

Seashore News



December 2017

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Issue 528

In the Spirit of the Season... Celebrate!

*Special Niguel Shores Events to
Enjoy with Family and Friends*



Holiday Lights Contest

It's that time again, soooo...

Light up your neighborhood!

Contest begins November 24, with judging of each street on December 15 and 16! Have some fun, be creative, and show off your most fantastic holiday light displays! For answers to your FAQs, see page 15 or contact Recreation Committee member Kathy Samuel at (949) 444-1674.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 3, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Kids! Parents! Grandparents! Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Friends! Come help us light the beautiful Shores tree on the Rec Center Patio. We'll have music, hot cocoa, coffee, cookies, and (shhhhh... it's a surprise) Santa Claus is coming to town. Fun for all! Join in!

Toy Collection

Make a child happy during the holidays

by donating a new unwrapped toy at our Tree Lighting, Men's Club Breakfast, or Women's Club Holiday Party.

Men's Club Holiday Breakfast

Tuesday, December 5, 8:00 a.m.

The Niguel Shores Men's Club invites you to our Holiday Breakfast featuring the Dana Hills High School Choir. If you wish, please bring an unwrapped child's gift to place under the tree for distribution by the local fire department.

Women's Club Holiday Party

Thursday, December 14, from 5 to 7 p.m.

A festive evening awaits all members of the Niguel Shores Women's Club, along with their invited guests, at the annual Women's Club Holiday Party. Our elves have transformed the Clubhouse into a "Winter Woodland" complete with a tall lighted pine, forest animals, glowing campfire lanterns, and frosty snowmen to create the perfect winter setting. Members should bring a hearty appetizer for sharing. Come and enjoy!

New Year's Eve Party

Sunday, December 31, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

BYOB and count down with your neighbors as we usher in 2018! Dancing and music by your favorite DJ. Make a resolution to attend the New Year's Eve Party and usher in 2018 with friendship and good cheer!

HOLIDAY TIME IS... FAMILY TIME

Thank you to all family, friends, co-workers,
and clients for making 2017 an amazing year.

TAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY

Sincerely, Bob Gino



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'Twas the night before Christmas in my new HOA...

*Into their new home they soon settled down
Feeling like a king and a queen with a crown.
Their new home they filled with baubles and treasure
The joy from their new life they could hardly measure.
This fantastic home was all shiny and new
They felt as if their dreams had come true.*

*But shortly thereafter they received in the mail
A letter from the association with an interesting tale.
The letter claimed they had a non-approved tree*

*Its tone and format had no mention of glee.
The letter told them they had violated the CC&Rs
And even mentioned their 4 lovely cars.*

*What had they done to awaken such ire
They felt they had only fulfilled their desire
To live in a beautiful home with a view
Now they no longer knew what to do.
What was this mysterious document cited
By this HOA, did they have the desire to fight it?*

*Knowing no other way but to jump in
They retrieved their CC&Rs from the circular bin.
And review them they did based solely on fear
Knowing their hearing date soon would be here.
Page after page they turned with alarm
Believing that this document could only do harm
But soon they discovered no reason to fear
For the rules and the CC&Rs were very clear.
And none of them arbitrary or harmful
But instead many of them seemed quite useful.
They saw rules about parking
And small dogs a-barking.*



*There were rules about dues
But nothing about shoes (whew).
With everything spelled out so easy and bright
They knew in an instant there was no cause for fright.
For this HOA of which they just learned
Was a new page in their life recently turned.
With knowledge of what was permitted and not
They again felt happy they had bought
Their dream home with this HOA
And they no longer were afraid to stay.
They responded to the letter
And made everything better:
Then ran for a seat on the board
And their hearts into their duties they poured.
They first tackled the tone of the letter
They had received and made it much better.
It now sounded nice and remindful to owners
Who may not have known of their duties to others.
They then created social committees and chairs
Because they believed that each owner had cares
About the community and their individual homes
And would do the right thing and not display garden gnomes.
The HOA they once feared became a cause for celebration
And no longer a source of endless frustration.
For they had conquered their fear of the unknown
And through their actions their community had grown.
Such a profound effect on one community
You too can have and live with such glee.
By fighting against fear and disregard
And again be happy to sit in your backyard.*

Happy Holidays!

Marla Miller and the NSCA Staff



OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The office will be closed as follows:

December 15 — 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Staff Holiday Lunch
December 22 — 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve
December 25 — All Day	Christmas Day
December 29 — 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve
January 1 — All Day	New Year's Day

In the event that you need immediate assistance during the time when the office is closed, please contact the patrol service at the gatehouse for direction.

CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTERS:

Dumpsters left at construction sites are for the disposal of construction material only.

Do not throw personal trash in these dumpsters.

Please be considerate and place personal trash in your own trash cans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LANDSCAPE

Please check with the office if you are going to tent for termites or fumigate as a condition of escrow. There have been incidents in the Shores of the tents being placed over plants by adjacent homeowners, which in turn has caused Association plants to be destroyed. This requires the Association to assess repair costs to the homeowner for the damage. Fumigators and real estate agents should be aware of this before any fumigation takes place so that plants can be protected. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the owner to protect Association or neighboring property from damage.

—Bill Walkup

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

With the Yuletide and Winter Solstice rapidly approaching, it will become darker much earlier. At the same time vehicle and pedestrian traffic will increase during the upcoming holidays. Keeping that in mind, we ask each of you to drive extra carefully and also to be extra cautious while walking across all streets.

Car Clouts: “Tis the season . . .” for thefts from motor vehicles. For the most part, thieves don’t break into locked vehicles any more. However, don’t tempt them by leaving anything of value in an unattended car.

Guard it: We are responsible for our guests. Recently, we have experienced incidents wherein purported guests placed their “host” in a precarious and embarrassing position by becoming a nuisance and maliciously annoying others. There have been several occasions where the non-resident individuals causing the problems had somehow obtained passwords and later utilized the information at the gate to gain entrance to use our amenities and annoy folks. The lesson is to guard your personal gate passwords.

Fire Hydrants: We have quite a few fire hydrants throughout our community, and many are in mid-block. The curbs near these devices are not necessarily painted to warn us not to park near them. We have to be alert so we don’t park within 15 feet of any of them unless it is otherwise posted. Incidentally, if you were wondering, we don’t have control over the color the hydrants are painted.

Malicious Mischief: Recently a criminal(s) vandalized some of the lanterns along the pathways and streets of our community. They seemed to have taken delight breaking the glass on the quaint lanterns that most of us appreciate. To properly replace or fix these lights costs all of us in more than one way. The damage detracts from the overall positive ambiance of our neighborhoods, and it utilizes money that we could better spend elsewhere. If anyone has information about the suspect(s) please pass it to the office.



Time of Year:

This is the season to say, “Nolliag Shona Duit.”

—Tim Murphy

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We hope your Thanksgiving holiday was a wonderful celebration enjoying family and friends, and giving thanks for all the blessings we share in our lives—family, friends, health, abundance, and the wonderful community of Niguel Shores we call home. And now it’s time to celebrate more holiday cheer and joy through December and into the New Year.

This past year we have have talked about a lot of preparations we should make for protecting our homes and loved ones against earthquakes, fires, accidents, fraud, scams, theft, water safety, illness, and so on, but let’s take a step back as the year closes out to enjoy the holidays and prepare for 2018.

In the spirit of the season, during the coming days into January 2018 we can try to bring cheer to others, continue giving thanks for what we share in love and friendship, be generous in giving to those less fortunate, and reach out to bring joy and smiles to everyone.

AND, as we go about the fun of holiday festivities let’s make sure we are focused on following steps to insure safety in our travels, holiday shopping, preparing our homes with decorations, and celebrating up to New Year’s Day. Sometimes we get caught up in the rush to get things done and take shortcuts in being safe and vigilant in the process. Let’s STOP and SLOW DOWN and enjoy the beauty of the holidays without any mishaps.

Wishing you all joyous and wonderful holidays with good cheer, love, and many laughs and smiles.

—Kent Wellbrock

FOR BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

Please See our Website

WWW.NIGUELSHORES.ORG

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAINTENANCE

Notice of Swimming Pool Closure December 4 through 8:

One of the more technically challenging jobs of Maintenance has to do with maintaining the swimming pool and spa as well as the pumps, filters, a significant array of plumbing and, in addition, the chemistry of the water.

Currently, the 120,000 gallon NSCA pool is overdue for a closure and fresh water replenishment. The pool is usually drained about every 6 months, removing 60 to 70% of old water each time. However, this year the pool had a 100% fresh water fill in February, so the refill time was extended. While the balance of various chemicals is within spec, meaning “we have good chemistry,” there is a measurement of total dissolved solids, TDS, signaling that the pool needs to be drained and filled with fresh water. TDS is the measure of the sum of all the substances dissolved in the pool water. High levels of TDS are caused by chemicals, sweat, sunscreen, debris and other matter, which all leave a residual in the pool. High TDS levels can create problems even if the pool’s chemistry is good. Problems range from cloudy water, staining, eye and skin irritation, to inability of chlorine to disinfect. It sometimes creates a situation where the pool will keep developing problems no matter how perfect the water chemistry is, or how often the pool filters are cleaned. For these reasons we need to close the pool and replenish the water at this time.

COMMUNITY POOL & SPA CLOSED

for Maintenance
Monday, December 4
to
Friday, December 8

During the closure, we plan to replace all four pool pumps and one spa pump with energy efficient variable speed pool pumps. Because of the time to drain the pool, refill with fresh water and install the new pumps, a five day closure is required.

Do you want to be involved in important decisions regarding the maintenance of our community facilities? Join the Maintenance Committee. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m.

—Bob Gregg

RECREATION

Whoa! The Holidays are here! (Well, almost.)

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving full of blessings. This is the season to be thankful for the unbelievable

Community where we live, to express gratitude for all we have, and to share our abundance wherever we can.

We also hope you had a chance to visit our great Holiday Boutique. It was a huge success. Thank you to Nancy Tinnes for chairing this event.

Don’t miss the upcoming events for December:

- **Holiday Tree Lighting** – Sunday, December 3, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Enjoy cocoa and cookies with your friends while Santa Claus reads to the children under the tree.
- **Holiday Lights Contest** – Be sure your lights are on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16 for contest judging. Start decorating now to be ready for the judging and make your street the best!
- **New Year’s Eve Party** – Sunday, December 31, 8:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Come and join us at our annual New Year’s Eve Party! Bring your own beverages and dancing shoes to enjoy great music.

—Maria Elena Banks

Happy Shoppers at Holiday Boutique



CLUBS

WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club November Luncheon honored our veterans and those who served our country. Niguel Shores resident Lieutenant Madelyn Baladi, a Navy Intensive Care nurse in the 1970s, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by members singing our National Anthem led by Maria Elena Banks. Our thanks to Terry Link and her committee for the patriotic table centerpieces honoring our veterans. Thank you also to Tina Fornadley for helping us attain the centerpiece flags from the 5th Marines and the generous contributions from our members.

We had the pleasure of hearing resident Dee Gruening as our speaker. And what an inspirational and motivational person

she is! She used her career in Rubber Stamping as an example to encourage involvement in activities at every stage of life. Dee went from teaching to become a successful entrepreneur and was the proud owner of Posh Presents in Laguna Niguel.

This month, Niguel Shores Women's Club will be hosting our annual Holiday Party for all members and their spouses or significant others on Thursday, December 14, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring an appetizer serving 10 to 12 people and come enjoy this festive event.

Our regular luncheon meetings will resume on January 11, 2018 from noon to 2:00 p.m.

—Maria Elena Banks

Enjoying the November Luncheon



View more at www.niguelshores.org

MEN'S CLUB

The Niguel Shores Men's Club provides an annual scholarship and three functions—camaraderie, two great breakfasts a month, and informative/entertaining speakers. New members, new residents and old residents are all welcome. Bring a neighbor. Meet your neighbors. Pick up an application at the office or call your secretary. Sorry, we do not serve wine with breakfast.

We love this place!

The Niguel Shores Men's Club Morris/Wollin team provided another magnificent breakfast on November 7. Thanks guys. We learned that Jack Sweeney's health continues to improve. Geoff Dunlevie introduced us to www.shoresangels.com (949) 359-1939, a new group formed by Rhonda Dunlevie dedicated to helping our neighbors with a need—errands, chores, lunch, reading or just visiting. Bob Enger announced that as the football season comes to a close, the Men's Club sponsors a football pool for the benefit of the scholarship fund.

The state of the shores

Our speaker, **Bob Russell**, arrived in Niguel Shores late in the last millennium. At the beginning of the current era, he joined the Men's Club and then took on a position on the Niguel Shores Homeowners' Association Board of Directors. Is that a government? Not quite. No pay and no perks—except contributing to making Niguel Shores a lovable place.

Bob indicated that the four-month process of creating a budget for the Shores resulted in three variations—two with a raise in assessments and one without. Considering that the reserves are good and projects under control, the Board selected for the sixth consecutive year a no increase budget, but one without a surplus. Inevitably, we can expect an increase in 2019. He said it's always a tough management decision to choose between raising rates to create a surplus or keeping the budget tight and facing special assessments for unexpected crises. Our seventy to ninety percent reserves are better than the reserves in most HOA communities.

Bob explained that Niguel Shores financially benefits from having a management team that works for us rather than for a separate management company. A major extraordinary expense has been the soon to be completed major slope

reconditioning and reconstruction. The water bill for Niguel Shores has been less than anticipated. Thank you, meters and rain. However, another drought will likely reverse that savings.

He said the Revetment project and path are proceeding. The plans have been approved by the Breakers, by Niguel Shores, by Orange County, and submitted to the Coastal Commission. Completion is targeted for four years after approval.

What is the ten-year fear? The association faces no known risks. Legal actions provide the biggest unknowns. The most frequent cause of special assessments at all associations is costs related to litigation.

The compression of holiday publishing and a third Tuesday Men's Club breakfast schedule (the Bernoulli effect) compel the creation of this report before, rather than after, the event, proving that once again your secretary makes it up as he travels along. We introduce our speaker, after a delightful Robert's Team breakfast, as **Mayor Dave Harrington**, Mayor of Aliso Viejo. Is the mayor here to advise us Aliso Viejo plans to annex Niguel Shores? Or take over our breakfast teams? Impose a special tax because we have too much fun? Commandeer our beach bluff parking and access?

None of the above. In the never-ending political season, Mayor Harrington has announced that he is running, or is considering a run, for Orange County sheriff. (At a previous Men's Club Breakfast, OC Sheriff Coroner Sandra Hutchens announced she would not run for re-election.) Before running for Mayor, Dave served 28+ years in our Sheriff's Department. By contract, OCSD provides all of Dana Point's police services, a significant portion of the Dana Point city budget. At the time of writing, we are unaware of any other candidates for Sheriff. Although we may be politically incorrect, we strive for fundamental fairness, so future announced candidates will be given opportunities (if convenient) to be heard. We will learn how police services for Dana Point and Orange County will be expanded or compressed by the new administration and how our costs will be impacted. Presumptively our costs will increase. We will learn whether Orange County will continue to enjoy a professional police service, or return to political factionalism by its uniformed officers. Will Sheriff Dave patrol on a horse?

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah.

—Robert Saint-Aubin, Secretariat



Sheriff Badge courtesy of Orange County Archives



Orange County Sheriff Theo Lacey, c. 1890

CLUBS

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club met on Monday, November 20, for our annual Garden Therapy, *For-get-Me-Not* project. Members assembled 32 holiday gift bags destined for our local home-bound citizens to brighten their holidays.

Members enjoyed a colorful array of delicious snacks to fortify themselves for the difficult task ahead of filling the gift bags (we are all getting older so it is harder for us to lift the assembled items). Our thanks to the hospitality team of Carmen Murphy, JoAnne Webb, Grace Glatt and many others for a bountiful spread.

As to the difficult task of filling the gift bags, Chris Daley's team including Dan Daley, Paul and Deni Ferguson, Ginny Gravley, Marilou Heckman, Yollie Mancino, and Francis Ozimec all worked to collect items like mini flashlights, glue sticks, pads with pens, combs, candles, socks, cosmetics, scarves, toothbrushes, soaps, lotions, mugs (to

name just a few) and, of course, the colorful gift bag itself.

Tables were set up around the sides of the room, leaving the center open for the team to distribute the gift items to members who sat outside the square. This facilitated distribution so all gift bags were filled the same, and once filled, the last job was to add colorful wrapping paper and bows. Voila! Job done.

This club activity permits us to apply for a Garden Therapy Award from the California Garden Club, Inc. (CGCI) of which we are affiliated. The application and photos taken during the meeting will be submitted by the end of the month.

On Monday, November 6, club officers Chris Daley and Karl Kuhn attended the Orange County Garden Club District meeting in Mission Viejo representing Niguel Shores as one of 22 garden clubs in Orange County. We received our copy of the CGCI Yearbook, Manual and Roster booklet and also membership discount cards good at many nurseries and garden centers. These discount cards were distributed to each

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ACTIVITIES

PAGE TURNERS

The Monday and Thursday afternoon Page Turners groups will have their semi-annual joint meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13. We do not have a book selection in December, as this is our time to socialize, enjoy fun activities and refreshments. Members are asked to bring a gently used book that they have enjoyed to share in a "blind" book exchange. Lucky members will go home with "prize" picks.

As in past years, we schedule our lengthiest book in January so that readers can get started in December. This January's book is *Captains and The Kings* by Taylor Caldwell. For information on the Thursday afternoon group contact Lisa at lisabuchner@cox.net. For the Monday afternoon group contact Frances at fozimec@cox.net.

—Frances Ozimec

THE REALLY SERIOUS BOOK CLUB

Mary Crawl hosted the Really Serious Book Club meeting on Wednesday, November 15. We discussed the revelations and machinations of the Koch brothers in American politics over the last twenty years as reviewed in *Dark Money* by Janet Mayor. The decline of American politics and politicians toward the alt-right and the role of the Koch brothers in this dark decline were chronicled. Their ethics of lying and deceit were cited issue by issue.

There will be no meeting in December, but we will meet again on the third Wednesday in January. The book to be

discussed will be *The Gene* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. This is a fascinating and well-written study of the history of genetics starting with Mendel and moving to the present day. The scientific advances and the personalities of the scientists involved are both interesting and informative. The ethical issues we will confront are tangled and should make for lively discussion. If you would like to join our intellectual explorations, please contact me at nortlynne@cox.net.

—Norton Schwartz

BRIDGE CLUB

Our Bridge Club has been hosting four tables of games each Wednesday at 11 a.m. for the last several months. In October, we added a few new members and welcome any prospective players who would like to join. We only ask that you have a working knowledge of the game and a basic proficiency of play. If you're interested in participating, please contact Mary Ann at (949) 489-9999.

Our recent winners:

- 10/25 1st Helen Campbell, 2nd Pouri Fowzi, 3rd Jim Pinola
- 11/1 1st Sandy Youdbulis, 2nd Hansa Sehgal,
3rd Frieda Baskin
- 11/8 1st Lanny Bernard, 2nd Karen Oerele,
3rd Margaret Brugger
- 11/15 1st Sandy Youdbulis, 2nd Chet Ciochon,
3rd Frieda Baskin

—Jim Pinola

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Dee and CW Gruenig

Dee and CW Gruenig are longtime residents of Niguel Shores, having moved here in 1977. Both born in Los Angeles, there was a time when CW was 8 and Dee was 3 that they lived two blocks from each other; however, it wasn't until years later they would actually meet.

Dee's father, Ray Davenport, would become the first in history to receive 5 Navy Crosses. In 1954 he was honored for his accomplishments on the Ralph Edwards' show "This Is Your Life." Dee was 12 at the time and made her first television appearance with the family! Growing up in a military family, she attended various schools, including spending her senior year in Japan. She returned to California in time to graduate, attend college, and receive her Masters in Art Education from Stanford University.

Meanwhile, CW (Charles Warren) was busy himself. After graduating from high school in Crescent City and receiving his BA in Education from San Francisco State, he joined the National Guard. He later received his MA from USC. He has a son from an earlier marriage who now lives in Kentucky.

Dee and CW met at a swim party in San Jose. It was a fun few months for them, but each had big plans that threatened to take them in different directions. Both had been offered teaching positions: Dee in Venezuela and CW with the Department of Defense in Japan. When a second teaching position opened in Venezuela CW made a quick decision that changed their lives forever. They were both off to Venezuela for jobs with US Steel. The following year they were married and continued to teach four more years abroad.

In 1972 they returned to California and secured teaching positions in the new Saddleback Unified School District. Dee taught kindergarten and CW moved up in the district, spending thirty-four years as an elementary school teacher, master teacher and building principal.

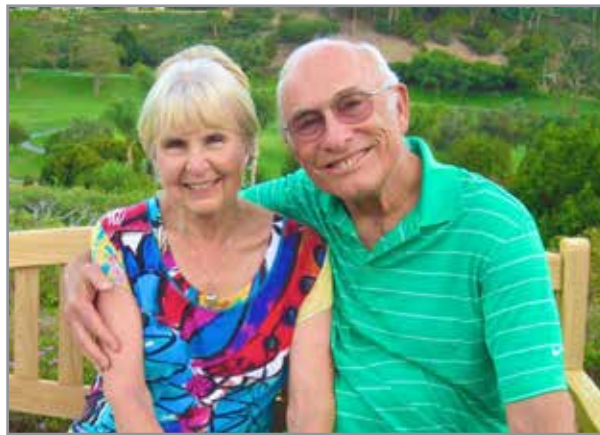
In 1977 Dee and CW decided to move to Niguel Shores. They had so enjoyed their time along the coast in Venezuela and wanted to move closer to the ocean.

In 1978 Dee discovered art rubber stamps and purchased a few to use in her classroom. This was the beginning of an amazing world beyond public school teaching for Dee and CW. About this time Dee took an interior

design class with a respected decorator. Noting her flair for color and design, Dee's friends began asking her to decorate their homes. This soon became a small business called Posh Presents.

In 1983 Dee resigned from teaching to build a very popular home party business. The "Posh Collection" was an assortment of items for holiday gifts. Following many home gatherings, an invitation came to participate in The Christmas Company, sponsored by the OC Junior League.

The next year Dee opened her first retail gift store in Laguna Niguel, Posh Presents. She opened several other stores in the years that followed at South Coast Plaza, Crystal Court, Brea, Irvine and Lake Forest.



Dee and CW Gruenig

Dee became a pioneer in the craft industry. She received many invitations to design rubber stamps, stickers, scrapbook papers, paper punches and so much more for well-known manufacturers. She appeared on cable TV shows, including 72 segments on the "The Carol Duvall Show." One show was actually filmed here in Niguel Shores, featuring Dee's awesome organization! She appeared on QVC, taught on cruises, published books, and

taught art instructors for the US Army. Dee spoke at trade shows and conventions, sharing her love of blending stamping with water color pens and stamp pads.

CW had always been supportive of Dee's business and eventually joined her as Chief Operating Officer, negotiating leases and contracts and working with store managers, catalogs, direct marketing, promotions, and their website. He has published a book about his wife, *Invitations Everywhere*, a motivational work extolling Dee's ability to say "Yes" to invitations that have been positives in both of their lives. CW has also authored two children's books, *Cool Stuff about Animals Book One* and *Book Two*. Both are available at www.Amazon.com.

Finally "retired," Dee and CW are enjoying Niguel Shores more than ever. Last year CW was president of the Men's Club and is still actively involved. Dee was the recent speaker at the Women's Club luncheon and can often be seen creating beautifully written nametags for functions in our community. Early mornings they can be found at the community pool, since both are members of Dippy Dolphins!

—Kathy Newport and Michelle Ralph

ACTIVITIES

LIBRARY

The Dana Point Library offers the following December activities FREE of charge. No registration is needed except for ESL and computer classes, which are free but require registration. Call (949) 496-5515 or visit the library to register. Activities are held in the Community Room unless otherwise noted. Walk-ins welcome.

CHILDREN:

Toddler Storytime – Tuesdays, December 5 and 12, 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities and songs for children under 3 years old and their favorite adults to enjoy together. Stay and play with puzzles and toys afterward.

Read to a Dog – Wednesday, December 6 and Tuesday, December 19, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. For beginning readers. Special therapy dogs love listening to stories. Held in the children's area.

Preschool Storytime – Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities, and fun for children ages 3 to 5. Stay and play with puzzles and crafts afterward.

Lego Club – Wednesday, December 13, 3:00 p.m. Design, build, and create. Lego bricks provided. All ages welcome!

Winter Craft Day – Saturday, December 16, 11:00 a.m. BRRR...Snow flakes, snowmen, and more make for a fun crafting morning. For kids 12 and under. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

PJ Storytime – Monday, December 18, 5:30 p.m. The whole family is welcome to join us for an evening of stories. Wearing pajamas is encouraged. A cookie and water will be served. Hosted by the NCL Laguna Sunshine Readers.

ADULTS:

Coloring Club – Fridays in December, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Bring out your inner artist while surrounded by books and good company. All materials provided. Held at the adult tables.

English Class – Friday, December 1, 11:00 a.m. and

Monday, December 4, 1:00 p.m. Learn to read, write and speak. Register at esl.danapt@gmail.com.

Learn Basic Computer Skills – Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Learn skills with a free, three-part, hands-on class covering computer vocabulary, using a mouse, email, and internet searching. Call (949) 496-5517 or visit the library to register.

Write On Writer's Group – Tuesdays, December 5 and 19, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you have ever thought of writing, we invite you to share your work and improve your craft through our group critique sessions.

Tech Tutors – Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Tutors available to answer questions regarding cell phones, iPads, and laptops. First come first served.

Gentle Readers Book Club – Thursday, December 14, 10:30 to noon. For those interested in books without graphic content. Copies of the current selection, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin, are available at the service desk.

Travel Club – Sunday, December 17, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Do you love travel, learning new things, exploring interesting places and meeting fellow adventurers? Join the Travel club as we continue our voyage to exotic destinations. This month Globe Trekker takes us to New England via DVD. Everyone can share travel tips, what worked, and/or didn't.

Foreign Film – Sunday, December 24, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This month's selection is *Harmonium*, a 2016 Japanese release. Toshio sees his seemingly ordinary life take an ominous turn when Yasaka, a mysterious friend from the past, arrives unexpectedly. Recently released from prison and in need of a helping hand, Toshio gives him a job and takes him in to live with his wife and daughter. Toshio soon regrets his decision.

Seaside Book Club – Will not meet on December 25 as the library will be closed for the holiday. —Karla Sanders

SPORTS

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Niguel Shores lady golfers played on November 13 at The Ranch 9-hole golf course with seven golfers—Judy Boitano, Terri Matrisch, Irene McDonald, Val Mitchell, Julie Patton, Catriona Sigsby and Pam Strayer. Each player used the best drive of the group on each hole and then played her own ball in for an individual score as the special game of the day. Prizes went to Pam for



Julie Patton, Pam Strayer and Judy Boitano watching the ball after Judy's putt.

low score of 39, closest to the pin on #8 and tied for lowest number of putts with 17! What a nice way for her to mark her return to the club after summering in Maine! Val won longest drive on #9 and tied Pam for lowest number of putts, and Julie won closest to the pin on #6.

Following golf, President Marlene Lynch opened the meeting and the ladies were joined for lunch by Treasurer Lee Sweeney, Secretary Brenda Tuckley, and

Julie's mom Ruth who was visiting from Massachusetts. A birthday song went out to Brenda, Catriona, Terri and Ruth! Social members Ruthie Stahl and Joanie Beyer distributed colorful invitations to the annual Christmas Luncheon which will be held at The Fountains on December 11 beginning with social time at noon. For more information, please call Joanie (949) 496-1428 or Ruthie (949) 248-2629. Thanks to both ladies for planning and organizing for this wonderful Christmas event!

A little humor until our next golf outing: *An elderly couple was driving across the country. The wife was driving when she*

was pulled over by the Highway Patrol. The woman, who was hard of hearing, turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?" The old man yelled, "He says you were speeding." The woman gave the officer her license. The officer then said, "I see you are from Arizona. I once got stuck there on the freeway behind the worst driver I ever did see." The woman turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?" "HE SAYS HE KNOWS YOU."

Hope to see all lady golfers on December 11 at 9 a.m. Please call Judy at (949) 661-9495 for information. All are welcome!

—Julie Patton

Wellness... Shoppers Beware!

As I was standing in line amidst the holiday decorations to check out at a local "housewares" store, I noticed something that I'd seen before, but this time it really caught my attention. It was the extensive array of colorfully wrapped candy on display! It was the usual fare, along with some glittery holiday delectables. I thought for a minute that I was at the grocery store! However, I wasn't. I was buying sheets! Always trying to sell us something, I guess they thought I might like an Almond Roca to nibble on in bed between my brand new linens!

All year round, but especially during the holiday season, shopping and dining out can become a minefield of food choices cloaked in deceptive advertising, whether you're at the mall, the grocery store, or at a restaurant. When our brains see food that is presented in a novel way, we get excited and a craving is created by our neurohormones. We think we have to have it.

One way we get ourselves in this trouble is that shopping is exhausting, and advertisers are relentless. Our brains literally get tired of making decisions at some point. That's when those brightly advertised impulse items (holiday cookies, candy, coffee drinks, "quick" burger and fries) suddenly seem okay. You're tired and weak, so you buy it and eat it! I mean, who doesn't want TEN holiday wrapped Hershey bars for \$10.00? You'd be crazy to pass that up, right? Why have a regular cup of coffee, when you could have a holiday Peppermint Mocha at Starbucks? After all, it is the holidays, a time to indulge!

And let's not forget the celebrity factor in advertising, either. It's very

effective and very Pavlovian. Picture Beyoncé savoring a Pepsi. If you love Beyoncé, you're more likely to buy the Pepsi, even if you don't really care for Pepsi! You can see how influential this can be. Instead, when confronted with these situations, STOP! Challenge what caught your attention, and choose to create the best outcome for your health.

This holiday season, beware the marketers and advertisers! None of what they're pushing on us will make our holidays any happier. What will make your holidays rich is focusing on the people in your life whom you love. The relationships and the memories that you have together are what you'll think about in the months to come, not the Peppermint Mocha. Spend time together by taking walks, watching a movie, playing a game, cooking a healthy meal together, listening actively to your loved one, or helping someone in need. And don't forget to keep it simple, laugh, and have fun! Speaking of simple, here is an easy, healthy humus recipe to make for a holiday party. Happy Holidays!

Holiday Hummus

4 garlic cloves	6 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
2 cups canned chickpeas, drained, liquid reserved	2 tablespoons water or liquid from the chickpeas
1½ teaspoons kosher salt	8 dashes hot sauce
½ cup tahini (sesame paste)	

In a food processor fitted with the steel blade, mince the garlic. Add the rest of the ingredients and process until the hummus is coarsely pureed. Taste for seasoning and serve chilled or at room temperature with pita chips or fresh veggies.

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Health & Happiness! Questions or comments? Sharon@TakeShapeWithSharon.com
Sharon Stewart RN, Certified Health Coach



CUISINE CORNER

If you like Nick's, you must try **Reunion Kitchen** located in North Laguna's Boat Canyon, around the corner from Pavilions. Rumor has it the proprietors were formerly partners with Nick's owners and decided to open their own restaurant. They brought some of the popular dishes from Nick's, for example, the melt-in-your-mouth Butter Cake which is every bit as good as Nick's, if not better. You will recognize other dishes from Nick's, but the folks at Reunion Kitchen have expanded their menu to offer many more sumptuous meals. A few of the favorites are Rosemary Chicken and Biscuits, Slow Braised Short Ribs, Pan Roasted Salmon, Miso Glazed Halibut, and BBQ Rib Stack.

Other popular menu items include appetizers such as the Grilled Artichoke—best I've had—Avocado and Watermelon Wontons, Calamari—good for sharing—and Short Rib Sliders. Standouts for salads and sides are the Charred Romaine Stack Salad and the Crispy Brussel Sprouts. For sandwich and burger fans, there is a Classic Cheeseburger, a Café Paddy Melt, Ribeye Melt, Veggie Burger, and Prime Rib Dip. As to sweets, besides the Butter Cake, there is Bread Pudding and Bob's Fudge Cake.

On their website at www.ReunionKitchen.net you can check out hours of operation and menu items for Breakfast, Drinks, Happy Hour and Kids. Price range is moderate, with breakfast specialties from \$12 to \$18; awesome lunch and dinner entrees from \$21 to \$40; and the delicious warm butter cake dessert at \$11. No corkage fee for the first bottle of wine, \$15 for additional bottles.

Reunion Kitchen is located at 510 N. Coast Highway in Laguna Beach. Reservations available on www.Opentable.com or call (949) 226-8393.

Note: I would recommend going during the week, since weekends are very crowded and parking will be an issue. There is upper level parking above Pavilions.

—Bill Walkup

Garden Club continued from page 8

member at the November meeting. Besides providing a delicious brunch the District's excellent speaker, Kathe Hayden, spent over an hour creating beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas floral samples.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 18. Members should bring a \$10 garden related wrapped gift for our Gift Exchange.

We wish the Niguel Shores family a joyous holiday season, with the coming year full of good health and happiness.

—Karl Kuhn

HONORING MORE OF OUR VETERANS



Since publishing our November Veterans Day list of U.S. Military service, we have a few more names to honor:

From 1962 to 1967, **Sal Pace** was a Naval Aviator and Rescue Helicopter Pilot in Vietnam on the USS Coral Sea. We are grateful to you, Sal, for the years you served.

The family of **John Mullinex** tells us he drove tanks in the Army from 1955 to 1959, and remained in the Reserves from 1960 to 1964. We are honored to acknowledge John's military service.

Kay Wittmack was in the Waves from 1938 to 1940 in the hydrographic division.

Jim O'Neill, a Marine for many years, is responsible for bringing the Marines and Junior Marines to participate in our flag raising ceremony on the Fourth of July. He has also been a Commandant in the Marine Corps League as well as holding many other Board positions. Thank you, Jim, for serving our community and our country.

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Anyone seeking an unusual travel destination should consider the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Despite wars, invasions, and occupation by hostile military forces, these small countries survive today as independent nations filled with culture, history, appealing visual treats, and marvels of infrastructure and transportation. They are clean, organized, efficient, and offer some of the best cuisine in northern Europe. (Split pea porridge, anyone?)

We began our recent visit to the Baltics in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, a picturesque city with history dating back to its medieval old town. Baroque, art nouveau, aged wooden Russia dacha-style and dynamic chic modernist buildings all mix in imaginative designs of present and past centuries. In addition to the ornate old city centers, there are glorious castles scattered around the countries—palaces of former kings, emperors, and czars—and monasteries for retreat. Brave travelers can jump into the icy North Sea or go naked in the heat of the saunas that Scandinavians and Balticans are famous for.

Baltic visitors may feel they've placed one foot in the past watching locals in decorative native costumes dancing among multi-colored flags in the central cobblestone squares—and yet find their other foot firmly planted in the modern stylish world of high-end fashion shops, shiny new cars (especially BMWs), Wi-Fi in every hotel room, and stunning architecture such as the pyramid-shaped glass edifice of the National Library in Riga, Latvia (where Skype, the international computer calling system, was invented).

Countless music presentations, operas, and theater performances are available nearly every night in the warm seasons. We attended a classical sold-out concert by the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra featuring a six-foot soprano singing Wagner in a powerful voice that thrilled.

The three Baltic countries take pride in maintaining their individual traditions and customs. Festivals and markets show off folk dances, singing, handmade crafts, and specialty foods like unusual jellies, stuffed bread rolls, and pickled fish. Along with our exposure to Baltic traditions,

we also happened upon festivals in the old town squares of Lithuania and Estonia featuring guest choruses from Israel and the Chuvash Republic of Western Russia.

One unforgettable sight on our journey was a curious hill in central Lithuania covered with thousands of crosses, icons, rosaries and more than one Star of David brought by pilgrims and devotees in memory of the deceased. Countless tourists and prayerful pilgrims have passed there since religious items first appeared on the hill in the fourteenth

century and continued to amass after battles and persecutions. During the Soviet era it was illegal to place crosses there, but they came anyway. The Reds bulldozed the hill more than once, but new ones re-appeared again within days. Pope John Paul II blessed the site and held Mass in 1993, placing a crucifix of his own. Since then the hill has expanded to another hill and the religious items have multiplied beyond counting as testimony to

“the faith of the people of this land” (John Paul II).

The area of all three Baltics could fit inside the state of Oklahoma, yet the contrast and diversity of culture, color, art, and cuisine within these small lands is distinct and memorable. For Americans, places of special interest would be each country's museums, libraries, shrines, and exhibitions dedicated to the people's dramatic twentieth century experience of war invasion and occupation by vicious German and Russian regimes. Thousands of native Jews, Christians, Roma, homosexuals, intellectuals, and politicians were murdered by the hostile occupiers of these small countries.

Today the area's tranquility belies the oppressions people endured, but their memorials keep the past in the present mind. One striking example immediately adjacent to the ornate baroque buildings in central Riga, Latvia is the dark, brooding brick-shaped Museum of the Occupation, a visceral reminder of the bleak and dangerous times people witnessed there. Knowledge of the past and understanding of the present are part of a thoughtful visit to these historic and beautiful societies.

—Michael Harrod



Pilgrim Hill of Remembrance in Lithuania

Season of Light

The holiday season is filled with warm traditional celebrations that may differ in each culture but have one common thread—LIGHT. The mystique of fire and light; the welcoming light of candles and lanterns; the display of candlelight as a symbol of remembrance; a heavenly light shining from above to guide us on our journey.

Although we don't hope to offer complete descriptions here, we'd like to mention some seasonal celebrations where the common thread of LIGHT is interwoven. From St. Lucia's candlelight processions in Scandinavia to the glowing lantern parades in Germany, or from Las Noches de las Luminarias in Phoenix to the 3D lights over the clock tower in Hong Kong—LIGHT fills the season.

We'll start with **Kwanzaa**, the African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community and culture observed from December 26 through January 1. Its origin may be found in the first harvest celebrations of Africa with its name derived from the phrase "*matunda ya kwanza*" meaning "first fruits" in Swahili. First fruits celebrations are recorded in African history dating back to Ancient Egypt and Nubia. In the United States **Kwanzaa** was promoted by Maulana Ron Karenga, an author and scholar activist currently with the Department of Black Studies at CSU Long Beach, who stressed the need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African-American culture. First celebrated here on December 26, 1966, and introduced in the midst of the Black Freedom Movement of the time, **Kwanzaa** reaffirms and restores rootedness, recovery and reconstruction of African culture. At the center of this celebration—surrounded by fruits, vegetables, gifts, a prayer mat, a unity cup and candleholder—there is the LIGHT of seven candles emphasizing the importance of seven principals: Unity; Self-Determination; Collective Work and Responsibility; Cooperative Economics; Purpose; Creativity; and Faith. Bringing LIGHT is the central phase of **Kwanzaa** where the mystique of fire and light, like that of the Sun, has the ability to destroy or create. **Kwanzaa** is a spiritual, festive and joyous holiday that claims no ties with any religion.

Looking into the Filipino culture, we learned that the holiday tradition of **Simbang Gabi** is a series of nine dawn Masses which begin as early as 4:00 a.m. starting on December 16 and ending at midnight on December 24. Introduced by Spanish friars to allow farmers to hear Mass before going to the fields early in the morning before the rooster's crow, the tradition of

Simbang Gabi is also known by its Spanish name as the "*Misa de Gallo*" or "Mass of the Rooster." **Simbang Gabi** continues in most Filipino communities today, although not necessarily beginning at 4:00 a.m. Along with food and decorations,

Simbang Gabi is made more fun and festive by streets filled with bright lights emanating from the "*parol*," an ornamental star-shaped lantern. An abundance of colorful lights and beautiful lanterns are important features giving LIGHT to welcome participants to the celebration each day.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, remembers the rededication of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and honors the struggle for religious freedom more

than 2,500 years ago. Legend tells that the leaders of a Jewish rebel army, the Maccabees, rose up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors when King Antiochus took control of the Second Temple, ordered an altar built to Zeus, sacrificed pigs, and banned Judaism. The Jewish uprising lasted three years during which the forces of Judah Maccabee captured Mt. Zion, purged the temple of Hellenistic idols, reconstructed the sanctuary according to Torah prescriptions, and rededicated it. "**Hanukkah**" is the Hebrew and Aramaic word for dedication. Judaism's text said only pure olive oil with the seal of the high priest could be used for the **Hanukkah**, but when they wanted to rededicate the Second Temple they only had enough oil in their container for one day. Nevertheless, without an explanation, the oil container stayed alight for eight days. Thus, the **Hanukkah** celebration lasts for eight days in remembrance of the miracle long ago. This year **Hanukkah** runs from the evening of Tuesday, December 12 until the evening of Wednesday, December 20. On each of the eight nights, a candle is lit in a menorah (candelabra) called a "*hanukkiyah*." There is a special ninth candle called the "*shammash*" or servant candle which is used to light the others. On the first night one candle is lit, on the second night, two are lit until all are lit on the eighth and final night of the festival. A special blessing of thanksgiving is said before or after lighting the candles and a special Jewish hymn is often sung. This celebration also includes giving and receiving gifts and playing games like the popular "*dreidel*" (Yiddish) or "*sivivon*" (Hebrew). The dreidel is a four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side—the first letters of the phrase "*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*" which means "A great miracle happened there." Favorite foods fried in oil such as "*latkes*" (potato pancakes) and "*sufganiyot*" (deep fried



doughnuts filled with jam and sprinkled with sugar) are usually served. Needless to say, the most impressive moment of **Hanukkah** is the lighting of candles on the Menorah emphasizing the miracle of LIGHT sent long ago.

In India, many regions celebrate the popular five-day festival of lights known as **Diwali**, centered on the new moon—the darkest night. **Diwali** typically falls towards the end of October or the first half of November and manifests with millions of lights shining in households and outside doors and widows of every building and temple in the celebrating communities. These brilliant illuminations signify the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. **Diwali** dates back to ancient times in India as a festival after the summer harvest. The word itself is derived from the Sanskrit “*deepavali*,” meaning “series of lighted lamps,” hence, the idea of a festival of lights. Customs for **Diwali** vary regionally yet they all point to joy and festivity related to the power of physical and spiritual LIGHT. On **Diwali** some communities emphasize reaching out to charitable causes, kindness and peace. For example, every year on **Diwali** Indian forces approach Pakistani forces on the international border and offer traditional Indian sweets. The Pakistani soldiers, anticipating the gesture, present an assortment of Pakistani sweets. **Diwali** is celebrated in many regions outside of India as well, including events in the White House by George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and President Trump. **Diwali** was recognized by the United States Congress in 2007 as an occasion to reflect on what we are doing to enlighten our country to a place where the BRIGHT LIGHT of peace, progress, and prosperity shines on all people and all nations.

And finally, going far back to a light in the heavens over 2000 years ago, we recall how **The Star of Bethlehem** (sometimes called the Christmas Star) lighted the way for the Magi on their journey across the desert. Was it a shooting star or an astronomical event? Or as Christians believe, was it a

GUIDING LIGHT leading the three Wise Men from the East to the Christ Child in the manger? The story is told that the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and followed the LIGHT from the star to place the gifts before the newborn child. Today, the remembrance of the child’s birth is known as Christmas and is celebrated with gifts and holy reverence as well as gleaming lights and Christmas trees adorned with a star on top symbolizing **The Star of Bethlehem**.

While celebrating your family traditions this year allow the LIGHT to take over. Gently bring to rest the busy things in your mind. Allow yourself to slow down. Then come together with family and friends in joy. Let the eyes of your hearts reflect the warmth, kindness and reverence of candlelight during this SEASON OF LIGHT.

—Yollie Mancino

Holiday Decorating Contest FAQs:

1. When is the Holiday Decorating Contest? The contest begins November 24 and ends with the announcement of winners on December 18.
2. What are some contest decorating tips? Lights, lights, more lights, and decorations with lights! We divide Niguel Shores into nine areas and one street in each area wins for the most participation. Homes just need to have lights on them to be judged. The judging is determined by the most houses decorated on a street. Winners are given by street, not by individual home, so the more homes that decorate on your street the better chance you have to win.
3. When is the judging? After dark on December 15 and 16. Be sure to turn on your lights!
4. When will the winners be announced? The winners will be posted on our website December 18. See www.niguelshores.org.
5. What are the prizes? A big bow on the winning street signs, special congratulations to the winners, additional recognition for all participants, and lots of neighborhood pride for a job well-done.



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Handel's Messiah

December 3 • 3:00 p.m.

A beloved holiday tradition, Handel's celebrated oratorio – with its blazing trumpets, thundering timpani and spectacular "Hallelujah! Chorus" – provides a moment during the busy season to experience reflection, renewal and joy. Tickets start at \$25.00



Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

December 3 • 7:00 p.m.

This has been America's favorite holiday tradition for over 30 years! Grammy award-winner Chip Davis has created a show that features classics along with a selection of compositions from the groundbreaking Fresh Aire series which introduced the distinctive Mannheim sound to all of America. Tickets start at \$59.00

A Swinging Big Band Christmas

December 9 • 8:00 p.m.

Ring in the holiday season with a celebration of American jazz as living legend Peter Myers and some of LA's finest musicians perform the music of Duke Ellington and other great jazz composers, along with holiday favorites. Hear the joyful sounds of wailing trumpets and toe-tapping rhythms. There's no better way to get in the mood for the festive season. Tickets start at \$28.00

Dana Point Symphony

December 7 • 7:30 p.m.

St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

33926 Calle la Primavera, Dana Point, CA

Holiday Concert with selections from the Nutcracker
Rossini: Messe di Gloria

Holiday favorites featuring Binh Vu, Guest Conductor
with Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Choir and Dana Hills High School Orchestra



43rd Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights

December 8, 9, 15 and 16

Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m.

Boat Parade starts at 7:30 p.m. at Water's Edge

Free boat rides with Santa – No reservations required
Saturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3 • 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Santa Paws Photos – El Torito Courtyard

Saturday Dec. 2 • 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information: www.danapointharbor.com



Holiday Season at the Ritz Carlton

1 Ritz Carlton Drive Dana Point



Yappy Howl-iday Celebration

Saturday, December 3

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Santa Claus will make a special appearance for the Yappy Howl-iday Celebration. This festive gathering of canines and their companions provides Fido with the opportunity to be photographed with the "Big-Dog" himself – Santa Claus. In keeping with the resort's Season of Giving, guests are asked

to bring unopened canned or dry dog food, treat or dog toys to be donated to an animal shelter. Proceeds support the Canine Companion Veterans Initiative.

Holiday Storytelling

Friday and Saturday

December 8, 9, 15, 16 • 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Complimentary

Guests are asked to bring a new children's book to be donated to Miracles for Kids


Holiday Tea

Monday to Thursday through December 14

Seating from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Bar Raya

\$75.00 per person – Reservations required





WINTER SUNSET - NIGUEL SHORES

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*With appreciation and in the spirit of the holiday season
I extend a heart felt thank you... - Connie*

CONNIE MCKIBBAN • 949.280.3078

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