



ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

We are bowling again, at both Manor and Margate Lanes.



In November, the group at Manor Lanes included (L to R) Bill Sandrik, Ray Patterson, Ken Bailey, Al Dube, Mike Fischer, Mike Trask, Michael Odell and Chris Cook.

See page 8 for schedules at both lanes. 🏹



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

• Henry Penas

Life in the new abnormal is getting more and more bizarre. Apart from missing our meetings, mixers, dinners and shows, we had to cancel our annual Anniversary dinner at Tropical Acres. They were holding our \$500 deposit. I spoke to Francie, the person we work with there and I asked her to add it to the \$500 we sent her for the Holiday Dinner in December.

Well you know what comes next. We had to cancel that event also. She agreed to hold the deposits until a "yet to be determined date" in 2021.

We are experiencing a phenomenon that is becoming common in groups like ours. Our membership numbers are steadily going down. Not as precipitously as the Palm Springs Prime Timers. I heard their renewal rate it at 10%. Ours is more like 60%.

(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

DECEMBER 2020 Volume 17, Issue 12

Published by
Ft. Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, Inc.



PO Box 100666
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33010



FtLPrimeGentlemen@gmail.com

web FtLPrimeGentlemen.org

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor

John Velasco (773) 782-1647
HJVelasco@mac.com

Contributors

Gary Forman: Card Games
Dick Huitema: Calendar, Assistant Editor
Doug Kent: Diner & Upscale Lunches,
Informal Dinners, Events
Ed Slough: Monthly Dinners
Ed Slough: Monthly Movies
Ken South: Gentleman of Month
Kaz Takahashi: Photography
Mike Trask: Photography

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

Distributors

Eddie Green: Paper
Henry Penas: Digital

© 2020 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



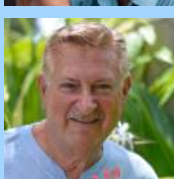
TREASURER

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

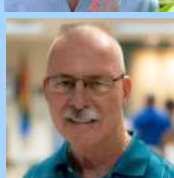


SECRETARY

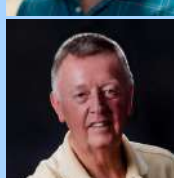
Lou Wangberg
954-295-0236
Wangberg@gmail.com



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



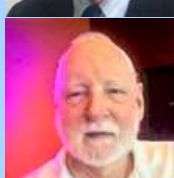
Eddie Green
(954) 557-5485
ezgoined@gmail.com



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)

I think this is happening because there is a disconnect between what life was like before March 2020 and what it is like today. What had been a regular part of our lives before Covid-19 is now among all those other things we have done without for the past ten months.

However I am confident that once things return to normal, our membership

numbers will go up again. I also feel that although big numbers signify that we are providing a positive social life to more and more gentlemen, it's the loyalty of our current members that speaks to what we do.

Other than the rent we paid to the Pride Center for our meetings, all our other bills keep coming in. This is a good time to thank all of you who have diligently sent in your dues. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated. 🇺🇸

Hansel John Velasco

September 27, 1956 - November 2, 2020

Hansel John Velasco died after fighting cancer for two and a half years on November 2. "John" became a member in 2013 and had been the *Surfer* Editor since April, 2018.

He was born in Mexico City and attended the *German School* where he learned to speak Spanish, German and English. He obtained a BA degree in architecture from the *Universidad Iberoamericana* in Mexico City and a Master of Architecture degree from *SUNY at Buffalo*.

He worked for architecture practices in Mexico and the US from 1979 to 1999.

In July, 1996, while living near South Bend, he met his husband-to-be, Dick Huitema, at the Saugatuck, MI gay beach. A year later, he moved to Chicago to live with Dick. He was sworn in as a US Citizen on January 15, 1999.

He was a United Airlines Flight Attendant from 2000 to 2007 and

frequently was the "German Speaker" on international flights.

John and Dick were Chicago/Florida "snow birds" from 2004 to 2016 when they became full time Florida residents.

They traveled often, although not as often as John would have liked. Their last trip was to Rome last year.

In addition to travel, John loved pets, Disney, Zumba, Mexican and German food, carrot cake and all sorts of music (especially Wagner and Lloyd Webber). John was the audio technician for

Seniors Acting Up performances and helped to set up for our general meetings.

He has been described as intelligent, kind, caring, gentle, a valiant fighter, a beautiful soul... John was well known for his warm smile and instant friendliness. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

A Zoom Celebration of Life will be Dec. 5 at 2:00 PM. Contact [Dick](#) for the link.



zoom ACTIVITIES

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

COLLECTORS

Thursday, December 3, 2:00 PM

Thursday, December 17, 2:00 PM

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

HISTORY

Friday, December 11, 2:00 PM

(No session on December 25)

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

MIXER

Every Monday, 6:00 PM

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

ROUNDTABLE

Monday, December 14, 2:30 PM

This session will be devoted to a review of all the 2020 Roundtable topics, as has been the subject of all the Roundtable's final sessions each year.

There will not be a second Roundtable session in December.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Every Tuesday, 2:00 PM

Andrew Langley and Tom Daniel will ask a question, pick the first of us to raise his hand with an answer and then give the answer so you don't need to be on time or stick around to the end. Join the fun!!

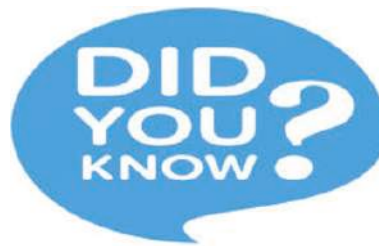


FOOD & DRINK



• Doug Kent

With a healthy dose of caution, we will hold no in-person **Diner Lunch** or **Upscale Lunch** during December as the threat of COVID-19 increases in South Florida.



Santa Claus was given an official pilot's license in 1927.

When Santa Claus makes his trip around the world on Christmas Eve, you can rest assured that he's legally allowed to drive his sleigh—at least in the United States. In 1927, the jolly man in the red suit was given a pilot's license from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics William P. MacCracken.

According to the Library of Congress, "The old saint called at the Commerce Department in Washington" and when he arrived, his picture was taken as he was given his license, airway maps, "and the assurance that the lights would be burning on the airways on Christmas Eve."



GENTLEMAN OF THE MONTH

- Ken South, interviewer

1941 was the year that now lives in infamy when the attack on Pearl Harbor entered the U.S. into World War II. Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated for his 3rd term as President. Two great movies, Orson Wells' *Citizen Kane* and Disney's *Dumbo* debuted that year and would stand the test of time. Kids danced to *Chattanooga Choo Choo* by Glenn Miller and *I'll Be with You in Apple Blossom Time* was crooned by the Andrews Sisters.

In Columbus, Ohio that year, on June 19th, Mr. December was the first born .



He was later joined by a sister. He attended *Burroughs Elementary School* and in 1959 graduated from *West High School*. He enjoyed participating in the school glee club and playing on its golf and tennis teams. During this time, he

discovered and thrived in the youth organization, *DeMolay*. By 1959 he was a student at *Ohio State University* where he majored in the Arts and Business. Later, from 1982-1983, he was the president of the Broward County Chapter of the *Ohio State Alumni Association*.

From 1963-69 he was in the Army Reserves, with active duty on weekends and designated, week-long training assignments. In 1964 he moved to Chicago to work as a salesman for the American Copy company. Also that year, Mr. D met the first love of his life, Niko, a design consultant and owner of *Niko Jeane Inc.* who worked on large community development projects producing hundreds of new homes. The couple shared 31 wonderful years together. Niko was several years older than Mr. D and passed away in July, 1995.

In 1967, the couple looked for a “get-away” place in South Florida, and considered Sarasota, Naples and Palm Beach. In 1968, they decided on a condo at *Maya Marca* in Ft. Lauderdale. Then Mr. D began splitting his time between Fort Lauderdale and Evanston, IL. In 1970, Mr. D decided to attend real-estate school and by 1973 he had formed his own real estate company which ultimately hired 60 agents. That same year he

(see **MAN** on next page)

(MAN, from previous page)

purchased the building where his Federal Highway office was located. He sold it in 1999 to make room for a shopping mall.

Mr. D spent many years engaging in volunteer activities in the community. From 1983-86 he served on the Board of Directors of the *Fort Lauderdale Realtors Association* and from 1984 to 2019 he served on the board of the *Florida Association of Realtors*. In 1987 he was a founding member of the *Charitable Association of the Fort Lauderdale Realtors Association*. He also continues to serve on the Board of the *Stranahan House Museum*.

In 1990, he became president of the *Rotary Club of Ft. Lauderdale South*. By 2006, he was Vice President of District 11 of the *Florida Association of Realtors*.

From 2011 to 2012 he was president of the Broward Chapter of the *Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge*. In 1990, he was president of the *Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager Association* of the *Florida Association of Realtors*. He's been active with *Gamma Mu* since 1978. 🦋

At a Fort Lauderdale wedding reception in 1996, he met his current partner, Michael. The couple shares a beautiful home at Lauderdale by the Sea. Mr. D discovered *Prime Gentlemen* when he was asked to participate on a panel of its History Group which shared memories of "old Gay Fort Lauderdale".

Michael and Mr. December are thoroughly enjoying their life here in Fort Lauderdale.

Can you guess who Mr. December is? If not, turn to the next page to learn the answer. 🦋



On 10/23, the History Group met on Zoom to discuss the Electoral College.

MILEPOSTS

BIRTHDAYS

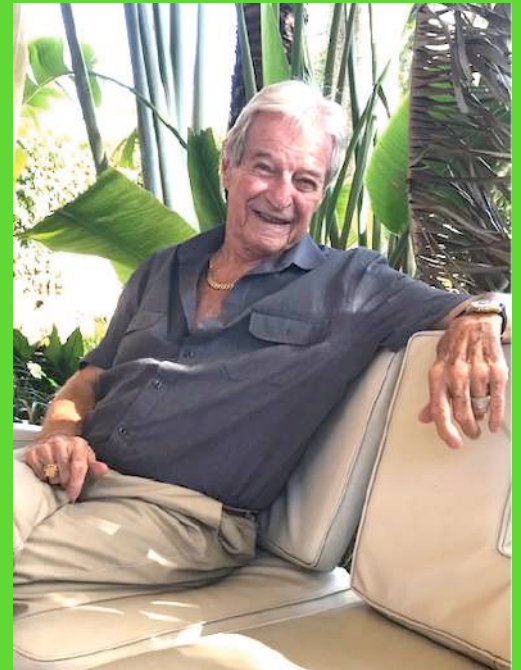
Peter Kelly	12/1	Arthur Brown	12/15
Donald Carbon	12/3	Mark Kight	12/16
Steven Depenning	12/4	Jimmy Carden	12/16
Leonard Roche	12/6	Ken South	12/16
Howard Paris	12/7	Alan Cook	12/16
Tom Sluberski	12/7	Dan Fountaine	12/19
Raymond Patterson	12/9	Robert Goodrich	12/19
Sebastian Barbosa	12/9	Anthony Janik	12/19
Jerry Sullivan	12/11	Frederiick Paiz	12/19
Bob Copping	12/11	Richard Huitema	12/20
Gerry Zaebst	12/11	Henry Penas	12/20
Philip Santomaso	12/13	Sean Phou	12/21
Robert Ottman	12/13	William Sandrik	12/22
Lewis Shena	12/14	Richard McNany	12/23
Juan Bujosa	12/14	Joel Cyr	12/24
William Sarnowski	12/14	Marshall Nanninga	12/25
Scott Rand	12/14	August Azzarello	12/28
William Taylor	12/14	Mark Britton	12/29
Ronald Wilson	12/15	Richard Keaton	12/29
Ellis Squires	12/15		

ANNIVERSARIES

Auggie Azzarello & Stew
Pepper 12/20/1999 21 years
Bernard Donohue & Bob
Blazina 12/13/2017 3 years



MR DECEMBER LARRY ROWE



DECEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>*LOCATIONS</p> <p>AL = AMF Margate, 2020 N. State Rd 7 33063</p> <p>BP = Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr 33069</p> <p>ML = Manor Lanes, 1517 NE 26th St. 33305</p>		<p>1 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @Zoom*</p>	<p>2 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>3 10:00 Tennis @ BP* Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>2:00 Collectors @Zoom</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7 6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>8 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @Zoom*</p>	<p>9 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>10 10:00 Tennis @ BP* Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>11 HANUK- KAH 2:00 History @ Zoom*</p>	<p>12 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 2:30 Roundtable @ Zoom*</p> <p>6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>15 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @Zoom*</p> <p>4:00 Board Mtg @Zoom*</p>	<p>16 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>17 10:00 Tennis @ BP* Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>2:00 Collectors @Zoom</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>22 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @Zoom*</p>	<p>23 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>24 10:00 Tennis @ BP* Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>25 CHRIST- MAS (No activities)</p>	<p>26 10:00 Tennis (and/or Sun.) @ BP*</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 2:30 Roundtable @ Zoom*</p> <p>6:00 Mixer @ Zoom*</p>	<p>29 10:00 Tennis @ BP*</p> <p>2:00 Trivial Pursuit @Zoom*</p>	<p>30 11:00 Bowling @ ML*</p>	<p>31 10:00 Tennis @ BP* Bowling @ AL*</p> <p>7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>*LOCATIONS (continued)</p> <p>SC = Skolnick Center, 800 SW 36th Ave 33069</p> <p>Zoom = Online meeting at zoom.us. See Henry Penas' email messages for links to sessions.</p>	

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE. STAY SAFE!