



FRENCHMAN'S  
CREEK  
LIFE

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

A PUBLICATION ABOUT THE MEMBERS AND LIFE AT FRENCHMAN'S CREEK



# *A note from the editor*

I was not going to put out a September FC Life because of the hurricane and holidays for some of us, but I changed my mind. My thanks to guest contributors, Mickey Berman, Larry Robbins, and Judy Konigsberg. As always, our go to correspondent, Norma Lippman, has kept us informed.

And we have life experiences - some bad and some happy news in this issue. To all members returning, please check out the new POA and Administrative offices - they are fabulous and what a club of our caliber should look like. The POA office sets the tone for the whole building. No picture can do it justice and will take away the surprise!

*Thank you bobbe wiener, editor.*

## **Up The Creek**

Ronni and Ralph Grebow are thrilled to share that Ronni's parents, **NANETTE and ARTHUR TAUSCHER** celebrated their **70th Anniversary** on September 21, 2017.

*Can you just imagine!*



# Hurricane Irma

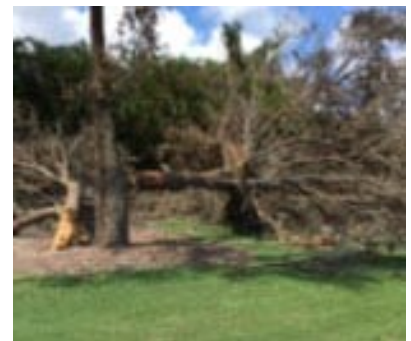
As you read this, the biggest hurricane to hit Florida in almost 100 years is long in the past, but as I write, on Saturday morning, it has not yet arrived. And my thoughts turn to how lucky we are to live at Frenchman's Creek. Neighboring communities, including Admiral's Cove, Ballen Isles and Eastpoint, closed down their clubhouses days ago and sent their staff home.

Their residents are on their own. As far as I know, ours is the only community that looks after our members. For several days, our senior and junior staff have been meeting and planning how to best care for 225 members and family. The clubhouse is filled with mattresses, pool chaises and cots. While many outside this community line up for gas and cash, and some negotiate crowds at the market for food and water, we know we'll find what we need at the clubhouse.

I could go on ---and on, but, mostly, I just want to give thanks on behalf of all of us "refugees from the storm" both 2-legged and 4-legged. Thanks to the kind, sweet, always smiling, always caring, amazingly hard working people, some of whose names we know, and some who work behind the scenes and back of the house who we don't get to meet. So here's to the true heroes of Frenchman's Creek, the best staff anywhere and their awesome leader, Mr. Goswami.

P.S. The storm known as Irma has passed and all of our people are safe. Some of our staff members had barely any sleep for 3 days. Some of us lost phone service and some outside staff have been without power for days. Most restaurants have no power and remain closed. There has been considerable landscape damage, but I have not heard of any other damage. We have been very lucky and we know it.

**Norma Lippman**



# HURRICANE IRMA AT FRENCHMAN'S CREEK

September 12, 2017

Are you staying"? "Are you leaving"? "Are you going to go up to the clubhouse"? "Are you going to stay in your house"? "Do you have your shutters up"? "What? You don't have shutters"? "Did somebody come to bring all your outdoor furniture inside"?

These were the questions most prevalent as the residents of Frenchman's Creek took very seriously the TV and Radio advisories about the huge storm approaching Florida, named Hurricane Irma. At the beginning it seemed frighteningly clear that the Hurricane was headed right for us. There were a few discrepancies in the various models; but they all included the State of Florida in the "cone"—and most felt the major hit would affect Florida's East Coast.

The communications from Frenchman's began—telling us that the clubhouse would be available for shelter during the storm; and that there would be transportation provided to get everyone to the clubhouse between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM on Saturday. There soon began a stream of our neighbors, with pillows and small pieces of luggage, arriving and scouting the first and second floor to find the location of their designated sleeping spot.

What a sight it was! Instead of card tables there were inflatable mattresses (fully made with sheets and blankets); in the ladies and mens' locker rooms the mattresses were placed so that there were private areas where each member had a bit of space to themselves; and in the living room there were more beds for some of the residents who needed more care and attention. Nothing was forgotten or overlooked-----particularly the dogs—who had their own space—even a place where they could stay with their owner.

Those of us who chose to sleep in the clubhouse remained after dinner (delicious) and adapted to their new environments as well as can be expected. Some of us even managed to get a few hours of sleep. We had already learned that the latest prediction was that the storm was headed up the WEST coast and would have a much greater chance of impacting Fort Meyers, Sarasota and Tampa than it would us. But they kept insisting that things could change rapidly and that we would experience high winds and rain during the early morning hours and throughout Sunday.

I was amazed at how quiet our clubhouse building was throughout the windiest part of the morning and afternoon hours. It felt so safe being there—not hearing the sound of the wind or the other banging noises that accompanied a storm like this. Of course, we also felt safe because of our amazing staff. Even though many of them had never been through anything like this before, they took care of us as if they were hurricane veterans and did their jobs with care and concern for everybody's well-being.

We had been told that the highest winds would occur between 6 to 9:00 PM on Sunday and that we would most probably be able to go back to our homes if we chose to do so after those winds subsided. Lo and behold---that's just what happened!! Right in the middle of our Canasta game, we got the word that the vans were taking people home. Those who chose to stay the night did so and were taken home on Monday morning.



# HURRICANE IRMA AT FRENCHMAN'S CREEK cont'd

We were so lucky. Our power never went off. Our safety was never in question. Our food never ran out. Our every need was met by our incredible group of staff members—starting at the very top and including every single person who was part of this remarkable undertaking. We kept hearing that “we were the only club in the area that offered a shelter to its residents.” That didn’t surprise anyone. We have grown accustomed to the highest level of service imaginable; and it was obvious from the conversations all around the Club that we appreciated everything that was done for us more than we could express.

It is impossible to name all the acts of kindness we witnessed from the staff. I personally saw two young male staffers come to the aid of a long-time resident who needed help literally in the middle of the night. They treated him with respect and kindness and as if he were a member of their family---and with warmth and dignity they made sure his needs were addressed. I shall never forget that incident! I wish I could list all the names of the people who worked in the building during those two days---but it’s impossible to do so. Please take my word that there wasn’t one person who didn’t do more than was expected of them. And they did it with a smile!!

I hope we all remember to keep on saying *Thank You* to our dazzling crew. We acknowledge and appreciate that we live in a special place, but we cannot forget that these people are the heart and soul of our community. Nobody ever gets tired of hearing how great they are so keep those compliments and thank yous coming!

With sincere appreciation,

***Mickey Berman Larry Robbins and Judy Konigsberg***



Sharon and Michael Strongin and Family at the Clubhouse which served as a hurricane shelter.





# Volunteer Match Program

From Barbara Stern

Barbara Stern, on behalf of the Frenchman's Creek Volunteer Match Committee, brings this endeavor to our attention.

## Making a Difference in October in 20 Minutes!

Grove Park Elementary School has asked our community to help in a very special project they have developed, to help expose their students to ideas and thoughts they might never have been exposed to before. This is a **ONE TIME COMMITMENT** during the month of **OCTOBER**. The plan is to have different people come to talk to the children about a special subject for 20 minutes (Monday to Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.) *Please arrive 15 minutes early to register.* You could talk about an area of expertise or a subject you have a special interest in. Depending on the topic, the school will decide which grade level will be your best audience!

The goal is to enrich the students as much as we can. To get the children to develop their "thinking skills"! You may want to talk about art, a particular artist, music, a special song, travel, what you think about when you pack, a country or a city you visited, history, fitness, business, a hobby, golf, quilting, boating, sewing, banking, yoga, biking, tennis or any topic you choose. You could also bring in an artifact or souvenir! (Remember what fun show and tell was!)

Keep in mind what is common to us may be foreign to many of the students! You never know what influence you can have on a young mind! The school is 20 minutes away on Military Trail just south of Northlake Boulevard. Please consider participating in this very special project!

You can call Barbara Stern 917-209-9604 or email her at [bstern3831@aol.com](mailto:bstern3831@aol.com).

We have so much to offer, please consider sharing with these adorable children! Looking forward to hearing from you as this could will be a memorable event not only for these children but you too!

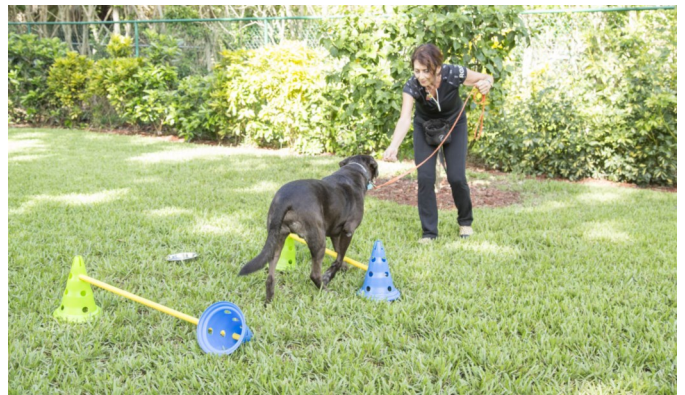
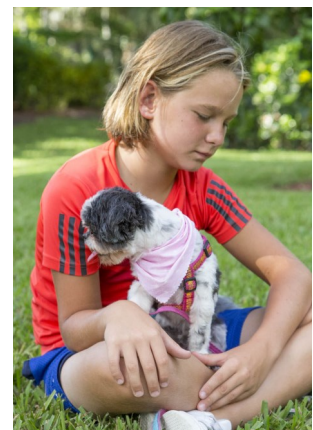
On behalf of the Frenchman's Creek Volunteer Match Committee, "Thank You!"



# Social Hour With Your Dog August 22nd

Cora, a certified dog instructor, invited members to a social hour on August 22nd to test their dog's skills with some fun agility activities. This event was to teach the dogs some neat tricks and reward them with positive reinforcement and healthy dog treats. Goodie bags were given and photos were taken. It was a great way to socialize and stay fit with our four-legged best friend!

Other fun incentives were summer cocktails and light snacks available for members and "doggie ice cream" for the pooches after the session.



*The Frenchman's Creek Community mourns the loss of our following member:*

**FREDERICK BROWN** who lived at 13221 Verdun Drive and was a member since 2014. Our heartfelt sympathies to his beloved wife, **Laura** and their family.

**Frenchman's Creek is a tight knit caring community so in this light we publish the following:**

MARILYN and CHRIS POINDEXTER are reaching out to their Frenchman Creek's Family with the devastating news that they lost their granddaughter, September 21st, when she passed away in the ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She had been in the hospital since July 3rd with a very rare blood infection. Catherine Ellen Poindexter was 24 and working at The National Institute of Health as an Animal Care and Use Coordinator.

Needless to say, the Poindexters return to Frenchman's Creek will be somewhat delayed .

If you would like to reach out to them and make a donation in Catherine's name, the POA has all the information.

**Club News Staff**

**Editor**

Bobbe Wiener

**Correspondents**

Mimi Bergel, Shirley Goldberg, Marleen Hacker, Mark H Hurd, Jeri Jacobs,

Myrna Leven, Norma Lippman, Adele Shamban, Lois Stern, Judy Tobin

**Photographers**

Marleen Hacker and Bob Cohen