

The Foundation PAges

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The Foundation Needs YOU to help our Seniors with every day living and exercise.

Please support our Weekend Wonderland Saturday, December 5

> Flea Market Silent Auction Live Auction

We need Volunteers & Donations

727-893-2237 727-893-1231

Welcome New Members!

From Jane D. Ogilvie, President

Welcome to all of the new members who have joined the Foundation over the past three months! It's hard to believe that we have over 230 Members! Your support is crucial to the continued success of the Foundation. Big projects demand big support, and the Senior Center has some big items on its wish list!

On August 27th at the Catherine Hickman Theater, we had a very special public tribute to a previous Member of our Board of Directors, Mrs. Sophie Friedlander who passed away on June 14th. As an educator and docent of the Museum herself, we feel that Sophie would have been pleased to be honored in this manner. Presenters were Carolyn Bass, Executive Director, and Urszula Szczepinska, Curator of Education at the Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg.

For the first time, the Foundation participated in Gulfport's annual Gecko Fest! We were happy to be out in the Community spreading the word about our mission. We met people of all ages who are interested in helping to support our projects, and who shared their hard earned nickels and dimes with us to show their approval. People were amazed to hear that we have created a new Fitness Center in the Senior Center and think the equipment is beautiful.

Important! Please help!

We will be having a mega sale and auction the first weekend in December at the Senior Center. The only way we can have it is if we have things to auction off or sell. That's where YOU come in. If you have an item that you would like to donate for us to sell or auction, PLEASE call the Senior Center. Leadership Team member Julia Fuce has been working tirelessly soliciting donations from various sponsors. Thank you Julia! She can use all of the help we can give her! Pam McGinnis, another devoted Center Volunteer is working away on her famous Gift Baskets.

Finally, let me remind all of our readers how important you are to our Foundation. Your support has been tremendous!

Attention Foundation Members and Partners!

Senior Center Foundation
Annual General Meeting & Members' Night

Monday, November 16, 2009 5:30 p.m. at the Gulfport Senior Center

> Catered Dinner – Door Prizes Entertainment by Steve Wayne

Watch for your invitation early to mid-October.

Mark Your Calendar! Weekend Wonderland Coming December 4-5

We need your donations For this Boutique Sale, Live & Silent Auction to benefit the Foundation.





Iris Kroener and Bob Scalzo Foundation Members

To Pitch In, Call: 727-893-2237 or 727-893-1231



Volunteer of the Month - Rita Thompson

Whenever anyone thinks about the Senior Center's Snack Bar, the one name that always comes into mind is that of Rita Thompson. Right from the beginning, Rita has been there, organizing everything, making suggestions and taking responsibility for keeping it supplied. Rita knows better than anyone else where to get the best buys and for much of the time, she is the person who goes out and does the shopping herself. Rita is also a most generous and willing substitute whenever there is a short fall of volunteers, a person who without hesitation accepts any assignment given to her.

Another of Rita's gifts to the Senior Center is that she is a walking advertisement for upcoming social events. If she isn't signing people up, she is selling something - anything- to make a few extra dollars for the Senior Center Foundation. Along with refreshments, Rita has sold plants, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, and greeting cards, at her counter.

Rita has also helped put on several Flea Market sales throughout the year to raise money for the Senior Center Foundation. She serves on the Senior Center Leadership Team and supported special events on many occasions by working the reception area, taking tickets, organizing door prizes and opportunity drawings.

Rita is the perfect fit for her position at the Snack Bar with her ready smile, friendly welcome and ability to listen to the joys and sorrows of her coffee clients who come to the Center to relax in the Lobby and enjoy a good conversation.

Better Together

From Senior Center Supervisor, Susan Frank:

Recently I attended the annual Florida Council on Aging Conference in St. Pete Beach. The theme was "Better Together". That phrase so well describes the partnership between the Gulfport Senior Center and the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

We have learned from experience that partnerships are key to the success of our facility and we have a very long list of agencies and individuals who have collaborated with us to make this Senior Center all that it is. Of course, at the top of that list is the Senior Center Foundation.

Thanks to the Foundation, seniors using our facility today have many more opportunities to enhance their well being than they did five years ago.

We also value our partnerships with individual members who care enough about our facility to become involved in some unique way. So thanks to all our Senior Center participants who are now Foundation members, our 100 volunteers and instructors as well as numerous sponsors and agencies who have proven that we are definitely better together as we meet the challenges of today and beyond.



New Board Member April Hill

April Hill is the founder of Hill Law Group, PA, of St. Petersburg, a firm that opened its offices in 2002 and is devoted to the field of elder law,

She earned her Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law in 1997 and her B.A. in Social Work from Christopher Newport University, in Virginia in 1984.

April is board certified as a specialist in elder law by both the Florida Bar and the National Elder Law Foundation and practices in the area of estate planning, trusts, Life Care Planning, Medicaid asset protection, VA benefits and probate. April is a US veteran and has been a speaker at several continuing legal education programs in her field of expertise. In addition to her law practice April is an adjunct professor at Stetson University College of Law.

Foundation Board of Directors

Jane D. Ogilvie (President)
Greg D. Stemm
(Vice-President)
Cynthia M. Dean (Secretary/Treasurer)

Joan M. Barry, Barbara Burkham, Michael Calamari, William H. Distel, Carole C. Gabrio, April Hill, Bernadette D. Homan, David M. Lemke, Sarah Peel, and Pat Smoot.

Hold the Date! Don't Miss Our Weekend Wonderland December 4th & 5th Tickets On Sale October 1st – Get Yours While They Last!



Look what's happening on December 4th and 5th! Your Senior Center and the Foundation will be sponsoring a Weekend Wonderland to benefit the Foundation.

A subcommittee of the Leadership Team has been busily working to make this benefit a huge success. On December 5th there will be a live/silent auction and an opportunity raffle of twelve special theme baskets. For a donation of \$5.00 each person will be given three raffle tickets towards the baskets, one ticket for a grand prize which is still to be determined and, of course, munchies, beverages and entertainment will be offered. On December 4th it will be our largest flea market yet, with a special room full of Better Boutique items.

We still need new items for the auctions and slightly used items for the flea market. If you have anything you would like to donate just drop it off at the Senior Center. We also are looking for volunteers to help

solicit gifts, and to work on both days. It's going to be a major effort to help raise these needed funds. We need your help, so come and support the Foundation and your Senior Center!

Julia Fuce has been working on obtaining larger grants. So far, we have several nice prizes, including a two night stay at a hotel, passes for Disney and passes for StarLite Cruises. The Foundation was also awarded a \$10.000 grant for air time from Bright House Networks. Expect to see our 30 second spots on approximately 20 different local channels. Great promotion!!

Foundation Fitness Center Having a Big Impact on Senior Lives

The Senior Center Foundation's new fitness center is proving to be a wildly popular addition to the offerings at the Senior Center and well worth the Foundation's \$85,000 investment. Nearly 200 people used the facility more than 1000 times in the last month alone and the peak of the winter season is still months away. The numbers say a lot, but it is the individual impact the new fitness center is having on senior's lives that is most important.

Former city council member Mary Stull uses the facility several times a week. She uses both the new exercise machines as well as the treadmill. "The machines are great, you get a good workout without having to strain yourself," said Mary. "I like them best. I have to motivate myself to get on the treadmill, but I'm glad I've been doing that, too. I can see a real difference in my stamina."

Mary had been walking with a cane after a knee replacement in December and had resigned herself to limited mobility the rest of her life. After she began working out on the equipment several months ago, the cane is history and her balance and mobility have improved dramatically. "Now I can keep up with friends who are in their 30s," said Mary. "I'm able to climb up stairs and do yard work I haven't been able to do in more than 2 years. I'm mowing the grass, cleaning out closets and moving things around in the house. It's great to be so much more self reliant."

Mary likes to tell the story that recently she expressed concern to a friend that she has a bump on one of her arms. "The friend said, 'Mary do you have a bump on the other arm too?' and low and behold I did. My friend pointed out to me that I had muscles! I've never had muscles like that in my arms before. It's really amazing. I could never have afforded an expensive gym membership," said Mary. "But I get a great workout and terrific results as a member of the Senior Center." She was only too happy to pay the \$20 Foundation membership fee. "I'd really like to thank the Foundation for this investment. It's changed my life."

Another Foundation member who uses the Fitness Center regularly is Kathleen Andrews. "I never really used the Senior Center much before, except to come and play bridge," said Kathleen. "But I started working out on the machines about seven months ago and I really love them. I don't have any cartilage in my knees so I can't do really stressful exercise, but the machines are great because they do most of the work for you."

Kathleen says she has seen a huge increase in her agility. "My grandson from California visited recently and he was commenting on what a difference he could see in me," said Kathleen. Kathleen follows a regimen where she does a series of six machines for three minutes each twice a week. Her total workout each time is only 18 minutes, but it is making a world of difference over time. "I like to come work out and then I go play bridge," said Kathleen. It makes for a fun day. When asked what she'd like to see the Foundation do next for the Center she is quick to respond. "I want a pool," she said. "I'm 80 years old, but I'm hopeful I'll see that in my lifetime."

We'll keep you posted on that Kathleen!

FRIEND \$100 +

Foundation Members September 2009

Allen, Judith Amblard, Michel & Daniela Art of Massage/Leta Woloshuk Askwyth, Phyllis Babus, Lorraine L. Bachner, Felicia Barry, Ed & Joan Bay Area Care/Martha J. Flanagan Bean, Arline E. Bednarek, Lucy Belkin, Madeline Benjamin, Harry V. Bennett, Terri Berger, Marie Bialasiewicz, Danuta G. Bianchi, Walter Billhimer, Alice B. Bisson, John E. Boldireff, Serge & Faina Bowdoin, Armandina Brown, Anna M. Browne, Elizabeth P. Butler, Joseph Calamari, Michael P. Cargo, Helen J. Caruso, Jennie V. Chapple, Carole Chudwin, Caryl Clarkson, M. Genevieve Clifford, Ellen W. Coates, Brenda S. Colello, Marie Collins, Doris E. Cord, William H. Cory, Mary E. Crawford, Mary Jo Crowley, Janette C. Curcuruto, Sylvio & Josephine D'Alessandro, Carol Dante, Steven & Sharon Darby, Angela D. Davies, Mella C. Davis, Michael W. December, Michael & Mary Del Bene, Lorraine Denis, Theresa DeVine, Hazel DiStefano, Gerard C. Dobrowolski, Lucille J. Dorn, Karean A. Drews, Sharon Kay Dukeshire, M. Helen Duncan, Diana M. Dye, Barbara C. Eberhardt, Lee Eels, David & Rita M. Ethan Garr/Southside Associates Even, Ursula Farris, Winifred J. Feraca, Marianne M. Ferrone, Anne Finlan, Mary Finnerty, James & Beverly Foxwell, Robert G & Patricia C Frappier, Estelle Free, Ray

Fuce, Henry & Julia

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Miller, Brian A.

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SILVER PARTNER S500 +

Allstate Insurance Kilroy Financial Services/Craig R. Kilrov Blair, David & Michelle Italian American Society of St. Petersburg Palms of Pasadena Hospital

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PLATINUM \$2,500 +

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Eleanor Daly Troy Shapemaster Florida LLC

BENEFACTOR \$50,000+

Estate of Marion T. Kester Estate of Elsa J. Feeny

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