

James Fahy

By Ken South

During 1945, young men fixated on a teenage Elizabeth Taylor in the movie *National Velvet*. Arthur C. Clarke put forward the idea of a communications satellite in a *Wireless World* magazine article and President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly in Warm Springs, Georgia. In September of that year, World War II ends when the surrender of Japan is accepted by the Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, on board the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

And on the 19th of that month, in the Inwood neighborhood of Manhattan, Mr. January was born seconds after his twin brother. Six years later a kid sister joined the family. Mr. J's parents both immigrated to the US from Galway, Ireland in 1929,

met and married in NYC. Mr. J attended Roman Catholic grade and high schools in NYC, graduating in 1964. He especially enjoyed participating on the schools' swim team and family gatherings with the Irish clan.

Mr. J's first job, while in HS, was at a Horn & Hardart automat on 34th street. Following graduation, he attended Rogers College in Ossining, NY. where he majored in community development, and then entered a Roman Catholic missionary order. He received intense training in Pastoral Care and attained a Masters' degree from Loyola U, Chicago. He went on to serve the people of East Africa for the next twenty years and even learned Kiswahili, the national Kenyan language. He helped develop community-based trade schools. He also spent considerable time in the inner-city slums of Nairobi, again establishing trade schools for unemployed youth, near where, '*Out of Africa*' was filmed. Returning to the States in 1989, he earned a MA in counseling from Loyola University in Maryland and then returned to Kenya. And, when HIV-AIDS emerged in that region, he worked with a counseling center to spread the news of prevention and train indigenous community leaders in counseling skills.

Mr. J was assigned to San Francisco to provide missions education, conscientising students about poverty and justice issues and recruitment for overseas ministry. He also provided these services in Hawaii and Las Vegas. While in San Francisco, he served on the board of Dignity, the organization of Gay & Lesbian Catholics.

In 2000, Mr. J moved back to NYC where he left the missionary order to work for Goodwill Industries, assisting welfare recipients find employment. He also served as a parish business manager for 6 years and for the next 10 years at (AHRC) *Association for People with Intellectual Disabilities* helping manage their employment programs. On October 31st, 2017, Mr. J retired and moved to Fort Lauderdale residing at Coral Ridge Intercoastal co-ops.

Mr. J has a very active social life here in Florida. He enjoys singing with the Ft. Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus, volunteering at the front desk of the Pride Center, attending Yoga & meditation classes there, and line dancing at Scandals! He still works part time for Intercruises, assisting cruising passengers arriving and departing. He has also delighted in his own cruises to the Caribbean and a trip to Ireland to attend a family wedding. Mr. J is grateful for the Floridian hospitality and the many friends and social activities which keeps him young and energetic.

