



ACTIVITIES

Our Tennis, Bowling and Walking groups continue to yield exercise and camaraderie. Now that COVID-19 vaccinations are under way, we can



expect even more groups will resume before long.

In the meantime, join the fun! They're all listed on the page 8 Calendar. 🎾



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
• Henry Penas

There was a recent article in the Sun Sentinel entitled "Flu is Virtually Non-existent This Year Amid Pandemic." It appears that recorded cases of the flu are at levels far below anything seen in decades. Experts credit the drop in cases to mask wearing, social distancing and virtual schooling.

Does this mean that those safeguards may have to become the norm going forward? Can we go back to behaving like it was still 2019? Aren't we less at risk now that we have gotten our Covid-19 vaccinations? These questions come up a lot these days during several of our Zoom meetings.

Some of them have no answer yet. On March 8, the CDC announced new (See **PRESIDENT** on page 3)

4
ZOOM ACTIVITIES
Check out these Zoom sessions

5
GENTLEMAN OF MONTH
Meet another great Prime Gentleman

7
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV.
Help these guys celebrate

8
CALENDAR
Things to see and do

PRIME GENTLEMEN




A social club of mature men and those who enjoy their company

To join, go to: FtLPrimeGentlemen.org
and click on: *Membership*

The Surfer

April 2021 Volume 18, Issue 4

Published by
Ft. Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, Inc.

 PO Box 100666
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33010

 FtLPrimeGentlemen@gmail.com

web FtLPrimeGentlemen.org

STAFF

Editor

Dick Huitema (773) 782-1608
DHuitema@mac.com

Contributors

Doug Kent: Diner & Upscale Lunches,
Events

Ken South: Gentleman of Month

Stew Pepper: Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Please submit all materials to the Editor by the
10th of the month before publication.*

Distributors

Auggie Azzarello: Paper

Henry Penas: Digital

© 2021 by Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, Inc.

BOARD MEMBERS



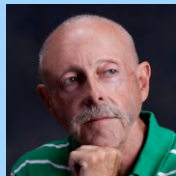
PRESIDENT

Henry Penas
(954) 971-6514
HPenas@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT

Carl Hill
(954) 557-7794
HillC155@gmail.com



TREASURER

Jim Flora
(646) 208-8092
JamesFlora@aol.com

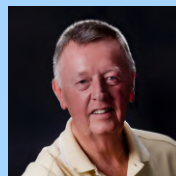


SECRETARY

Lou Wangberg
954-295-0236
Wangberg@gmail.com



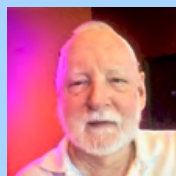
Ron Grassullo
(516) 670-7799
ronsullo@aol.com



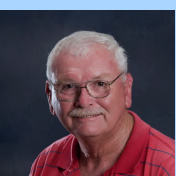
Richard Lefebvre
(401) 474-9242
lefebvr@gmail.com



Stew Pepper
(954) 532-5451
flpt@comcast.net



Ken South
(301) 461-4516
southy2222@gmail.com



TREASURER

EMERITUS

Mike Trask

(**PRESIDENT**, from page 1)

guidelines for people who are fully vaccinated.

Basically, they say fully vaccinated individuals can:

Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart,

Visit with unvaccinated people from one other household indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart if everyone in the other household is at low risk for severe disease and

Refrain from quarantining and testing if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 after contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Out in the larger world, those of us who are fully vaccinated will still need to follow the precautions we have been following.

Currently, the best guess is that we may be closer to resuming 2019 behaviors by mid-summer. Until then we will have to continue to wear mask in public, maintain social distancing whenever possible and avoid large crowds. We must remain vigilant. We are not there yet. In this topsy turvy world things change every day. 🌈

Garland Warren

February 12, 1932 – February 27, 2021

Fellow member Garland Warren passed away at home on Saturday night, February 27. His health had been in steady decline for five months. Garland joined our group along with his husband, Mel Beluscak, in August of 2004. They have been together since 1984 and married on May 23, 2018.

Garland was our President when we were known as the Prime Timers. He served in that capacity for many terms, and was an inspiration and mentor to every president since.

He was the Man of the Month in the March 2012 *Surfer*. To read his story on

our web page, click on this link: <http://www.ftlprimetimers.org/Hall%20of%20Fame/25.%20Garland%20Warren.pdf>



Garland was always ready to pitch in whenever he was needed. He was a very thoughtful, kind and generous person. He will long be remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his husband, Mel, his children and his grandchildren. There will be a private service and burial in Baltimore.

Please keep Mel in your thoughts at this very difficult time.

zoom ACTIVITIES

Watch your email from Henry Penas for links to this month's sessions:

COLLECTORS

Thursday, April 1, 2:00 PM

Thursday, April 15, 2:00 PM

It's "show and tell" time! Join the group with or without your own collectable item.

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 4, 2:00 PM

Invite another member to join us! Sorry, there will be no pot-luck meal, but sign in and catch up on the latest.

HISTORY

Friday, April 9, 2:00 PM

Friday, April 23, 2:00PM

Lou Wangberg picks the topic for each session shortly beforehand so we don't know what they will be yet, but they are always interesting! We can comment, too!

MIXER

Every Monday, 6:00 PM

Enjoy "cocktail hour" with fellow members and Clark Powers, your host.

ROUNDTABLE

Monday, April 12, 2:30 PM

Memories of an AIDS Pioneer: Grief, pain, humor, anger, hope, defiance and love - Ken South, M. Div.

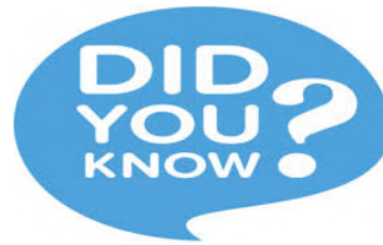
Starting in 1983 in Hartford, Connecticut Ken found himself on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic. He will present a series of short stories describing some of his experiences during the crisis. Ken will also

discuss the current status of prevention attitudes of older gay men.

Monday, April 26, 2:30 PM

Identifying Cognitive Bias - Paul McNamara

How we look at the world and make decisions about the ways we live our lives can be profoundly affected by any of several identifiable cognitive biases. Before we even have a chance to notice it, our brains create their own "subjective reality." We'll discuss thirteen common cognitive biases, all beginning with the letter "c."



French fries were invented in Belgium.

Historians claim that the first instances of potatoes being cut and fried began in the late 1600s. Street vendors would often sell this before the outbreak of the French Revolution.

Reminder:

If you know someone who is sick and might appreciate a get well card...



Call John Dowd (954) 978-3057



GENTLEMAN OF THE MONTH

- Ken South, interviewer

It was a time when fewer people in the US lived on farms than in cities. But farmers were also getting used to the transition from horses to machines. The WPA was launched to employ thousands to do big things, like build the Hoover Dam, and FDR signed the Social Security Act into law. It was 1935.

On one of those farms, near Eitzen, Minnesota

(pop 140),

Mr. April was

born on May

4, with a

brother and

sister to

follow. A

prosperous

farm of 400

acres, it was

large enough

to hire men

to help in the

fields and a

woman to help

in the house.

Mr. A's primary

education was

in a "Little

Red Schoolhouse"

with his five

classmates each

day. He graduated

from Caledonia HS,

in the 40-member,

Class of 1953. As

the senior boy

with the highest



grades, he was awarded a full scholarship for his first semester of college.

Scholarship in hand, Mr. A enrolled in Hamline University in St. Paul, majoring in Theatre Arts. He graduated in 1957.

As Broadway lights beckoned, Mr. A found himself in NYC where he landed a small role in "Hamlet" in a not-so-memorable production. However, Uncle Sam loved him, so in 1960, he got an invitation (draft notice) to join the Army!

Unable to refuse, he accepted the 2-year assignment to serve his country. It turned out to be a marvelous theater arts master class! For his first year, he was in the APC (Army Pictorial Center), where he learned the crafts of movie-making, TV production, acting and directing. His second-year assignment, in Seoul, South Korea, was for the Armed Forces Network (AFN), directing variety shows and appearing in a Saturday morning children's show for military families.

Returning to the States, he followed a career in TV production. His focus was with Public Broadcasting Stations, working at KTCA in Minneapolis, WTTW in Chicago and NET Nebraska. He really enjoyed his work with documentary and cultural affairs programming. Over the years, he got to work with many personalities, including; Valerie Harper, Henry Fonda, Yo-Yo Ma, Robert Shaw, Dick Cavett, Count Basie, Vincent Price, Ruby Dee, Thomas Hart Benton and Marcel Marceau. After 25 years in the industry, he retired in 1998.

Mr. A was married to Sharon for 25 years,
(see **MAN** on next page)

(**MAN**, from previous page)

and they had two children together. Around 1991, he came to fully accept himself as a gay man, no longer to remain in the marriage. During “pillow talk” one evening, he said, “Sharon, I’m bi-sexual” and she said, “I feel like I’m on Oprah Winfrey.”

He proceeded to pop out of the closet, sharing this revelation with his children, his siblings and his work colleagues. He is grateful that he still enjoys a warm relationship with his close and extended family.

He celebrated his new life by seeing the world. He visited many of the great museums in this country, western Europe and Asia, floated down the world’s famous rivers, bungee jumped in New Zealand, climbed the Himalayas, skied the Alps,

and even scuba dove off the Great Barrier Reef.

In Nebraska, in 1997, during a “wild” party in Omaha, he met his partner Jerry. The couple courted for several months. As Jerry, the younger of the two, was also an actor, they found lots in common. In late 97, they moved in together and in 1999 they purchased a house in Wilmington, DE. Later, they bought a condo in Hallandale, Florida for winter escapes and in 2005 moved to Florida to make the condo their home.

Mr. A continues his love of theater by periodically taking on acting roles in South Florida theater, film and commercials. At the age of 70, he joined the Actors' Equity Association. He and Jerry are looking forward to the *Prime Gentlemen* Monday night mixers opening up again. 🏳️‍🌈

Frank William Bilancia

September 30, 1940 – March 2, 2021

Fellow member Frank Bilancia passed away on March 2 after suffering a massive stroke. He had been living at the Atria Willow Wood assisted living facility in Fort Lauderdale. He always spoke of it fondly and loved living there.

Frank was born in New York City and served in the Army from 1961-1965.

He held Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Education and was a High School teacher and principal. He had been married to Pamela Alfred. He is survived by his sisters Patricia Posillico and Mary Phillips.



Frank had been a member of our organization since March of 2013. He attended our monthly meetings, mixers, dinners and luncheons. He also was a member of SAGE of South Florida. He enjoyed the Pride Center’s Coffee and Conversation.

Frank was a kind, gentle man with a great sense of humor. His view of the world was positive and hopeful. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was cremated and buried in the Veteran’s Cemetery in Lake Worth.

MILEPOSTS

BIRTHDAYS

Lamond Smith 4/2
Bruce Williams 4/2
Edward Black 4/2
Danny Olinger 4/4
Dick Sabol 4/5
Stanley Lou 4/5
Gary Miller 4/7
Elliot Lipof 4/9
Rick Kirby 4/10
Carl Hill 4/14
Eliot Cohen 4/14
Gibson Smith 4/15
Gerald Dean 4/16

MD Hussain 4/17
Norman Okroy 4/21
William Farrington 4/21
James Restruck 4/23
Tom Pence 4/23
Frank Mahoney 4/24
Richard Mariano 4/24
Arthur Sadoff 4/26
Michael Cochran 4/27
Jack Coonrod 4/29
Bruce Elliott 4/30
Larry Scholl 4/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Peter Gavigan & Thomas Mack 4/29/1979 42 years
Bill Sandrik & Henry Smith 4/30/1983 38 years
John Dool & Ric Buchanan 4/1/1995 26 years
George Hernandez & Danny Oberg 4/17/2010 11 years
John Sorrell & Alex Zapata 4/22/2014 7 years



MR APRIL

Gene Bunge



APRIL 2021 PRIME GENTLEMEN CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>*LOCATIONS</p> <p>AL = AMF Margate, 2020 N. State Rd 7 33063 BP = Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr 33069 ML = Manor Lanes, 1517 NE 26th St. 33305 SC = Skolnick Center, 800 SW 36th Ave 33069 Zoom = Online meeting at zoom.us. See Henry Penas' email messages for links to sessions.</p>				<p>1 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Bowling @ AL* Collectors @ Zoom</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>4 EASTER</p> <p>2:00 General Meeting @ Zoom</p>	<p>5 6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>6 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @ Zoom*</p>	<p>7 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>8 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>9 2:00 History @ Zoom*</p>	<p>10 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12 2:30 Roundtable @ Zoom*</p> <p>6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>13 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @ Zoom*</p>	<p>14 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>15 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Bowling @ AL* Collectors @ Zoom</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>20 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @ Zoom*</p> <p>4:00 Board Mtg @ Zoom*</p>	<p>21 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>22 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>23 2:00 History @ Zoom*</p>	<p>24 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 2:30 Roundtable @ Zoom*</p>	<p>27 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @ Zoom*</p>	<p>28 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>29 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>30</p>	