



Surfer

DECEMBER 2022



ACTIVITIES

By Dick Huitema



Normally, we highlight one of our many activities in this space but this month we'll cover all of them. After you've had about two years of near hibernation or are a new member, you might not realize just how many we have and how varied they are. There's something for everyone!

They are listed below, in alphabetic order. See the Calendar on page 11 for the date, time and place for each.

Bowling We bowl at two alleys: Manor Lanes in Wilton Manors and and AMF Margate. Usually, we have lunch before or after our games.

Collectors Some of us bring items we own

Turn to **ACTIVITIES**, Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Henry Penas



Recently, you received an updated Membership Roster. It contained the interests each member checked off when they joined or renewed. The point of the interest categories is so you can find kindred spirits and those spirits can find you. It's a resource for you so you can identify other members who enjoy the same thing you do. It's not really up to the board of directors to create groups and events.

When I joined in 2008, I used the list to find others who played tennis. I contacted them all and got some responses. This soon led to the current Tennis Group.

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BOARD MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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GENTLEMAN OF THE MONTH Meet a great Prime Gentleman!

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FOOD & DRINK See what's cookin' and where to join us for a drink

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CALENDAR Check out all the things to do and join in!

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PHOTOS See what we've been up to (Send your photos to PGSurfer@icloud.com)

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PRIME GENTLEMEN



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

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

Surfer

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 PO Box 100666
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33010
 FtLPrimeGentlemen@gmail.com
 FtLPrimeGentlemen.org

STAFF

Editor

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

Contributors

Doug Kent: Diner & Upscale Lunches, Events
 Jim Richardson: Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Ken South: Formal Dinners & Gentleman of the Month
 Henry Penas: Obituaries
 Mike Trask: Photographs

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

Distributors

Auggie Azzarello: Paper
 Henry Penas: Digital

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BOARD MEMBERS



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



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



TREASURER
 Paul McNamara
 (561) 254-9622
polmac@aol.com



SECRETARY
 Lou Wangberg
 (954) 295-0236
Wangberg@gmail.com



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



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



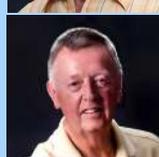
Stew Pepper
 (954) 532-5451
flot@comcast.net



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



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



Special Advisor and Board Member Emeritus
 Richard Lefebvre



Treasurer Emeritus
 Mike Trask

ACTIVITIES

from page 1

to describe their histories. You need not bring anything yourself.

Computer Lessons Eric Runyan presents a different topic at each session. He covers Android and Apple devices.

Diner Lunch Doug Kent picks one of his favorite diners and escorts us there.

Dinner Each month Ken South negotiates a deal with a restaurant for a menu and price. It's all described in the *Surfer*.

Drop In Fun conversation among men.

History Lou Wangberg picks a historical topic, gives a talk about it and then opens the floor for discussion.

Membership Meeting It's our largest event that includes a speaker, a pot luck meal (bring something to share), and lots of meeting and greeting other guys.

Mixer A cash bar social hour at *Tropics Grill & Bar* which serves a free food buffet.

Movie A free current movie that's often a blockbuster, with free sodas and popcorn.

Roundtable A presentation about something of interest to us followed by open discussion with the presenter.

Tennis Frequent games among guys of varied abilities.

Trivial Pursuit Andrew Langley and Tom Daniel host the lively game on Zoom.

Visiting Guys who contact shut-in members and stop by for conversation.

Walking A weekly chance to walk with others through beautiful Palm Aire.

PRESIDENT

from page 1

I fear many members think "Why doesn't the board have a committee for bridge or game nights or photography?" The answer is interesting. All of our groups began because a member wanted to see such a group and decided to start one. If you would like to form an interest group, let me or another board member know so we can help promote your idea. Then all you have to do is sit back and wait for other members to reply. That's it. A new group is born.

Sometimes the person who originally started a group moves away or for whatever reason is no longer willing or able to continue. In cases like that I will let the membership know that we have a vacancy and hope for a replacement. If no replacement comes forward, the group dies.

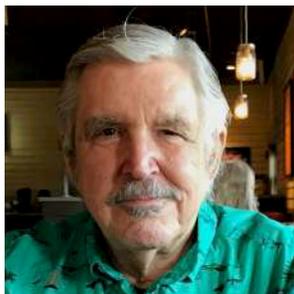
We are currently hoping to find someone to keep the theater event group going, but so far no one has taken it over.

Along those lines we need help at the monthly Membership Meeting. Fellow board member, Carl Hill will be relocating to Oklahoma. He has been decorating the tables at the monthly meeting for over eight years. He has a collection of table centerpieces for every occasion in his condo storage unit. You can use his or create your own but he will be happy to give his to you. If this is something you would like to do, contact me or Carl Hill.

We could use someone to organize and serve drinks, and help serve food at our monthly meetings. Let me know if you can.

MOVIE

By Ed Slough

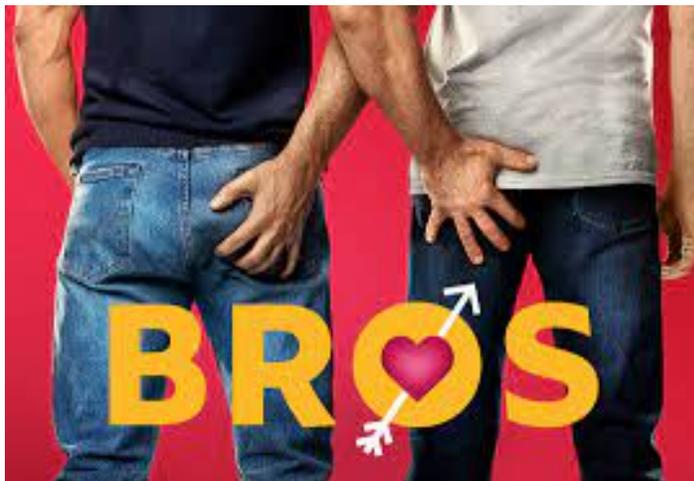


The next Prime Gentlemen/SAGE Free Movie will be *Bros* on Friday, December 16 at 1:30 PM in the Main Hall of the Pride Center.

Bros is the first romantic comedy from a major studio about two gay men who maybe, possibly, probably are stumbling towards love. Maybe. They're both very busy.

Bobby is a neurotic podcast host who's happy to go on Tinder dates and content not to have a serious relationship. That all changes when he meets Aaron, an equally detached lawyer who likes to play

the field. Repeatedly drawn to each other, both men begin to show their vulnerable sides as their undeniable attraction turns into something resembling a commitment.



Bros is a smart, swoony and heartfelt comedy about how hard it is to find another tolerable human being to go through life with.

Free popcorn and soda will be served.

ARTICLE: This Old Man by Roger Angell

Roger Angell was a senior fiction editor and longtime contributor with The New Yorker and a former baseball writer. He was 101 when he died on May 20, 2022. His second wife (of 48 years), Carol, died in 2012.

At age 93, he wrote a deeply personal essay titled "This Old Man" that won a National Magazine Award. The following are excerpts.

I'm ninety-three, and I'm feeling great. Well, pretty great, unless I've forgotten to take a couple of Tylenols in the past four or five hours, in which case I've begun to feel some jagged little pains shooting down my left forearm and into the base of the thumb.

Shingles, in 1996, with resultant nerve damage.

I am a world-class complainer but find palpable joy arriving with my evening Dewar's, from Robinson Cano between pitches, from the first pages once again of "Appointment in Samaria" or the last lines of the Elizabeth Bishop poem called "Poem." From the briefest strains of Handel or Roy Orbison, or Dennis Brain playing the early bars of his stunning Mozart horn concertos. (This Angel recording may have been one of the first things Carol and I acquired just after our marriage, and I hear it playing on a sunny Saturday morning in our Ninety-fourth Street walkup.)

Turn to OLD MAN, page 9

GENTLEMAN OF THE MONTH

By Ken South



In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell, aboard a Saturn V rocket, lifted off to the Moon. Also, the *New York Times* began publication of the Pentagon Papers, exposing secrets of the Johnson administration's conduct of the Vietnam War, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, cigarette advertisements were banned on radio and TV, and "Oh! Calcutta" opened on Broadway for 1,316 performances.

On August 19th of that year, Mr.



December was born into a large family in Mannington, West Virginia. He was the youngest, joining two brothers and three sisters.

Mr. D left Mannington for four years in

Catholic high school seminaries. He spent two years at Saint John's College in Annapolis, MD, before transferring to pursue a degree in classical guitar performance at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He met Dan, his first partner who was 44 years his senior, while studying there in 1993.

They joined Prime Timers at the meeting that established the Baltimore/Washington chapter in 1995. He gave his Senior Recital and graduated in May 1996. Dan died suddenly of a heart attack in June.

Mr. D was lost in grief for five years. He taught guitar for a time, but settled into a different career through friends at a UMBC computer club by joining a publishing firm as an editor for a network of computing-related websites.

He was President of the Baltimore Prime Timers for ten years after the D.C. members split into a separate chapter.

He met his second partner, Glenn, in 2001. They shared wonderful years, including summers with IMEN, a gay nudist group that gathered at Maryland's rustic Camp Ramblewood. They met a man named Al there in 2003; the three became fast friends and palled around until Glenn developed dementia in 2008. Mr. D became a caregiver and looked after Glenn 24/7 until his death at 89 in 2011.

He took the skills he'd learned back to WV to help care for his parents, who had moved into a nursing home after his mother suffered a stroke. The stress and isolation took its toll. It increased when his mother died and his father was alone for

Turn to Gentleman on the next page

GENTLEMAN

from the previous page

the first time in 63 years.

Mr. D called Al in 2014 to ask if he'd join him on a cruise. They decided to become a couple on the trip.

After his father's death the next year, Mr. D indulged his travel bug by visiting several countries, often as a house sitter. He and Al were regulars in Fort Lauderdale while on their way to or from cruises. When COVID struck, they settled into a contented, quiet life at their home in Salisbury, Maryland.

Heart trouble led to Al's death at 84 last February. With no other ties to Maryland, Mr. D moved to Florida soon after that and bought a home in Oakland Park. He reconnected with Ron, a Prime Gentleman he met here five years ago. The two started a relationship, and can be found at Tropics most Friday nights.

If you haven't recognized Mr. D yet, turn to page 10.



ROUNDTABLE

By Paul McNamara



Prime Gentlemen/SAGE Roundtable sessions are held at the Pride Center in Room 206 and broadcast on Zoom at the SAGE dedicated link ([here](#)). Join these energetic discussions either way!

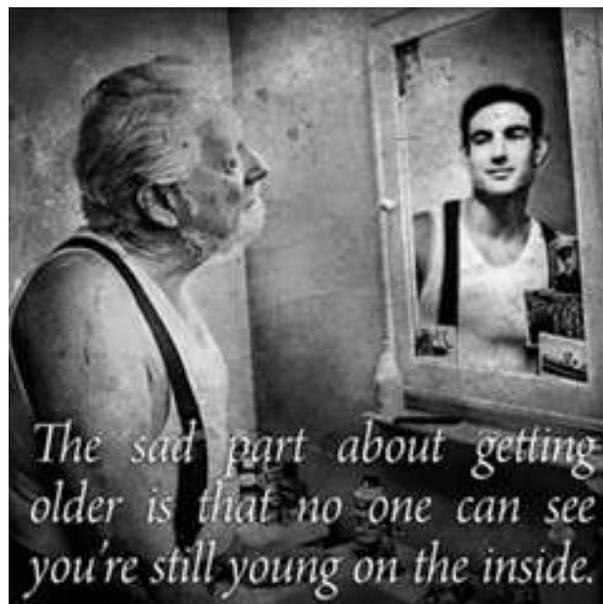
Monday, December 12, 2:30 PM

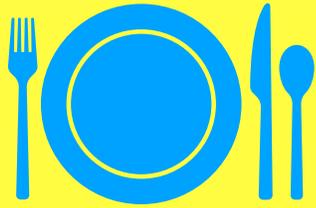
Rick Karlin - Last Call Chicago

Author Rick Karlin's most recent book is titled "*Last Call Chicago: 1001 LGBTQ-Friendly Taverns, Hang-outs, and Haunts*", an encyclopedia of sorts of Chicago's gay bars from the 1920s to the present. Although the book is Chicago-centric, the story of gay bars is universal. Rick's presentation will focus on the important role that gay bars have played in the LGBT community over the years.

Monday, December 26

No meeting will be held due to Christmas.





FOOD & DRINK



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, December 4, 2:00 pm
Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors
Pot Luck Meal served at the Center after the meeting program.
[Be sure to bring a dish to share!](#)

DINER LUNCH

Thursday, December 8, 1:00 pm
Red Fox Diner, 2041 NE 36th Street, Lighthouse Point 33064
It's actually on the north side of Sample Road, one block east of US 1/Federal Hwy. It has plenty of free parking along Sample and on the east side of the building. Call or text Doug Kent at 305-495-2978 or e-mail him at dutchwood@att.net to make sure you have a seat for this enjoyable afternoon.

HOLIDAY DINNER

Wednesday, December 21, Doors open at 7:00 pm
Lips, 1421 E. Oakland Park Blvd, Fort Lauderdale
[See next page for the menu plus instructions for making your reservation and paying with a check or credit card.](#)

UPSCALE LUNCH

Thursday, December 29, 1:00 pm
Las Vegas Cuban Restaurant, 2807 Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
Known for outstanding Cuban cuisine this will be our last luncheon for 2022. Call or text Doug Kent at 305-495- 2978 or email him at dutchwood@att.net to reserve your spot.

MIXER

Every Tuesday, 5:30
Tropics Grille Restaurant & Bar, 2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors 33305
[No reservations; just pay for your drink\(s\) and enjoy the buffet spread!.](#)



**HOLIDAY
DINNER**



1421 E. Oakland Park Blvd,
Fort Lauderdale

Wednesday
December 21
7:00 PM - Doors Open

Dinner PLUS
Show, Drag Bingo,
White Elephant
Exchange*

DINNER
MENU

*\$25!
Subsidized
by Prime
Gentlemen*

Cocktails: Cash, after using \$10 gift drink ticket

1st Course: Caesar Salad

Entree: Choose from 9 of them at table

Dessert: Chef's choice

Beverages: Coffee, Iced Tea, Ice Water
or Soft Drink

* Bring a wrapped White Elephant gift
plus lots of \$1's to tip our entertainers!



Fill in your name(s) and ONE choice code:

Member _____ \$25

Member _____ \$25

Guest _____ \$25

RESERVATIONS CUT-OFF DATE: By 5 pm, December 16

To cancel or for questions on reservations and payments:
contact Paul McNamara at 561-254-9622 or polmac@aol.com

To cancel, do so by 5:00 pm on December 20

Make check payable to Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen and write HOLIDAY in the Memo blank. Send it with this stub to: Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, PO Box 100666, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310 or go to: flprimegentlemen.org and click on Reservations to pay with a credit card.

OLD MAN

From page 4

Friends in great numbers now, taking me to dinner or cooking in for me. (One afternoon, I found a freshly roasted chicken sitting outside my front door; two hours later, another one appeared in the same spot.) Friends inviting me to the opera, or to Fairway on Sunday morning, or to dine with their kids at the East Side Deli, or to a wedding at the Rockbound Chapel, or bringing in ice cream to share at my place while we catch another Yankees game. They saved my life. In the first summer after Carol had gone, a man I'd known slightly and pleasantly for decades listened while I talked about my changed routines and my doctors and dog walkers and the magazine. I paused for a moment, and he said. "Plus you have us."

Another message—also brief, also breathtaking—came on an earlier afternoon at my longtime therapist's, at a time when I felt I'd lost almost everything. "I don't know how I'm going to get through this," I said at last.

A silence, then: "Neither do I. But you will."

I remember a passage I came upon years later, in an Op-Ed piece in the Times, written by a man who'd just lost his wife. "We slept naked in the same bed for forty years," it went. There was also my splendid colleague Bob Bingham, dying in his late fifties, who was asked by a friend what he'd missed or would do differently if given the chance. He thought for an instant, and said, "More venery."

More venery. More love; more closeness; more sex and romance. Bring it back, no matter what, no matter how old we are. This fervent cry of ours has been certified by

Simone de Beauvoir and Alice Munro and Laurence Olivier and any number of remarried or recoupled ancient classmates of ours. Laurence Olivier? I'm thinking of what he says somewhere in an interview: "Inside, we're all seventeen, with red lips."

This is a dodgy subject, coming as it does here from a recent widower, and I will risk a further breach of code and add that this was something that Carol and I now and then idly discussed. We didn't quite see the point of memorial fidelity. In our view, the departed spouse—we always thought it would be me—wouldn't be around anymore but knew or had known that he or she was loved forever. Please go ahead, then, sweetheart—don't miss a moment. Carol said this last: "If you haven't found someone else by a year after I'm gone I'll come back and haunt you."

But to hell with them and with all that, O.K.? Here's to you, old dears. You got this right, every one of you. Hook, line, and sinker; never mind the why or wherefore; somewhere in the night; love me forever, or at least until next week.

For us and for anyone this unsettles, anyone who's younger and still squirms at the vision of an old couple embracing. I'd offer John Updike's "Sex or death: you take your pick"—a line that appears (in a slightly different form) in a late story of his, "Playing with Dynamite."

This is a great question, an excellent insurance-plan choice, I mean. I think it's in the Affordable Care Act somewhere.

Take it from us, who know about the emptiness of loss, and are still cruising along here feeling lucky and not yet entirely alone.

BIRTHDAYS

Peter Kelly 12/1
 Donald Carbon 12/3
 Steven Depenning 12/4
 Leonard Roche 12/6
 Howard Paris 12/7
 Kevin Crownover 12/8
 Sebastian Barbosa 12/9
 Manuel Delavega 12/10
 Gerry Zaebst 12/11
 Bob Copping 12/11
 Robert Ottman 12/13
 Philip Santomaso 12/13
 Scott Rand 12/14
 Lewis Shena 12/14
 Jerry Ganz 12/14
 Juan Bujosa 12/14
 Ronald Wilson 12/15
 Jimmy Carden 12/16
 Kevin Brown 12/16

*Happy
 Birthday!*



Ken South 12/16
 Charles Geldernick 12/17
 Dan Fontaine 12/19
 Henry Penas 12/20
 Richard Huitema 12/20
 William Sandrik 12/22
 Len Walker 12/22
 Richard McNany 12/23
 Gerald Murphy 12/24
 Marshall Nanninga 12/25
 August Azzarello 12/28
 Mark Britton 12/29
 Richard Keaton 12/29
 David Aron 12/29
 Solomon Garcia 12/31
 Cesar Arguelles 12/31
 David Heikkila 12/31
 Fred Retzloff 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Auggie Azzarello & Stew Pepper 12/20/1999
 23 years
 Bernard Donohue & Bob Blazina 12/13/2017
 5 years
 Mike Foley & Tommy Zhang 12/27/2019
 3 years

MR DECEMBER
 JEFF COVEY



DECEMBER 2022 PRIME GENTLEMEN CALENDAR

🕒 - Indicates a Joint PG/SAGE event

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	Thu	FRI	SAT
<p>*LOCATIONS AL = AMF Margate, 2020 N. State Rd 7 33063 BP = Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr 33069 ML = Manor Lanes, 1517 NE 26th Street, 33305 PC = Pride Ctr, 2040 N. Dixie Hwy 33305 SC = Skolnick Ctr, 800 SW 36th Ave 33069 SL = Stonewall Lib, 1300 Sunrise Blvd 33311 TR = Tropics Bar & Grill, 2000 Wilton Dr 33305 Zoom = See email Weekly Bulletin for link.</p>				<p>1 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Collectors 🕒 @ PC 3:00 Drop-In 🕒 @ Zoom* 7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Membership Meeting @ PC</p>	<p>5 6:00 Mixer 🕒 @ Zoom*</p>	<p>6 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Trivial Pursuit 🕒 @ Zoom* 5:30 Mixer @ TR</p>	<p>7 11:00 Bowling @ ML* 1:00 Bowling @ AL* Drop In 🕒 @ PC & Zoom*</p>	<p>8 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 1:00 Diner Lunch p 7 2:00 Computer Class @ PC* 3:00 Drop-In 🕒 @ Zoom* 7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>9 2:00 History @ PC & Zoom*</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 Tennis @ BP*</p>	<p>12 2:30 Roundtable 🕒 @ PC & Zoom* 6:00 Mixer 🕒 @ Zoom*</p>	<p>13 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Trivial Pursuit 🕒 @ Zoom* 5:30 Mixer @ TR</p>	<p>14 11:00 Bowling @ ML* 1:00 Bowling @ AL* Drop In 🕒 @ PC & Zoom*</p>	<p>15 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 12:30 Board Mtg @ Zoom* 2:00 Collectors 🕒 @ PC 3:00 Drop-In 🕒 @ Zoom* 7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>16 1:30 Movie 🕒 @ PC p 4</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:00 Tennis @ BP*</p>	<p>19 6:00 Mixer 🕒 @ Zoom</p>	<p>20 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Trivial Pursuit 🕒 @ Zoom* 5:30 Mixer @ TR</p>	<p>21 11:00 Bowling @ ML* 1:00 Bowling @ AL* Drop In 🕒 @ PC & Zoom* 7:00 Dinner at Lips p 8</p>	<p>22 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 3:00 Drop-In 🕒 @ Zoom* 7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:00 Tennis @ BP*</p>	<p>26 6:00 Mixer 🕒 @ Zoom</p>	<p>27 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 2:00 Trivial Pursuit 🕒 @ Zoom* 5:30 Mixer @ TR</p>	<p>28 11:00 Bowling @ ML* 1:00 Bowling @ AL* Drop In 🕒 @ PC & Zoom*</p>	<p>29 9:00 Tennis @ BP* 1:00 Upscale Lunch, p 7 3:00 Drop-In 🕒 @ Zoom* 7:00 Walking @ SC*</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

RECENT PRIME GENTLEMAN PHOTOS



Jose Alvarez,
Field Marketing Manager, Boston
Scientific – Men’s Health spoke
at Nov.6 Membership Meeting



Mixer Buffet
at Tropics Bar & Grill



October Upscale Lunch at Seasons 52 Restaurant



Ken South
announcing
Holiday Dinner at
Nov 6 meeting