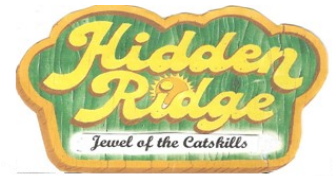


# *The Hidden Ridge GEM*

## *June 2016 Issue 16-02*



### **The President's Message**



Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers,

Welcome back! It is great to be back, albeit bitter-sweet for me. (Please read Linda's column for details).

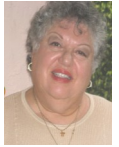
The Jewel of the Catskills is shining due to the efforts of our year round maintenance program. Our maintenance crew has been busily fixing gutters, replacing storm drains, as well as tending to the landscaping of common grounds. Several trees had to be removed due to infestation and they imposed a threat to our properties. (for more information please read Lenny Kirschenbaum's column). In order to minimize costs, our crew cleared all fallen debris. There may still be some to do; it will be cleared shortly. Their priority was to get the pool and clubhouse ready for Memorial Day Weekend. And they did it! The pool was painted, the deck stained, bathrooms painted, chairs brought out of storage all in time for this past weekend when I saw many Hidden Ridgers enjoying themselves. Even I got into the pool this weekend! Perhaps the next time you see the maintenance men, you can thank them for their efforts. I know they would like to hear it!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Lenny Kirschenbaum who handled every situation this winter no matter how large and with finesse. He deserves a well needed vacation! Alongside Lenny each week was Jerry Bassik to handle the banking needs for our community. Thank you both for signing the checks to pay our bills and picking up the much needed supplies that the maintenance crew needed.

At our Board of Director's Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, we revisited our decision from September to install gates at both entrances. Those homeowners who attended the meeting were able to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the gates. The Board was able to answer several of the questions and for those that we could not, I have reached out to the company for answers. I will have those answers soon and they will be communicated to the residents. The Board reconfirmed their decision from September. We will be installing gates. There will be orientation opportunities to learn how to access entry, etc. in the next few months. Our safety personnel from 4 PM to midnight will remain on duty until Labor Day or until the gates are fully operational.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to welcome the new homeowners and new renters who will be sharing their first summer with us. We hope that you will join us at our Welcome Back Breakfast on June 12<sup>th</sup> as well as our other planned activities (please read Karen's column for more details). Make sure to check the

### **From the Editor**



*I was so looking forward to coming north for the summer, spending time with my "new" summer friends [this opposed to my "old" summer friends from my youth back in the day]. However, once again my mother's favorite phrase came back to haunt me - "man makes plans and G-d laughs."*

*Just the day before we left Delray Villas, our whole world was turned topsy turvy by the loss of our beloved dog, Shayna. We have dreaded that day for almost a full year after her diagnosis of lymphoma in April of 2015.*

*She got the best of care from her oncologist in Hollywood, Dr. Rebecca Seaman, who was recommended by her wonderful veterinarian, Dr. Martin. It was Dr. Martin who had made the diagnosis and he came to the house to do his last act of kindness for our girl on May 10th. This was exactly one month shy of the twelve years we had and loved our darling, Shayna. We left the next day.*

*Last summer, just after the diagnosis and her first treatment, we came north and Shayna was continued on a regimen of chemotherapy that took us to Middletown each week. Her oncologist there was Dr. Impelizerri, who was expensive, but gave her excellent care. But, some issues still needed the caring hand of a local veterinarian. Shayna was lucky that we had found Dr. Bodolosky many years before. She has been a kind and giving doctor, loving and caring even after our loss.*

*So, as I said, everything changed for us. We had never taken the biyearly sojourn without Shayna. We had a routine - one of us drove and the other sat in the back with Shayna. Now, we found ourselves sitting together in the front seats. It was strange; it was sad.*

*Then when we got here, we had to de-Shayna yet another house. Everywhere we look, there is something to remind us of her. She was a dog with a big personality. Everyone who entered our home became her "aunt" or "uncle" and was not allowed to just sit until they had given her a treat from her cookie jar to which she ushered each and every one.*

*Bonnie says I should not keep saying that I will never have another dog.*

*She says I should just say, "not now." One thing is for certain, however, I will never have another one like Shayna.*

*Linda*



Save the Dates column in the GEM as well as the bulletin board, our website ([www.hiddenridgehoa.org](http://www.hiddenridgehoa.org)) and emails for upcoming activities. I'm looking forward to yet another wonderful summer!

Bonnie

## 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Bonnie Siegel	President	791-6056 917-969-9646
Lenny Kirschenbaum	V. Pres	794-3395
Fred Hirsh	Secretary	516-639-0238
Chuck Greenberg	Treasurer	516-445-3845
Jerry Bassik	Director	791-4273
Ed Hertz	Director	791-7209 561-706-3301
Karen Seltzer	Director	794-2752 917-861-6291

**Hidden Ridge H.O.A.  
PO Box 976**

**Monticello, NY 12701**

**Patrol/Safety number: 845-794-8180**

## Hidden Ridge H.O.A. Committee Liaisons

Advertising	Chuck
Audit	Chuck
Beautification	Ed
Clubhouse	Karen
Cul-de-Sac Liaisons	Jerry
GEM/Website	Bonnie/Jerry
Grievance	Fred
Insurance Certifications	Bonnie/Jerry
Insurance Matters	Bonnie/Jerry
Legal	Fred/Bonnie
Liaison to Veria	Bonnie
Long Range Planning Committee	Fred
Maintenance	Bonnie/Lenny/Ed
Pool and Pool Pavilion	Lenny
Safety	Lenny
Sales and Rentals	Ed/Bonnie
Sanitation and Recycling	Lenny/Jerry
Snow Removal	Lenny
Social Committee	Karen

## Upcoming Events



**Next Board Meeting: Sunday, July 10**  
**Association General Meeting: Sunday, June 26**  
**Social Committee Meeting: June 12**  
**Please see the bulletin boards or website.**



Want to announce something to our community? Call Linda and place an ad in the GEM.

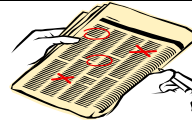
Please call 917-747-8660 or email: [bonsdiva@aol.com](mailto:bonsdiva@aol.com)

**DEADLINE for JULY ISSUE - June 20<sup>th</sup>**

## Important Reminder



President Bonnie Siegel reminds all homeowners that a current copy of your insurance certification is required to be on file with the HOA. This form should include the unit number as well as the effective dates of coverage. A copy of the Declarations page is acceptable and preferred. Handwritten details on these documents as well as premium notices are not acceptable. Send your certification forms directly to the Hidden Ridge Office, PO Box 976, Monticello, NY 12701.



## Classifieds

**Wanted:** Ads to defray costs of printing the GEM, such as, business cards, etc.

Prices for ad space in newsletter:

• full page	\$25/issue	\$125/year
• 1/2 page	\$15/issue	\$ 75/year
• 1/4 page	\$10/issue	\$ 50/year
• business card	\$ 5/issue	\$ 25/year

Call Linda: 845-791-6056 (May-Oct.) 561-498-9338 (Oct.-May)

## GEM Staff



<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	Linda Solomon
<b>Senior Editor</b>	Bonnie Siegel
<b>Business Manager</b>	Sol Klein
<b>Advertising</b>	Jerry Bassik

<b>Contributing Writers:</b>	Chuck Greenberg	Janet Lieberman
	Allan Meyers	Peter Morello
	Karen Seltzer	Robbie Schecter
	Terry Steinberg	Eddie Erlich
	Lenny Kirschenbaum	

If you would like to contribute to the July issue or consider writing a regular byline, please notify the Editor-in-Chief. Please send your information to: Linda Solomon at [bonsdiva@aol.com](mailto:bonsdiva@aol.com)

## Liberty Pest Control

Liberty Pest Control will address interior concerns.

Please call them at the following number to make arrangements and be sure to let them know you are part of Hidden Ridge Homeowners Association.

**845-361-3100**

If you have any questions, speak to Bonnie Siegel. Thank you.

## Life Cycle Events



Flag Day  
June 14



Summer begins  
June 21



Father's Day  
June 21



D Day  
June 6



June - Birthstone: Pearls

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



## Happy Birthday

06-02 Ettie Rachleff  
06-04 Frances Katz  
06-11 Willie Steinberg  
06-12 Hermine Block  
06-14 Doris Rosdeitcher  
06-18 Sheila Cole  
06-19 Glenn Meyers  
Shirley Thompson

*Mazel Tov*

Warren & Randi Berkowitz are proud to announce the birth of their grandson,

**Aaron Easton Berkowitz**

Welcome, Aaron, we hope you enjoy many wonderful times here at Hidden Ridge with your grandparents!

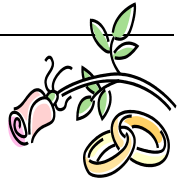


## July 4th Celebration!

Dinner and Show, Sunday July 3, 2016  
Details to follow (watch our website and bulletin board).

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Clocks and Watches               | 15. Watches                      |
| 2. China                            | 16. Silver Hollowware            |
| 3. Crystal and Glass                | 17. Furniture                    |
| 4. Electrical Appliances            | 18. Porcelain                    |
| 5. Silverware                       | 19. Bronze                       |
| 6. Wood                             | 20. Platinum Watches and Jewelry |
| 7. Desk Sets - Pens and Pencil Sets | 25. Sterling Silver Jubilee      |
| 8. Linens and Laces                 | 30. Diamond Watches and Jewelry  |
| 9. Leather                          | 35. Jade                         |
| 10. Diamond Watches and Jewelry     | 40. Ruby                         |
| 11. Fashion Jewelry and Accessories | 45. Sapphire                     |
| 12. Pearl or Colored Gems           | 50. Golden Jubilee               |



06-09 Rita & Ron Kukafka  
06-10 Doris & Sy Rosdeitcher  
06-16 Shelly & Larry Strickler  
06-18 Myrna & Stanley Want  
06-21 Sheila & Bob Cole  
06-25 Erica & Norman Sadowsky

## Please join us for our annual WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

Lox and Bagels and...  
\$10.00 per person

**Date:** Sunday, June 12, 2016  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** Hidden Ridge Clubhouse

**PLEASE RESERVE YOUR  
PLACE BY JUNE 9, 2016**

**Call Karen Seltzer  
845-794-2752  
(15 Hidden Ridge Drive)**

**Please bring checks (only) to Karen  
Payable to "HRHOA" by June 9, 2016**

**Open Seating**



## Dining and Entertainment

### Robbie's Recipes

*submitted by Robbie Schecter*



#### PASTA SALAD

1lb rotini pasta, cooked al dente  
1/2 cup finely diced orange pepper  
1/2 cup finely diced red pepper  
1 cup corn niblets  
1 cup fresh peas, cooked firm  
1 cup garbanzo beans  
1 cup black beans  
1/2 cup canola oil  
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar  
2 tsp salt free Mrs. Dash seasoning

Mix all ingredients together and chill several hours.  
Add oil, cider vinegar or seasoning to taste  
ENJOY!



#### **HOLD THE DATE! \***

- Sunday, June 12 - Welcome Back Brunch
- Sunday, June 26 - Association General Meeting
- Sunday, July 3 - July 4th Dinner & Show
- Sunday, July 10 - Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, July 17 - Meet the Candidates
- Sunday, July 31 - Annual Meeting and Elections
- Sunday, August 7 - Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, August 21 - Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, August 28 - Association General Meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 11 - Board of Directors Meeting

\* Dates are subject to change, please check bulletin board and web site.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who have agreed to serve our community. Some of us live here full time, while others of us are seasonal residents. We like to enjoy our community and lives just the way everyone else does. WE WILL TAKE PHONE CALLS **DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS ONLY** UNLESS YOU HAVE A TRUE EMERGENCY. Calls after 6 PM to get someone's phone number or to ask a question can usually wait for the next day. Think about how you would feel if you were out to dinner or having a night out and received calls like these.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*We are saddened to announce the passing of our neighbor and friend, wife of Gerald*

**Rosemary Sullivan**

*May her memory be for a blessing.*

### Welcome New Neighbors



Owner: George Tauber 134 HR Drive

Renters (as of May 27):

Warren & Isabel Streisand - 17 HR Drive

George & Shari List - 159 HR Drive

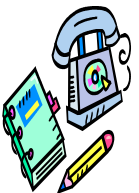
Louis & Bunny Moss - 175 HR Drive

Wallace & Judy Horowitz - 198 HR Drive

Arnie & Gloria Plotsky - 32 HR Terrace

### Hidden Ridge Directory

The Directory is being prepared for 2016-17. If there are any changes to your listing from last year, please complete the form on the back cover of this newsletter and submit it to Bonnie Siegel immediately. The new directory will be submitted very soon.



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring is in the air, and Mike and the maintenance crew are hard at work getting the Ridge ready for the 2016 Summer Season. Over the winter I had an opportunity to inspect the grounds to determine future maintenance projects and issues. One of the issues found was the poor conditions of our trees. Upon further inspection it showed that many of our Tree's are in poor health, and are in danger of being uprooted and falling down. Many of these trees are very close to some of our homeowner's houses, and in the event of one falling serious damage can result to those units.

In an effort to remedy the above situation it has become necessary to hire an outside contractor, Tree Tech, to remove those trees that pose a threat or danger to any of our properties or homeowners. It may seem to some that the amount of tree's being removed is excessive; however, trees being removed are suffering from an infestation of Japanese boring beetles. These beetles bore through the bark of the trees and once inside, began to feed on the soft pulp inside weakening and destroying the structures that gave these trees the support and strength they need to remain upright. Many of our trees are also being compromised as a result of Dutch Elm Disease, which not only has affected those trees here, but has become a blight all through the North East.

I am saddened to see some of these majestic trees being removed. I know many of you must feel the same way, but if these trees are not removed it will only be a matter of time before one of these specimens falls and lands on someone's home and does serious damage to the structure or even worse, falls on a family member.

The Board of Directors is in the process of making arrangements to have the stumps that remain removed and the area around them graded and re-seeded. The Board will investigate the planting of new trees in those areas that will benefit from new plantings to enhance our property.

Lenny

## Slow Down and STOP

As more owners, tenants and guests come to enjoy our community, it is time to remind everyone that:

**The speed limit on Hidden Ridge Drive and Terrace is 15 miles per hour.**



### Stop at all Stop signs.

Let us ensure that everyone at Hidden Ridge is safe and has a wonderful summer.

## Cul-de-Sac Liaisons

<b>Cul-de-Sac</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
Azaleas	15-23D	Karen Seltzer
Birch	29-43D	Helen Klein
Camellias	59-73D	Betty Fuchs
Daffodils	89-103D	Fran Zatz
Elms	107-125D	Julia Glaz
Firs	149-171D	Lenny Kirschenbaum
Gardenias	173-187D	Jerry Bassik
Hemlocks	193-205D	Michael Valcin
Iris	196-214D	Harriet Kopelman
Juniper	126-148D	Jeff Lynn
Kerrias	74-96D	Rhoda Hertz
Laurels	44-58D	Robbie Schecter
Magnolias	29-43T	Sheila Cole
Narcissus	45-58T	Joe Gluck
Oaks	28-46T	Jill Friedman
Petunias	6-26T	Bonnie Siegel
Roses	8-14D	Helene Schulman

## MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORMS

**ALL** requests for exterior maintenance must be written on **Maintenance Service Request Forms**. Use one form per request. Copies may be picked up in the **pocket envelope** on the bulletin board. All requests should be placed in the **maintenance mailbox** on the right side of the main bulletin board.



If you have any questions regarding maintenance, please contact Lenny Kirschenbaum or Bonnie Siegel. Enclosed is a copy for your convenience. Thank you.

## HIDDEN RIDGE ATTIRE

*Wear your Hidden Ridge wardrobe around town and show your pride in our community!*

### **Hidden Ridge T-Shirts (new this year!):**

*Navy blue cotton tee shirt in sizes Small - 3X  
All sizes: \$10*

### **Hidden Ridge Polo Shirts:**

*White piquet with HR logo in sizes Small - 3X  
(Most sizes left) S-XL \$16; 1X-3X \$18*

### **Hidden Ridge Sweatshirts (new this year!):**

*Navy blue zippered hoodie with 2 pockets sizes S-3X  
All sizes: \$20*

Submit your order to Bonnie Siegel, 6 HR Terrace



## BARKY'S COLUMN

*I want to welcome my new best friend to Hidden Ridge*

### **Yofi Olal Chabibi Erlich Kudler**

*shih tzu son of Brian and Eddie who they found at the Rock Hill SPCA, thanks to Auntie Randi and Uncle Warren Berkowitz.*

*Yofi was named for some of my old friends who are now in doggy heaven,*

*Hebrew word Yofi for Shayna Siegel Solomon*

*Hebrew word Olal for Baby Girl Hertz,*

*Israeli (Arabic/Hebrew) term Chabibi for Buddy Sacks*

*Yofi's Papas Eddie and Brian asked me to put this message in the GEM for all of you.*

Hi, Hidden Ridgers,

The SPCA in Rock Hill is in very great need for:

**towels, sheets, blankets, food, and, yes, donations**

Please feel free to call any time for pick up, etc.:

>Randi and/or Warren Berkowitz 516-457-9221

>Brian Kudler and Eddie Erlich Kudler  
917-509-2278 917-509-2563

>Rose Storch 561-384-2614



## THE RECYCLING SHED REOPENED ON MAY 28

### PLEASE FOLLOW TOWN OF THOMPSON GUIDELINES

#### *Short List of Do's and Don'ts of Recycling*

##### **Recycling Shed**

Newspapers tied in bundles

Brown corrugated  
cardboard, flattened and tied

Clear glass bottles and jars

Plastics

Tin and aluminum food cans

##### **Regular Garbage**

Cardboard, paper bags,  
small books, magazines

Cereal boxes, shoe  
boxes, soda cartons, etc.

Bottle caps and tops

Removed caps

Paint cans, tar cans,  
appliances

## ELECTIONS 2016 ARE COMING!

This year there will be elections to fill 3 positions on the Board of Directors. The following Directors' terms of office will end as of July 31, 2016

Jerry Bassik

Chuck Greenberg

Ed Hertz

Bonnie Siegel

While any or all of them may be seeking re-election, other Hidden Ridge homeowners who are interested in a position on the Board should send a letter of intent to Fred Hirsh by June 26, 2016. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at our General Meeting on June 26, 2016. Check the GEM and the bulletin boards for further details and related election dates.

## GOING GREEN - GOING PAPERLESS

The GEM is available online at our website [www.hiddenridgehoa.org](http://www.hiddenridgehoa.org) after it is published (September, December, April, June, July and August)

If you no longer want to receive a paper copy sent to you (or put in your door) please contact Bonnie R. Siegel at [Siegelmath@aol.com](mailto:Siegelmath@aol.com). If you do not contact her, you will automatically receive a paper copy. Thank you for your cooperation.

## The Poet's Corner



### *Touches of Home Cooking*

*Hum of traffic channels voracious locals  
Enticed inside homey sanctuary, narrow Mom and Pop storefront*

*Whiffs of Chef Ana's old world chicken soup swirl round  
Visions of floating noodles nestled amid succulent chicken morsels  
Chef Ana, amicable boss lady, murmurs cadenced European  
greeting  
Harmonizes hum of sleek specialized range, giant stainless steel  
refrigerator*

*Genial earth mother, garbed in crisp white apron, black stockings,  
sturdy sandals  
Mistress of her gleaming neon lit grey, white tiled domain  
Waves robust floured hands, welcomes patient patrons  
Contoured against rows of sealed comfort food, arrayed on shiny  
glass shelves*

*Presents containers of creamy crunchy coleslaw, crispy garlic  
coated roasted chicken  
Delectable sweet, sour stuffed cabbage drizzled in tomato sauce  
Legendary potato, kasha knishes, blanketed in crusty pastry filling  
Contented customers, settled at plastic tables slurp soups, munch  
Sabrett kosher franks,  
Nourished at Knish Knosh, \* ALWAYS FRESH DELICIOUS  
NUTRITIOUS!  
\*Nosh: Nibble or snack*

*Janet Lieberman April 14, 2016*

## Social Committee

***Karen Seltzer, Chair***

I'd like to welcome back our residents and hope everyone is well, and had a wonderful, healthy winter. We start off our very busy season with our Welcome Back Breakfast on June 12th. The cost is \$10.00 per person. There is an envelope on my door, 15 Hidden Ridge Drive, in which you can place your checks. I am hoping to see a large crowd at the breakfast.

Sunday, July 3rd will be our dinner and show for the July 4th celebration weekend. We are trying to arrange a barbeque for that dinner and are still working out the details. Our second choice for a meal will be Kosher Deli. Our entertainment for the evening will be Larry Chance and the Earls.

Members of the committee have planned some fun evenings for us including a '60s band, a casino night, and a dance band. Dates for these events to follow.

We will also have a Chinese Auction, that will take place one evening. Of course, we will be having our regular weekly events: canasta and poker, Bingo, movies, and Trivial Pursuit. So let the summer camp for our Hidden Ridgers begin! Looking forward to seeing all of you on June 12th.

Karen

## The Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by Chuck Greenberg*



### **Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2016**

Cash in Bank:

NBDC: \$ 65,795  
Money Market: \$ 3,019  
Reserve: \$ 151,000  
Total Cash: \$219,814

\$41,000 less in bank than last year.

The following are some of the major income and expense differences from our unaudited financials for the 2015-2016 fiscal year as compared to the 2014-15 fiscal year..

- Maintenance fees increased \$41,000 due to a temporary increase (budgeted).
- Bad debts were not accounted for this year; last year they were \$19,000.
- Clubhouse maintenance was up \$12,000 part of that was due to water damage which we received an insurance reimbursement against (\$9,000 was budgeted).
- Depreciation was not set up this year last year was \$10,600.
- General maintenance was up \$6,000 (this was \$3,000 less than budget).
- Octagon window expense was down \$6,000 (this was \$10,000 less than budget).
- Paving was up \$5,500 (this was \$2,500 less than budget).
- Retaining walls was down \$13,000 (this was \$5,000 under budget).
- Roof repairs were up \$12,000 (this was \$20,000 over budget).
- Tree removal was \$20,000 (not budgeted {this is a new expense}).
- Maintenance of equipment & vehicles was up \$9,500 (this was \$6,000 over budget).
- Pool maintenance was down \$4,000 (this was \$5,000 under budget).
- Snow removal was down \$17,000 (Our men did the work).

**\*\*Our audit is currently underway and should be completed prior to our annual meeting**



## ALLAN'S ALLEY

*submitted by Allan Meyers*



### YA' GOT DA' PICTURE

Photography was never my forte. The box camera confused me. If it wasn't for Adrienne we wouldn't have pictures of our honeymoon or our three kids growing up.

The coming election reminds me of one Election Day when we were in Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz's election headquarters suite awaiting the election results. VIPS came in and out all evening. In those days men wore suits, white shirts and ties. I walked a former Assistant Attorney General. His father was a political big wig here in Sullivan County. He was dressed as a Mayor Lindsay executive.\* He was wearing a multi-colored suit, shirt and tie. His hair came down to his shoulder.

He came over shook my hand and kissed Adrienne. As I was taking his picture, Adrienne whispered to me, "You do this all the time, you never introduce me."

"It's not a problem, Richard this is your cousin, Adrienne. Adrienne this is your cousin, Richard."

Later Senator Javits came in and I took a picture of him kissing Adrienne.

When the final results were in, Lefkowitz and Gov. Rockefeller came in to join in the celebration. Spotting Adrienne, Lefkowitz asked her to be in a picture with him and the Governor. I set my camera for flash drive, mathematically set the focus and took the picture of them hugging Adrienne.

Though we left Election Headquarters at 3:00 AM, I still had to be at work at 9:00 AM. I arrived at work early, since I wanted to have the film developed. The pictures would forever hang in my house and office. I ripped open the package and there were the pictures... absolutely clear.

One slight problem, no heads, no torsos but their shoes came out perfectly. It was not my mistake; it was the F-N Minolta's fault.

\*Prior to the Lindsay Administration, there was an unwritten dress code. Men wore suits, ties, white shirts and hair that was short to medium. Women wore dresses but could not wear sneakers or Hush Puppies or the ilk. A breach of the code had you sent home from the office or a judge would not let you into his courtroom. This code was in force even when I went to law school.

Lindsay's people were young and super liberal (after being elected, he became a Democrat). They wanted to run the City their way. [The City has yet to recover from his administration as the country from Reagan's Administration.] His staff did not want to dress as the "old fogies" did. They grew their hair long, wore mismatched clothes and defied tradition. [My office also now dressed liberally. We could now wear pastel shirts and the women could wear pant suits.]

### To Our Dear "Buddy"

94 Hidden Ridge Drive

Nov 10 2003 -- April 24 2016

Dear Buddy,

To describe you would take a library filled with books - describing your sweetness, love, warmth, loyalty and your incredible light. It would also talk about how beautiful you were inside and out!

Twelve years ago, Howie sent us to a pet shop in Brooklyn to "check you out." Daddy and I weren't quite ready for a dog like you as we had been used to "Sunshine" - a small, cute, white poodle.

We left the shop to think about you - called there a few days later and was told the Cavalier King Charles was sold. I said to Dad "I hope you got a loving home."

It turns out it was Howie who bought you for us and told the shop if we were to call, to tell us you were sold. A few days later, Daddy and I heard some "paw steps" in the house and then saw a little blue bow from the corner of our eyes. Howie surprised us and said if he had kept you just one more day, he would not have given you up.

As time passed, you grew on me and I began to love you more and more!! We became so good together!! You were always there for me, you depended on me, you followed me, and you looked for me. "You" did everything around me and "I" did the same for you.

All your life you were fun, smart, and cute. So many amazing memories of you. The three of us loved you so. You loved Daddy and the second he opened the fridge you were there with those "hungry eyes." You adored Howie and loved kissing his face. In 2009 we bought our home at Hidden Ridge and it became yours. You knew which neighbors to go to - to "chap a nosh." You liked your doggy friends here as well.

So sad that on April 22 you suddenly became so tragically sick. You spent most of the Passover Seder weekend at the emergency animal hospital, where they tried so hard to help you. It was heartbreaking to watch you "suffer" while we could not help our Very Best Little Friend. Two days later we sent you to "doggie heaven."

It's soon time to return for another season at Hidden Ridge but it will "never ever" be the same without you. We love you, we miss you - our precious, soft, cuddly, little furry friend. Thank you for twelve wonderful years. You will forever be in our hearts.

Mommy, Daddy and Howie

XX OO XX OO





## FROM THE PEN OF....

Peter Morello



### Cougars Among Us – Redux

#### Forward

**I**t was at the 2015 “Welcome Back” get together that a very nice young lady by the name of Rachel Schatten, asked me if I was the Peter who had been writing the stories for the GEM. When I acknowledged that I was, she told me she enjoyed reading “Cougars Among Us” and asked me if I had thought about writing a sequel. When I asked her what I could write about, she simply said, “How you’re doing with the ladies.” Simple enough I thought, and it never occurred to me that I should write a sequel until Rachel suggested it.

Shortly after the story was published, my friend, Rhoda Hertz, approached me at the clubhouse and offered a suggestion – “Why don’t you have a sign in sheet by your front door so all the women can put their names on it and you can take one at a time in an orderly fashion.” I thought this was a great idea and decided to do exactly what Rhoda recommended. I also inquired if she would be interested. When she said she would, I turned to her husband, Ed, who I also consider a friend, and asked what he thought. He responded by saying, “I’ll watch.”

After posting the sign in-sheet, I started to worry when Rhoda’s name appeared in the first four positions – what worried me even more was when I noticed Eddie Exlich’s name in the fifth position. That’s alright – I gave Eddie the number of a person who I knew would show interest – 1-800-Mr.Meyers. Something tells me we’re going to hear about this in a future issue of the GEM.

*Now on with the story.*

I called Rhoda right away and made a date for Saturday at 7 at my place. I dispensed with the sign-in sheet given that Rhoda occupied positions one through four. I knew an eager beaver when I saw one.

I really have to admit, I was so nervous even though I’ve known Rhoda for years and we’ve had a friendship. This was new to me and I wanted to make a good impression. I changed into a crisp sky blue dress shirt, polished my shoes and wore navy blue slacks. To really impress my date, I generously applied Brute. Hey, it worked in high school even with those guys who used Brute in lieu of showering after gym class.

As expected, Rhoda was on time and she was smartly dressed in a black jump suit. Classy! She wore a pair of bright red pumps and matching lip stick. I knew then and there this was going to be a special evening.

I invited her into the living room where I had some soda and munchies set up on the coffee table. We sat down right next to each other and each realized we were nervous

and needed something to break the ice.

“Ah, Rhoda, I really appreciate the fact that you took the time to visit me. We really should have done this a long time ago, you know.”

“Petah, Petah, Petah, I’ve felt the same way for so long. Let’s have a drink to celebrate and please, call me ‘Rho’ now that we are an item. That’s what people close to me call me.

“Then Rho it is,” I eagerly replied. “How about Root beer? Straight or on the rocks?”

“Make mine on the rocks. I only drink Kool Aid straight,” Rho said with a devilish smile.

“You know, Peter, although I know you for several years, I really don’t know you well. I mean, I’ve heard from the other women that you’re talented in certain ways and have an abiding interest in older women and that’s why I expressed my interest in you. You’ve been with several other cougars so I thought, why not me? Don’t you think I should have the same opportunity as the others?”

“Oh, of course – that’s why you’re here now. We both are thinking the same thing. We’re here to see if we’re compatible.”

“That’s right. Now tell me – I heard you’re quite the romancing type. Is that true?”

“Well, I guess that’s for you to find out,” I said while eyeing Rho up and down.

“By any chance, do you speak Italian? That’s such a romantic language.”

“I do, Rho, and I can prove it.”

I leaned forward and softly whispered in Rho’s right ear. “Mozzarella, provolone, pasta fagioli, cannoli, Sinatra, Sal Richards....”

Rho’s eyes began to roll towards the back of her head. Her body stiffened and she slumped in her seat and her legs went under the coffee table. Her head was as far back as it could go and she began to wail in a stentorian voice, “Oh, oh, he speaks the language of love. Sweet Jesus in Heaven, this is too much. Oh, oh, please.”

I was totally unprepared for such an outburst and was speechless at first. Only after I regained my composure and gathered my thoughts was I able to speak. “Rho, please, you’re Jewish - that comment is making my Crucifix vibrate.”

Rho quickly sat upright and straightened her hair. “Gee, I don’t know what got into me. I meant to say, sweet God in Heaven.”

“Better, Rho, better. I don’t want the neighbors to think I’m trying to proselytize you or something.”

“Peter, I’m not sure what proselytize means but if it means that it will help me feel the way I just felt then all I can say is proselytize me but good.”

“Rho, I’m not the bragging type, but I also speak Japanese.”

“Oh, come on, those languages seem so incompatible. I don’t buy it.”

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Again I leaned forward and whispered into Rho's ear, "Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Panasonic, Yamaha, Canon..."

Rho violently threw her head back and began to scream at the ceiling in a guttural, almost primitive way – "Oh, oh, now he's speaking the language of sushi. This is too muuuuch!"

This time I was prepared for her reaction and folded my arms across my chest and stared knowingly as I admired my work. Yes, at last, she's under my spell.

As Rho regained her composure her eyes were slightly crossed and her hair tussled with beads of perspiration evident on her brow.

"Are you okay, Rho?" I asked.

"I'm fine, Peter; I just don't know what the hell happened."

"I think you are now officially a Hidden Ridge Cougar. I'd like to make you the president and sole member of the Hidden Ridge Cougar's Club."

"This is truly an honor. I promise not to let you down, Peter."

"I know you won't," I said while smiling. "You look a little hungry. Can I get you something to eat?"

"Yeah, sure. That would be nice."

I went into the kitchen and began to prepare a meal that I was sure Rho would enjoy. As I was busy with the pots and pans, Rho came up behind me as I was standing in front of the stove.

"Hey, tiger, I was wondering if I could ask you a question."

"Sure, Rho, what would that be?"

"Tell me, how big is it?"

"Gee, I was going to surprise you to tell you the truth – but if you must know, it's a foot long."

"A foot long? How can this be true? I've read about things like this but I never thought in real life it actually existed," Rho responded while sounding shocked. "You mean a whole twelve inches?"

"Well, it may be kinda rare, but they exist if you know where to look."

"Look, Peter, I came here for a good time and all but I have to admit, that's too much for me. I ain't no spring chicken, you know."

"Don't worry," I said, "I'll give you some now and you can have the rest later."

"What? I heard about you from the other women. They were right - you really are weird. I'm getting the hell out of here and going back to my Ed. That's all for me," Rho angrily replied while making her way to the door.

"Wait a minute, Rho. The food is ready and besides, I don't want to eat alone. Just stay long enough to have a bite. Okay?"

"Well, alright. But no funny stuff. Got it?"

"Sure, I understand. Now sit down."

I turned back to the stove and plated the food. I just love cooking for a woman and I knew I was about to impress her with my culinary skills.

"Okay, Rho, sit down and mangia. Just for the two of us – two delicious foot long hot dogs with matching buns. I also have sauerkraut, mustard and if you absolutely must – ketchup. I know some of you people from Brooklyn have rather weird tastes."

Rho had a blank stare on her face and was holding onto the countertop by the sink. She seemed somewhat pale and her pupils were dilated. "Rho, are you sick or something? Are you alright?"

"Sick? What you're seeing is relief. I mean, when you said it was a foot long I was thinking all kinds of things and I mean, at my age to go through that. Oh, brother, forget it. Let's sit down and eat."

I sat there in amazement as Rho consumed at least sixty percent of her foot long in a little over a minute – and she said a foot long would be too much for her! Nonsense – that's my girl. She consumed the foot long inch by inch and seemed to be savoring every bite.

"Gee, Peter, not only are you a linguist but you can cook too. I'm impressed."

"Thanks, Rho, but I want you to be the first to know that I'm opening a restaurant in New York City this August."

"Really? So you're an entrepreneur too. What kind of cuisine will it be?"

"Italian fusion."

"What are you fusing it with?"

"Asian cuisine. I'm calling the place 'China Wop'."

"China Wop," Rho repeated. "It kinda rolls off your tongue."

"I've created some unique dishes like Egg Foo Rollatini and Moo Goo Ravioli. I think it's going to be a big hit. If you and Ed stop by I'll give you free appetizers."

"Oh, I'm so impressed with your many talents. I know I made the right decision to be here tonight. Tell me, what do you like about me?"

"You're old, wrinkled and sassy. Just the way I like it. Now it's your turn."

"Well, it's obvious you have many talents which I never knew you had and you remind me of Angelo."

"Angelo?" I asked with a hint of jealousy.

"Yeah, he was the guy who owned the pizzeria around the corner from me when I lived in Brooklyn. You sound like him and have the same mannerisms – not to mention your nose reminds me of him. Except his was quite a bit smaller."

"For your information, Rho, my nose has gone through five thousand years of Italian evolution. When you smell pizza, you smell pizza. But when I smell pizza, I smell tomatoes, garlic, oregano, basil, mozzarella and olive oil. Extra virgin, thank you. That's why so many Italians work at airports."

"Airports? – I don't get it."

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Continued from page 10

"We sniff for bombs and drugs."

"Oh, I see," Rho said while shaking her head in acknowledgement.

By now Rho had finished the last piece of her foot long and began to yawn.

"Rho, you seem tired."

"I am. It's been a long evening. Do you mind if I call it an evening? It was a good beginning and the summer is just starting. There'll be other times."

"Of course, Rho - I understand. Let me walk you to the door."

We both went to the door. I cupped her right hand in both of mine and gently kissed it. "Until next time. Let's make it soon."

"Peter, I hope next time we can share a foot long. It would be so romantic. Good night."

She went to her car and drove off. As I watched the rear of her car leave my cul de sac I thought about how lucky I was. I got the girl and I got Eddie off my back and onto Allan's.

### Afterward

*I'd like to thank Rhoda and Ed Hertz for being good sports and allowing me to write on this subject. Rhoda in particular has a biting sense of humor which I have always found attractive and entertaining.*

*According to several of my friends at Hidden Ridge, there seem to be quite a few folks who believe these cougar stories are accounts of actual events. Let me set the record straight and say this is all made up and intended to be for fun. I am not making fun of seniors and am almost one myself.*

*This all started when I was thinking one evening about women who are known as "cougars," that is, women in their 30s and 40s who are romantically pursued by men in their 20s. I thought what if someone of my age was interested in women ten to fifteen years older than I am even though it may not usually be the case in society. It certainly could happen and there's nothing wrong with it as long as two people consent.*

*I consider this to be good natured fun and think we all need to lighten up a bit and let some good humor enter our souls. You know, it was just about two years ago when... oh, I'm sorry, I have to go now - Rho's calling.*

Need firewood?  
See Mike Bauer.



## Terry's Fitness & Health Corner



### Keeping Your Skin Healthy and Aglow from the Inside...by Terry Steinberg

Along with the most basic rules of healthy skin - sunscreen, daily exercise, plenty of water and sufficient sleep - the foods you choose to eat each day can affect the development of wrinkles, skin tightness/elasticity and even how likely you are to get harmful effects of the sun. Making changes in your diet can wipe years off of your face because food is one the most powerful and fundamental tools we have. In his book, *The Age Fix*, Dr. Anthony Youn describes many foods that will "help to turn back the clock" to make your skin more youthful (for the ages we are at now!). I will share some of the most important points from his book below and they should be added in your daily/weekly meals whenever possible.

1. Eggs (check your cholesterol) - packed with collagen boosting proteins and vitamin A which keep skin tight and plump.
2. Quinoa - packed with zinc boosts cell growth and repair for rejuvenation.
3. Tomatoes and particularly tomato paste (use instead of sauce) - has anti inflammatory properties and protects skin from sun.
4. Blackberries (blueberries) - the dark hued fruit contains high concentrations of Vitamin C and anti-wrinkle properties.
5. Sweet Potatoes - high in selenium, beta carotene they help skin hold in moisture.
6. Dark Chocolate ( 2 squares daily) - with 70 % or more cocoa are packed with flavonols and can fight sunspots and increase blood flow.
7. Green Tea (be sure it agrees with you) - contains anti-aging anti-oxidants and caffeine.
8. Papaya (fresh, dried or cooked) - packed with vitamins E and C and beta carotene can prevent wrinkles and protect your skin from free radicals.

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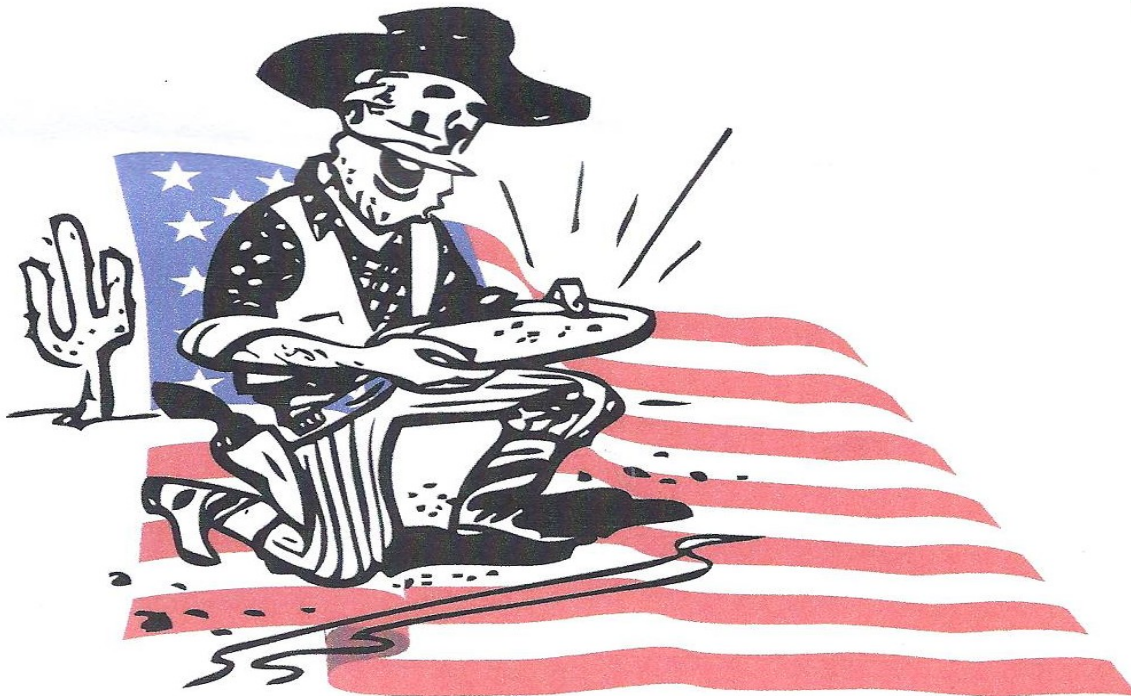
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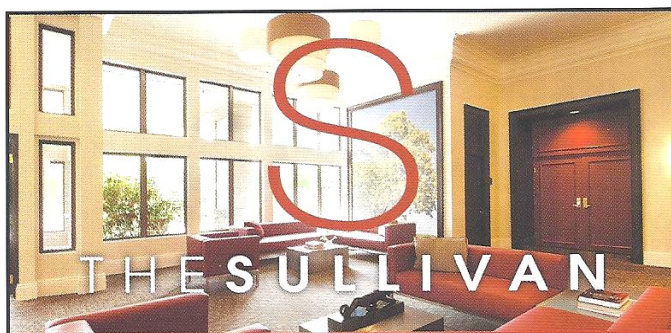
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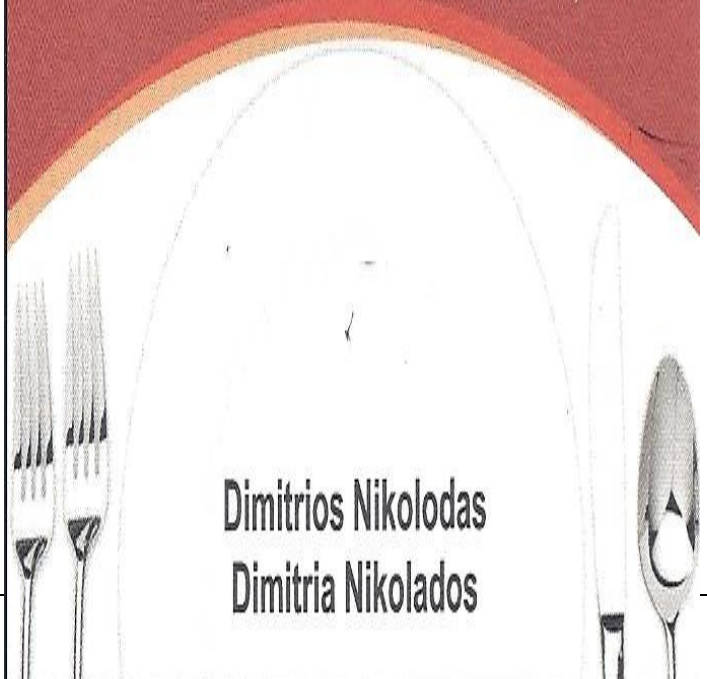


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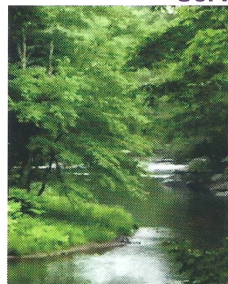
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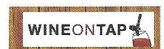
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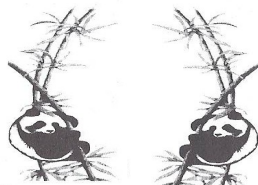
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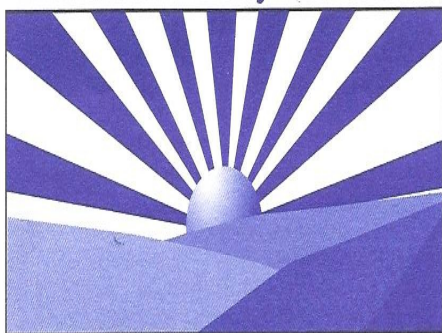
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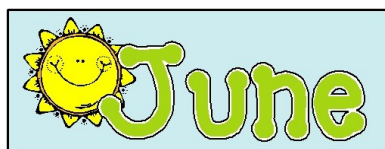
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