



# Surfer

DECEMBER 2023



## ACTIVITIES

Book Group  
By Paul McNamara



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Henry Penas



Over the past few years, several groups that had been exclusively either a Prime Gentlemen activity or a SAGE activity were merged to become joint events but the SAGE Book Group remained an exception. Commencing with the Saturday, January 13, 2024 meeting, the group will now be open to all SAGE and Prime Gentlemen members.

Initially called "The Book Bunch," the Book Group was the first activity established by SAGE in South Florida. It held its first meeting in September, 1995.

From its inception, the group has adhered to two fundamental criteria: books must

Do you remember when you completed your first Membership Application to join Prime Gentlemen? On the form there was a list of interest categories. You were asked to check off the ones you were interested in.

Did you ever wonder what that was for? Over the years I've learned that most members thought it was a nifty way for you to help board members know which categories to turn into groups.

Au contraire! The point of it is to create a way in which members could contact other members who have the same interests and to find ways to get together.

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**FOOD & DRINK** See what's cookin,' and where to join us to eat and drink

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** Help these guys celebrate

10

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

11

**PHOTOS** See what we've been up to (Send your photos to [PGSurfer@icloud.com](mailto:PGSurfer@icloud.com))

4

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# PRIME GENTLEMEN




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

**To join, go to:** [FtLPrimeGentlemen.org](http://FtLPrimeGentlemen.org)  
**and click on:** *Membership*

## Surfer

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

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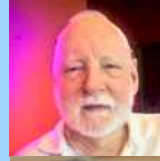
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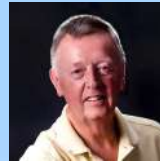
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## ACTIVITIES

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have been published in paperback (although many are now read on an eBook device) and they should be of relevance to the LGBTQ+ community without mandating classification as 'gay books.'

Over the years, the group has explored various genres, including history, biographies, memoirs, and a diverse range of fiction such as mysteries, romance, detective stories, science fiction, and historical fiction. Members actively propose future reading titles and periodic group votes shape the agenda for the months ahead.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month from 11:00 am to noon at the Stonewall Library on Sunrise Boulevard.

Initially, meetings took place in-person only. However, meetings were held only on Zoom during the COVID pandemic. Currently a hybrid format is utilized, with some members attending in-person at the library while others join with Zoom.

The book to be discussed at the January meeting is Damon Galgut's novel *In a Strange Room* which was originally published as three travel memoirs in *The Paris Review*. It was eventually published as a novel and short-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2010. Additional information about the book and the meeting will be in the January Surfer.

Please join in the discussion. There is no charge and reservations are not required.

## PRESIDENT

from page 1

You recently received a Membership Roster with the contact information and the interests of all the members. You could see which members enjoyed travel, nudism, house parties, theater and so on.

When I moved here in 2008 I checked out the Roster to see which members enjoyed tennis. I contacted each one of them to try to arrange a game. In the process I met Clark Raby. He and I decided to start a Prime Gentlemen Tennis Group. The group has been active for almost 15 years.

That's pretty much how all of our groups began. Lou Wangberg and Ed Witkowski started the History Group, Ron Grassullo started the Collectors Group, and a few members of our organization and SAGE started the Round Table Discussion Group. We have a Monday night mixer on Zoom which Andrew Langley started because of the lock down which is still running. He also started and runs the Trivia Group for the same reason and it is still a Tuesday afternoon delight.

We used to have a golf group and a fishing group. Former member Moose Lallo started the bowling group which is ongoing in two different bowling Alleys.

The point of all this is that things happen because someone is willing to devote some of their time to creating and running a group event for members who share his interests.

The Round Table will end at the end of

**Turn to PRESIDENT, Page 4**

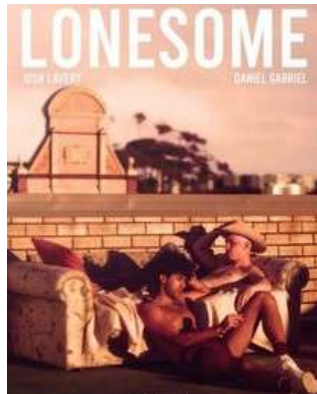
# MOVIES

By Ed Slough



This month's Prime Gentlemen/SAGE Free Movies will be *Lonesome* and *Louder Than Words*. They will be shown on Friday, December 15 at 1:30 pm in the Pride Center's Main Hall. Free popcorn and soda will be served.

In *Lonesome*, two young men make a connection neither of them expects or knows how to navigate. Casey, a young man from the countryside and running from a small-town scandal,



finds himself down and out in the big smoke of Sydney. When he meets Tib, a young city lad struggling with his own scars of isolation, there's chemistry, not only sexually but also emotionally as both men find something they have been missing. Can they overcome their own insecurities and let the other in or are the walls they have built too strong to knock down?

The short film *Louder Than Words* follows young musician Ansel and his encounter with Niall, who is an endearing, deaf

dancer. The film explores the sheer struggle gay people often face in a culture that is yet to fully foster accepting spaces for courtship and love. It portrays how difficult it can be to communicate romantic interest as a gay person.



## Sunday Tea Dance

December 10, 1:00 - 3:00



3001 E Oakland Park Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale

- Complimentary Open Bar & Refreshments
- Vintage Disco DJ
- Facility Tours

## PRESIDENT

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December because no one has come forward to keep it going. The same is true with our former Theater group.

This is a membership organization, and it is up to the members to contribute their time and talent to make our club interesting and exciting.

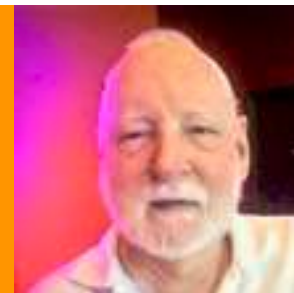
The more you put into Prime Gentlemen, the more you'll get out of it.





# GENTLEMAN OF THE MONTH

By Ken South



The 1954 session of the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education* and declared that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The words “under God” were added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance and Swanson introduced TV dinners.

NBC’s “The Tonight Show” was first aired with host Steve Allen, while evenings were spent glued to nine-inch black and white TVs watching “Father Knows Best,” “I Love Lucy,” “The Lone Ranger” or “The Adventures of Superman.”

But, on February 15 of that year, Mr. December was born the second oldest sibling in a growing family of five boys and two girls in the small village of Bondsville, a part of Palmer, MA. While living there, he attended eight years of grammar school and four years of Palmer HS, and graduated in 1972.

At 14, he became the organist and choir director at St. Bartholomew RC Church, his parish. The aging pipe organ



needed updating, so he organized fund raising events for four years to do it. He and a fellow female student started a musical team and performed at many weddings throughout region.

Mr. D’s musical talents bloomed in high school where he played the clarinet, trombone and bassoon. He was very active in the school band and chorus. In fact, he became the practice band director in his junior year and concert choir director in his senior year! He also played Andrew MacLaren in the musical *Brigadoon*, as well as Sir Lancelot in *Camelot*. He played the piano on the football field for his own graduation.

After high school, the music continued with three years in Barbershop Quartets, one year singing with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Chorus and a male jazz octet that sang the national anthem for the San Jose Earthquakes.

Mr. D thought he wanted to follow a path to become a veterinarian but after a year in pre-med, he realized his grades, while decent, were not going to get him there. So he worked in a local factory for a while and then went to a technical school in Boston to get his TV and radio repair license. He then re-opened O’Dell’s TV Sales & Service, a company his grandfather

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## GENTLEMAN

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and father started in 1949.

After additional electronic training at night school, he moved to the Boston area in 1982 to work for a company repairing point-of-sale equipment such as cash registers, printers, and computers. Later he moved to Pittsfield, MA with the same company before being promoted to a headquarters role in San Jose, CA in 1985.

Mr. D held a number of positions, including 20 years as the IT Infrastructure Manager for the company that ultimately became Fujitsu.

In California, he met his first partner, Ernie. They spent seven lovely years together until Ernie's untimely passing at the young age of 49.

In late 1992, he met his soulmate Steve Lapham. They bought a home together in San Jose and enjoyed hiking, camping, bowling, and travel. They were regular visitors to Florida and moved to Oakland Park in 2003. They spent almost 22 years together until his passing in 2014 from cancer.

He retired from Fujitsu after 32 years, at age 60, three months after the loss of his soulmate.

Mr. D has a variety of interests that include music, volunteering at Poverello, playing tennis with fellow PG members, biking, hiking, and staying at gay campgrounds throughout the U.S. Mr. D. is very passionate about bowling, including attending tournaments across

## ROUNDTABLE

By Paul McNamara



### The End of the Round Table Group?

In the fall of 2016, several SAGE and Prime Timers members put together a proposal to establish a biweekly contemporary topics or ideas discussion group. It eventually led to the formation of the Prime Gentlemen/SAGE Roundtable Group, with discussions spanning a wide range of areas such as science, politics, education, psychology and technology. Each session had a discussion leader who provided a brief introduction to the chosen topic as well as acting as a facilitator to guide the conversation. Since its inception, the group proved to be a very popular activity.

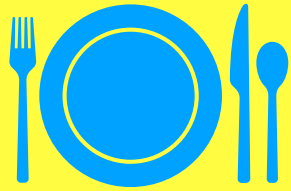
However, as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus said, "There is nothing permanent except change."

Effective this month, the Round Table Group will be on hiatus until new leadership is found. If you are interested in contributing in this capacity, please contact me via email at [polmac@aol.com](mailto:polmac@aol.com).

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the country. He also has enjoyed domestic and foreign travel, including a biking trip in Italy and transatlantic cruises with destinations all over Europe.

You can find him on the bowling lanes with PG on Wednesdays, plus Thursdays and Sundays at Manor Lanes...and page 10.



# FOOD & DRINK



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Sunday, December 3, 2:00 pm**  
**Pride Center at Equality Park, Main Hall**  
**2040 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors**  
Bring a dish to share for our potluck meal.

## EARLY BIRD DINNER

**Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 pm**  
**Black Rock Bar & Grill**  
**6200 N. Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale**  
If you're going, contact Ed Slough at [wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com) so he can tell the restaurant how many to expect.

## DINER LUNCH

**Thursday, December 14, 1:00 pm**  
**Country Ham N' Eggs Bar & Grill**  
**2671 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale**  
A classic menu and great service will be enjoyed by everyone who attends. Call or text Doug Kent at 305-495-2978 or e-mail him at [dutchwood@att.net](mailto:dutchwood@att.net) to hold your seat.

## HOLIDAY BANQUET

**Monday, December 11, 5:30 pm**  
**Tropical Acres**  
**2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale**  
Details are on the next page.

## NIGHT OUT AT TROPICS

**Wednesday, December 20, Happy Hour Drinks: 5:00 pm, Dinner: 5:30 pm**  
**Tropics Grille Restaurant & Bar**  
**2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors**  
Contact Ed Slough at [wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com) to take advantage of this half-price Prime Gentlemen/SAGE dinner deal! Bring a guest!

## REGULAR LUNCH

**Thursday, December 28, 1:00 pm**  
**Silver Pond Chinese Restaurant**  
**4285 N State Rd 7, Lauderdale Lakes**  
Known for outstanding Chinese cuisine this will be our last luncheon for 2023. Remember to call or text Doug Kent at 305-495-2978 or e-mail him at [dutchwood@att.net](mailto:dutchwood@att.net) to reserve your place at the table!

## MIXER

**Every Tuesday, 5:00**  
**Tropics Grille Restaurant & Bar**  
**2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors**  
[No reservations; just pay for your drink\(s\) and enjoy the buffet!](#)

# HOLIDAY BANQUET

Monday, December 11

Tropical Acres

2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

5:30 pm - Cash bar 6:00 pm - Dinner

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE  
BRING A WRAPPED GIFT WORTH ABOUT \$10

## MENU

Caesar Salad

Entree (select one)

It includes chef's choice of vegetable and baked potato

- |                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1 Roast Prime Rib        | \$43 |
| 2 Broiled Salmon Fillet  | \$38 |
| 3 Stuffed Chicken Breast | \$30 |

New York Style Cheese Cake with Cherries

Prices include Soft Drink, Coffee or Tea,  
Tax, Gratuity, and Member Discount

Make your 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 [FtLPrimeGentlemen.com](http://FtLPrimeGentlemen.com) and click on Reservations to reserve & pay with a credit card

Fill in your name(s) and Entree selection(s):

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Entree # \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Entree # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Entree # \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS CUT-OFF: By 5 pm, Dec 8**

**To cancel or for questions on reservations contact:**

Ken South 301-461-4516 or [southy2222@gmail.com](mailto:southy2222@gmail.com)

**To cancel, do so by 5:00 pm on Dec 10**



## John Seigfried

**January 18, 1930 - November 5, 2023**

Member John Siegfried passed away at home surrounded by his family and in peace on November 5. He had been a member of our club since May 2010.

John was married to his wife for 35 years. They had a daughter and two sons.

He is predeceased by his loving partner Howard Apperman.

John was a pediatrician for 22 years.



He published a book, *Gray and Gay: A Journey of Self-Acceptance*, in 2011. He also contributed many articles to our newsletter that had been published in a Rehobeth, Delaware newspaper.

John was a kind, intelligent, witty and caring person.

He is survived by his three children and many grandchildren.

## Agapito Leal

**August 18, 1938 - October 30, 2023**

Former member Pete Leal passed away on Monday, October 30. He and his husband Richard Babik moved to California a number of years ago.

Pete served in the Navy and received a 1969 bachelor's degree in speech and drama.



Pete was a regular in a Public Television's "Carrascolendas," the first bilingual children's program in the U.S., and several other TV shows. Also see [here](#).

He was the *Surfer* "Man of the Month" in May, 2019. The article is [here](#).

## Dan Fontaine

**December 19, 1939 - October 5, 2023**

Dan Fontaine had been living at John Knox Village and a member since November 2013. He attended our monthly Membership Meetings, lunches, and events.

He was from Chicago, but grew up in Cicero, Illinois. Dan enjoyed bicycle riding, playing pinochle, travel, theater, dinners, lunches and other activities with friends.



He was the youngest of three children. He graduated from Morton High School and attended Chicago College of Commerce Court Reporting School. He was a Court Reporter for the State of Illinois for 34 years until he retired in 2004.

Dan was kind, thoughtful, and generous to all. He moved to sunny Florida in 2013.

# BIRTHDAYS

John Kardys 12/1  
 Gene Nixon 12/3  
 Donald Carbon 12/3  
 Steven Depenning 12/4  
 Ernest Goldsmith 12/5  
 Leonard Roche 12/6  
 Stephen Tessino 12/7  
 Howard Paris 12/7  
 Kevin Crownover 12/8  
 Sebastian Barbosa 12/9  
 James Gillespie 12/10  
 Gerry Zaebst 12/11  
 Philip Santomaso 12/13  
 Robert Ottman 12/13  
 Lewis Shena 12/14  
 Hans Siegenthaler 12/14  
 Juan Bujosa 12/14  
 Jerry Ganz 12/14  
 Jimmy Carden 12/16  
 Kevin Brown 12/16



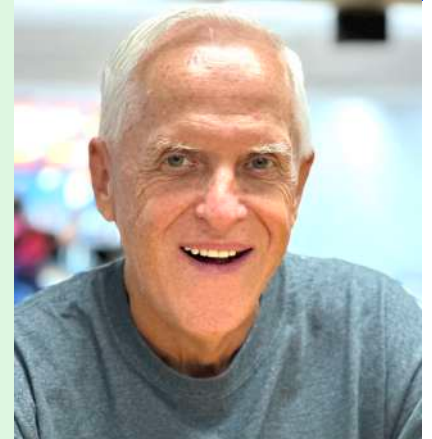
Ken South 12/16  
 Richard Huitema 12/20  
 Henry Penas 12/20  
 John Russo 12/20  
 Lyle Blocker 12/21  
 William Sandrik 12/22  
 Richard McNany 12/23  
 John Hasandras 12/24  
 Joel Cyr 12/24  
 Don Roofner 12/26  
 Kenneth Langbauer 12/27  
 Charles Geldernick 12/27  
 August Azzarello 12/28  
 Steven Rowe 12/29  
 David Aron 12/29  
 Richard Keaton 12/29  
 Mark Britton 12/29  
 Cesar Arguelles 12/31

# ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. December  
**MICHAEL ODELL**

Auggie Azzarello & Stew Pepper 12/20/1999 24 years  
 Bernard Donohue & Bob Blazina 12/13/2017 6 years  
 Chris Benfante & Rob Kohl-Benfante 12/12/2021 2 years

*Happy Anniversary*



# December 2023 PRIME GENTLEMEN CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 12:00 PM HauloverHA	27 # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	28 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	29 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	30 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 1:00 PM Regular Lunch p4 # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	1	2
3 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM General Meeting PC	4 # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	5 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	6 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	7 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Collectors PC # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	8 # 2:00 PM History ZM	9
10 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 1:00 PM Tea Dance - The Meridian p4	11 # 5:30 PM Holiday Banquet p7 # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	12 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	13 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM# # 5:30 PM Early Bird Dinner p7	14 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 1:00 PM Diner Lunch p4 # 2:00 PM Computer PC # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	15 # 1:30 PM Movies PC# p7	16
17 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP	18 # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	19 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	20 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM# # 5:00 PM Night Out Dinner p7	21 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 12:30 PM Board ZM # 2:00 PM Collectors PC # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	22 # 2:00 PM History ZM	23
24 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP	25 # 5:00 PM Christmas Dinner - Anthony's, 2861 E Commercial # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	26 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	27 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	28 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 1:00 PM Regular Lunch p4 # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	29	30
31 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 12:00 PM HauloverHA	1 # 9:00 AM New Year Brunch - Tequila Sunrise, 4711 Dixie Hwy # 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	2 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# # 5:00 PM Mixer TR	3 # 11:00 AM Bowling ML # 1:00 PM Bowling AL # 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	4 # 7:30 AM Tennis BP # 2:00 PM Collectors PC # 3:00 PM Drop-In ZM# # 7:00 PM Walking SC	5	6

Eastern Time Time Zone

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# Indicates a joint Prime Gentlemen/SAGE event

## LOCATION CODES

- AL** = AMF Margate, 2020 N. State Rd 7 33063
- BP** = Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr 33069
- HA** = Haulover Beach, 10800 Collins Ave 33154
- 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
- ZM** = See weekly email Bulletin for link.





# NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BOYS