



St. James City Civic Association  
3300 Fourth Avenue, St. James City FL 33956  
(Fourth & Lemon)

## March 2017 Newsletter

For more information about our ongoing activities, visit our website: [www.sjccapi.org](http://www.sjccapi.org)

*Got news? Send to [SJCCAnews@gmail.com](mailto:SJCCAnews@gmail.com)*

*The next newsletter will be published April 1.*

*Submit your news by 03/25/2017*

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March Members' Meeting: **Monday March 20**

Time: **Potluck 6pm**

**Members' Meeting 6:45**

**Speaker 7pm:** Irene Brammertz, author, Peace Corp Volunteer, and more

Sandwiched between two stints in the Peace Corps, Irene worked for 18 yrs at Redlands Christina Migrant Association (RCMA) with headquarters in Immokalee. Before coming to RCMA, she helped establish a management system for village health centers in the Democratic Republic of Congo when it was still Zaire and ruled by dictator Mobutu Zese Zeko. In her retirement, at the age of 70, she joined the Peace Corps once more and served as an HIV/AIDS technical adviser at the Blantyre City Health Department in Malawi.

Upon her return from Africa she wrote a memoir about her experiences titled "The Keys to the Congo". Irene is a mother of three and grandmother of five and currently lives in Fort Myers with her cat Thoko. A native of Switzerland, Irene is fluent in several languages and well traveled.

Consider joining our fabulous potluck supper at 6 pm, (bring a dish to share and don't forget your table setting). At 6:45 we will have a brief business meeting.

**Island Crafters** are off and running, we're having a great season, having lots of fun, creating all kinds of neat crafts. So much talent in our group. To find out what we're up to, come join us Wednesday's from 9-11:30 am

**Spaghetti Dinner:** Come join us on Tuesday March 14, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm, for our annual spaghetti and meatball dinner including, garlic bread, fresh green salad with tomatoes, and homemade deserts for only \$10.00 (\$5.00 for children 10 and under). Music provided by Idle Speed. Tickets are available from all activity leaders and our board members. Please purchase your tickets in advance, so we know how many meals to make. Questions? Call Ellie at (973) 650-9168. This is one of our yearly fundraisers, please support your association by attending and or volunteering.

Help is always needed for making meatballs, setting up, serving, cleanup. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**TOPICAL TALKS:** Join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. for informal interactive discussions with folks that make our communities tick. Our first interactive discussion will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and will feature Carlos Gomez from Bokeelia. Hear his colorful story of moving to Florida from Puerto Rico as a young entrepreneur, after owning several businesses including gift stores, weight loss medical centers, a Chinese Restaurant and bank vice president. Today Carlos works and co-owns a delightful sweets and gift store. We hope that you will join us in the first of many informative, fun and enlightening chats about the people that comprise our communities. Coffee & tea provided. Admission is \$2.00 for SJCCA members and \$4.00 for non-members. If you have any questions, please call Paula Bruckner @ (516) 729-3382.

**Euchre:** We are having some great friendly competition and meeting some wonderful fellow islanders. Would love to have even another table going. We meet every Monday afternoon 1-3 pm. All levels welcome. Call Deb Barnum 239-558-5022 for more info.

**Exercise** at the SJCCA in AC!!! Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays.....8:30 am.....men and women.....all ages.....keep moving!! For information call Jodee 283-4790

Easy Does It **Line Dancing** for beginners will continue to meet every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 in March. You don't need a partner. Newcomers are always welcome. For information call Chris 810-694-8174

Last **Big Breakfast & Breastfest**, 7:30 -10 am Saturday, March 11. Register on line [www.fromourheart.org](http://www.fromourheart.org) by March 7, or on site March 11 at 7 am. Join the walk and festivities, or just come to breakfast.

SJCCA **Book Club** will meet March 13 at 9:30.  
The reading selection is BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah. Carol Roscher will lead the discussion.

### **GOLDEN BRUSH ART GROUP**

Order of the Golden Brush meets every Tuesday at 10am. New members are always welcome. For the past 45 years, SJCCA'S painting group has encouraged and supported novice and experienced artists. Upcoming afternoon workshops are open to all. Check your calendar and consider attending:

March 21 - Barbara Gomes (exhibits at Island Conclave) - "Decorative Gourds" - Cost \$45 includes gourd and most materials. Call Cynthia Harris for details 558-8763.

March 28 - Mimi Little (exhibits at Wild Child) – "Acrylics" - Call Linda at 283-5207.

April 4th – Joan Roberts (exhibits at Island Visions) – "Acrylics/Oil" - Call Kathryn McMillan for details 283-9391.

**Pickin' in the City** will meet in March on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, 2-4 pm. Bring your instrument or come to listen and sing along. Questions? Call Cindy 282-9478

**Membership:** WOW! We now have 332 members for 2017. Last application I saw was Dixie Allen. Thank you Dixie. Thank each of you for joining our wonderful Civic Center. If you haven't received your membership card, please check the Membership Shelf next to the ladies room. There is a clear green envelope with your card in it.

The **Ward Award** is given annually to recognize outstanding volunteers. It was established to honor Dennis and Ruth Ward, who were exemplary volunteers for many years. If you would like to nominate a volunteer to receive the 2017 award, please send their name and a brief summary of their contributions to the Board, in care of Shari Perkins: perkshari@hotmail.com.

The Board of Directors has agreed to sponsor a **Town Hall Series** featuring our elected officials at times when they can schedule a visit to SJCCA. Stay tuned for further announcements.

A **big thanks** to John and Judy Nyhus. They have put out all our green and white signs, advertising our breakfasts for at least the last ten years. That's a lot of miles....and REAL DEDICATION!! Both have contributed to multiple events for even longer. What a great pair of community supporters!!

**Mah Jongg** meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. BJ Skribiski 283-9140.

A Note from Barb La Plante: A special **thank you** to the volunteers Dottie Kernaghan, Ellie Fenyohazi and Virginia Wagner who helped through this past season at the Plant Booth during the SJCCA Breakfasts and rummage sales. Our best wishes to Virginia, for full recovery and hopes that next season we will see your smiling face, once again. A very special thank you to Donna Cook, for all her help and her sharing of her beautiful plants for our sale. When I was asked to head the plant sales, I thought, what am I doing, taking this on, as I know nothing about plants. My hubby, Buzz, is the plant person in our house. Donna came to every sale to help with the setup and naming all the plants. She taught me more about plants in those three sales, than I've learned in our 18 years here on Pine Island. My personal thanks to Dottie Kernaghan, for introducing me to Donna, as they are friends from the Pine Island Garden Club. Thank you Naomi Brewer for sharing your beautiful supply of plants and special thanks to Jim Brewer for the use of his trailer, to haul all our plants and supplies for the sale.

It would be unforgivable of me to forget my husband, Lyle (Buzz) La Plante. Without his separating his plants and potting of starters for our sales, which he keeps filling our backyard with all year long - I'd be lost. As I sit here at my computer, typing this little thank you, I look out through a window, into a display of all his flowers and plants. Bird feeders, to bring in all different bird species, which I find so much delight in watching. He's created a small world of beautiful colors and wildlife, that I find delight in, every day of the week. To those of you, who shared their flowers and plants with us for the sales, our sincere thanks. Your help was greatly appreciated.

One more little pitch for our gardeners --- pots, planters, etc. are greatly appreciated. If you're sorting and culling anything that could be used as a pot or planter, we would greatly appreciate them. Give us a call at 283-1979 or drop them off at the Civic porch area and we'll keep an eye out so they get picked up. ALL SIZES!!  
With sincere thanks, Barb La Plante

The **Annual Card and Game Party** was a huge success again this year. Many thanks to Ellie Fenyohazi, Dolores Granito, Marcia Gobble, Mary Halbleib, Sandy Sacco, BJ Skibiski, Kathleen Soronen, Mary Schuette, our wonderful emcee Jeanne Workman, and to all who pitched in both Tuesday and Wednesday. Pine Island Pizza subs were a big hit, nice job Pete and Melissa. Thanks to our supporters Angles Salon, Center of Attention, Kendall Nygard, Monroe Canal, Pine Island

Pizza, Posh Salon and Saint James City Auto. Thanks to Pat Johnsen who coordinated the whole effort.

**Note from the President:** The transition from the 2016 board of directors to the 2017 was completed at the February board meeting. Our new board of directors is off to a wonderful start with great ideas for the good of the Civic Association. The Booster Club has generously donated their collected "replace the floor" funds to the civic so that we can utilize the monies to where it is most needed. It was certainly an enterprising idea to raise funds for the floor. Replacing an old asbestos floor proved to be far more monies than we can currently raise. Hopefully this is something that we can address in the future. The stairs to the stage with railings will be complete before the Breast Fest. Many thanks to our VP, SueAnn Germani, who has volunteered to become our new Activity Coordinator. Also thanks to long standing board member, Shari Perkins, who volunteered to become the assistant treasurer. Kudos to all who worked hard and gave so much of their time and energies to make our February breakfast and SJCCA/MOTI Rummage Sale a huge success.

Our volunteers are amazing. Please consider volunteering to help in our events. You meet a lot of great people and truly feel a part of the SJCCA "community". Remember to peruse our calendar for upcoming events such as the Breast Fest, Spaghetti Dinner, last Big Breakfast of the season. The Diversity Interest Group has changed it's name to Topical Talks. Topical Talks had a truly engaging inaugural meeting where we made new acquaintances, discussed ideas and Carlos Gomez, has volunteered to be our 1st speaker at the 3/1/17 meeting. Please come to all membership activities where there is something for everyone to enjoy. Keep in mind, that anyone that has an idea for an activity is welcomed to do so. How about those wonderful concerts Cindy Bickford put together for us? Like Cindy, anyone that knows of talent and would like to bring it as entertainment/fundraiser for the Civic, please do so!

The Board will be reviewing the By Laws for changes over the summer. If you have suggestions for improvements, please forward your ideas to Paula Bruckner: [PaulaBrucknerSjccapi@gmail.com](mailto:PaulaBrucknerSjccapi@gmail.com)

### **Keep The Lights On Committee by Shelley McManus**

The Winter Festival / Big Breakfast was very successful in February. We had the participation of many of our Activity Groups and lots of new volunteers. The day was very festive and included a huge rummage and plant sale, a Big Breakfast with indoor music by Frank Tuma, and featured a new outdoor festival. Outdoors, five tents held an Art Exhibit by our membership, a craft sale and display sponsored by our Island Crafters Activity group, several jewelry vendors, the Calusa Land Trust Tent, a Cookie and Coffee Stand and a concert by our Pickin in the City Players. We even had a great boat trailer for sale that went fast. Part of the proceeds from the rummage sale was donated to the Museum of the Island. This is one of two community support activities the SJCCA participates in every year. The other is providing the use of our facility to the Breast Fest which we will be doing again soon on March 11, along with a Big Breakfast to which everyone is invited. It is impossible to list all the contributions and time given by the members of the SJCCA, MOTI and the community to put the Winter Festival together. We wish to offer our utmost gratitude and appreciation to everyone who volunteered and contributed. Special thanks to the Big Breakfast group, the artists who prepared their paintings and photos for exhibit, the plant sale organizers and growers, the cookie bakers, the musicians, the creators of crafts made especially for the festival, the tent constructors our hard working rummage sale volunteers, MOTI and VFW volunteers, the community church volunteers, the contributions from Flamingo Bay and Calusa Land Trust, the exercise group and ping pong group for setting up the tables, the clean up crew, Carl Hauk for building a new trailer to cart our rummage back and forth and the folks who used their pick up trucks and loaned their tents, to Ed Franks who published our articles twice in the Eagle and to Zachary Potter-Zimmerman, who volunteered community service hours for high school ROTC credit. Special thanks also go to the Keep the Lights On Committee Co-Chairwomen who organized the Festival. Our next Festival will be November 11th so don't forget to continue leaving your rummage contributions on the porch and fill our garage and bookshelves.

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P.O. Box 605 Saint James City, FL 33956

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