

MARCH 2016

**FRENCHMAN'S
CREEK
LIFE**

Celebrating Mr. Opici's 100th Birthday



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

First Annual Pickleball Party

Our first Pickleball Party was a success!

The day started off so perfectly, the temperature was cool, the sun was shining and everyone who came was looking forward to having a good time and meeting new friends.

Over 40 people attended the party. All six Pickleball courts were in use all morning. Despite the differences in the level of skill, everyone played with everyone else. The atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic, there was a lot of laughter and a lot of cheering, and everyone was gathering around conversing while waiting for their turn to play.

Thank you to our Chef, Bernd Linsenmayer, along with the Food and Beverage Staff and our Catering Manager, George Giller who provided a great selection of food, including sandwiches, fruit and eggs. Mimosas and Bloody Marys' were plentiful.

Overall it was a great day. Tikky acknowledged Mr. Brown and thanked him for giving her the vision to pursue this sport. She also thanked Steve Bernstein, Richard Schreibman, Saul Kravecas for encouraging their peers to participate in the game. Tikky recognized everyone's effort and enthusiasm for taking part of having this game grow.



Congratulations to Mr. Opici on his 100th birthday

On Sunday, March 13th, Hubert Opici was 100 years young! On Monday, March 14th, the Fitness Center had a little early morning party for him. One hundred sixteen people helped him celebrate at a lovely small dinner dance held, Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the club.

With more than 82 years of experience in the wine industry, Hubert Opici has become a living legend. At 100 years old, he currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Opici Wine Group.

He was born in Paterson, New Jersey in 1916 and moved to Ramsey, New Jersey. The wine industry was a part of his life from the very beginning. His parents, Joseph and Esther Opici - both children of Italian immigrant parents, began importing wines from Italy and distributing them within New Jersey in 1913. Although they fell on hard times during the Depression and Prohibition, the Opicis remained focused on their passion for the wine industry, and in 1934, they established the American Beverage Distribution Company of New Jersey. That same year, Hubert, graduated Ramsey High School and joined the business as a delivery boy. In 1942, he enlisted in the army as a private and rose to Staff Sergeant.



He served 3 years and 7 months (but who is counting). Returning from the war, he rejoined the business, took the reigns of the New Jersey operations, as his parents moved to California to work on the family's newly acquired winery.



Today, the small New Jersey distributor, has evolved into the Opici Wine Group that imports and distributes an international portfolio of fine wines and spirits, employs more than 500 people across the United States and includes Opici wines, a national importer and producer representing nearly 50 brands of wines and spirits. Despite his professional accomplishments, Hubert believes his greatest success story is his family. In 1944, he married the love of his life, Rose Deregibus. They were devoted

to each other, their family and the business. By the way, Rose's father had a beer business. They shared 65 wonderful years together before Rose's passing in 2010. Today, Hubert is happiest spending time with his daughter, Linda, grand children Dina and Don and his four great grandchildren. He is thrilled that the business continues to be a family one with Linda, Dina and Don.

Here is a poem, Mr. Opici had from the time he was 80 to 90 and as asked, the last two lines to bring it up to 100 were added!

*Today dear Lord, I'm 80, and there's much I haven't done. I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do, Would you let me stay awhile, until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so very much to see. Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store, I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.
And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay til 85!
More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick - And see what happens to the world when I turn 86.
I know, dear Lord its much to ask (and it must be nice in Heaven), but I'd really like to stay until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast and sometimes will be late, but it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things, and had a wonderful time. So, I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at
the age of 89.... Maybe.
Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord. I thank you kindly. But if it's okay with you,
I'd love to live past 90.*

Thank you, dear Lord, for doing as I bid And allowing me to live to be a hundred!

We thank Mr. Opici's grandson, Don, and bobbe wiener for contributing to this article

BIRDING with THE B'S

Our Birders Doctors Bob and Burt bring these sightings to us this month.



Boat Tail Grackle



Mottled Ducks



Sandhill Crane



Limpkin



Common Gallinule



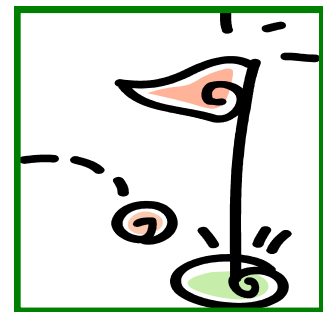
Red Bellied
Woodpecker



Wood Stork

Two Holes-In-One

How about two holes-in-one on the same hole two days apart!



ALEX BURSTEIN had a hole-in-one on Monday, March 7th on #15 of the North Course. It played at 154 yards and he used a 5 wood.

CRAIG BERNHARDT had a hole-in-one on Wednesday, March 9th on the same #15 of the North Course. It played at 174 yards today and he used a 6 iron.

Our Precious Pets

Column by Lois Stern

Photography by Bob Cohen

Duke, a 7 year old Norwegian Elkhound, and Balto, a 3 year old Siberian Husky, arrived in Frenchman's Creek from New York at the end of November with **FRANK ROSINY** and his wife, **SIBYL JACOBSON** are Rescue dogs from the Columbia-Greene Humane Society in Hudson, New York. Duke was adopted at two years and is the alpha. Balto was adopted at 8 months. He has developed from a dog that covered and didn't play with toys to a dog that plays ball like a kitten and will fetch until his partner wears out. Both have adapted to Florida better than expected. Duke enjoys being petted and admired and thinks his brown eyes can stare people into giving him treats or rubs. Blue-eyed Balto generally prefers the company of women, but is starting to let some men approach him. He likes other dogs and wants a pack. He even arranges his stuffed animals in a circle of which he is the center. Duke, as a Norwegian Elkhound, was bred for independence and to keep moose at bay. He doesn't like ball games and will only do it a few times to demonstrate that he knows how. They both like to chill out on the red tile floor and like long walks.



SUSAN and JOHN WENDKOS' new love of their life is Willie. He is a golden doodle who looks more like a doodle. Willie turned one on Valentine's Day and has stolen our hearts. He loves living in Frenchman's Creek. Especially the Dog Park where he goes almost every day and has a great time playing with all his new friends. The best part, is when he gets home, he is completely worn out and ready to settle down for the night.

PENNY and FRED ABRAMS recently returned to Frenchman's Creek after 9 years in Scottsdale, Arizona. Glad to be back, we are still in Arizona during the summer. Kobi is a Shiba Inu. He is a rescue dog we got while living here previously. He is 15 plus years old, partially blind and almost deaf. Rocky is a German Shepherd from the Czech Republic, was trained mostly in Colorado and is 6 years old.



MIXED COUPLES GOLF MEMBER-GUEST

The annual Mixed Couples Member Guest Golf Invitational was played on Friday, February 26th with, thankfully, no need to consider the rain date. Registration, picture taking and brunch preceded the 12:45 shotgun start. The format was a one-best-ball shamble, with all receiving 90% of their handicaps. The field of almost 150 golfers were divided into four flights and enjoyed a day that was much more pleasant than the forecast. As usual, the golf staff did a wonderful job of making sure the day ran smoothly. Following golf, there was a delightful cocktail party in the parlor and living room, followed by a delicious buffet dinner in the main dining room. Because of concerns fostered by the weather forecast, the original plans for a poolside reception were changed. The committee and our extremely capable dining staff did a magnificent job of last minute re-arranging everything, including the decor, into which they put so much effort. Kudos to co-chairs Lila Silver and Vicki Wildstein and their committee, as well as the special Frenchman's Creek staffs. It was a lovely day (and evening)!

Mimi Bergel

Ladies Member Guest

The second Ladies Member-Guest Golf Tournament of the 2015-2016 season was held on Tuesday, March 8. Always a popular event, both courses were filled with nearly 190 women, including guests from forty-nine different clubs. With a theme of "Fashion on the Fairways", the women were dressed in black and white with a splash of fashionable bright color. After registration and picture taking, the ladies were treated to a wonderful and extensive buffet brunch. The format of the golf tournament was a one-best-ball shamble, requiring at least two drives from each player, with the foursomes divided into four flights. Except for more wind than was desirable, the day was just lovely. There were some unexpected cancellations last minute changes and additions. Robert, Rich and their staff did a super organizing job, arranging and rearranging the groups, flights and tee assignments, guaranteeing another wonderful event. Thank you to Co-Chairs, Marjorie Feinstein and Mady Friedman and their committee.

The Book Nook

The Swans of Fifth Avenue, Melanie Benjamin

Covering about three decades, this is a very entertaining novel about Truman Capote and his swans who were the upper crust ladies of New York society. They were obsessed with their appearance, raised largely to seek appropriate husbands, perform their wifely duties impeccably, and seek the camera lens that would feature them on the society pages. Their wealth and breeding defined them. Truman Capote befriended and was befriended by this group of socialites who enjoyed being associated with him. He had a unique style and wit. Their wealth and breeding defined them.

They were his confidantes and he was theirs. Truman was neglected as a child and loved to be entertained and appreciated since he lacked that for most of his life. They served that need perfectly. His closest relationship was with Babe Paley. He called her Bobolink. They developed a warm and unusual, intimate relationship. A self-professed homosexual, he was affected, but fun to be with in the manner of a childhood best friend. As an adult, however, he was also self-absorbed, narcissistic and insecure, and he would stop at nothing, using anyone, to gain fame and fortune. He was the ultimate sycophant, and he miscalculated the affections of others for him, and it led to his downfall.

At times, it was his foppish and garish demeanor and dress, his insecurity, which he disguised as arrogance, and his fondness for drink that led him astray. He was the ultimate social-climber. Against the advice of those closest to him, in order to further his flagging career, he wrote a story for Esquire Magazine, entitled "La Côte Basque 1965", which was intended as a prelude to his next novel. The story was a "tell all" that humiliated and exposed his swans for the shallow, catty, striving human beings they occasionally became. He revealed their innermost secrets, secrets that they had confided in him over the years never suspecting he would share them with anyone, let alone the world. He was soon ostracized and abandoned by them, much to his shock and disbelief, for he thought, haughtily, didn't they realize he was a writer?

The book is described as fictional biography and/or historic fiction, and the story is colorful and interesting as it exposes the underbelly of yesteryear's high society and those who sought it by whatever means necessary. At all times, it is engaging, even though it sometimes reads like a gossip column written by Liz Smith and at other times like a confession. The names of the rich and famous are dropped into the narrative; Bennett Cerf, Peter Duchin, Papa Hemingway, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, Princess Margaret, Jackie Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Cushings, Whitneys, Vanderbilts, Mortimers, Astors, and more, are all present and accounted for in the book. This was indeed the world of the elite, and Benjamin offers us a juicy glimpse.

Ladies' Day Results

February 23rd

18 Holes

Flight 1

1st Barbara Sheldon – Ellen Goldstein
Nancy Berkley – Judy Epstein

2nd Susan Furst – Ann Cohen
Jane Feinstein – Andrea Finkel

Flight 2

1st Shelley Parker – Louise Kovacs
Cheryl Turchin – Helene Myers

2nd Ronni Grebow – Sharon Rochlin – Lila Silver

Flight 3

1st Connie Golber – Judy Rubin
Ruth Levine – Anne Stanfield

1st Betsy Bernstein – Barbara Wiener
Marleen Hacker – Joan Simmons

Flight 4

1st Barbara Reitman – Eleanor Newman
Phyllis Hershman – Mimi Bergel

2nd Cindi Schwartz – Carol Pulver
Penny Abrams – Phyllis Gross

9 is Enough

Flight 1

1st Gloria Sack – Joan Isaacson
Judy Jaffe – Harilyn Zimmerman

Flight 2

1st Clarissa Singer – Robin Goodfriend
Carolyn Goldman – Elaine Sussman

March 1st - Scramble

18 Holes

Flight 1

1st Jenifer Weintraub – Rima Robinson
Jana Spiess - Nancy Berkley

2nd Sandi Lamm – Carol West
Ellen Goldstein- Roz Budkofsky

Flight 2

1st Judy Epstein – Lila Silver
Betsy Bernstein – Penny Abrams

2nd Evelyn Gutkin – Jeri Jacobs - Sue Sternberg

Flight 3

1st Rhoda Edelman – Sheila Babich
Ellen Schein – Susan Sleprow

2nd Barbara Wiener – Judy Rubin
Georgianna Cotton – Wendy Dinner

Flight 4

1st Cindy Schwartz – Nancy Klotz – Mimi Bergel

9 is Enough

Flight 1

1st Debbie Hornstein – Marilyn Greenspan
Anita Schwartz – Anita Fishbein

2nd Gloria Sack – Barbara Hanig
Nancy Scher – Carolyn Goldman

Flight 2

1st Harilyn Zimmerman – Rosa Meyers
Lisa Barbas – Clarissa Singer

2nd Lois Sontag – Elaine Sussman
Judy Chesler – Marcy Sanders

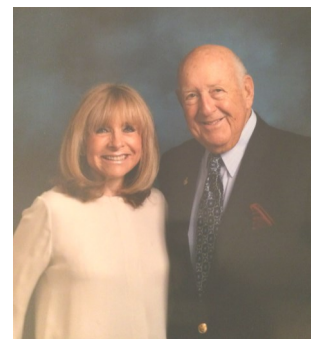
Up The Creek

BUBBLES and SHERM LEVIE are proud to announce the upcoming marriage of their grandchildren, Jon Reiner and Abby Cin on April 9th in Chicago at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. The couple will live in Chicago. The groom is in the insurance business.

Not only did **JANE and ARNOLD LAMPERT** “Celebrate Life”, they celebrated a wedding.

On Saturday, February 27, over 200 friends and family were invited to a black tie affair at Frenchman’s Creek. The main dining room was filled with lots of love and happiness for the newly married couple. Most of us were surprised, as Jane and Arnold were married the day before at Temple Emanuel.

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Lampert. We wish you many years of good health and happiness together.



Marleen Hacker

Most of us are private about our children and grandchildren’s accomplishments but there are times when we are so proud we have to share – and this is one time **THELMA and RICHIE FLORIN** are sharing their pride.

They are proud of their grandson, Ross Florin who, according to President of University of Michigan, Mark Schlissel, as a sophomore has earned high honors and on March 20, 2016 was honored at Michigan’s 93rd annual Honors Convocation which celebrates scholarly accomplishment of top Students.

In addition, their other grandson, Marc Langendorff, has achieved honors at his college University of Wisconsin. He also is a sophomore. How nice that two close cousins achieve same honors same year!

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