



# River Garden News



Spring / Summer 2021  
Volume 79

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## Our Mission

To provide...A wide range of quality, cost effective elder care services in residential, outpatient, and community based settings.

To create...A comfortable, caring, and dignified home for the frail elderly serving both rich and poor with excellence.

To serve...People of all faiths, while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values.

To act...As a valuable educational resource in elder care for the entire community.

### Front Cover Photo:

Harry Haldeman, member of The Coves, enjoys a stroll with 'Princess' along Lake Lea.

Photo credit: Leslie Held

Photo credit: Special thanks to Mark Krancer for the Anniversary Day photos herein; and special thanks to Larry Tallis for the photos River Garden Classic photos herein. We appreciate your capturing these important events for River Garden with your cameras.

If you have a resident story or feedback you'd like to share, please let us know. We also welcome opportunities to meet with senior groups in the community to discuss our programs & services.

Please contact Kari Bell.

[kbell@rivergarden.org](mailto:kbell@rivergarden.org) or (904) 288-7855

## Boards and Officers

### River Garden Senior Services

Gloria Einstein, President  
Janis Fleet, Vice President  
Harvey Schlesinger, Vice President  
Marsha Pollock, Secretary  
Ed Grenadier, Treasurer

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Larry Goldberg, President  
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Debby Kaye, Vice President, Co-Chair of Admissions  
Bruce Horovitz, Vice President, Co-Chair of Admissions  
Morrie Osterer, Vice President, Chair of the House  
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Mimi Kaufman, President  
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Michele Steinfeld, Membership  
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Adam Frisch, Vice President  
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### The Coves at River Garden

Denny Lafer, President  
Michael Price, Vice President  
Malcolm Bloom, Vice President  
Shirley Bielski, Secretary  
Susan Cohen, Treasurer

## Of Blessed Memory



*It is with profound sadness that we shared news of the passing of Lew Meisel on Friday evening, March 26, 2020, just two days before our Annual Meeting. Lew was a past president of both River Garden Hebrew Home and The Coves, and a passionate advocate for River Garden throughout the community. Lew (Mr. Tombola) will be missed by all of us who knew and loved him.*

## TOMBOLA

### 2021 WINNERS!!!

#### Grand Prize Winner

\$2,500

David Wagner

#### 2nd Prize Winner

\$1,000

Merle Cherry

#### 3rd and 4th Prize Winners

\$500 each

Donna Burnside

Esta Rubenstein and Charles Young



## Inside Line

By Mauri Witten Mizrahi, Chief Executive Officer

We are overjoyed to bring you this edition of the River Garden News which features the resilience of River Garden after more than a year of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. The last edition was distributed in January 2020. At that time, some of the calendar highlights included Jewish Java, Caregiver Support with Dr. Sue Krall, and “For the Love of Art: Love Letters,” a community presentation with Cindy Edelman. Little did we know how much life was about to change.

Now, 18 months later, River Garden has celebrated its 75th anniversary and has had two virtual Anniversary Days. The River Garden Foundation raised \$414,000 at the No-Go Gala and No-Golf Classic in 2020.

The spring and summer of 2021 was planned to be a time of staff transition well-before we ever heard of COVID-19. Fortunately, thanks to the hard work of our Boards and staff we were able to proceed as planned while meeting the exceptional challenge of the pandemic.

On March 21, I assumed the position of CEO and Marty Goetz became the active CEO Emeritus, with Elliott Palevsky fully retired. Bobbie Jo Mentz has assumed the position of Chief Operating Officer.

After 23 years, Kathy Osterer has also retired and Christina Levine is now the Chief Development Officer.

In the beginning of July, Dr. Sue Krall, ARNP, Ph.D., our Director of Home and Community Based Services, will be retiring. She has served River Garden with her nursing skill and expertise in dementia for the past 24 years. She will be succeeded by Billye Sullivan, RN, who has been working side-by-side with Sue for the past few years.

Later this summer, Carol Thomas, RN our Chief Nursing Officer, will be retiring after 30 years of service to River Garden. We are grateful for her leadership and high standard of excellence. Carol will be succeeded by Bernadeth Palompo, RN, who has been a nurse at River Garden for 26 years – the last 16 as the Assistant Director of Nursing.

As the River Garden News is about to go to press, the nursing home’s operations continue to be impacted by federal regulations for visitation, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 vaccination.

We are proud to report that over 95% of our residents and over 80% of our staff are vaccinated.

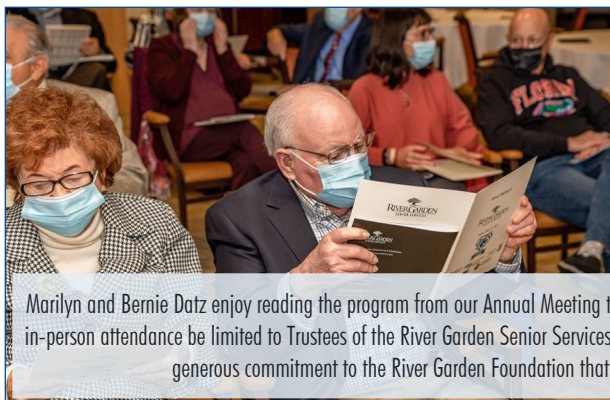
The current vaccination rate in Duval county is 37%. Infection control policies in the general community, such as wearing masks and physical distancing are changing at a rapid pace. Nursing home infection control policies are changing more slowly due to their responsibility to protect the vulnerable elderly. If you haven’t already received your COVID-19 vaccination we urge you to do so.

Over the next few months, we will re-open the Adult Day Program and Outpatient therapies. We will grow our post -acute short-stay rehabilitation program and return our beauty shop and Baptist Primary Care Clinic to pre-pandemic operations.

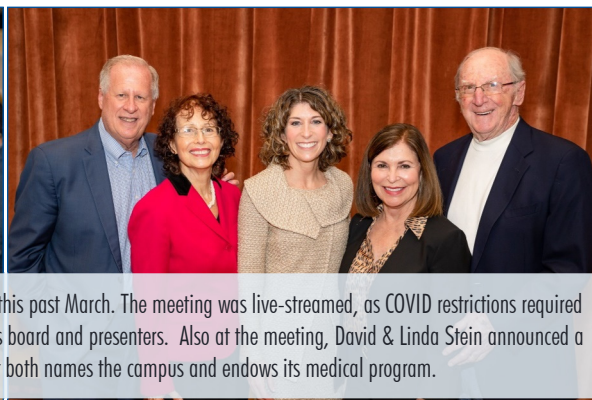
We look forward to a day that we will no longer need to require temperature checks and a health screen for all who enter the campus. We also look forward to a time where visitors can once again attend community programs on our campus, join River Garden residents at activities and join members of The Coves for dinner in The Coves dining room.

We have learned that life is fragile, a hug is priceless and that a virtual visit is good but an in-person visit is spectacular. We have become better at communicating with you. We have embraced technology in ways we could only imagine before. We are stronger, wiser and more appreciative.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the River Garden News. Our future is bright.



Marilyn and Bernie Datz enjoy reading the program from our Annual Meeting this past March. The meeting was live-streamed, as COVID restrictions required in-person attendance be limited to Trustees of the River Garden Senior Services board and presenters. Also at the meeting, David & Linda Stein announced a generous commitment to the River Garden Foundation that both names the campus and endows its medical program.

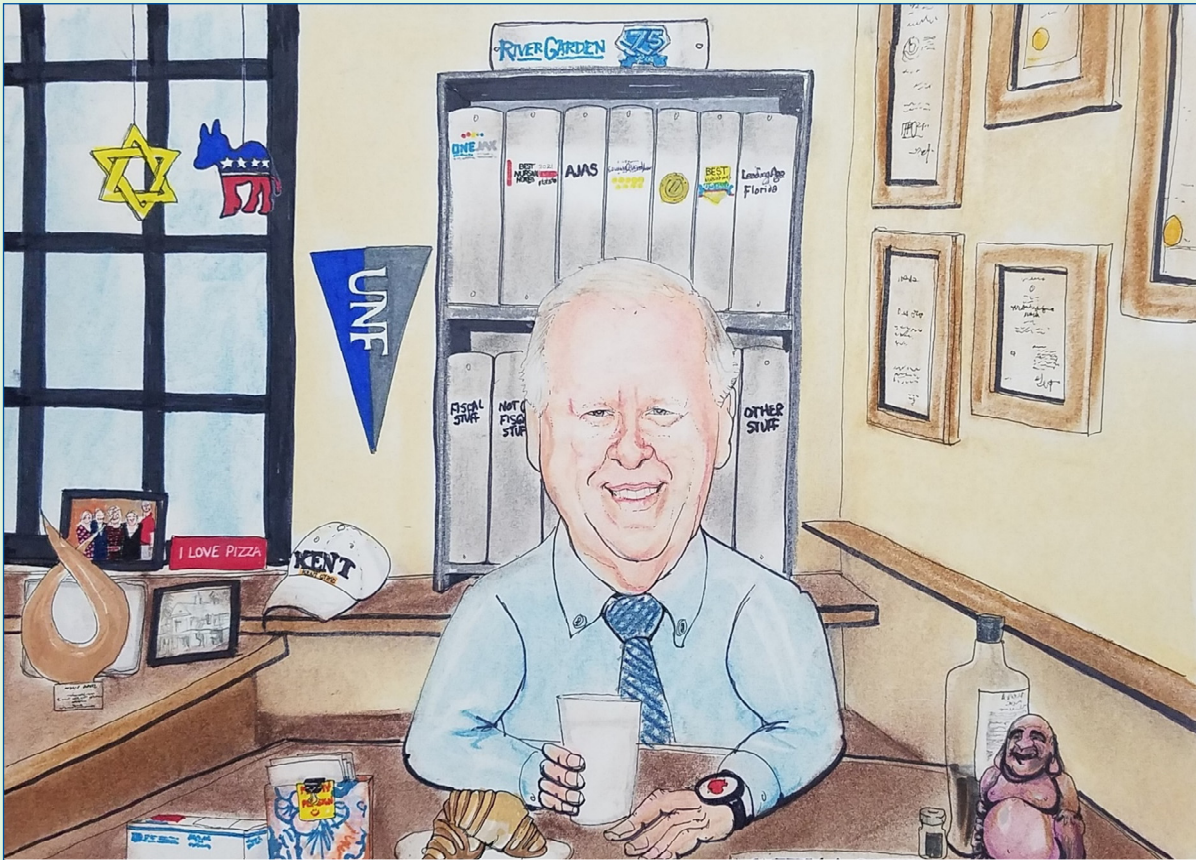




AN OUTPOURING OF GRATITUDE AND GOOD WISHES

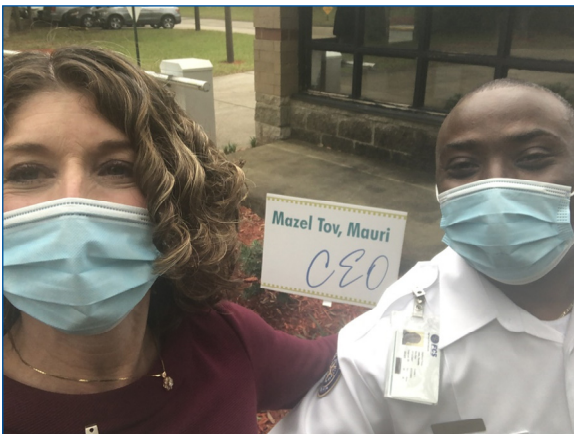
## Celebrating Our CEO Emeritus

Thanks to our boards, staff, many community friends and healthcare colleagues for helping us celebrate Marty's 43-year career with River Garden. We compiled a photo memory book with nearly 100 well-wishing messages and made a spectacular tribute video with pre-recorded messages.



Staff presented Marty with this fun keepsake, created by caricature artists Steve Bridges of Ponte Vedra Beach.

## WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP



Mauri Mizrahi assumed the role of CEO on Sunday, March 21. On her first day, she was greeted with a welcome sign at the guard house, and team members gathered for an afternoon 'meet-up.' (L-R) Bobbie Jo Mentz, Darla Williams, Tom Helvey, Mauri Mizrahi and Bernadeth Palompo.





JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER

## Safely Re-Opening Our Campus

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releases recommendations that make our world less restrictive and make life feel more normal, please understand that River Garden must continue to follow state and federal regulations for healthcare settings, which are more cautious than for the general public.

We are thrilled that we are able to host indoor and outdoor visits for credentialed visitors, and remind that guests, regardless of vaccination status, must wear the surgical mask issued at the guard gate at all times while on campus. Visiting hours are daily 10am to 8pm. Documentation to become a credentialed visitor can be found on our website—[www.rivergarden.org](http://www.rivergarden.org), near the middle-right of the homepage.



Outdoors is beautiful! Aleksandr Vaynman enjoys the dock, and Chuck Carlson challenges his mom, Peggy Condon to a game of Yahtzee. At The Coves, Muriel Fields and her dog remind us of the 'welcome-back' for pets.

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT**  
**FUN | TRAVEL | SOCIALIZING | BETTER WHEN PROTECTED**

# Let's Get Vaccinated!

Ensuring that you are protected and that you are doing everything you can for those around you is key to a healthy future for the community. Specifically for River Garden, ensuring our staff, residents and families are protected is at the forefront of our vaccination campaign. Our residents are most at risk of severe infection or death from COVID-19, and we strongly recommend vaccination for all who spend time with older adults.

- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. To receive the most protection, people should receive all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available to you.
- If you need any information about vaccinations, please feel free to contact us.







Christina Levine, CFRE  
clevine@rivergarden.org

## We could not be more grateful for all you do for River Garden!

You may have heard the term “philanthropy is a team sport.” I can attest to the fact that success in fundraising does not happen without the collaboration of many – even those who may not realize they are playing a part. Here at River Garden, we are extremely fortunate to have the ongoing dedication of board and committee members, donors, volunteers, family members, friends, staff and community partners. As a result, we continue to see growth not only in dollars raised but also in number of donors and number of gifts.

In this issue, you will see how we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the River Garden Classic and honored founding and long-term tournament chair, Mark Lodinger. Everyone was excited to be together again on the course and supporting the agency.

The River Garden Foundation will not be holding an in-person Gala this year. Instead, to honor the 75th Anniversary of River Garden, we will be celebrating with a creative initiative—***Spreading 75 Acts of Caring***—for River Garden. This approach will allow us to highlight River Garden, raise awareness in the community and educate people on the miracles that our residents and staff experience every day. Thank you to Allison & Ken Jacobs for chairing again this year. The committee is in the planning stages, so expect to see details in the coming months.

## Guardians of Tomorrow

### The Benefits of a Charitable Bequest

Charitable bequests are gifts that are made as part of your will or trust. A charitable bequest is a wonderful way for you to leave your legacy while helping further the exceptional work of River Garden and its mission. There are many reasons why you might consider making a charitable bequest.

- You can make a commitment to our important work now without spending a dollar.
- You can still benefit your heirs with specific gifts.
- A bequest may produce estate tax savings.
- Your bequest can be changed down the road.
- **You will be recognized as a Guardian of Tomorrow and instrumental in fortifying River Garden’s future.**

If you are interested in including River Garden in your estate planning or would like to learn more, please contact Christina Levine at (904) 886-8430 or clevine@rivergarden.org.



### Spreading 75 Acts of Caring

*Members of the Acts of Caring committee enjoyed meeting at the home of Shirley Bielski to brainstorm creative ideas.*





# Why We Give



## **Jeff Goldstein, Nancy Severs, Janet Goldstein and Lynn Maiman**

Giving back is a value our family was raised with and continues to pass down. We've all given back in different ways—from making donations as a family to volunteering at Friday evening services, fundraising through the Auxiliary and bringing pet therapy to the campus. River Garden has been there for all of us; we have a responsibility to ensure River Garden will be here for generations to come.



## **Mary Wieland & her mother, Hisako Duke**

River Garden has given so much to me, including the peace of mind in knowing my parents have received care in a manner that is loving, respectful and affirming. It is important that I make the effort to give back so that other families have the same opportunity.



## **Billye Sullivan, Registered Nurse for River Garden Home Services**

I attended my first Seder at River Garden in 2020. I had only been employed at River Garden for a few months, but already I knew that I had found a special place where I could return to the heart of my nursing practice. I donated at Passover this year to honor the two residents with whom I shared that first Seder. I wanted to recognize their wisdom and strength, and give back to all of the residents who persevered and trusted us through the pandemic.

It is a tradition of giving and sharing that enables River Garden to maintain the highest standards of quality care, and serve the entire community with excellence. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in our not-for-profit organization, River Garden is pleased to honor a Donor Bill of Rights. You can find it on our website: <https://www.rivergarden.org/river-garden-foundation/donor-bill-of-rights/>

*River Garden is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida*





# Celebrating the 25th Annual River Garden Classic

River Garden was thrilled to be back on “course” this year with the 25th Annual River Garden Classic on April 28th at Deerwood Country Club. The tournament was proudly sponsored by Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries and chaired by Tom Harris. This milestone anniversary of the River Garden Classic was an opportune time to honor founding and long-term tournament chair, Mark Lodinger, for his incredible leadership and dedication. In a nod to Mark, the theme for the day was Making a “Mark” at River Garden.



There were 103 players who participated in this year’s tournament and more than \$70,000 was raised to support a myriad of resources that ensures the highest quality of life for all who benefit from River Garden’s services.

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries along with Jody & Janne Brandenburg have been generous supporters to River Garden for over 30 years and this year marks the 10th year as title sponsor of the River Garden Classic. At the tournament reception CEO, Mauri Mizrahi, announced that River Garden will be naming the Nursing Administration suite to honor Jody, Janne & Hardage-Giddens for all they have done for the agency.

Special thanks to tournament Chair, Tom Harris, committee members, generous sponsors, volunteers, players and staff who contributed to the success of this event.



Left: Cruising the course with Matt Tucci, Tom Harris, Jody Brandenburg and Robert Moore.  
Right: Jody Brandenburg of Hardage-Giddens honors Mark Lodinger with a special gift.



Left: Long-time friend and team player, Steve Foody, pays tribute to Paul Rothstein and reveals portrait generously contributed by Hardage-Giddens.  
Right: Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers!





### Corporate Sponsors:

Baptist Health  
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Jaffe Group at Morgan Stanley –  
Sandy Zimmerman  
MMI Dining Systems  
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### Beverage Cart Sponsors:

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Toney Construction Company

### Hole-In-One Car Sponsor:

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### Beer Sponsor:

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## Title Sponsor Janne and Jody Brandenburg

### HARDAGE-GIDDENS

FUNERAL HOMES, CEMETERIES & CREMATIONS



### Reception Sponsor: HUB International Florida

### Master Sponsors:

Angelo Cavallaro  
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Ann & Ed Grenadier  
Mark Lodinger & Associates  
SunTrust Now Truist

### Par Sponsors:

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Mort Kesler  
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Margol & Margol, PA  
Mauri & Alan Mizrahi  
Modern Periodontics -  
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Podiatry Assoc. of Florida –  
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Miriam Finegold Price  
Price Realty Group—Lanie &  
Jason Diaz and Michael Price  
Deena & Jim Richman  
Kim & David Robbins  
Snitzer Insurance Services—  
Mark Snitzer, President  
SRB & Associates  
Tree Amigos Outdoor Services



Barber & Associates: Brandon Campbell, Ben Patterson, Brad  
Denny and Ben Liebtig | 1st Place Net



Family and friends foursome: Alan Mizrahi, Mark Caliel,  
Jeff Moody and Eli Mizrahi



Jagger Leach  
The next generation of players.



Sysco: Billy Lodise, Steve DeCosta,  
Matt Davis and Stuart Smith | 1st Place Gross



Long-time friends and sponsors, HUB International: Rich  
Zanghetti, Steve Silverman, Craig Ross and Chip Greene





## SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS FINE!

The beautiful weather provides a perfect opportunity for families to enjoy the warmth of the sun while visiting outdoors. Whether sharing a meal, catching up with grandchildren or celebrating a milestone, the love of family is evident.



Everyone welcomes Spring, tidying up patios, enjoying the beautiful weather and watching all of new growth sprout throughout the campus. The mild weather beckons many members of The Coves outdoors. Harriet Dame enjoys nature walks and Steve Meinstein takes to riding his bicycle to the surrounding neighborhoods. Along his route, he often finds veggie plants that others have discarded, as well as sturdy pots. He brings these treasures home for the garden at the apartment he shares with his wife, June. Together, they are making an oasis of edibles and fragrances, a patch filled with tomatoes, kale, cactus and flowers.



## BUDDY BOX

Throughout the school year, students from the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School have been ‘buddying’ with our residents and members. Delivered monthly by Edith Horovitz, Buddy Boxes have included supplies for challah baking, rock painting and a chocolate Seder. To mark the close of the 2020-2021 program, the final delivery was a tasty bundt cake to enjoy—no work required.





## SERVICE WITH HEART



The following quote is from Leo Rosten, a Jewish-American humorist who was born into a Yiddish speaking family in Poland and was the author of *The Joys of Yiddish*.

***“The purpose of life is not to be happy—but to matter,  
to be productive, to be useful, to have it  
make some difference that you have lived at all.”***

The cadre of individuals who make up our credentialed volunteer program truly exemplify this quote. Currently, volunteer opportunities are limited to very specific jobs. We are overjoyed with the anticipation of seeing our beloved volunteers return in full force throughout the Home once again.



# MIRACLES HIDDEN AND REVEALED

This year, we continue to reimagine holidays and celebrations in a unique way. Purim was a perfect place to begin. With a hand painted background of Shushan and puppets for characters, we performed a Purim spiel to a delighted audience.

Passover followed suit with the retelling of the Haggadah, with our “Passover Live” performance. With the Egyptian pyramids behind us, dressed as Moses and Pharoah and even a burning bush, we brought the Exodus to life.

Continuing a tradition of preparing homemade Matzah Brie, staff served the delicious recipe bringing back memories and aromas to the residents from their family kitchens.

Yom Ha’atzmaut was celebrated in grand style with a huge array of Middle Eastern foods to sample while enjoying (virtually) Israeli musicians perform in an outdoor park. Watching the concert while sampling Israeli foods was a perfect way to celebrate Israel Independence Day.

Leading into the Shavuot holiday, when Torah takes center stage and the Book of Ruth is read, residents listened to the story of Ruth and enjoyed dairy delicacies of cheesecake and raspberry-brie tarts.

## Celebrating Jewish Traditions











Outdoor Pizza Party is back!  
May 26, 2021

Coming  
Soon!  
😊

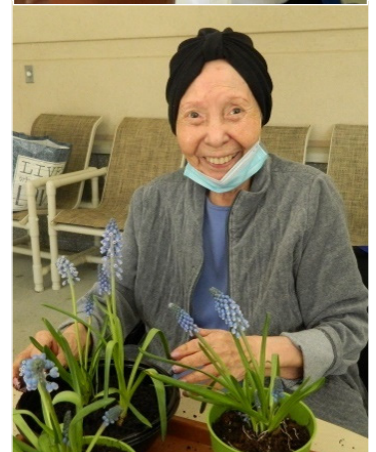
## POP-UP CERAMIC SALE

Our residents are busy creating again, and they are planning pop-up ceramics throughout the Summer. The funds they raise support projects voted on by the Resident Council.

*Pictured at right, Resident Council officers  
Betty Infeld, President, and Fran Young, Treasurer.  
Other officers included Roma Heaven, VP, and  
Janice Hayflick, Secretary.*

ELDERGROW

Eldergrow was born out of the desire to bring Mother Nature indoors. As a part of a grant through *LeadingAge Florida*, River Garden has been selected to receive three (3) Eldergrow carts, and the therapeutic horticulture program is set to begin in July 2021.







Faye Price



Life Enrichment Director Lisa Poremba enjoys music & cake outside with friends at the May birthday celebration.



Jeannette Greenwald

H A P P Y

# Birthday

*Each month we celebrate birthdays. If you'd like to become a Birthday Sponsor for our group celebration, please contact the Foundation office.*

*Above, Faye Price (L) and Jeannette Greenwald (R) enjoy special birthday cakes brought to them by family. If you are interested in arranging a private celebration or bringing in a special treat, please let your Social Worker or our Life Enrichment team know.*



Performers Dan & Viv are birthday party favorites!



Thank you, Roger Woods, for entertaining us at the Home and at The Coves.



# Adult Day Program

## RE-OPENING Summer 2021

If you're working full-time or if your loved one exhibits any of the following, please consider **River Garden Adult Day**

- Not eating well or forgetting to eat
- Doesn't socialize any longer
- Sleeps most of the day, minimal movement
- Showing signs of short-term memory loss and confusion

**Call (904) 288-7858 to talk.**

We are pleased to announce that the River Garden Adult Day Program will again open its doors in July 2021.

"We are ready to welcome back our clients and caregivers for socializing, activities and respite services, and we look forward to expanding our services to new families as well," says Billye Sullivan, RN, Home & Community Based Services.

The ADP serves older adults who may require supervised care during the day while caregivers work or manage other responsibilities. It provides a safe, group setting that can be especially helpful for those caring for loved ones with cognitive impairment.

Please call (904) 288-7858 for details about ADP or our monthly Alzheimer's & dementia support meetings which are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:30pm.

## Therapy | Rehab

The Therapy Pavilion at River Garden is becoming more and more active every day, and the fantastic therapists are happy to be back in full-swing. Let's meet one of them: Hello, Jorge Hernandez!

### **Tell me about your background. How did you get to where you are today?**

I'm a South Florida transplant. I majored in Psychology and minored in Exercise Physiology at the University of Miami. I chose occupational therapy because it captures the relationship between spiritual and physical well-being. I continued my education by attending graduate school in Fort Myers, where I enjoyed exploring beaches on the gulf. Clearly, I enjoy being close to the ocean.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I'm an avid kayak fisherman! It's a hobby that lets me enjoy the outdoors, keeps me active and fills my freezer with quality food. I mainly target flounder, mangrove snapper, trout and red drum.

### **What do you like best about what you do?**

I love restoring confidence by teaching and empowering people to do things that they didn't feel they were capable of doing.



Jorge is an occupational therapist and he finds interesting ways—like planting succulents & making avocado toast—to help his patients improve their motor skills. Considering his love for the water, sometimes you'll even find him with patients out on the dock.



# Wellness

Exercise is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Water aerobics is a low-impact workout that allows you to benefit from exercise without placing too much pressure on your joints.

## Benefits of Water Aerobics for Seniors

### Improved Heart Health

Exercising improves your cardiovascular health and lowers your risk of heart disease, while the pressure of water can improve circulation. Water aerobics has also been shown to lower blood pressure.

### Toned Muscles

Water adds resistance to your pool exercises. This allows you to get a more complete full-body workout, burn calories and strengthen muscles without high-impact activity or heavy weights.

### Increased Bone Density

Resistance workouts increase bone density. Water aerobics provides enough pressure to bolster bone strength without causing damage.

### Increased Endurance

Water aerobics helps you build up the stamina and energy you need to remain active and continue to enjoy your favorite activities as you grow older.

### Decreased Likelihood of a Fall

Your risk of falling – and the damage that can be done by a fall – increases with age. Water protects you from the dangers of falling on hard surfaces in a gym or dropping heavy exercise equipment.

### Get Started with Water Aerobics

Water aerobics classes can improve heart health, muscle strength, and joint mobility in a fun, supportive environment. You don't need to be Michael Phelps or Katie Ledecky to get a big boost from water exercise. In fact, you don't even need to swim.

Sources:

<https://www.baptist-health.com/water-aerobics-for-seniors/>

<https://www.silversneakers.com/blog/swimming-exercise/>



Steve Meinstein & Pat Rosenthal



Lottie Smith



Lanny Zimmerman

*Ann Marie Shrader is the Wellness Coordinator at The Coves. She helps keep the members healthy by offering personal & group sessions regularly.*





## THE CLUB ROOM IS A HAPPENING PLACE!

With nearly 100% of our members vaccinated, The Coves Club Room has returned to being a central location for programs and activities. Outside visitors are still not able to join for meals or events at The Coves, but members and staff who are protected certainly are enjoying this renewed level of socialization.

*Cheryl Fisch is the Life Enrichment Coordinator at The Coves. She has a wonderful way of bringing out the best in our members.*



Harriett Cochran says a fond farewell to long-time member Celia Biglik. Harriett's last day was May 28.



Betty Barnes fixes an ice cream sundae for her husband, Ernest.



LaVada Haldeman enjoys Lag B'Omer.



Marilyn Stein is ready for Bingo.



Using food as a foundation, 'Conversation with Kari' in May focused on sharing family stories.



## OUTINGS FOR THE COVES RESUME

Matthew Jackson is happy to once again be driving for weekly trips to the stores & medical appointments! Beginning in late April, The Coves resumed bus transportation for members, and has even had the opportunity to attend a Friday Musicale event. Still wearing masks while out on excursions, we are proud of everyone who lives at The Coves for managing through this pandemic so well!



Louise Singer



Sandi Driben



Bess Saliman (L)  
Harriett Dame (R)



Anne Bauer, Lois Chepenik, Pat Rosenthal and Debby Katz complete beautiful table arrangements for Mother's Day



Francine Friedman

HAPPY  
*Father's Day*  
JUNE 20, 2021



# Sophisticated & Independent Senior Living



Immediate availability for 1-bedroom rental. No 'buy-in' required.

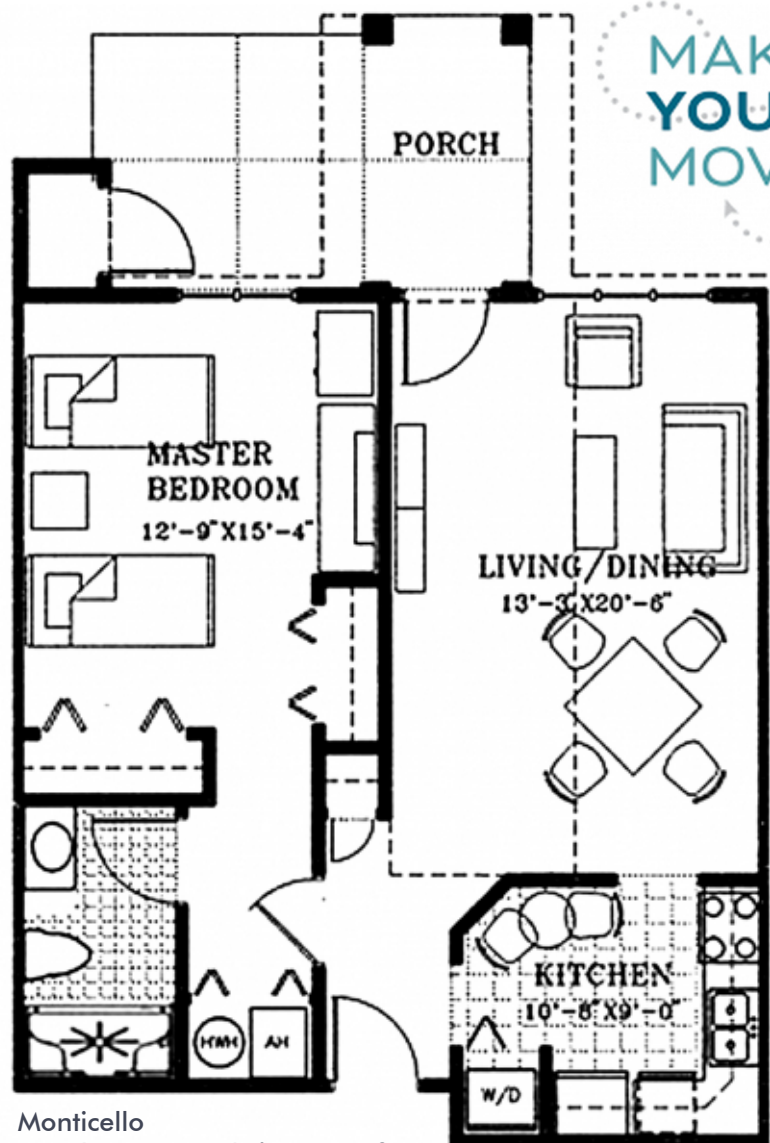
## Come & See

INDEPENDENT LIVING AT ITS BEST

It's a 'hot market' for real estate and if you are 62+ and considering selling your home, consider a move to The Coves. We think you'll love the spacious garden apartment, and you'll enjoy the company of nice neighbors.

- Spacious, bright and airy floor plans
- Cathedral ceilings
- Complete kitchen with granite countertops includes stove, dishwasher, microwave and frost-free refrigerator
- Ample closet space
- Private patios with storage
- Individually controlled central heat and air
- Washer/dryer in every apartment
- Beautifully landscaped grounds; smoke-free campus

**For a tour, call (904) 292-2683**



MAKE  
YOUR  
MOVE

Monticello  
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath | 816 sq. ft.





## Auxiliary Stays Strong & Wishes Everyone a Safe, Healthy & Peaceful Summer

Thanks to all the officers and board members who worked tirelessly this past year to keep our members connected and involved during a difficult time.

Tombola this year was very successful and topped the previous year. Congratulations to the Tombola winners! Donations from this and our other fundraisers made it possible to donate \$18,000 to the Home in March 2021. Thank you for this support!

With the help of a few dedicated & approved volunteers, we have recently been able to re-open the Gift Shop part-time and hopefully will be able to return to full-time hours soon. During the first week back in business, residents were spending their long-collected BINGO tickets and Staff was most-excited to buy afternoon snacks!

Our membership campaign is in full swing and we look forward to welcoming new members over the summer months. Go to [www.rivergarden.org/auxiliary](http://www.rivergarden.org/auxiliary) for links to join or renew your membership. We also try to keep our website up-to-date with information about upcoming events. There are plans for new and exciting programs for the Fall, so check the website often.

The River Garden Auxiliary will be holding its closing meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> when the new slate of officers will be installed. The list of incoming officers is presented below.

At the April 20, 2021 meeting of the River Garden Auxiliary a slate of officers was presented to the Board. The following slate of officers will be presented for election in June.

### SLATE OF OFFICERS:

President.....	Mimi Kaufman
President Elect .....	Ellen Rubens
Treasurer .....	Nancy Mizrahi
Recording Secretary .....	Shirley Bielski
Corresponding Secretary .....	Marilyn Mass
Social Secretary.....	Sandy Selwitz
Financial Secretary .....	Carol D'Onofrio
Membership VP.....	Carol D'Onofrio
Life Membership .....	Betty Fastenberg
Fund Raising Co-Chairs.....	Michelle Steinfeld & Jennie Bermudez
Parliamentarian .....	Marilyn Garber
Members at Large.....	Margo Ruby, Ruth Nachman, Fran Albert
Immediate Past President.....	Shirley Bielski



Thank you to the Auxiliary for gifting our residents with beautiful scarves for Mother's Day!



## Praises for Our Team



Candace was outstanding and I loved Brianna.  
—Patti Canada—

The loving staff and quality of care far exceeded my expectations.  
—Evangeline Smith—

The Rehab workers were pleasant and kind, and I learned a lot.  
—Esta Waddell—

Dr. Dobren is so caring and made me feel great!  
—Cecile Goetz—

Morgan was kind and did an excellent job.  
—Alan Chepenik—

I had experience with River Garden as a healthcare provider and knew firsthand I would receive excellent care and I did! Thank you!  
—Cynthia Gordie—

Loved all the food choices!  
—Frances Rhoades—

Millicent was amazing. She had a special relationship with my dad.  
—Family of William Sharp—

Mom brags about everyone all the time! Even down to how nice & neat everything was packed for her discharge. I never had to worry about the care she was getting; when she is ready for long-term care, I will do everything I can to make sure she goes to River Garden.  
—Family of Lorraine Dorman—

Honestly, I checked into a few of the facilities and River Garden was rated the best in Florida. The one thing I noticed is that River Garden did not smell like other skilled nursing facilities. That spoke millions to me—that things are kept clean.  
—Deborah Conklin—

Words can never describe the appreciation of Serina. Her compassion goes beyond words!  
—Linda Rubens—

I chose River Garden for short-stay rehab because of the love they show.  
—Robert Kinder—



BEST RATINGS FOR  
SHORT-STAY REHAB  
LONG-TERM CARE  
US NEWS & WORLD REPORT



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NURSING CARE ACCREDITATION  
POST-ACUTE CERTIFICATION





## Quality, Employees are Key to Our Success



Joy Agger, RN—2021 Minnie Schreiber Award Recipient

Meet Joy Agger, RN, the recipient of the 2021 Minnie Schreiber Staff Leadership Award. Agger is a 20-year member of our staff and currently works in River Garden's nursing department as a Resource Nurse.

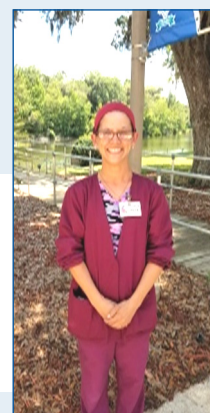
Joy possesses the special skill set and personality that continues to earn her the admiration and praise of her residents, families and staff.

"Her patients trust her completely," says Bernadeth Palompo, current Assistant Director of Nursing. "She embodies qualities that we all admire and she is my go-to when I need help with a family or resident. Joy has a wonderful way of helping everyone understand what needs to be done, and then she follows through."

Joy is the mother of two adult girls, Katrina (FL) and Renee (SC). Her daily companion is her dog, Blue. In her free time, she enjoys shopping, hiking and sitting by the pool pondering life.

Joy will assume the leadership position of Assistant Director of Nursing in June 2021.

*At River Garden, the MeritGram program provides an opportunity for patients, families and coworkers to recognize top performers. Shawna joined our team in 2020 and is often-acknowledged for her kindness and good work.*



*I'd like to give a special 'shout-out' to my team who has been working so hard to bring us successfully to this point of re-opening. The necessary tasks that go on behind the scenes with laundry, cleaning of high-touch surfaces and turn-over of rooms takes hundreds of hours each week. These folks have great values and big hearts and I am very thankful for each of them!*

*- Sandra Causey  
Director Environmental Services*



These ladies enjoy a well-deserved break outside on a beautiful Spring day.





River Garden Senior Services  
11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32258  
(904) 260-1818  
[www.rivergarden.org](http://www.rivergarden.org)

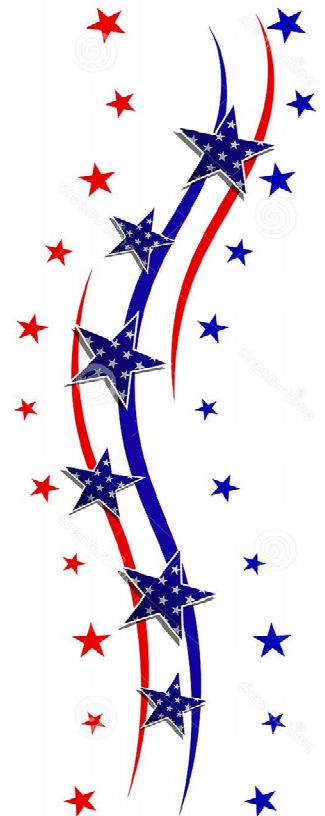


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HAPPY  
FOURTH  
y'all



*Please remember River Garden and the Jacksonville Jewish Community in your Estate and Legacy Giving*