

VOICE OF THE VILLAS

January 29, 2024



JEANETTE ENGLERT (504 Pendleton Pl) wishes to thank all of the Villa neighbors for the beautiful cards and prayers in memory of her dear husband **FRANK**. All are welcome to attend his funeral Mass on Tuesday, February 6 at 11:30 am at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1301 Center Rd., Venice.



Our Villas in-house floral designer extraordinaire, **BARBARA RAO**, invites all to attend the Lemon Bay Garden Club Rummage, Bake and Plant Sale throughout the weekend of February 15, 16, 17, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 480 Yale Street, Englewood (corner of Yale and Cedar). See poster on bulletin board.



FROM SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

February 12th, Monday, 4:30, **VALENTINE'S PARTY** at
Applebee's...

Sign Up Sheet at the Pool

March 9th, Saturday morning, **VILLA ANNUAL GARAGE SALE** ...
time to clear out closets, attic, garage and other places that contain unwanted,
unused treasures to forward to their next happy home

March 17th, Sunday, 4:30, **ST. PATRICK'S PARTY**, Potluck at gazebo

April 7th, Sunday, 4:30, **PIZZA PARTY** at the gazebo



VILLA ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 15th

10:00 am sign in at Jacaranda Library
check your mail for agenda and other details

Please forward your letters/emails to:

The Honorable James Buchanan re:

House Bill 173

as per previous Voice



LET THE GAMES BEGIN Starting week of February 4th

(sign up sheet at pool or email Linda Dobis @ lcdobis@gmail.com)

- Shuffleboard, Tuesdays @ 9:00 am
- Bocce, Fridays @ 9:00 am



Book Review: “The Gift of Years” by Joan Chittister

Inevitably, we come to see things differently as we age. In “The Gift of Years” these changes in the “capstone years” as she calls them, present the gift of becoming more fully alive than ever. Cicero notes that old age is richer in reflection, force of character and judgement. The maturity and mellowing of character allows the older generation to provide a behavioral model for younger generations showing them the way to a fullness of life.

Seneca said these years abound with pleasure if we know how to use them. Free of obligations and deadlines, there is freshness in these years. Understanding, enjoyment and love of life all increase, allowing for deeper, richer and more important experiences. The world looks different -- more to be treasured, explored and enjoyed. A certain serenity sets in.

Chittister writes “But we are here to depart from this world as finished as we can possibly become. Old age is...exactly the time to grow in new ways [making] sense out of all the growing we have already done. It is the softening season when everything in us is meant to achieve its sweetest, richest, most unique self”.

Chittister calls it a damping-down time of life where anger, jealousy, envy, and pride subside to awaken another whole level of life. “As Agatha Christie put it, we ‘bloom’ as we grow. New abilities emerge, new insights arise. New vision is possible.”

A certain urgency and intensity in living sets in as we become aware of the presence of time. With forty short chapters on subjects such as Regret, Joy, Possibility, Letting Go, Success, Wisdom, Time and Appreciation, “The Gift of Years” provides an indispensable guide to aging well.

**by Michael Ettinger,
Attorney at Law**