



October 2020 Newsletter

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Pelican Bay Women's League Gears Up Slowly This Season

Mary Burns, President

Recently I was talking to a “glass half full” friend whose husband is a “glass half empty” type according to her assessment, and she said to me, ‘either way, the glass is refillable.’” **Words of hope!** Most of us believe that slowly and in time, we will regain our normal lives and fill our glasses to the brim again.

October is the official beginning of “season” as it is referred to in Florida and at this point, the Pelican Bay Women’s League (PBWL) is slowly gearing up our activities through interest groups and events. All activities are modified due to the pandemic and things can change at a moment’s notice depending on how the COVID-19 virus behaves.

Hopefully, we can participate either in-person or through online platforms in activities in the coming months, keeping safety in mind. *Participation in-person should only be at each member’s comfort level and may not be appropriate for those with complicated health conditions. Also, no one should attend an activity if they are not feeling well, have a fever or might have been exposed recently to someone who has the COVID-19 virus or any virus or communicable disease.* All venues we choose must meet current safety standards. Everything we do these days is a matter of choice, along with consideration of taking care of ourselves and others.

We are **seven months into the pandemic** since shutting down in March and that much **closer to a vaccine**. Cautiously and slowly, we can return to our activities and adjust as needed for our health and safety.

Why a long newsletter? Because right now I have time! As season progresses, I will be much busier and the newsletter will shrink. This newsletter issue offers a lot of information of what is upcoming this season. Using boldface type will help you find the important information quickly. Read it all, read what you choose or just look at the photos.

Why are we hosting interest groups and luncheons during this time? Many members who have

been in more restricted states since spring are wondering why we are even offering activities at all this year. And others are asking for us to offer activities to keep us connected in smaller groups or in different formats. Interest group leaders and luncheon planners are coming up with different ways of doing what they do for those who want to connect. We will see what works. If we must cancel, we will, but it's important to try. Members can make their own decisions of what they want to do or don't want to do and we respect their choices.



We Are 25 Years Strong!

The first officers and board of the PBWL in 1995-96 were: (Front row, left to right) Shirley Varley, Vice President, Finance; Muriel Lord, President; Cornelia Kriegh, Secretary and Director of Interest Groups; and Kathy Mann, Vice President, Programs. (Back row, left to right) Bobbie Brown; Jean Oram; Marie Hersh; Carol Fehling; Jeri Bowman; Frieda Gasser; Barbara Schmidt; Norma TenNapel; and Kvet Strakes.

This fall, the League is a quarter of a century strong. The **power of one woman** changed life for the better for all of us in Pelican Bay. Resident Muriel Lord had an idea to create a social group that would launch activities for women during season. She reasoned that it would provide a platform for **women to network quickly** when they arrived from their homes in different locales to spend a few months here.

She called a few women, who called a few more. Fifteen women met and voila! An idea took shape and then form. The group organized a Welcome Coffee & Conversation event in November 1995. They were pleasantly surprised when **300 women showed up** and joined the new organization. The League formed a board that ran the organization and planned luncheons and events. Women with a passion for Bridge, Mah Jongg, bird watching, gardening, meditating and other interests volunteered to lead groups. The Pelican Bay Women's League (PBWL) was established and quickly grew to nearly 1,000 members!

Some of these women are gone but **their legacy lives on**. And what a wonderful gift to us! I am thankful to those women with foresight and I know you must be too. What would our season here be without this organization? I suppose we could all join other area organizations who offer Mah Jongg or luncheons or events, but joining the League has one better advantage.

Just think about it. Pelican Bay is our town, our community, and it is always refreshing to me to meet other women who live here. The League is more than just showing up for a luncheon or a card game. It is a sisterhood, a way of connecting, and a way to make Pelican Bay more deeply our "home" when we are here.

We are WOMEN...we want to connect...make friends, attend events, learn something, play cards, plan a party, organize a tea, sing songs and just be together and laugh. Let's stay connected and we can still be together even if it's in socially distanced smaller groups, outside events, or online with Zoom or game platforms. And if you think about it, **call or email a friend you've made through the PBWL and simply say hello.**



Interest Group Leaders and Event Organizers Include Safety Measures

*Book Club has been a mainstay for the PBWL for 25 years. At a recent Book Club meeting, **Africa's Child** was reviewed. Left to right is one of the current chairs Nancy Bicket, with author Maria Nhambu and past chairs Kathleen Roberts and Liz Feit.*

PBWL members who plan events and coordinate interest groups have been coming up with fresh ideas to continue serving members even if in different or limited formats. **Kudos to everyone** for keeping the League moving ahead! The Community Center will be open with safety measures in place for our fall meetings, events and interest groups.

Mark your calendar for the annual **Welcome Back Open House** where many Interest Groups Leaders will be on hand to answer questions and provide a way to sign up on the spot. That's Thursday, November 12, 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center. All precautions and safety measures will be in place. For more information contact Pamela Rockey, Interest Group Director, prockey@sbcglobal.net or 630-605-3580.

Any group or event in which you choose to participate should be done only if you feel comfortable, do not have a fever or feel unwell, have been exposed to someone who has or has tested positive for COVID-19, and if you do not have an underlying medical condition that would put you at additional risk.

The first luncheon of the season is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, at the Ridgway Bar & Grill in downtown Naples and includes a fashion show. (For details, see article in this newsletter.) Luncheons for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season will be determined month to month due to the pandemic and conditions at those times. The tentative dates and locations are on the website calendar www.pelicanbaywomensleague.org. Members will receive firm invitations through e-blasts as luncheons become available.

Mindfulness (Meditation), hosted by Christine King and Barbara Kay will meet in-person at various outdoor locations this season. The first meeting will be November 10th and thereafter will be on the first Tuesday of each month. Chris and Barb explain that "part of the joy that comes from meditating in a group would be lost in an online Zoom meeting. Thus, our plan is to meet at different outdoor locations, which will lend themselves to creating a quiet surrounding where our seating can be socially distanced. And, we will be in the fresh air of beautiful Pelican Bay. We will wear masks and continue to follow the guidance of Pelican Bay." Prior to November, an email will be sent to all PBWL members that were on the list for the previous year and will provide more details about the first meeting.

Women of Watercolor, co-chaired by Jeanne Ernst and Diane Raffo, will begin in January. Class size will be more limited due to safety guidelines set for the Community Center and those who sign up will be notified in advance and Shirley Hales will return to teach the classes.

The Book Club will meet via Zoom in October and November and re-evaluate for the 2021 months, according to chairs Nancy Bicket, Martha Phillips and Betty Sudarsky. The list of books and dates can be found on our website under Interest Groups.

The **Bridge Group**, organized by Bunny Rossini and Diana Gray, will resume play at the Community Center in November and December and follow the guidelines set up there. Players should wear face masks. No snacks, but hand sanitizer will be available. **Mah Jongg** is gearing up and if you want to play, go to the website, click on Interest Groups and contact the person in charge of the level you want to play for details.

Hand & Foot, led by Cat Larson, will be offered, with safety measures, beginning in October at the Community Center. This card game has no virtual approach at this time. Shirley Linton, chair of the **Writer's Group**, said their group has been meeting via an online platform every week this summer. This meeting method will likely continue until she returns and re-evaluates the requirements to meet in person.

Nancy Colodny, who co-chairs the **Speaker's Series** with Elaine Christian, said that as of this time they will use a virtual webinar platform as a way of meeting with selected speakers beginning in January. **French Language, Culture and History**, hosted by Nelly Dastain, will resume the meetings by the end of October.

Suzanne Rioux, leader of **At-Home Coffees** is planning to hold this event once a month over Zoom. She will continue with their format of women having two minutes to introduce themselves and talk about the “topic of the day.” Suzanne is hoping to maintain a sense of community especially during this time of isolation.

The **Tech Exchange Interest Group**, led by Mary Ann Marks, will continue drop-in sessions at the Community Center per the guidelines. She can also assist members over the phone and will offer a Zoom meeting as the season begins. Schedule will be announced soon for the upcoming season.

A new Interest Group for those who love the outdoors will launch December 5 and continue during the winter months through April 1. **Daily Dose of Vitamin Sea!** will be led by PBWL member Kris Sinnenberg who will offer small group walking and kayaking, observing the wildlife in Pelican Bay. She will be on hand to guide Walking Wednesdays for a .7 or 3 mile loop, walkers choice. And Tuesdays, members can meet for a morning 30-minute kayaking trek. She will also hold a monthly **Sunset Watch** on selected evenings. For more information, check out the PBWL website under Interest Groups.

More information about PBWL activities, whether held in-person on a limited basis or held virtually, will be released as the season progresses.

Membership is required to participate in any activity so if you haven't renewed, do so today online at www.pelicanbaywomensleague.org.



Luncheons are such lively events and these women's contributions to the League have been stellar! Left to right: Toni Levering, past board member and this October's whirlwind fashion show coordinator; Beverly Wernette, past president and PBWL volunteer extraordinaire spanning quite a few seasons; fabulous and people-loving Norma Jean Broeman, board director in charge of luncheon planning including the upcoming luncheon October 14 at Ridgway; and Liba Jelinek, recent past treasurer for the board who worked tirelessly to develop online financial systems for the League, making online payment possible.

October Luncheon to Feature Fashion Show

*The Pelican Bay Women's League
Invites Members to the
2020 Season Kick-Off Luncheon
Wednesday, October 14
11:30 am – 1:00 pm*

*Ridgway Bar & Grill Restaurant
1300 Third Street South, downtown Naples
(Choice of Five Menu Selections)*

*Enjoy a Fashion Show with selections from the
Sara Campbell collection and modeled by our members!
(Discount to attendees and other giveaways;
one guest allowed)*

PBWL board director and organizer Norma Jean Broeman announces that the **first luncheon of the season is scheduled for Wednesday October 14**, at the Ridgway Bar & Grill in downtown Naples. The luncheon will be a smaller event this year due to pandemic restrictions and includes a fashion show, coordinated by Toni Levering, past board member. PBWL members will model the clothes of the Sara Campbell boutique. A philanthropic apparel designer, Sara Campbell creates timeless silhouettes for women. Based in Boston, the collection is made in the USA.

Ridgway has installed an **ionization system** to



Judy Howell and Cindy Anderson-Thomas are two members who are often on hand to welcome members to the monthly luncheons held at various Country Clubs or restaurants in Naples.



Joanne Hobin, Carole Summerfield, and Pat Bessette wear their hats for the Derby Day luncheon, a tradition for the Pelican Bay Women's League.

impede pathogens, and follows state health guidelines of 50% occupancy, tables 6 ft. apart and 4-6 at a table. All Staff members will wear masks. Everyone attending must wear a mask upon entering until seated.

Sign up only if you are comfortable attending. Participating in any event during the pandemic is a choice and could put you at risk, especially if you have a medical condition. Do not attend luncheon if you feel unwell, have a fever or may have been exposed to someone who has or has tested positive for COVID-19. Contact us and you will receive a refund. Refunds will be given if the event is cancelled due to conditions at time of luncheon.

Register for luncheon (\$35) and/or **renew membership** (required to attend) at www.pelicanbaywomensleague.org. Questions? Contact Vice President Cheryl Waterhouse, 469-499-6551.

Ways to Become More Involved

- **Renew your membership** even if you are not sure you'll participate this season. Consider it a way to support the League that has given you so much. Help us through this pandemic.
- Since we are celebrating 25 years, if you have a story to share, photos of League events, were a past board member or Charter member, email Mary Burns at lyonhenne@yahoo.com. We are **also looking for a Historian**, so if you like to gather up old information, interview people and write stories, or create an electronic scrapbook for the website, let me know.
- Do you have experience with graphic design, writing, photography, event planning, computer programs, using Constant Contact, websites updating, printing labels and mailing cards? We can use some help. Contact Mary Burns, lyonhenne@yahoo.com.
- If you are interested in serving on the PBWL board, we are compiling a list of members who would like to serve. Email your name, community, skills or interests, and any other information that would be pertinent to Mary Burns, lyonhenne@yahoo.com. As board positions open, we will contact you if the position is a fit.
- We **need Ambassadors** for several communities: Bay Villas; Biltmore; Carlisle; Chateaumere; Beauville; CoCo Bay; Jamestown; Marquesa; Pelican Bay Woods; Remington; St. Simone; Strand at Bay Colony; Trieste at Bay Colony; Villa LaPalma; Vizcaya; Waterford; Windsor; Carlton Place; and Chanteclair. Contact Ambassador Director Geri Buranosky, mgburanosky@gmail.com or 239-591-8235.
- **Start an Interest Group.** Do you have a passion for an activity? Is there something you like to do but having a few women along make it more enjoyable? Is there something you'd like to teach

others, art or crafts, musical instruments such as the ukulele? Salon get togethers to discuss a topic? Do you like to do something and would be willing to see if others share your interest? Contact Pamela Rockey, Interest Group Director, prockey@sbcglobla.net or 630-605-3580.

Please Renew Your Membership Today!

Many members did not renew their memberships in May because of the pandemic shutdown, and so our membership is not at the normal level for this season.

Even if you're not sure when or if you'll participate this season, consider renewing your membership anyway. Remember, the League that for years has been able to provide a more enjoyable season for you when you are in residence, **could simply use the heart-felt and financial support**. Together, we can get through this difficult time. We can also accept donations, and one special member, Denise McLaughlin, did just that. We appreciate her generosity of spirit and support.

For \$40, you can participate in activities when you're ready, or simply continue to receive the newsletter to see what's happening with your League.

Renew now at www.pelicanbaywomensleague.org

Your support is greatly appreciated!