

**FRENCHMAN'S
CREEK
LIFE**

**SUMMER JULY
2015
Special Edition**

**A Publication about the Members and Life at
Frenchman's Creek**

A FAMILY REUNION NOT TO BE BELIEVED

If I had ever dreamed of hosting a perfect reunion for my immediate family, it was fulfilled right here at Frenchman's Creek. My wonderful group of 23, consisted of my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who managed to arrive from all parts of the country as well as Australia.

For almost five days, not an activity venue was overlooked - from the children's playroom to the beach club to bocce to pickleball to tennis to golf to fitness and pool activities - as well as a private water bike class. As for food, we had the first dinner at my home and the next evening was a superb barbecue around the pool at the Beach club, preceded by fantastic hors d'oeuvres and ending with a delicious ice cream bar. Saturday evening, we enjoyed a most elegant and beautiful dinner in our lounge/bar, consisting of cocktails, great sushi and again a great assortment of different hors d'oeuvres. We then went to the beautifully decorated west dining room for a lavish dinner. The general opinion of all present was that they were dining in one of the world's finest restaurants. Of course, they all loved the breakfasts and lunches around the pool and 19th Hole as well. We continued to have more fun one afternoon, after the next granddaughter to be married was treated to a great Spa treatment, where we gave her a surprise luncheon Shower that even the men enjoyed!



As departure time approached on Sunday, not wishing to miss anything, everyone joined the water aerobics class and then managed to attack the great Sunday Buffet.

From the letters I received from everyone, they all commented on the wonderful feeling of togetherness that this occasion fostered. There are not enough words of appreciation to express my gratitude to everyone on staff who "bent over backwards" to graciously attend to everyone's slightest needs!! Special thanks to George Giller for his guidance and expertise in helping me with all the details. You have all given us a Family Reunion never to be forgotten!!!! Thank you everyone.



Ruth Karlin

Up The Creek

JUDY and MARK JAFFE are happy to announce the recent birth of their fourth great grandchild, **Jacob Morris Goldstein**, son of Judy's grandson Josh Goldstein and his wife Rebecca. Josh is an attorney with Katten Muchin in Chicago and Becky is a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools.

gigi column

This column is about our members who have the thrill of becoming Great Grandparents– thus Gigi

MADDY SIEGEL is so excited to be a first time Great Grandmother. Sadie Rae Young was born April 9, 2015 and weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. She is the daughter of Maddy's granddaughter and her husband, Hilary and Matthew Young. They reside in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

JOAN ISAACSON is over the moon being a first time Great Grandmother. Noah Berl Rotfeld was born June 15, 2015. He weighed 7 pounds and was 21 1/2 inches long. He was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and is the son of Joan's grandson and his wife, Robby and Gosia Rotfeld, who live in Center City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

T H E H O M E F R O N T

The Homefront column is designed to inform our members where in the community our new residents are living and other residences they may have. It also keeps up with our present members who have stayed in the community but moved to new dwellings.

Of course we always wish our members who are moving out of the community good luck wherever their travels take them.

This month we have the pleasure of welcoming two new members to our Frenchman's Creek Family and wishing one present member good luck in their new abode.

SHANNON and GLENN ANDREWS have purchased Norma Sirott's home on Monaco Lane. They also have a residence in Georgia, but expect to be at Frenchman's for most of the year.

SIBYL JACOBSON and FRANK ROSINY bought Elaine Shindler's house on Parc Drive. They also reside in New York, New York.

DEBRA and GLEN GREENBERG are happy to announce that they purchased the Lovas' home and now are residing on Marseilles Drive. They also reside in Avon, Connecticut.

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FRENCHMAN'S
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SPECIAL ISSUE IN HONOR OF
JERRY SHAW
JULY 2015

A TALE OF A MAN AND HIS MODEL SHIP-
THE USS FORRESTAL CV 59





Details of the model and Jerry pictured in front of his model after spending a few weeks fine tuning it for its trip to Annapolis.

Pictures courtesy of Dr. Burt Greenberg and bobbe wiener

INVITATION TO FRENCHMAN'S CREEK RESIDENTS, WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2015

Before the United States Naval Academy takes possession of Jerry's exact replica of the *USS FORRESTAL CV 59*, Jerry and Syd Shaw cordially invite you to see the model from 4-6 P.M. at their home on Redon Drive.

PALM BEACH GARDENS NAVY TRIBUTE



Jerry shown operating some of the motorized parts of his model to members and friends.

Picture courtesy of the Palm Beach Post

The Cocktail Party on May 27th was attended by over 75 members of Frenchman's and outside friends. The food and beverage staff of Frenchman's Creek did their usual fabulous job. Syd Shaw served as hostess while Jerry enthralled all by operating different parts of the model ship. The party was held in their garage which was the only place large enough to house his 12 foot replica of the *USS FORRESTAL*.

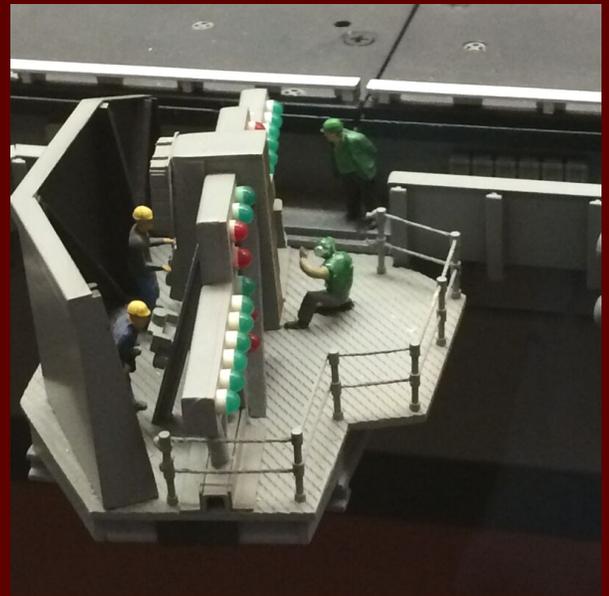
Everyone in attendance agreed that it was most impressive and unbelievable that one person could build an exact replica with all moving parts duplicating the original ship.



THE USS FORRESTAL CV 59 as it appeared in real life in JET



Jerry with Vice Admiral Walter Carter, Jr.,
Superintendent of the Naval Academy





ERRY AND SYD SHAW'S GARAGE *photo courtesy of Keith Kendrick*



Jerry checking out the mechanics at the Naval Academy



Photos on pages 4,5 and 8 courtesy of Jimmy Gushner

We at Frenchman's Creek are proud of Jerry Shaw and know his unique ability and talent of inventive ideas and the ability to create life like models of ships, planes, cannons, jeeps, etc. He has every right to be so proud of his labor of love that took 30 years to complete. He and his wife, Syd, have donated his exact replica of the *USS FORRESTAL CV 59* to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It will be on permanent display in the Alumni Hall Building where it will be a reminder of years' past- a history lesson and used as a teaching aid for midshipmen. Now the world will know of his labor of love. The reason it took 30 years is that the ship kept changing and Jerry kept up with those changes. The model is 12 feet long, 3 feet wide, weighs 2000 pounds and is complete with the 80 planes (folding wings) and new jets that took off from this aircraft carrier.

Speaking of taking off, fellow Frenchman's Creek resident, Chris Poindexter, as a Lieutenant JG, flew A4 Attack Aircraft made by Douglas off the *USS FORRESTAL* from 1962-1964 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Sky Hawk was designed to deliver tactical nuclear weapons. He informed us that 3 planes were dispatched every 30 seconds. "Call the ball" is the command from the landing signal officer to an approaching aircraft. When the pilot sees the orange "meatball" lined up with the row of green lights he is on the proper glide slope. This detail is not lost on Jerry's model. Chris was very instrumental in getting the model to the Naval Academy. He has been a member of the Naval Academy Foundation for many years and thought it would be very nice in Alumni Hall. It so happens, the new Superintendent of the Naval Academy, Vice (3 stars) Admiral Walter Carter, Jr. not only flew off the *USS FORRESTAL* but is himself, a model maker. All were very receptive and so they sent CD's of the ship and the CD made for FCTV of the interview that David Schain did with Jerry and Chris a number of years ago.

Every March the military go before Congress to get their yearly appropriations. Approval by the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, plus the Chief of Naval Operation, then Admiral Jonathan Greenert and the Superintendent of the Naval Academy, Admiral Carter is also needed. All approved of the cost to move the model and permanently install it in Alumni Hall.

Jerry and Syd's love for the Navy can be traced back to his enlistment as a Petty Officer 2nd Class, (like a sergeant in the army), in 1951 following the start of the Korean War. He was in the division of Sonar Under Water Detection in destroyers and served aboard the *BRONSON DD 668*. His love of the sea extends into his hobby of shipbuilding, especially large working replicas of naval vessels such as the *FORRESTAL*. His model was featured in the magazine, *Fine Scale Modeler*, March 1999 issue.

As we stated earlier, it all started 30 years ago when Jerry decided to build an exact replica model of the *USS FORRESTAL*— or did it really!!

At seven years of age, Jerry, made trucks and car models out of cardboard. He never had any engineering study just an imaginative mind to be able to work the circuitry, electrical part. It was hit and miss and he learned by studying ships and blueprints. In 1947, the hobby shops now had little motors made in Japan and he played with them and made a gear box. His first model was a Chris Craft Cabin Cruiser replete with a piano and candelabra ala Liberace. Television was the new rage, so he made a TV with 2 doors with a picture of Syd (who has been at his side every step of the way) on one door. It had a motor for each propeller, a cabin and bedroom and actually went in the water!

After his tour of duty was finished, he built a destroyer ala the *BRONSON*, with 8-10 motors. He made his own switches with screws and springs. This project took him 2 years to build. He then built the Battleship *THE MISSOURI* which is 9 feet long and has 30 motors.

Thirty years ago, in 1965, he decided to build the *FORRESTAL*, as it was a new class of ship and the biggest ship the Navy ever made.

It also had a lot of detail and Jerry likes detail. The plans for the ship kept changing so it took 15-16 years for Jerry to perfect it.

Because the ship was so large, it was built and repaired in dry dock at the Philadelphia Naval Yard. As an aside, to put the ship back in water, they flood the dock. The life extension of the early carriers was 20 years and then the machinery and parts had to be updated. Jerry had access to the naval yard as he and Syd did runway haute couture fashion shows for the Naval Officers' Wives Club of Washington, DC for many years- the last show in the 2000's had 900 women attending. Thusly, Jerry was able to acquire info pertaining to the FORRESTAL plus he was given a copy of the original blueprints.

He built every aspect of the ship- even the anchors are cast in bronze. The model is made of wood and fiberglass and from the hangar deck up is all brass including the deck island. As the *Capital Gazette of Annapolis, Maryland*, pointed out, "thousands of the anchor rings to secure jets, scatter the decks of aircraft carriers, and many model-ship builders will concede a speck of paint to mark them. Not Jerry Shaw, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, a retired fashion design executive who in the 1960s, partnered with Oscar de la Renta and ran the business side of the brand until retiring in 1994. Shaw drilled pinpoint indents on the deck of his model. He placed brass anchors smaller than a house fly. It features 80 functions, movements and lights: rotating radar to blinking antennas. Shaw's model stands out for its 12-foot length — 1 inch equals 8 feet — and its lights and movements, run by 60 hidden motors somewhat smaller than golf balls". "Mechanically, we don't have anything like this," Donald Preul, Academy Curator of Ship models, said. A panel of switches raise deck elevators, open hangar doors, extend antennas and rotate radar. In fact, the motors on the model were slowed with gears to rotate the radar array at a speed that is similar to that of radar array on the *Forrestal*. The evolution of the Navy is shown on the deck of Shaw's model. Aircraft range from the A-7 Corsair II, first flown in 1965, to the F/A-18 Hornet, first flown in 1978. Shaw's methods also evolved from when he began the model, using screws and nails, to recent years when he was helped by the invention of Krazy Glue.

The ship was commissioned in 1955 with a home port in Norfolk, Virginia, and was deployed 21 times around the globe. When a ship is commissioned- the entire crew is on the dock and the ship is barren. The Captain gives the command to bring the ship to life- aircraft carrier i.e THE FORRESTAL had 6000 crew aboard (then only men). The ships radar are turned on, the anchor lowered, the guns move and the entire crew is at attention. They then trot up the gangway, climb all over the ship and are at attention manning the rail one foot apart from each other as they outline the ship. It is a very precise, moving and controlled majestic ceremony – the flag is then set.

The FORRESTAL was decommissioned 1993, in 1994 it started to rust and four months ago was cut up for scrap- all 150,000 tons!

Jerry's model arrived in Annapolis early in June 2015 and was raised by crane to the second floor of the academy's Alumni Hall. An acceptance letter from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the model was appraised at \$2.6 million. "The *USS Forrestal* had a long and distinguished career and I appreciate your generosity in preserving our Naval heritage and the legacy of the ship's crew members," Mabus wrote Gerald Shaw.

To end Jerry's Tale, I (bobbe wiener) asked him one last question, How do you feel that your model is going to the Naval Academy? His answer was "Emotional." Syd agreed that the whole process has been an emotional experience. "I have," Jerry continued, "mixed emotions, yes I will miss it but I know where it is going. It will have an incredible home in Alumni Hall, thousands of people will see it each week. All activities take place on the second floor of the hall, it holds 4000 people (entire corps) class meetings, gym, visitors ,etc." As you enter the entrance of the Alumni Building two staircases flank either side leading to the second floor landing and that is where Gerald Shaw's Model of *the USS FORRESTAL CV 59* is on display for all to see.



JERRY BEING PRESENTED A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY ACCEPTING HIS MODEL AFTER COST APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. SYD BY HIS SIDE.



THE FORRESTAL IN ITS PERMANENT HOME IN THE NAVAL ACADEMY

What a beautiful legacy you, Jerry and Syd, are leaving to the United States and the World- we all owe you a debt of gratitude, accolades and a job well done by Jerry's golden hands..