

## **The President's Message**



Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers,

I am glad to report that at our Annual Meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> over 100 members of the Hidden Ridge community came out and voted either in person or though absentee/proxy. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to those who came out. We wonder, however, where the other 40 homeowners were; where was their voice?

I want to welcome Ben Lorick and Robbie Schechter to the Board and have already witnessed their enthusiasm and willingness to work with the rest of the Board and serve this community. I look forward to working with them and the other members of the Board, Lenny Kirschenbaum, Chuck Greenberg, and Karen Seltzer cooperatively to meet the needs of all of our residents and our community. On behalf of the entire community, I want to thank both Ed Hertz and Jerry Bassik for their years of service on the Board. Thank you for giving your time serving our community. We hope that you will both continue to use your unique talents to assist the Board and the community in the future.

On a personal note, I want to thank *all of you* for your support. I especially want to thank those of you who have stopped me as I buzz around the community to thank me for my efforts. Your kind comments are much appreciated – they make it all worthwhile. I am sure that the other Board members would like to hear from you as well. Please remember that we are all volunteers who are giving our time to the community.

The installation of the gates at both entrances will occur this month. The gate at the Liberty Road entrance will have a telephone access for guests to call us while the gate at Friedman Road will be for residents only. A meeting will be scheduled for all residents prior to the gates being put into operation. When the gates are put into operation we will be saying goodbye to our safety patrol. Please check the bulletin boards and your emails for details.

Our pool is clear and at the right temperature and chemical level, our clubhouse offers many activities and great entertainment on Saturday nights and the grounds are looking better than ever so let's enjoy the rest of the summer at our "Jewel of the Catskills."

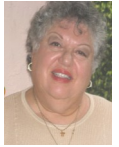
Bonnie

*old. I suddenly feel young again. I'm crazy about that kid!*

*Linda*

*PS I am taking up Russian this winter so that I can Skype with Vanya when he is back in Moscow!*

## **From the Editor**



*It's August! Cool weather, falling leaves, breezes that don't quite chill you but rather quicken your footsteps and make you remember the hot days of July with a bittersweet sigh.*

*Well maybe not quite yet. It seems that the first two weeks of August, at least, are predicted to be as warm as if not warmer than the July we just experienced. I think I am okay with it. It feels like I just got here and I'm ready to put on my swimming suits and jump into the pool! Ah, but I have been doing that almost regularly this year and loving it. The pool has been a consistently perfect temperature for swimming laps and the company has been just delicious.*

*If you don't know, I had the exquisite company while swimming this summer of my new best friend, Ivan, the grandson of Tatiana Shorten. Ivan has been learning English while I have been trying my hand and twisted tongue at Russian, his first language.*

*Ivan, or Vanya to those of us who know and love him, is eight years old. But for someone of his age, he has a tremendous amount of patience with me and has a caring and loving soul. He has made my summer something special. When we swim together, I know he is watching out for me, making sure no one gets in my way and that I am okay at all times.*

*I have watched him grow as a swimmer. He is lithe and agile and swims both above and below the water with grace. He could become a professional swimmer, if he so chooses, he is that good. Each day, he has tried to learn to improve himself while still having fun. One of our best times is using the water-shooting tubes to squirt each other and our favorite target, Bob Cole, with water!*

*Vanya has introduced the "water buffaloes" to some fun pool activities. We toss small plastic circles around like we did rocks as kids, ourselves, skipingly over the water's surface. Izzy Streisand is by far, the best at the water Frisbee thing! She can launch one of those small circles from the shallow end of the pool all the way to the wall of the deep end!*

*But back to Vanya - his parents have come after a long vacation without him. I know that they must have missed him because I just had these couple of months with him and he hasn't left yet, but I miss him already! I was truly honored to have him dance with me on my birthday at my party. I don't think I could get him to do that again so I cherish the memory. He also gave me a precious gift - two tiny rose buds that represented him and me. I plan to press them and save them among my souvenirs. If you are 70 years of age or older, I recommend befriending an 8 year*



## 2016-2017 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
Ben Lorick	Director	845-423-2801
Karen Seltzer	Director	794-2752 917-861-6291
Robbie Schecter	Director	347-385-4373

**Hidden Ridge H.O.A.**  
**PO Box 976**  
**Monticello, NY 12701**

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

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

Audit, Budget, Finance	Chuck
Beautification	Robbie
Community Activities	Karen, Ben, Robbie
Cul-de-Sac Liaisons	Robbie
GEM/Website	Bonnie
Grievance	Fred
Insurance Certifications	Bonnie
Insurance Matters	Bonnie, Fred
Legal	Bonnie
Liaison to Veria	Bonnie, Ben
Long Range Planning Committee	Fred
Maintenance	Bonnie, Lenny, Karen
Daily Pool & Pool Pavilion Op.	Bonnie, Lenny, Karen
Safety	Lenny
Sales and Rentals	Bonnie, Fred
Sanitation and Recycling	Bonnie, Lenny
Snow Removal & Winter Main.	Lenny

## Upcoming Events



### Next Board Meeting:

**Sunday, August 21 at 10 AM**



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

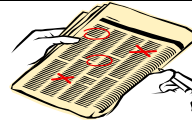
Please call 917-747-8660 or email: [bonsdiva@aol.com](mailto:bonsdiva@aol.com)

**DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER ISSUE - August 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	

If you would like to contribute to the September 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



Tisha B'Av  
August 14



National Aviation  
Day  
August 19



Women's Equality Day  
August 26

Leo (July 23-August 20)

Virgo (August 21 - September 22)



## Happy Birthday

8-2 Adrienne Meyers	8-14 Howard Marcus
Ross Elliott	8-15 Kimberley Franco
8-4 Jack Sachs	8-18 Karen Crumley
8-7 Larry Sternfeld	8-24 Ken Schiffer
8-8 Joyce Glaser	8-26 Eleanor Dovdavy
8-9 Daniel Neiger	8-27 Michael Dovdavy
8-10 Helen Badain	8-28 Meryl Miles

## 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
13. Textiles or Furs	55. Emerald



## Happy Anniversary

8-10 Ettie & Mark Rachleff
8-11 Marcia & Ken Schiffer
8-16 Betty & Harvey Fuchs
8-26 Lois & Michael Mondschein

## Cul-de-Sac Liaisons

Cul-de-Sac	Numbers	Liaison
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

## HOLD THE DATE! \*

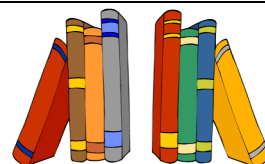
- Sunday, August 21 - Board of Directors Meeting
  - Sunday, August 28 - Association General Meeting
  - Sunday, Sept. 11 - Board of Directors Meeting
- \* Dates are subject to change, please check bulletin board and web site.

*Myzel*

To Grandma and Grandpa Jani and Arthur  
Cooperberg on the birth of grandson,

Michael Chase Cooperberg  
July 11, 2016.

Special thanks to Bob and Sheila Cole  
for renovating our library. They were  
able to week out books for the "Read it  
Again Used Book Store."



## Celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event?

Have any other reason to celebrate? Have nothing special in your life but want to just day hello or share your good fortune with your Hidden Ridge friends and neighbors? Sponsor the collation after the Saturday evening entertainment.

Do you remember the weekly weekend parties at the pool? We would like to bring them back! You can make it happen by sponsoring a Saturday or Sunday event at the pool. We also need volunteers to buy the food, set it up and clean up after the Saturday or Sunday events at the pool.

Speak with Karen Seltzer or Bonnie Siegel about the cost and available dates.



## Dining and Entertainment

### Robbie's Recipes

submitted by Robbie Schecter



#### BROCCOLI RABE & SAUSAGE

##### Ingredients:

- 2 bunches of broccoli rabe, trimmed
- 1 T salt
- 6 T extra virgin olive oil
- 6 sausage links, cut lengthwise & then in half
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- ¼ C fresh lemon juice

##### Directions:

1. Place broccoli rabe & salt in large pot of boiling water. Cook 12 minutes. Drain, reserving 1 cup of the liquid.
  2. Heat 3 T of olive oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat and cook sausage 10 minutes, or until evenly browned.
  3. Remove sausage from saucepan. Stir garlic into saucepan & cook approx 30 seconds.
  4. Place broccoli rabe & reserved cup of liquid in pan & mix in 1/2 of the lemon juice.
  5. Return sausage to pan and allow the mixture to simmer 10 minutes. Mix in remaining olive oil and lemon juice before serving.
- Enjoy!

#### 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.

Budget May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017

#### INCOME

Late Fees	4000
Maintenance Fees	585000
Other Income	10000
Rental Fees	8200
Transfer Fees	6825

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$614,025**

#### EXPENSES

Audit	9750
Bad Debt	18000
Billing/Accounting	9000
Cable/Phone	3900

#### Clubhouse Expenses

Entertainment	22500
Maintenance	10000
Electric	12000
Franchise Tax	600
Heating/Gas (pool and clubhouse)	15000
Insurance	25000
Legal Fees	4000
License & Fees	500

#### Maintenance

Gas	4000
General	55000
Octagon Windows	22500
Paving	20000
Retaining Walls	7500
Roof Repairs	50000
Maintenance Equipment Purchase	10000
Maintenance Equipment/ Vehicle	12000
Maintenance Equipment Rental	2000
Tree Removal	10000

Meeting and Entertainment Expense	8500
Office Expense	7000

#### Payroll Expenses

Maintenance	139540
Safety	15485

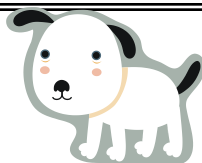
#### Payroll Taxes

FICA Expense	9470
FUI Expense	260
Medicare Expense	2220
SUI Expense	5400
Pest Control	10800
Pool Maintenance	12000
Real Estate Taxes	500
Refuse Removal	11000
Safety – Gas Allowance	660
Uniforms	250
Water	45000

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$589025**

**NET INCOME (RESERVES)** **\$25000**

## Barky's Corner



We want to keep Hidden Ridge a safe and dog friendly community. We are asking all dog owners to review the following:

- The Rules and Regulations of the Hidden Ridge Homeowners Association, Inc. requires you to have your dog on a leash when it is outside any unit regardless of the size, temperament or breed of dog. No exceptions.
- Keep your dog leashed and controlled at all times.
- If your dog is off leash and attacks or bites someone, you may be subject to a dangerous dog proceeding that could result in your dog being seized and euthanized.
- The Town of Thompson Code Section 91-18(D) further prohibits a dog "To chase, jump upon or at, or otherwise harass any person (other than the owner) in such a manner as to reasonably cause intimidation or fear, or to put such person in a position of reasonably apprehension of bodily harm or injury, while off the owner's premises." Violation of this provision of the Town of Thompson Code subjects to dog owner to a fine of between \$50 and \$500 or imprisonment of not more than 15 days for a first offense.
- If you are present at Hidden Ridge for 30 or more consecutive days during any calendar year, your dog must be licensed with the Town of Thompson. If you are not present at Hidden Ridge for 30 consecutive days during any calendar year, your dog must be licensed in the jurisdiction in which you reside.

Any questions? See Bonnie Siegel or Fred Hirsh

## FAMOUS QUOTES

" If you are successful, you may win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway. "

- Mother Theresa

Aug. 26, 1910 - September 5, 1997

## Terry's Fitness & Health Corner



### Five Superfoods that Boost your Physical Activities

by Terry Steinberg

With plenty of sunny and pleasant weather left to our Hidden Ridge summer, fill part of your day to the health elixir.....exercise. Whatever you enjoy to do whether it's walking, nature hiking, dancing, swimming, golf, yoga etc.. Add some more time to it! Your diet can help enhance your performance. Work these nutritious bites into your meals or snacks for a boost to your energy level.

1. Brown Rice - Carbs gives you energy, while fiber keeps you full.
2. Pineapple - Chow down this fruit after you do a workout. It's loaded with bromelain which acts like a natural anti-inflammatory which speeds up muscle repair.
3. Greek Yogurt - Eat it often: the calcium keeps your bones strong to ward off little strains. The protein provides quicker muscle recovery.
4. Peanut Butter - A tablespoon is full of muscle fueling protein and healthy fats for sustained energy. Spread it on a piece of whole grain toast to power your daily activity.
5. Berries - This is your go to snack ANYTIME fresh or frozen...their antioxidants can work to promote a healthy heart and may even stave off soreness. Try these for a week, each day. They are all delicious and see for yourself!! Keep moving....

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Karen Seltzer, Chair

### UPCOMING DATES:

Saturday, August 13, 2016 – Tony and Donna as Destiny

*Saturday, August 20, 2016 – Chinese Dinner and Auction (see info on page 7)*

Saturday, August 27, 2016 – Just Sixties Show

*Saturday September 2, 2016 – Labor Day Dinner and Show starring Tommy Mara and the Crests (details for dinner from Frankie and Johnny's will follow)*

Sunday, September 3, 2016 – Pool Party with the Caribbean Beat Band

## 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



## ALLAN'S ALLEY

*submitted by Allan Meyers*



### THIS LEAVES ME COLD

What the hell did we do before we had air conditioning? It's been a while and how soon we forget. It all came back when our air conditioner broke down on a day in Staten Island with the temperature was over 100 degrees.



When we were kids the families would all gather on the roof. Our parents had ice tea or cool-ade for us, while the adults had something with ice in it. This was a good time for the tenants in the apartment house to bond.

The boys would each take his position by the roof's edge. The girls would stay discreetly behind and giggle. We would look at the moon and at the stars, and we would talk baseball. The Dodger fans completely ignoring the Giant and Yankee fans. Then it happened, one of the fellows would yell out "There's one on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of building 1701."

We'd all run to that boy's position to see a couple of naked people walking back and forth, oblivious to the fact that they forgot to pull their shade or close their blinds. If the couple was recognized by one of the kids, he'd have to swear that he would never tell them to pull their shade.

Sometimes we would go to Coney Island to cool off by sitting on the beach. Sometimes we would stand outside of a movie theater that advertised "air cooled." This just meant they were blowing a fan over a keg of ice.

When I was in the service I taught the Army Supply System. The temperature in Virginia would, at times, rise way over 100 degrees. The instructors would be given permission to have the class remove their shirts, providing they were wearing clean under - shirts.

But, no matter how much I ordered that all shirts must be removed, not one of the WACs would remove her shirt.

While waiting for the emergency repairman to arrive and fix our air conditioner, we decided if he didn't come we would no longer be weekenders. We would drive up to Hidden Ridge and become regular full timers. After all, years ago we used to come up to the Catskills to cool off. Now we come here because our house is air conditioned.

## 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.



### Hidden Ridge needs you!

The Board of Directors request that you as a resident of Hidden Ridge sign up for one or more of our committees.

Please consider offering your expertise and experience to our community.

Contact the Liaisons listed on page 2. We especially need volunteers for the Beautification, Community Activities, and Audit, Budget and Finance Committees.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you. Thank you.



## Chinese Dinner Menu

\$10 per person

6:30 PM



Vegetable Egg Roll  
Vegetable Fried Rice  
Vegetable Lo Mein  
Beef with Broccoli  
Chicken with Mixed Vegetables  
Tofu with Vegetables  
Egg Foo Yung

Reservations for Dinner are needed by:  
Tuesday, August 16, 2016  
Call Karen at 845-794-2752



## CHINESE AUCTION

Saturday, August 20, 2016  
8:00 PM



Following Chinese Dinner  
in the Clubhouse

Bring items for auction – new or gently used  
to the Clubhouse on Saturday morning 9:30  
AM or call Bonnie.

For each item you donate you will receive 1  
raffle ticket.

Additional tickets can be purchased on  
Saturday:

10 tickets for \$5.00/20 tickets for \$10.00

Questions? Call Bonnie 917-969-9646

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO  
SULLIVAN SPCA

## The Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Chuck Greenberg



As of July 29, 2016

Cash in Bank:

NBCD: \$ 41,553

Money Market: \$ 3,020

Reserve: \$151,000

Total Cash: \$195,573

\*This is 31,769 less than last year.

Income and Expenses:

- Our income is \$ 865 less than last year
- Our expenses were \$30,105 less than last year.
- General maintenance was down \$17,587 mainly due to roof repairs.
- Office expense was down \$3,401.
- Maintenance of Equipment & Vehicles down \$3,481.
- Payroll expenses were down \$11,158.
- Payroll tax was down \$3,078.
- Pool maintenance was up \$6,322
- Heating & Gas was down \$3,048.
- Insurance was down \$2,488.

We have approximately \$111,229 due in maintenance fees of which \$102,572 is due from 5 residents.

Our audit has been completed and distributed to all Hidden Ridge owners.

We would like to reinstitute the Audit & the Finance Committees: We need volunteers.

Please contact Chuck Greenberg @ 516-536-5853.

**Don't throw out that gift that your distant cousin sent you - save it for our annual Chinese Auction!**

**This year all proceeds will be donated to the Sullivan SPCA, a no kill animal shelter:**

Saturday August 20, 2016 ~ 8:00 PM ~ Clubhouse.

The following is a description of a Chinese Auction:

A **Chinese auction** is a combination of a raffle and an auction. The difference between a raffle and a Chinese auction is that in a raffle with multiple prizes, there is one "hat" from which names are drawn, but in a Chinese auction each prize has its own "hat."

In a Chinese auction, people buy tickets, which are chances to win items. Bidders buy as many tickets as they like, and bid them on any item(s) they want by placing one or more ticket in the "hat" beside the item(s) they are trying to win. At the conclusion of bidding, one winning ticket is drawn from the "hat" beside each item, and the item is given to the owner of that ticket.

A bidder may increase the chance of winning by buying and bidding more tickets on a specific item. Although there is generally no limit to the number of tickets a given individual may bid on a specific item, the chance of winning depends on the total number of tickets bid by all individuals.

We are asking you to donate one (or more) brand new or "slightly" used, or "regifting" items that we can put up for auction.

Please bring these items to the Clubhouse on Saturday August 20, 2016 at 9:30 AM

*Please make sure your name is on the item.* Tickets will be available for purchase on Saturday evening.

## FROM THE PEN OF....

*Peter Morello*



### The Rebel King - Part I

**T**urning wild seventeen was difficult enough but was particularly more so when you just finished with incorrigible sixteen.

"Hey Guido, what's going on," came the greeting from Patty DeVaney.

"Yo," came the reply along with a quick wave of his right hand and no discernible facial expression from Patrick Burns, more commonly referred to as "Guido," who along with Patty lived on Ryer Avenue in the Bronx. As the two passed each other, Patrick's face formed a slight smile as he confidently knew just how much Patty admired his good looks. Nothing like a girl with good taste.

No one is quite sure how an Irish guy got such an Italian name, but judging from Patrick's romantic history, one suspects it was from his preference for dating Italian girls. Then again, it could also be because he frequently hung out with some of the street philosophers several blocks away in the Italian enclave centered around Arthur Avenue. In any event, Patrick loved the appellation perhaps because of its uniqueness or because of the attention it garnered him. He loved being recognized in the neighborhood and hated when the teachers called attendance and the name "Patrick" was read aloud. Why couldn't they just call him Guido like everyone else; after all, they could still give him attendance credit under his correct name.

Patrick stood 5'10" tall and weighed a solid 165 lbs with a physique that was chiseled from spending several hours in the gym per week. He had been following a regular exercise regimen since the age of fourteen and his efforts were paying off. His face resembled a young Tyrone Power, with dark brown hair combed straight back and a swarthy complexion. Girls were instantly drawn to him and he loved every minute of the attention that came his way.

As Patty rounded the corner to 181<sup>st</sup> Street, she came almost face to face with Eileen Brennan, her close friend of five years and high school class mate.

"Hi, Eileen."

"Oh hi, Patty, what's going on?"

"Nothin', I got to go to the butcher shop for my mom. You know, Saturday chores and all," Eileen responded sadly.

"Yeah, tell me about it. Oh, I just saw Guido. He looks like a Greek gawd," Patty said with a teenager's look of love on her face.

"Whaddya dope or somethin', Guido ain't Greek, he's Irish like us," Eileen scolded.

"I know he's Irish, I meant that as an idiomatic expression. So who's the dope now?" Patty knowingly said.

"Oh, yeah, right", Eileen said realizing what perfect sense Patty was making. "OK, see you around, Patty."

"OK bye, Eileen."

And so it went on Ryer Avenue.

Patrick was used to similar remarks about his looks and particularly liked strutting down the halls of Theodore Roosevelt High School on Fordham Road with the knowledge that the girls were giving him admiring stares. He always looked straight ahead and wore sunglasses even on cloudy days, living in his own cocoon but always aware of the stares. He could feel the heat from the stares on his body and could be seen with a slight perpetual smile on his face as though he were telling himself a joke.

In the classroom the teachers would usually tell him to remove his sunglasses, a request that Patrick complied with without any back talk. Once outside the classroom, the sun glasses would come back on and what eventually became known as the "Guido strut," would begin as he made his way to the next class. It was a slow, purposeful strut with sort of a John Wayne gait and an attitude that exuded cool. This being 1957 and the time of Elvis and Ricky Nelson and three years after the death of James Dean, guys with Patrick's looks were definitely in. Even his male friends would admire his great features and coolness and made sure never to cross him.

Patrick had a reputation as the toughest kid in the neighborhood. This wasn't because he got into fights regularly but because when he was 15 he had a terrific fight with another neighborhood tough that injured the other youth so badly that according to neighborhood legend, caused the police to "chalk" the body. It was several hours after the youngster was taken to the hospital that word got out that the youth survived. Since that beating the youngster and his family moved to Fairlawn, New Jersey never to be heard from again. What's interesting is that no one who tells this story actually was an eyewitness to the fight but learned of it from someone else but swore it was true because of the reputation of the person from whom they heard it. The details of where the fight took place vary but it seems to have happened either in the school yard of Roosevelt or in front of the White Castle restaurant one block away on a hot summer's evening. In any event, the legend of Patrick Burns began on that sultry evening and while the adults in the neighborhood saw a troubled youth, the kids saw James Dean.

His reputation as a ruthless fighter was so far and wide that even kids much bigger and older wouldn't dare risk a fight with him. In fact, the kids had an expression that went like this, "If you fight Guido you may wind up getting 'chalked'." This reputation afforded Guido the ability to walk wherever he wanted unchallenged in what was an otherwise tough neighborhood filled with rowdies, bars and other street flotsam who all too often would welcome a good fight at the slightest provocation. It also didn't hurt his reputation that he had built up years of shellac on his personality that allowed people only to penetrate as far into his persona as he allowed.

*(continued on page 9)*



*(continued from page 8)*

Patrick sported a tattoo on his left arm that read "Flo." This was the name of his girlfriend, Florence Spanti, who lived on 183rd Street and Prospect Avenue, in the neighborhood where Patrick frequently hung out. She was a striking brunette, who stood 5'2" tall and weighed about 118 pounds and had crystal clear blue eyes and wore her hair in a ponytail. She thought the world of Patrick and didn't mind one bit that he was Irish since Ireland is a European country and that was close enough to Italy for her. Besides, her people had the market on the Pope all sewn up.

During the first two months of their relationship Patrick really cared for Flo and wore her love like an orchid on his heart. He was one hundred percent faithful and never considered being with anyone else. However, this being Patrick, things slowly changed when he met Mary Acovino, a tall, thin model-type with dirty blond hair that she wore parted in the middle and shoulder-length with a soft curl on both sides framing her face. He tried to keep it quiet in order to enjoy the company of both girls, but the neighborhood rumor mill was working full time and Flo found out and confronted Patrick who did nothing to hide the fact that he was seeing someone else. Breaking down in tears, Flo told Patrick she never wanted to see him again and that he was free to see Mary "what's her name." However, she also pointed out that in the event Patrick broke up with Mary, she would be available provided he made up his mind in three months since guys were always asking her out and she wasn't getting any younger.

Now there was the delicate matter of the tattoo on Patrick's left arm and what to do about it. Well, for one thing, he knew that Mary was certainly the girl for him and he would put her name on his right arm. After consulting with the local tattoo artist who suggested that Patrick cover up the name "Flo" with another design, Patrick settled on a serpent. Surely that would do the trick and leave no remnant of his former flame's name.

On Saturday afternoon on a beautiful day in May, Patrick and Mary sat on a park bench on the Arthur Avenue side of Ciccarone Park on the corner of 189<sup>th</sup> Street. The temperature was a balmy 78 degrees with low humidity and Patrick reached for Mary's right hand with his left hand and brought it to his lap where he gently held it. Mary gazed into his eyes and then glanced down and noticed the new tattoo of the serpent on his arm that was halfway exposed below his short sleeve shirt.

"Gee, Guido, what a nice snake you got on your arm. How long you got it?" Mary asked excitedly.

"It was very recent," Guido responded realizing that Mary didn't know the true story behind the serpent. "Here, get a load of this," Guido shot back as he rolled up his right sleeve and twisted his body revealing the new tattoo with the name "Mary" on his upper right bicep.

"Wow, it's my name. Guido, you're the best - I love you." Mary then lurched forward and gave Patrick a big wet kiss

Right on the lips and let it linger for the better part of 60 seconds.

Guido was taken aback by this sudden show of affection and came to understand the power of using his bicep as a billboard. Fortunately, this sudden romantic moment didn't cause his hair to get messed up and he was able to maintain his composure knowing that he still looked cool after being woman handled.

"Yo, Mary, take it easy," said Patrick when Mary finally came up for air. "We're in the middle of the public here."

"Oh, sure. Sorry, Guido," Mary said with a shocked look on her face as she glanced around the park to see if anyone was actually looking.

"You know I was thinking, Guido, you're seventeen and so am I which is very close to eighteen. So I was thinking, how about we get pre-engaged and then after about six months when you turn eighteen, we can get engaged and then about a year after that we can get married. Wouldn't it be nice if you then got a job with the Transit Authority like your dad and I could get a job waitressing at Woolworth where my mom works and then we can save enough to buy a two family house and collect rent to help us pay off the mortgage? Whaddya think, Guido," Mary finally finished without ever taking a deep breath.

Guido was listening without comment but was thinking how insanely in love Mary must be or just plain insane in order to be moving so fast when the two of them just recently started dating. He was speechless at first but then after regaining his composure and checking his hair with his right hand, he calmly said, "Ah, yo, I think you're moving too fast, Sweetie. Let's just take it one step at a time and see what develops, okay?" Mary seemed disappointed at first but was so taken with her Guido that she accepted what he suggested and was willing to scale things back and consider a single family house like she currently lived in on Belmont Avenue.

Although Patrick was at first really taken with Mary, the very thought of marriage at the tender age of seventeen was unthinkable and he didn't want to be tied down to one woman so young, not with him being in demand with all the other ladies. Having a steady girl served a purpose and was great for show, but who needed to be tied down. His parents were married for 22 years and maybe it was good for them, but he couldn't picture himself attached to any anchor so soon.

After suffering through two months of listening to Mary plan his life, he decided to put an end to all this talk of the future and told Mary things weren't working out for him and he wanted to break up. Mary never saw it coming and cried uncontrollably for several minutes. Through tear soaked eyes and with her voice choking she said, "But I thought you wanted to get married and raise a family, Guido, what happened?"

*(continued on page 10)*

*(continued from page 9)*

"Ah, yo, that was your dream, Mary; I never said I wanted that. Those were your plans. Besides I got business interests, you know. I'm going places and I'll be real busy and stuff. That's not good for a family."

Mary said she understood, and while Patrick knew he had hurt her terribly, he had to be free of this nonsense. It was true that he had business interests with some of the guys in her neighborhood and this was taking up an increasing amount of his time, something of which his father strongly disapproved.

Now that the Mary situation was resolved, Patrick had to do something with the name "Mary" that he had tattooed on his left arm. Covering up the other tattoo with a new design worked before and would work this time around he thought. So he decided to have a tiger tattooed over the name "Mary" which came in very handy as he had recently met a girl at a party named Rosie.

Rose Cerini was 18 years old and was very curvy and extremely popular in the neighborhood with a magnanimous personality that lit up any room she entered and got constant attention from all the guys. She stood at five feet five and weighed 135 pounds and wore her dark brown hair in a short pony tail and was always well-dressed with minimal makeup- a very clean girl.

Patrick was very impressed with his new find. He had never dated a girl who attended a Catholic all-girl's school and wondered if he would have to pray before he kissed her or if the nuns would intrude in her personal life and give him a hard time. Nonetheless Patrick felt for the first time he was in love and actually didn't even think of any other girl. Well, that is with the exception of Jane Doonan. You see, Jane lived in his building and was what he and his friends referred to as a "sure thing." But once he took care of business things would be alright since he had no interest in dating Jane. He just wanted to have a good time and make Rosie his steady girl.

Once Patrick finished with the Jane matter he went to visit his friend at the tattoo parlor to see where he could put the name of his new girlfriend.

"I got the perfect place, Guido, how about we put Rosie's name across your chest," said Joe, the owner of the tattoo parlor.

"Yo, I think that's great idea, get to it," Guido said with a broad approving grin across his face.

Now Patrick had "Rosie" across his chest in large red letters that covered both pectoral muscles. He was very proud of that tattoo and it's coverage of his expanding chest.

Sean Burns was 6'3" tall and was 220 pounds with broad shoulders and with hands that when clenched in a fist were almost twelve inches around. He worked as a bus driver for the City of New York on the number 12 line that ran east and west in the Bronx along Fordham Road and Pelham

Parkway. It was a convenient route for him as he lived a short distance away from where the twelve ran and he really enjoyed his work except during sale days at Alexander's.

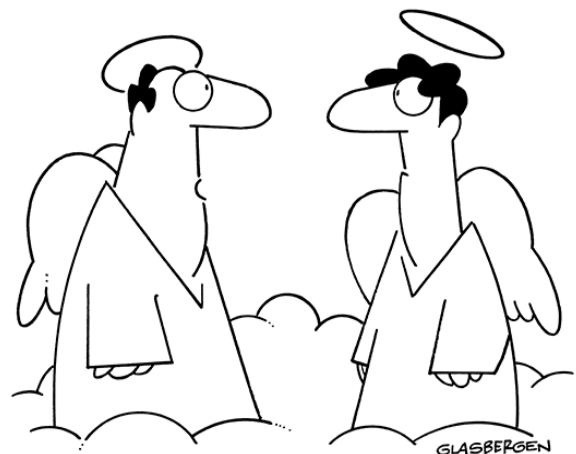
As Patrick's father, he kept a close eye on his son but had a sense that the boy was headed in the wrong direction. Sean drummed into his son's head that an education was the way to go and that he expected more of his son than working as a bus driver and wanted him to be a professional and attend college like his older sister, Carroll, who was in her third year at Fordham University studying accounting. Sean realized that Patrick was a rebellious youth who never appreciated his father's stories about how rough life was in Ireland and that there were endless opportunities in America if one was willing to work hard. Somehow Sean felt that Patrick was after a quick buck and hated that he hung out with those Italian "ruffians" who were up to no good.

Patrick's mother, Marian, was a cheerful woman with an ever ready smile and rosy red cheeks who felt that Patrick was just going through a phase in his life and that eventually he would straighten out. She saw nothing wrong if he chose to work for the city as a bus driver or anything else he wanted. As long as her Patrick was happy, she was happy.

As senior year came to a close, it became apparent to Patrick's parents that he was directionless and had no interest in either college or finding a job. He spent increasing amounts of time away from home – sometimes for days at a time. Even the neighborhood kids were speculating as to the sudden change in his behavior.

*Guido's Story will be continued in the September GEM*

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Upright stance, wobbly limbs,  
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Clutching sharpened shaft,  
Burnished shield  
Gazing, resolute...  
Facing forward  
Battling fragile windmills  
Bizarre battlefield,  
Defending illusion  
Disappearing dreams,  
My steadfast champion,  
Don Q, Defender*

*Janet Lieberman  
October 2, 2008*

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Isabel Streisand

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Mitzie Schoenfeld  
Karen Seltzer  
Iris Lynn  
Larry Miles  
Meryl Miles

#### July 13

Phyllis Ball  
Harriet Fox  
Ed Ball  
Judy Horowitz  
Isabel Streisand  
Helen Klein

#### July 18

Warren Streisand  
Larry Miles  
Meryl Miles  
Joe Schoenfeld  
Helene Schulman  
Mitzie Schoenfeld

#### July 20

Meryl Miles  
Warren Streisand  
Ed Horowitz  
Judy Horowitz  
Corinne Needleman  
Larry Miles

#### July 25

Karen Seltzer  
Meryl Miles  
Penny Schatten  
Harriet Fox

#### July 27

Meryl Miles  
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Carol Baken  
Harriet Fox

#### 50-50 Winners

July 9 - Bonnie Siegel  
July 16 - Michael Mondschein  
July 23 - Sy Rosedeitcher  
July 30 - Espi Turetsky

*We are saddened to announce the  
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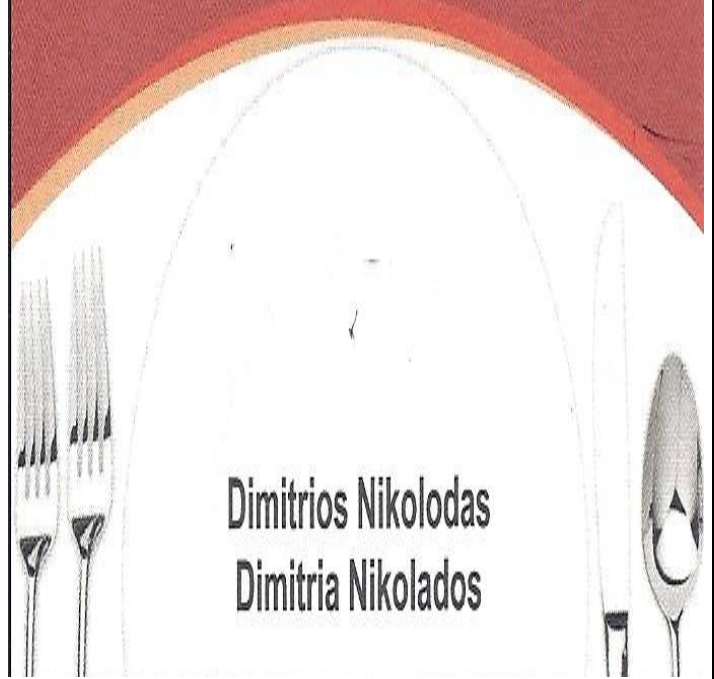
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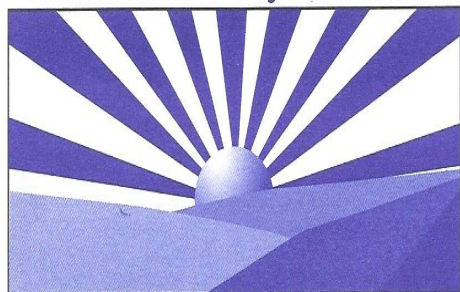
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Issue 16-04

goodbye July, hello  
**AUGUST**



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