Talk with a financial adviser about the best time to begin taking Social Security. If necessary, many get part-time jobs.

2. Recalibrate your psychological portfolio. Just as you reassess your financial portfolio, you need to examine your psychological portfolio – your sense of identity, your emotional resilience, the way you see yourself, and your perception of how others see you. You also want to look at the strength of your relationships with friends, family, and acquaintances, and your purpose in life.

3. Strengthen your Supports—This is what I call the “4 S System:” Supports, Self, Situation and Coping Strategies. First, ask yourself whether your overall situation is a plus, minus, or neutral? Do you have personal and institutional Supports? Do you see yourself in a positive or negative light? Do you see yourself as optimistic or pessimistic? And finally, do you use multiple coping strategies – sometimes trying to fix what ails you, other times trying to reframe the negatives, and lastly trying to exercise or incorporate other practices that help you to breathe and heal.

4. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket. If you are a writer and can no longer write, if you are a swimmer and can no longer swim, if you are a pilot and can no longer fly, then do you just give up? Hopefully, the answer is no. It is important to grieve for what you have lost and, over time, move on to another part of your identity.

5. Tweak your attitude about death. According to an article in the New York Times, the late anthropologist Jane Goodall said beautiful words about life's end: “I always say to people that my next adventure will be dying... Because either there’s nothing, in which case you don’t care, do you? Or there’s something – which I believe – then I can’t think of a greater adventure than finding out what that something is.”

Nancy K. Schlossberg is Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland. She is the author of 10 books, including "Too Young to be Old," "Revitalizing Retirement" and "Retire Smart, Retire Happy."

Sarasota Bay Club – Tech Update, By: Cameron Roskamp

This section highlights recent and upcoming technology enhancements across our campus. If you have questions or would like to learn more about any item, please contact the IT Department.

New: Resident Connect Comment Card

Residents can now submit direct feedback to management through Resident Connect.

New: Resident Connect Self-Input Work Orders

Residents may now enter their own work orders directly within Resident Connect

Upcoming: Resident Tech Classes

A topic-specific class series aimed to cover a single topic for residents to learn more about their devices.

Upcoming: Resident Connect “How To” Video Series

A new video series will be posted on Resident Connect to guide residents through navigating the website and using its features.

DISCOVERING

By: Budee Jacobs, #404N

I am what most people would call old. I don't care much for that word, I prefer "mature." If I were a fruit or a vegetable one could also use the word "ripe", but in my case it would have to be preceded by the word overly, and I have the wrinkles to prove it!

When I entered my ninth decade, I made peace with my children and am satisfied that they know how much they have always been loved. I may not have been the best version of Donna Reed for a mother, but they knew my heart was in the right direction. So, should I not awaken tomorrow morning, I have said all I needed to say, even the tough parts. That took a load off my mind. However, all my Grands live so far away that I felt I really didn't know who they were as adults. Sure, once a year, we had Family Fest, but with 20 folks all together for one short weekend we hardly had a chance to have any kind of meaningful conversation. So, this is what I did.

I emailed all of them, I told them their Grandma Nancy NEEDED to see them. I picked a weekend 4 months out, booked a hotel in a nice area, hired a captain and a boat for an easy ride and booked a private tour at the Planetarium. If this was to be a Freudian weekend, we would need some fresh air and an outer worldly experience to ease whatever tension there might be. I offered to pay all expenses for air, hotel, restaurants and sight-seeing for anyone not able to afford the expense. Strange, though their parents tell everyone how financially well off their children are doing, each one accepted the offer. The only caveat? No spouses, no children. I have two grand males and two grand females. The boys can share a room and the girls can share a room, and I made sure Grandma Nancy had a nice, cozy room all to herself with a mini bar! I felt sure I would need that amenity.

We met the first evening in the hotel lobby. Their flights came in at different times so there was only time for a few hugs and kisses. I gave out the room cards and the itinerary for the weekend. Puzzled looks abounded as they read the information. Misty said she likes to sleep in on vacation, Ava chimed in with the fact that she's an early riser, Jim and brother Adam informed us they MUST exercise before eating anything. "Well kiddos", I said. "This is not exactly a vacation. Consider it a retreat and Grandma Nancy is the Grand Poohbah. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m. so if you are hungry before then, buy yourself a breakfast bar. We leave the hotel at 10:00 a.m. 'Getting to Know You' featuring Grandma Nancy, in the lead roll, calls all the shots this weekend. Read the itinerary and you will see that from 10 a.m. -1 p.m., we will be at the zoo. Misty will be my partner. You other three will visit whatever animals you want but lunch is back at the hotel at 1:00 p.m. Our boat ride is from 3 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., where Adam will be my partner. We have a 7:00 p.m. dinner reservation at Tasty Tidbits. The following day, after our 8:00 a.m. breakfast and 10:00 a.m. departure from the hotel, we are going to the Planetarium, where Jim will be my partner. Lunch again at 1:00 p.m. and then to the History Museum, where Ava will be my partner. Dinner that night at 6:00 p.m. at Healthy Heaven."

It seems all five of us have gastronomic needs. Misty eats nothing that had a face, Ava eats no dairy, Jim is a vegetarian but will occasionally have a hot dog (you figure it out, I can't), and Adam will eat only locally sourced food that is organic. Grandma Nancy gets cramps from anything spicy. What a challenging group of diners we are.

Here's the ending to all this and what I learned from each Grandchild. Misty at 38 is the eldest. She is conservative in dress and manner. Always says please and thank you and actually uses a napkin. She is polite to family and strangers and calls her parents several times a week. Jim is the next eldest at 35. He is married with a darling two-year old girl. He teaches Spanish at a high school and is passionate in his politics. He is a progressive liberal who feels the government should give more services and money to the less fortunate. He

Discovering Continued

donates 10% of his salary to worthy causes. He holds my chair so I can sit properly at restaurants and opens the door for me. He calls his Dad about once a week. Adam is next in line at 29. At his young age he is already a junior partner at a law firm. The exact opposite politically from his brother. He is so far right he all but tilts in that direction. He and Jim often spar on political topics, but so far have not gotten to boxing it out. He wears a small beard and mustache, and I suspect sleeps in a suit and tie. He is a single man, loves all the ladies and has no intention of settling down any time soon. He can't remember the last time he called home. And then there is Ava. Ava has a ring through her nose, a piercing in one eyelid and a virtual garden of a tattoo down one arm. She plays guitar in a local band, and I understand she has a "gig" coming up in the city. She is a bundle of energy, laughs heartily and doesn't have a mean bone in her body. "I call home once in a while, otherwise I email when I have time."

There you have it, my progenies, each one a dear and precious soul whom I wouldn't change for all the tea in China. They are living their own lives in their own way. It was so wonderful getting to meet and know Misty, Jim, Adam and Ava. What a lucky Grandma am I to have gotten the chance to know them while I still could.



American Kestrel

The American Kestrel is the smallest and most common falcon in North America and the smallest raptor in the Americas. Though it has been called a *Sparrowhawk*, this common name is a misnomer; it is a true falcon. It is more closely related to the larger American falcons such as the Peregrine, Aplomado and Prairie Falcons than it is to true kestrels. It is also called the *Grasshopper Hawk*, due to its diet, and *Killy Hawk*, due to its distinct call.

There are 17 subspecies of American Kestrel. They range in size from the weight of a Blue Jay to that of a Mourning Dove. They are found from northern Canada and Alaska all the way to the southernmost tip of South America. Most birds breeding in the northern United States and Canada migrate south in the winter. The Southeastern American Kestrel found in Florida is a non-migratory falcon that inhabits open woodlands.

American Kestrels exhibit sexual dimorphism in size and plumage. Females are moderately larger than males. Both sexes have colorful plumage.

Juveniles are similar in plumage to adults.

A male (left) and female perched together in a tree. The sexes differ more in plumage than in size. American Kestrels are sexually mature by their first spring. In migratory populations, males arrive at the breeding ground before females, then the female selects a mate. Pair bonds are strong, often permanent.

*Images and narrative provided by Lou Newman,
Wildlife Photographer*



“Between the Lines”

By: Burt Herman, #809N

This is about idioms.

Idioms are a phrase or expression whose meaning can't be determined directly from the individual words in the phrase or the expression.

I hope I'm not barking up the wrong tree, but chances are you've used most if not all the following idioms, at one time or another.

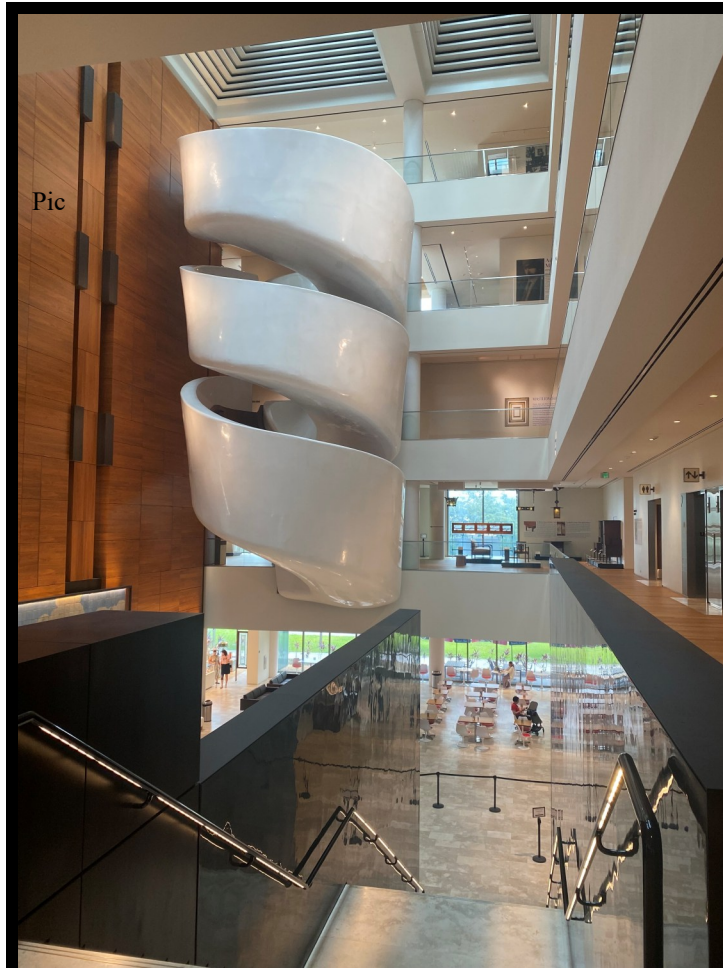
So, at the risk of making a mountain out of a molehill, let's bite the bullet, hope I won't have egg on my face, need to eat my words, or give the impression that I'm a flash in the pan, as I leave no stone unturned with this essay.

These are some of the idioms we routinely use:

Upset the apple cart	Turn a deaf ear
An eye for an eye	Turn the tide
Back against the wall	Against the grain
A white elephant	On thin ice
Cry wolf	Save my skin
Bend over backwards	See the light of day
Watch like a hawk	Swallow my pride
Blow my own horn	Allow the dust to settle
Flog a dead horse	When push comes to shove
Hold your horses	Rub salt in your wound
Take your breath away	The skin of my teeth
Burn the candle at both ends	Have a thick skin
Flash in the pan	Hit the nail on the head
Run around in circles	Pay through the nose
Face the music	Throw caution to the wind
Jump the gun	Spill the beans
Turn the tide	Walk a tight rope
Kill two birds with one stone	Steal the show
An arm and a leg	Let off steam
The other side of the coin	Take a back seat
Come to a head	Stick to my guns
Cut corners	A bitter pill to swallow
Clear the deck	

With that I hope I don't need to eat humble pie. After all, in creating this essay, I stuck to my guns hoping you haven't turned a deaf ear, that my essay isn't off the mark or that I'm considered a flash in the pan.

And if you can read between the lines, it's time for me to take a back seat, and call it a day.



Residents from Sarasota Bay Club visited The Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement (MAACM). It is the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to the American Arts and Crafts movement. Founded by local philanthropist and collector Rudy Ciccarello, MAACM is St. Petersburg's newest museum, featuring stunning architecture, incredible works of art, and an ideal location in the downtown waterfront arts district.

The five-story, 137,000 square-foot museum is a work of art itself, with incredible architectural elements such as a grand atrium, skylights, and a dramatic spiral staircase—all adorned with period art, light fixtures, windows, fireplaces, and more. MAACM features more than 40,000 square feet of gallery space, as well as a destination restaurant with private dining rooms, a retail store, an upscale café, a children's gallery, a reference library, a theater, a graphic studio, a beautiful event space for weddings and corporate events, and an outdoor green space enhanced by original period tiles and fountains.

Information on the Museum taken from the internet. Photos provided by Fern Jaffe and Kathleen Rhem.



FLOOR PARTIES AND STACK PARTIES AT SBC

By: Helen Shaw, #307N

A number of creative residents have begun meeting their neighbors in a proactive way. They have decided that it is not enough to just say “hello” as you meet in the halls or elevators of the North and South towers. Of course, neighbors have always invited each other over for drinks and dinner in their apartments, but these were perhaps one or two people at a time and never in an organized way. We can thank Jan McHugh for expanding these visits into much larger group events. Jan began by inviting all the residents on her floor to gather on a Sunday late afternoon in the hallway. Her reason for meeting in the hallway and not in one apartment was that no one had an apartment large enough to hold residents, wheelchairs and walkers. Management assisted by bringing a large table, tablecloth and chairs into the hallway. Each resident brought drinks and light hors d’oeuvres to share. It turned out to be such a success that a number of other residents have initiated floor parties in the North and

South Towers. Then came two new residents, Carole Schwartz and Barbara Newman, who have been here only a short time, and they decided to hold a stack party.

What is a stack party? Instead of holding a gathering for the entire floor, they sent invitations to residents with apartments going up and down each floor in the same stack (e.g. apt 420s thru 1120s). Everybody was invited to one apartment (620s) for drinks and nibbles. After about twenty minutes, they all took the elevator up to the 10th floor and worked their way down the stack spending about 5 minutes in each apartment. Only those who wished volunteered to show their apartment. Even though each apartment has the same floor plan, people were astonished at the changes that had been made. Some residents had moved walls and made greater open spaces, and of course it was interesting to see everyone’s decorations and art. Carole and Barbara had made reservations for dinner in the dining room for the stack group where they continued enjoying each others’ company. Another twist to their gathering was that they made it a 1920’s theme party, and those who wished came in 1920’s clothing.

Below is how to have a successful “Stack Party” as outlined by Carole Schwartz:

- Pick a theme (If you wish)
- Place a written invitation in each box, RSVP to a designated person and send a reminder a few days before.
- Timing (1 hour):
- 20 minutes for the Meet and Greet at a designated apartment
- 5 minutes per other apartments. Plan on seeing no more than 6 apartments,
- Team: 2 people, one to lead and one to sweep.

Dinner following the apartment visits. Make reservations in advance.

Questions: Contact Jan McHugh at 317-432-0428, Carole Schwartz at 908-419-1417 or Barbara Newman at 414-614-0557.

July 4, 2026 — America’s 250th Birthday Celebrations

July 4, 2026, marked the United States Semiquincentennial, the nation’s 250th birthday, with a series of unprecedented nationwide events blending history, spectacle, and unity. Nationwide events included a special midnight Times Square ball drop, an international fleet of tall ships in New York Harbor, a massive state fair exposition on the National Mall, and presidential addresses at Mount Rushmore and Washington, D.C.



Audrey Sharp, center with son Matthew on left and grandson Charley on right

From the Longboat Key Club Online Newsletter.

On July 3rd, Audrey celebrated her 92nd birthday and is believed to be the oldest active tennis player at the club.

Audrey's tennis journey began in 1945, just as World War II was coming to an end. In those days, girls' schools throughout England played tennis during the summer term, and Audrey was introduced to the game at an early age. Her parents were devoted tennis enthusiasts and arranged private lessons for her—although, as Audrey likes to joke, she never quite mastered the art of volleying!

Her dedication paid off when she earned a place on her school's second team during her senior year. As a junior member of a beautiful club near Liverpool, she enjoyed access to eight grass courts and four red clay courts. During her teenage years, she spent countless summer days playing tennis on the grass, developing a lifelong love for the sport.

Nearly eight decades after first picking up a racket, Audrey continues to enjoy the game and remains an inspiration to players of all ages. We are delighted to celebrate her remarkable milestone and her enduring passion for tennis.

"It is by far the friendliest and most inclusive club I ever encountered. Ian and I made so many friends there, and tennis greatly enhanced our retirements. We played almost every day for 25 years, slowing down a bit in our 80's. We participated in many teams, as well as club tournaments and Round Robins. We won a lifetime supply of sweatshirts! I'm sure we would not have lived so long without the active lifestyle which the club enabled."

A Good Documentary

Book Review by: Carol Green, #321S



Sitting Bull, A Netflix Documentary

By: Carol Green, #321

People of our age grew up bathed on stories of cowboys and Indians in movies, books and on the radio. Cowboys were the heroes. Indians were savages. Indians attacked wagon trains heading west with families. The families had the goal of establishing new lives. They were the good guys. The Indians attacked and destroyed settlers' homes.

Now, I ask how many of these images have stayed with you? Do you consider the Indian culture to be primitive, backward, savage and without a moral compass? Do you believe they had no religion? Was their society complex? Was it worthy of maintaining?

The truth is that the interactions between the settlers and the Native Americans was far different than has been communicated to us. If you have Netflix and if you have an interest in better understanding the historical interactions, I urge you to listen to 2-episode programming entitled "Sitting Bull." Each episode is about 1.5 hours.

I have read many books on the subject and will say that the Netflix programming is authentic. It seriously looks into the history of the great chief Sitting Bull's tribe, the Lakota Sioux. Included are 2 major historical events. One is the battle at the Little Bighorn River, in which Custer and his army were defeated. You are likely familiar with this battle. The other is the massacre of mostly Lakota women and children at Wounded Knee, which you should know about. I had a radio show in Denver and I had the joy of interviewing various personalities. One was author Vine DeLoria. He wrote the book "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee." That is how I learned of the massacre.

I encourage you to watch "Sitting Bull." The episodes also recognize other famous Lakota leaders, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse. Should you become interested in the subject, I strongly urge you to read a biography on Crazy Horse. Although you know him as a warrior, Crazy Horse was a mystic. He was a fascinating individual. He was chosen to lead the battle at the Little Bighorn because it was believed by his tribe members that he could not be killed in battle. That proved to be the case.

There are other tribes with very interesting stories. The stories of the Navajo are told through the many Tony Hillerman books and the Netflix series Dark Winds.

The part of the United States where I had my Weight Watchers franchise included the Lakota, the Cheyenne, the Arapahoe, the Ute and other smaller tribes. Do not be fooled into believing they were savages. They were not. Their rituals were and to this day remain fascinating.

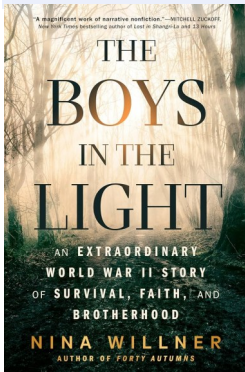
I strongly encourage you to watch the 2 episodes of Sitting Bull.

Sitting Bull Trivia

1. Originally named "Jumping Badger".
2. Credited with several legendary acts of bravery.
3. First man to become chief of the entire Lakota Sioux nation.
4. Had a spiritual premonition of his most famous victory.
5. Did not lead the Battle of the Little Bighorn.
6. Spent 4 years in exile in Canada.
7. Toured with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.
8. He considered Annie Oakley his adopted daughter.
9. Killed over involvement in the 'Ghost Dance' movement.
10. Gravesite location is still debated today.

A Good Read

Book Review by: Carol Green, #321S



The Boys in the Light by Nina Willner

Submitted by Carol Green, #321

Tragic, inspiring, heart rending, angry, tearful while providing an endless array of emotions. This book focuses on three very young men from very different backgrounds coming together in World War 2. It is a true story of love and heroism. It was selected as the 3rd best book of 2025 by the Wall Street Journal. I would rate it as one of the best books I have read in many years.

I am not a fan of war stories, and shy away from violence. However, this book captures the reader and it is impossible not to become fully absorbed in it. Elmer, with a high school diploma, descending from a strict Lutheran background, is from Minnesota. Through circumstances, he becomes a leader. He is placed in the Officer Candidate program. Some objected due to his lack of a college education. Nevertheless, he goes on to become a lieutenant. Serving under an alcoholic Captain, Elmer is forced into a leadership position. His success is inspiring.

Sammy, from Boston, worked at his father's diner. He was assigned to run the mess hall. He takes this responsibility seriously and does everything he can to make the meals available as good as they can possibly be, and to serve them under the most favorable conditions. He demonstrates true concern for the wellbeing of the men in his Company.

Then there is Eddie, a Jewish boy from a secular German family swept up by the Nazis. Forced to survive near starvation and extreme forced labor, he becomes a painful aspect of the book. This is truly a tale of innocence lost. It is also the tale of the making of a brave and strong man.

These disparate lives meld, along with others, into an unforgettable tale of overcoming fear, bravery, camaraderie, and a continued fight for survival.

The story of America rises to the challenge to save Europe, Asia, and humankind from the terrors that could await them. One is mesmerized by the different backgrounds, religions, upbringing and how they forge a union to fight the enemy and the threat to the world. D Company is the focus of the book. The bond was so strong that the men had reunions starting ten years after the war that continued throughout their lives.

Please have lots of tissues on hand as the tears will flow involuntarily. The love they had for one another changed their lives and made them the men they became. I highly recommend the book. It will give you an appreciation for the sacrifices of the young men who went off to fight for freedom in World War 2.

Since we missed the May June edition of Scoop, Carol wanted to include this book review as she says this is a very good read and she didn't want you to miss the opportunity to enjoy it.



Experiment

By: Linda Albert, #209N

Two aliens pretending to be X-ray technicians kidnapped me
from a waiting room at 8:30 a.m. the other day;
led me to a cold room jammed with machines and dials,
and ordered me to lie flat on a table.

A UFO lookalike hovers above my chest. Warned to breathe normally,
arms fixed above my head without moving,
I attempt to staunch my fear by conjuring up memories
that might make metaphors for poems, mind jumping off track,
dizzying as old celluloid films.

A needle with tube attached is pushed inside my right elbow-
into the vein that's always good. Around my upper left arm
a belt is strapped. It loosens, tightens, loosens, tightens,
shushing in...and...out...in...and... out...in...and...out...throughout.

Ever since you died, a year ago last January, it's been like this-
a vampire thief out to steal my youth, like the robber who stole me
from my bed when I was two and left me in the cold to die.
But then my father heard me cry, rescued my blanket from the floor,
explained the reason for my dream, and tucked me in again.

This year my hair's no longer blond, but white. Cataracts removed and
polyps. A portion of my gums replaced. New crowns. A COVID
breakthrough. Wrinkles on the thighs you used to worship. A scarecrow
doll of mends and patches. Oh, yes, add hearing aids.

At home, alone I get the news. My heart at 83 still does its job. I've passed the test.
Outside the palms wave greetings, the grass a feast of green beside the rippled bay.
I fall back to my sixteenth summer when two hot-shot boys rode their boat
directly into the Lake Huron swells for thrills, capsizing us and throwing me
under; so unexpected, that all I could see was water.

I think. *So, this is what it's like to drown. Silent. Peaceful.* Nothing to it!

Amazed to have no sense of fear, I float around this sea world, open my eyes
just before crashing head-first into the outboard motor still propelling up-side-down-
A map proclaiming sometimes swimming sideways is the way to save your life.

Editor's Note: SBC resident Linda Albert's poem "Experiment" was first published alongside two of her other poems in the International Women's Writing Guild 2026 anthology, *Something Inside So Strong: Women Writing on Resistance, Resilience, and Reverence*, available on Amazon.

What We Were Doing in 1995

By: Carol Dechant, #1120S

I know what you were doing on October 2, 1995. Everyone in America was doing the same thing 31 years ago. It was THE story of that century. Surely you've not forgotten. Anyone remember?

I happened to be in L.A. WHERE it was happening. I was there because my younger sister (Harriett) was having an operation by a team of brain surgeons removing tumors on her brain's auditory nerve. Harriett's groom was there too—she'd married him three months before this—as was her daughter Hillary, who'd just graduated high school.

But WE were not the happening in L.A. that captured America's attention. You all were watching THAT on TV, spellbound. Patients' families got a special rate at the hotel near both the clinic and the courthouse—the courthouse that was having “the trial of that century.” O.J. Simpson.

A laboratory girl came into Harriett's room to administer some meds, walked over to the TV and turned on the trial, before asking us to leave the room. When she left and we went back in the room Harriett said the lab girl's theory of the crime was that the driver of the white Bronco police were following only pretended to be O.J.'s pal—while having a fling with Nicole—Simpson's now dead wife. Harriett was loopy from medication, but enjoyed discussing this strange theory. They took her to surgery and eight hours later returned to the room having had something removed more rare than the suspected neuroma.

The next morning Harriett told of intensive care brain patients spending the night in a large wide hallway, hooked up to machines; each patient had a nurse sitting in a chair at the foot of their bed. About 8 patients & their nurses were spread out along this corridor.

Waking in the middle of the night Harriett saw that the nurses had a TV set tuned to the nighttime re-play of that day's trial—assuming their sleeping patients with auditory problems would not hear the TV.

The next morning as I was going to the hospital, I asked the cab driver if the courthouse was anywhere near the hospital. “All the patients' relatives ask that,” he said, because on the courthouse steps people were selling trial mementoes of the characters involved—lawyers; (Kardashian), doctors, a cop. I bought a (Judge) Lance Ito button for myself, and one for Harriett, knowing that we'd always remember this strange time in L.A.

Harriett recovered, returned to her Texas home and had several good decades before she died two years ago from cancer. She visited me at Sarasota Bay Club in 2023. Harriett's only child, Hillary, is close to my four kids, her cousins—and lives a good life in New York, the single mom of twin boys in college.

O.J. was found innocent in the trial. Years later, he was arrested and charged with armed robbery and kidnapping and sentenced to thirty-three years in prison. He was released on parole in 2017 and died from cancer in 2024.

A Loving Heart by Caring I. Santos, #1104

A loving heart shares what is good; heals what is hurting; does what is possible; understands without judging; everything that has a beginning has an end.

So forget the past, plan for the future, enjoy the present, have full trust and faith in the Lord. He will take care of you today.

Have a great day ahead. God Bless us all.

Teethy Fish

By: David Kotok, #528S

Three tales of sharp teeth and long fights.

According to the Outdoor Foundation's annual report on fishing, 57.9 million Americans went fishing last year. I was one of them. Christine was another. Most of my children and all my grandchildren were too. About 20%-25% of America's fishing enthusiasts will go fishing at least once during the 4th of July holiday weekend. So we dedicate today's holiday weekend missive to the nearly 60 million of us who enjoy fishing.



45 lb. catfish taken Mississippi River in Memphis, Tennessee



Christine Schlesinger and Captain Danny hold "the catch".



Barracuda caught in South Andros

Story 1: The Barracuda of South Andros

Our first tale comes from an early May trip to South Andros. The wind was too strong for long casting with a fly rod, so we switched to spinning rods and trolled the reef.

The lure had been trailing behind the boat for only a few minutes when a large barracuda slammed it with incredible force, immediately setting the hook. The fish ripped line from the reel, running several times against a tight drag as it tried to dive back toward the coral structures. I steadily pumped the rod to gain back line, feeling every head shake and surge of the heavy fish. Finally, we managed to pull it close enough to the boat to see its long, silver shape gleaming in the clear waters near the world's second-largest reef.

The strategy produced two barracudas. My friend (another David K.) and I each had our turn with a 20-minute fight. Here is the fish being held by the mate while I took the photo.

Story 2: The Northern Pike of Hatchett Lake

This next set of teeth belongs to a Northern Pike from a summer trip to Hatchet Lake Lodge in northern Saskatchewan.

My guide on this trip had been with me on a previous trip exactly 18 years earlier. Talk about a coincidence. We looked at each other and said, "I know you."

Teethy Fish Continued

This pike was taken on a 6-weight fly rod, and bringing it in took about a half-hour. Because I was on a light 6-weight fly rod, I had to let it run against a drag that wasn't too tight so the fish wouldn't break the line. Fortunately, the fish was taken out in deeper water — it could not get me caught up on a rock, tree, or other sunken obstacles. I managed to control the fight out in the open until the fish finally tired out.

It ran to the backing near the end of the spool three times. Having exhausted my supply of steel leaders, I turned a 20-pound leader around and used the thick "butt section" to tie to the streamer.

The pike cut about halfway through it, but the leader held long enough for me to get the fish into the boat for this picture.



Left picture: David, the guide, and a Northern Pike of Hatchett Lake.

Special note, once asked what my most exotic fish was. This tiger wins the prize, Single prop to a dirt strip, two-hour jeep ride through jungle, tent camp on river—all gear (4 rods) in 70 pound gear bag. And only one day to fish. I thanked the fish before releasing it, but didn't kiss it!

Thank you for allowing me to share my fish stories.

Tight lines to all readers.

Story 3: The Tiger Fish of Zambia

Our last story is exotic. This tiger fish was taken on a spinning rod on a remote safari in Zambia.

The backdrop for this adventure was the [Zambezi River](#), which is among Africa's longest rivers, and very wide. As we traveled, we could see a pod of hippos clustering on one side of the water and large crocodiles resting along the banks. Our guide carefully navigated the boat to keep a safe distance from the hippos. They are highly territorial animals and could easily tip the boat over if we got too close.

Christine and I caught several small tiger fish on fly rods. I asked the guide why only small fish were active.

"The big ones are deep," he replied. "You will need to strip faster."

"I cannot do it any faster," I said.

So I switched to a spinning rod and put on a "Rattle Trap." That lure is a heavy, sinking minnow imitation with internal pellets that rattle so the fish can hear the pinging.

Because of the teeth, I used a steel leader on a heavier spinning rod. I sent the cast as far as I could and then proceeded to reel as fast as I could. The lure was down about 20 feet when this fish slammed it.



May —June 2026

Move-ins

<u>Name</u>	<u>Apartment</u>
Doris Botshon	524S
Dorothy Garner	923S

July—August 2026

Jenne Britell	914N
Stanley & Susan Gordon	210N
Lewis Hanan	1014N
Gail Katz	613N
Barry & Karen Oshry	505N
Dawn Albrecht-Parys	627S
John & Catherine Saynor	408N
Donna Adams & Heidi Sirchis	701N



Standoff between Kestrel female and red bellied Woodpecker. Images provided by Lou Newman.



After 28-31 days hatchlings wings are developed and they can leave the nest. Images provided by Lou Newman.