

Welcome to My City

All

CASSELBERRY



December 2010



GO GREEN !!

(PROBABLY NOT WHAT THEY MEANT)

DRIVE SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- * Obey the speed limit.
- * Don't text, put on makeup or eat while driving.
- * Focus on the road— watch out for the other guy.
Uninsured motorists driving add to the complications
- * Get plenty of sleep and make sure your designated driver does too!
- * Keep your car in top condition. Make sure to check your lights, oil, antifreeze, and tire pressure.
- * Always have your mechanic's cell phone number handy.


MECHANICS + PLUS
Do you have your mechanics cell # 321-303-9198

See What's Inside

- 4 [From the Publisher](#)
- 5 [When Life is Out of Focus](#)
- 6 [Faith in Action—Jane Casselberry](#)
- 8 [The Disabled—No longer the silent minority—Rev. Tony Tizzio](#)
- 10 [Growing Up in Casselberry—during World War II —Joe Mattocks](#)
- 12 [A Very Merry Christmas at Jazzin' Up the Holidays Tree Lighting](#)
- 16 [Leaders of Tomorrow Today —Faye Beach](#)
- 18 [Casselberry Veterans Answering Children's Prayers](#)
- 20 [Christian HELP Busier Than Ever This Season](#)
- 23 [Natural Colored Diamonds—Steve Arch](#)
- 25 [L.O.V.E. the Holidays](#)
- 26 [Get the Most Out of Your Poinsettias—Bob Hotaling](#)
- 27 [Low Credit Card Debt Makes the Season Brighter—Mike Molaka](#)
- 28 [How to Get What You Want—and Shopping Locally](#)
- 30 [Artist of the Month: Risa Henig](#)
- 31 [Excellence Pays Off for Students](#)
- 32 [Neighborhoods Get Decked Out](#)
- 35 [Do You Know a Good Business When You See One?](#)
- 36 [Rotary 2011 Calendar Unveiled](#)
- 38 [Avoid Bad Wine—Jim Boswell](#)
- 40 [We Invite You to See “The Other Side of the Highway”](#)
- 42 [Better Leadership Together—Bill Hufford](#)
- 44 [Off the Grid Gourmet—Faye Beach](#)
- 46 [Sharing Hanukkah—Sandi Solomon](#)
- 48 [Seen Around the City](#)
- 50 [Upcoming Events and Holiday Services](#)



Cover Photo
by Bob Buckley
www.rbuckleyphoto.com

All Casselberry Magazine

www.allcass.com
Editor and Publisher
Lilian Casselberry

Director of Operations
Faye Beach

Contributing Photographer
Robert Buckley
Scott Tucker
Faye Beach
Sam McMullen

Regular Contributors
Food: Faye Beach
Wines: Jim Boswell
Faith in Action:
Jane Casselberry
Leadership: Bill Hufford
Special People:
Rev. Tony Tizzio

All Casselberry
is published by
Welcome to My City Inc.
PO Box 1
Casselberry, FL 32718
(407) 339-4141

www.allcass.com

Happy Holidays!

From Lilian Casselberry



This year, I'm giving special thanks to all my friends, family, and business partners who've helped All Casselberry magazine grow as quickly and strongly as it has.

This month, I've noticed that my efforts here have gone from publishing and pre-editing (Faye edits my work!), to reading for pleasure the articles that are submitted. Faye wrote in a technical style but is finding that she can write the way she talks—in a warm friendly and humorous style. Bill Hufford, who shied away from writing, is coming on stronger every month. And Carlos is always a pleasure to read. He's out this month due to an illness, but we look forward to his return. Jane Casselberry, gives us that professional polish that only decades of experience brings. Bob Buckley's photos are a joy to any eye. And I thank everyone else who has contributed this year, and invite you all to join and make this OUR magazine.

IT'S FUN TO SHARE & PERSONLIZE YOUR MAGAZINE

Across the top of your screen there's row of buttons:

The Information button will take you back to our AllCass.com home page.

The Help button is a quick explanation of each of the buttons. We don't publish in a way that takes you to the Table of Contents, but that's always on page 3.

The little book button will make the magazine auto-flip. Turn it on or off from here.

The magnifier makes the magazine enlarge or decrease in size.

Double arrows will take you to the beginning or end of the magazine, while a single arrow will take you one page at a time in that direction. Between them, you can just click on any page you want.

Also click on the right side of the sides of the pages and watch the page numbers appear.

Now let's play:

Find out where your favorite article is by going to the binoculars. It will do the searching for you.

Once there, Bookmark it so you can find it easily again. With the next two buttons you write a note on that page and highlight it with the next button.

Suppose there's a lot to highlight, then click on the button with the A to select and copy text quickly and easily.

Now share what you've done. Look at the column at the left of your screen!

Click the top button and get a thumbnail view of our pages. Click on that to see how it works.

Go down to the next button and see how easy it is to email the magazine to others with a message.

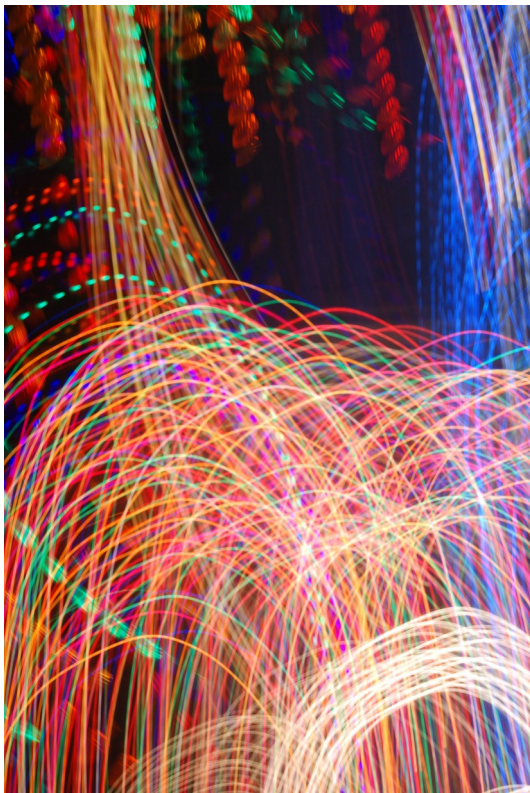
Below that, go ahead and share it on over 90 social networks with just a click.

Next you can print it, save it as a PDF file, or download it.

Finally, personalize your settings and find out about how we do what we do.

If you're a parent, teacher, business person, community activist, or a happily retired resident, it's now easier than ever to share the fun—and all that we love about Casselberry!



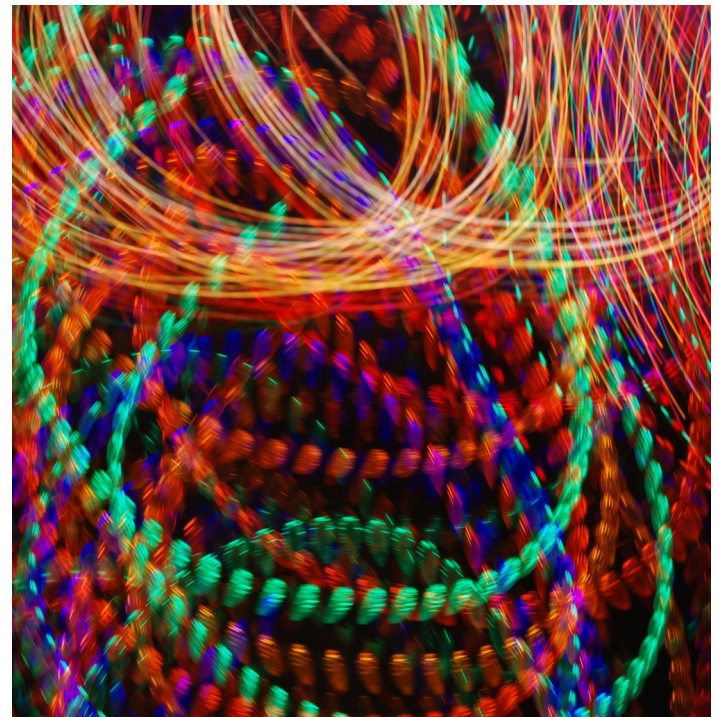


When life is out of focus, IT can be beautiful. It's how you look at it.

When you think they are crazy and a little out of hand they may turn out to be one of your most memorable... one that you'll enjoy talking about for years to come.

Faye Beach found that out when she tried to take perfect pictures of home lighting displays. So when in doubt, adjust how you look at circumstances... and smile.

Photos by Faye Beach



Faith in Action

Why do they allow a blind man in jail without help?

By Jane Casselberry



That's what incredulous inmates in Seminole and Orange County jails wonder when they first encounter Dick Mailman when he goes to teach one of his Life Skills Jail Ministry classes. But they soon learn that Dick is no ordinary guy. He may not see their faces, but has an uncanny way of seeing into their hearts and minds.

Dick, who was declared legally blind at the age of 12 and lost functional vision by 17, has never let this handicap stand in his way. This includes graduating from college, marrying and raising a family or a career in sales and motivational speaking. He has maneuvered the corridors of John E. Polk Correctional facility since 1992 with the same fearless confidence.

It was with reluctance, that he accompanied a friend to visit a church member who was incarcerated in that Seminole County facility. It was after the inmate was returned to his cell that then Good News Jail Chaplain Jim Brown asked, "Are you coming back to visit? You've got something to give and the jail is full of people just like him who need to hear you".

The chaplain had opened the jailhouse door and Dick went through never looking back. He could never have suspected how far that first step would take him when he began teaching a small Bible class in the jail chapel.

Though his students were some pretty tough characters, Dick said he never had the slightest anxiety about being alone with them.

"The guys liked it and asked for more time," Dick recalls. "Six months later the class was moved to a cell block. They were asking more and more of me and as a result I began teaching in the Orange County jail as well."

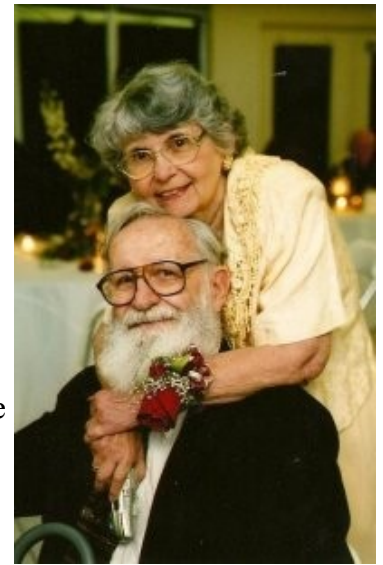
In 1995, Dick mysteriously received a phone call from a United Methodist Church in Kentucky asking if he would be interested in going out to the prison system's Florida Reception Center off the Bee Line to teach, which he did. Since Dick depends on a team of eight drivers to get him to and from the jails, he no longer ministers at the state facility because of the distance. Over the years he has had 35-40 drivers dedicated to getting him where he needs to go.

It was through a serendipitous confluence of events that Dick's jail ministry grew to a new level. A man named David Ray came down to visit his mother who was a member of Dick's church, and gave the pastor, Nick Thompson, a copy of a book he had written called *Inside Brother's Check Up*. Prior to that, Good News Jail Chaplain Chuck Pitroff had asked Dick to develop a series of scripture-based Life Skill lessons.

“Ray’s book was exactly what I had been trying to develop, but how was I to read it?” said Dick. The answer came in the form of a new miracle aid for the blind, the Reading Edge Machine which Dick was able to obtain through a grant. He could then place any written material on his new machine and it would read it aloud in the voice of his choice. *Inside Brother’s Check Up* was the first book he tried on the new machine which has proved invaluable in helping him prepare his lessons.

He showed the book to Chaplain Pitroff, who asked, “How many cases can we get?” Leonard Casselberry, who happened to be the designated driver that day, queried, “How much does a case cost and do they take a credit card?”

A call to David Ray provided the answers. “Len pulled out his card and we bought the first cases over the phone,” Dick recalled, and “Since then, I’m told we have used more of the books than anyone else in the country.”



Volunteer driver, Leonard Casselberry with wife Jane

After Ray’s death, 14 cases of the books were donated to Dick’s Life Skills Ministry and the family gave him the publishing rights to the book.

Dick does not receive a salary and money for the book and Bibles given to the inmates comes from his church, groups and supporters who hold fundraisers such as golf tournaments, dinners and concerts to as they say “keep Dick in jail where he belongs.”

His jail ministry has not been confined to our local correction facilities. He has made four trips to Leon, Mexico to minister to the inmates in prisons.

He is chaplain coordinator for the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office and serves on the International Board of Police Chaplains. In 2003 he was honored by the American Jail Association as “Volunteer of the Year.”

While still living in Maine in 1969 Dick was doing so well as a distributor for Glen Turner’s Koscott cosmetic business, that Turner brought him, his wife Carolan and their family to Seminole County to train others. Turner, who had his headquarters here made Dick president of his “Dare to be Great” motivational program. Success turned into disaster a year later when Turner was charged with operating a pyramid scheme and sent to prison leaving Dick on his own selling Bibles on tape.

He paid a sales call on the pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Casselberry, Wight Kirtley. He failed to make a sale, but found a church home and more involvement in ministry than he could imagine. Though he twice as a young man rejected attempts by pastors to get him to attend theological seminary on a scholarship, he finally found his calling.

As a member of the church, he has served as youth coordinator, Sunday school teacher, 14 years as pastoral care coordinator, and in a period when the church was without a full-time pastor, he served as administrative pastor, pulpit supply pastor and more...all without pay..

Dick and Carolan live in the Indian Hills neighborhood and have a son, two daughters and twin granddaughters.

GEMM Presents: Special People

The Disabled: No Longer the Silent Minority

By Rev. Tony Tizzio



Since the 1960's there has been a lot of well-placed concern about "Individual Rights." The most silent of these groups, however, is the Disabled. Obviously, many of us (The Disabled) cannot, but those of us that can find it senseless to do so. Senseless because no one had listened to their concerns.

As Equal Rights for African Americans and Women came to the forefront in the 1970s the problems of the Disabled remained in the background, dealing with their personal situations in silence. Their anonymity brought them knowledge that came from learning from the patience and persistence. They watched as leaders like Gloria Steinem and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. truly helped the scope of the Civil Rights and Women's Movements. These Voices were multiplied as others joined their causes.

Not until 1976 did the Disabled in Orlando find their first advocates. There have been great strides by local Disabled Citizens. That year, Pat Castenada breezed into town in her former checker cab and set about her task to "take on Orlando" and make the city aware of people with disabilities. Connecting with the local National Paraplegic Foundation (NPF) group Pat became an active member, and shared with her new friends the discoveries she had made while traveling throughout the country exploring agencies and services available to individuals with disabilities.

In her travels Pat had visited the first Center for Independent Living in the United States in Berkeley, California. She was excited about this new organization that was not only operated by people with disabilities, but promoted the right of all individuals with disabilities to govern their own lives. CIL's philosophy is based on peer role models: people with disabilities empowering people with disabilities and their families on the road to independence.

Pat suggested that an independent living center be formed in Orlando. Some members of the NPF believed in Pat's vision and decided to pursue the dream. Beverly Chapman, a high-spirited woman with Muscular Dystrophy, also arrived in Orlando during this time and immediately connected with Pat and the small advocacy group. State Representative Dick Batchelor helped pull together the few struggling disability-related groups and the fire took hold.

In 1981 a young UCF communications student carved his own place in Disability History by creating, hosting, and producing a local cable show called "Special People" which ran from 1981 to 1987. That young broadcaster was Me! So I guess we're not silent anymore.

The inception of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 finally gave the Disabled many of the legal, professional, and personal rights that the rest of America take for granted. It also opened up the opportunity for me to serve on the State of Florida's Independent Living Council. Our members handled the oversight for all of the CIL facilities in the state. That led to the show's resurgence from 2000-2004.

Over the years we have retained the insight that became silence and yet found our voice. Our next challenge to overcome is being "invisible." I say that because we are still being overlooked for better jobs and positions, not to mention professional respect. Employers and recruiters need to remember that thanks to special equipment like computer hardware and software many of the Disabled are achieving their higher degrees both in universities and online venues, and prove to be dedicated and loyal employees.

"Congress acknowledged that society's accumulated myths and fears about disability and disease are as handicapping as are the physical limitations that flow from actual impairment."

-- William J. Brennan, Jr.

To learn more about the misconceptions about hiring the Disabled check out <http://www.allbusiness.com/human-resources/employee-development/3877823-1.html>



GEMM/God's Eternal Miracles Ministries is a Christian Ministry helping the less fortunate, and is developing into a church for all. GEMM's a 501 (c)(3) Charitable organization. If you have any questions or suggestions call me at 407-461-7649, or e-mail me at specialpeople81@msn.com. if you would like to find out more about GEMM, or would like to join us, our meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, (December 21st, at 7:30 pm). American Families Funeral home. This is located at: 5011 S. Highway. 17-92, Casselberry, Fl. 32707.

Let the Forces of Light bring illumination to Mankind
Let the Spirit of Peace be spread abroad.
May people of goodwill everywhere
Meet in a spirit of cooperation.
May forgiveness on the part of all Be the keynote at this time.
Let power and kindness attend the efforts of the Great Ones.
So let it be, and help us to do our part.

Invocation given by Steve Arch
at the Casselberry Chamber luncheon

Growing Up in Casselberry

By Joe Mattocks

In 1944 we were still having World War II, although it was winding down a bit. You had to give ration stamps at Weaver's grocery downtown to get canned goods and meat, and you still had to have stamps to buy gasoline if there was any available. You were at the point where you could go to Daytona Beach. You wouldn't have oil slicks in the surf, although you still had to drive with your headlights covered over. But in Casselberry we still had Christmas. Things weren't that tight.

Hibbard had Christmas on the front lawn in front of the ferneries every year. Sometimes he would play Santa Claus, and sometimes other people did. Hibbard bought presents that Santa handed out to all the kids in town, and to those of the employees as they came up.

This one particular year I remember standing near a group of people with little kids. One of the children ran around and had gone up to the Christmas tree and back to his mother. "Casselberry's giving presents," the child said. She thought that was great.

At the end of the party, Hibbard heard that and he walked over and she thanked him very kindly. "Mr. Casselberry, it's so great. I want you to know that the children will know that these came from you," she said.

"No, don't do that. Make them think it came from Santa Claus. I won't always be around, and you won't either, but Santa Claus will."



Joe Mattocks lived in Casselberry from the war years into the mid 1950s until he went to college. He was the son of Elizabeth Johnson, sister of Hibbard's wife Martha. (Above: Hibbard shops at Weavers Grocery)

Holiday Greetings



MEL and HIBBARD CASSELBERRY
HIBBARD, JR., LEONARD and MOLLY

WINTER PARK FERNERIES
PARACHUTE DIVISION
CASSELBERRY FARMS
BELGIAN AZALEAS, INC.



WHAT Christmas could be cheerier
From Florida to Nome?

Our boys and girls in uniform
Thank God, are coming home!

Not every lass and lad can come
To reach their homes in time
To gladden hearts around the hearth
And hear the Christmas chime.

For many of the brave must stay
At rest on alien shore.
They won a peace that we might have
This Christmas freed from war.

Yet their bright youth can never leave
Our hearts who loved them well;
Give grateful thanks the while we grieve
For memory's miracle.

The Christmas Star that never wanes
Shines high in heaven's dome;
Be thankful for this Yuletide joy—
Our Boys are Coming Home!

THE CASSELBERRY

Every December Hibbard's Address-o-graph machine slammed out thousands of Christmas cards to friends, family, clients and fernery customers across the country. For him, it was a long standing tradition. Above: a card circa 1943. Below with fern workers in the 1930s, and left, a card at the end of World War II—a poem written by his wife Mel. Its bittersweet message seems timeless.



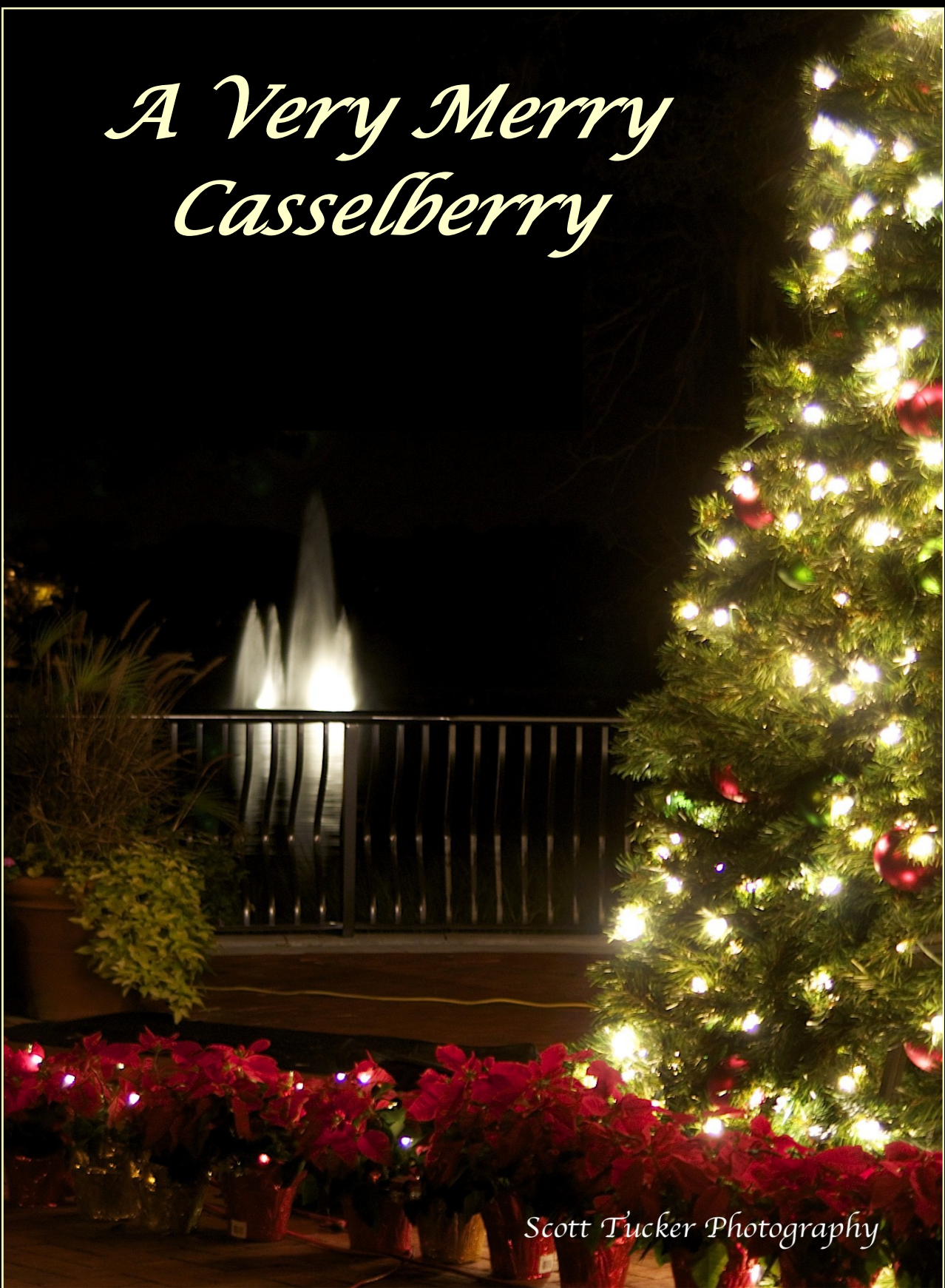
I Remember Growing Up in Casselberry

By Laurie Dempsey Van Schaick

I remember Dad (Bill Dempsey) being a volunteer fireman - watching the fire trucks toss candy during the holidays, the barbecue for the new (now the old) fire department on Triplett.

Seminole Plaza had everything - Eckerd's had a coffee shop, clothing stores for men, women, and children, movie theaters, Dipper Dan, and Santa Claus at Christmas. I remember being too young to play pool at the pool hall; Lang Hardware, the barber shop and beauty parlor at the little strip mall by city hall. And, the orange groves that are now homes and shopping centers. Many good times!

*A Very Merry
Casselberry*



Scott Tucker Photography

At the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Jazz Concert

Fans of great jazz came around the city and Central Florida to hear the Robert Harris Group and Rohan Reid “Jazz Up the Holidays” this year. But Santa came to hear his favorite group, the Casselberry Elementary Music Makers!



Congratulations to the City of Casselberry, WLOQ and the sponsors for another excellent concert.



Thank you to Scott Tucker
Photography





*Happy Holidays
from Scott Tucker
Photography*



Leaders of Tomorrow Today

“A little child will lead them.”

Isaiah 11:6

By Faye Beach

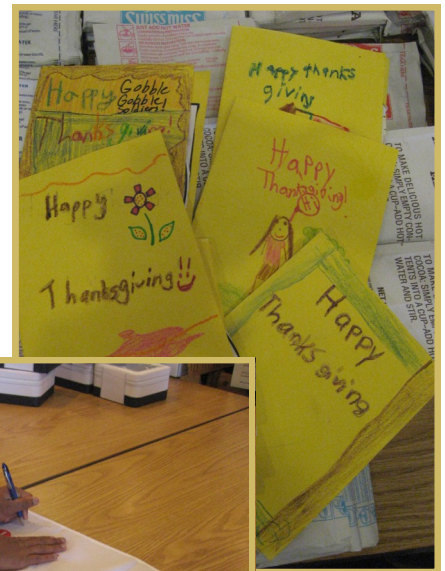
As we go about the hustle and bustle that consumes a great part of our lives we sometimes wonder about what the future holds for America. Who will lead our country in the decades to come. That’s when it’s easy to miss the most special things around us. But we have a very special young leader living among us right here in Casselberry. Her name is Elizabeth Mattei, a fifth grade student at Casselberry Elementary. She is truly one of today’s youth that we are pleased to know will be leading this country in a few years.

Elizabeth’s aunt in California married a Marine whom Elizabeth had never met. Several years ago her Uncle Chris was deployed to Iraq and Elizabeth wanted to do something for him. She told her grandparents, Joe and Debbie Mattei that she wanted to send him a care package. That experience sparked Elizabeth to do more packages.

When Elizabeth’s Uncle Chris came home a call to school principal Beth Ransom made it possible for a surprise visit in her classroom to meet him for the first time that day. When the Marine in full dress uniform walked into her classroom at Casselberry Elementary, Elizabeth knew just who he was. The two grabbed one another and hugged and hugged.

To find out more about KISS, go to

www.kidsinsupportofsoldiers.org



Joe Mattei, along with RJ and Taylor, get ready to head to the Post Office with over thirty of the care packages. A Boys Town resident stops his packing to sign a flag. Hand written cards from the KISS kids accompany each box.

One uncle and one initial package has turned into quite an undertaking for Elizabeth. As the Junior President she heads up KISS which stands for Kids In Support of Soldiers. The best news is that from that first shopping day Elizabeth has had three business partners, her two sisters. Taylor and Makaylah, and her brother R. J. Together as KISS they now raise funds to supply over 30 care packages a month to our soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Working together they collect items for the boxes and raise money to purchase items that are needed that have not been donated.

I was recently fortunate enough to observe a packing day at Boys Town in Oviedo, where other volunteers joined them in the packing. All the items including hand written letters were arranged on two large tables and an assembly line was set into action. Before anytime at all the boxes were packed, sealed, and ready to be mailed. Talk about an inspiring morning.

One thing that makes the KISS boxes even more special is a flag with the emblems of the four branches of service printed on them that goes to each recipient of a package. This flag is given to each soldier's family to have signed by as many of his/her friends and family as possible. Once the flag has been signed and returned to KISS it is included in the box to that soldier the next time boxes are shipped. Reports from those who have received the flags indicate that it is one of their most cherished possessions. If you ever have the pleasure to sign such a flag please do so. A little love and cheer from home is greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth is this year's winner of the David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award, presented by the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation which qualifies her to compete for other prestigious awards.

CONGRATULATIONS ELIZABETH!! Casselberry is proud of you for having the courage to take action and stand up for what you believe in.



During the packing session, Elizabeth, Taylor and RJ donated some of the prize money to Boys Town.



How the organization came to be called KISS.



Elizabeth's youngest sister, Makaylah who was only two at the time was helping pack the boxes. Her grandfather Joe noticed that she was upset because she was not old enough to write. So he suggested she draw a picture. Makaylah did what two-year-olds often do. She outlined her hand and then made it a smiley face. Then she picked it up, kissed it and placed it in the box. Joe asked, "What are you doing?" Her reply was simply, "I'm sending kisses to the soldiers". From that one sweet innocent gesture the name KISS – Kids in Support of Soldiers - came into being.

KISS has grown and so have the Mattei kids. Makaylah now 5, shows off the hand she traced for a soldier.

Casselberry Veterans Answering Children's Prayers



Family #: 30
Sex: M
Jean/Pant Size: 30
Dress: _____
Pajamas: Jr. L
Hair Style: _____
Favorite Color: _____
Likes: ○
Dislikes: _____
Really _____
Plea _____
And _____
mu _____
qu _____
4 _____

Family # 21 Name Mon
Age 4 Race _____
Sex M Jacket M
Socks 1/2 Underwear 10
Socks 9/16

A Club for All Those Who Honorably Served Our Country

www.casselberryvets.com

Here it is December, the end of 2010 and another festive time at Casselberry Veterans, Inc. and Auxiliary. Of course this is the peak of their biggest charity event of the year, the Holiday Family Program. Volunteer shoppers started in November shopping for 50 plus families and 179 plus children.

You might wonder how they undertake such an enormous project. Practice, as they say. They've been doing it for 20 out of their almost 25 year existence. Nearly every Wednesday someone is in the kitchen cooking. The fare may be Penny's Tater Tot Casserole (aka Shepherd's Pie), Brian's cheese steak subs, or Gail and Don's London Broil.— Whatever the volunteer chef of the week decides. No matter what's on the menu, the price is always \$4.00, and the proceeds go toward clothes, food, and toys for families at Christmastime. If you get hungry and don't feel like cooking on Wednesdays or can't afford an expensive night out drop by Casselberry Veterans for dinner. You'll be welcome.

This year's distribution will be on Tuesday, December 21st from 9am-5pm and Wednesday, December 22nd from 9am-12 noon. If you have not had the opportunity to see what they accomplish for our local community come by the club on Monday, December 20th to see the display before they distribute the next day.

As you might expect the club is also there as a collective guardian angel for KISS. The Caretakers ME (Motorcycle Enthusiasts) came out en mass to help pack and send boxes in November at Boys Town.

Remember to keep our Military families here and overseas serving to protect us and give us the freedom that the United States of America has. God Bless OUR Troops Keep them safe and bring them home soon.



Top left, part of the wish tree at Casselberry Vets clubhouse. Others members of the Caretakers packing and with children.



Busier Than Ever this Season



Despite a harsh economy, people have given generously to Christian HELP this year. However, teens, especially boys, are the ones who lack gifts. They like fishing poles, MP3 players, watches, cologne, or any gift cards. If you can donate them, they can be purchased at stores like Family Dollar.

Top: Toys are stashed high but the need for more is always there, unfortunately. In the Toy Room are Jackie Bradley, Tammy Mitchell, Gloria Griffin and Sue Cook.

Left and down: Brenda Newham, and other volunteers keep the food going out as if they were serving the King's banquet.





Phyllis Mayberry handles the Adopt-A-Family Program.

Only \$40 buys a Christmas meal for a family and gifts for the children.

**Christmas
For \$40**

Preventing homelessness is a mission that has no season.

Right, counselor Don Dye talks with client Laura Moehr. Christian HELP provides vocational, material and spiritual help wherever it's needed.



Left: Bill Allen makes good use of his allotted time with a trailer sign at his shop.



For other drop off locations go to http://www.christianhelp.org/pdf/2010_Toy_Drive_Drop_off_Locations.pdf



Christian HELP

450 Seminola Blvd Casselberry 32707
PH 407-834-4022 info@christianhelp.org
or go to www.christianhelp.org

Is a new corporate location on your holiday wish list?



If so, then your wish has been granted. Look no further than the JVD Construction location on Anchor Road. Space is available to this facility that shows pride of ownership. Their building is warm, inviting, and in a premier location.



Above: an example of the size available for a conference room, and Right, this inviting Bistro instead of a kitchen.



When your corporate image and ease of access are important, call Loretta DiSalvatore (above left) or her Administrative Assistant Sherry Young for an appointment. Phone 407-767-8853, or drop by 350 Anchor Road, Casselberry



Natural Color Diamonds

express your unique style, taste and personality in a way that no white diamond could ever do.

By Steve Arch

Diamonds may be a “girl’s best friend,” but you don’t have to limit yourself to traditional colorless or “white” diamonds to satisfy your appetite for these exquisite stones. Diamonds come in virtually every color under the rainbow, including yellow, pink, brown, blue, green, purple, red, black and other shades – and wearing a natural color diamond is the perfect way to express your unique style, taste and personality in a way that no white diamond could ever do.

Everyone knows that diamonds are rare. But the formation of natural color diamonds requires the presence of not only the original magic formula for all diamond creation of unimaginable heat and pressure placed on carbon crystals, but the presence of additional trace elements, as well. When these elements interact with carbon atoms during a diamond’s creation, they can change a diamond’s color. Radiation during the creation process also can alter a diamond’s color. It is estimated that for every natural color diamond there are 10,000 colorless diamonds that have made the arduous journey to the earth’s surface. This entirely natural process ensures that each natural color diamond is one-of-a-kind.

Unlike colorless diamonds, which are judged in terms of strict quality grades of carat weight, clarity, color and cut, natural color diamonds are unique in that color is generally the most important indicator of quality and value. These colorful gems are judged on the basis of the hue (the dominant color of the stone), tone (how much lightness or darkness of color a stone retains) and saturation (strength and intensity of the hue). Some colors, such as brown and yellow, are available in a wide range of sizes, while blues, reds and greens are much rarer, particularly in larger sizes. This means they typically command higher prices.

Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson
American Poet**

For more information on color diamonds, other fine gems and jewelry, contact Steve Arch at Maitland Jewelers



Think how far Santa has to go to see people in other countries!

But you don't have to go anywhere.



The **World's Festival 2011** will present eleven exciting performances of authentic folk dance, music and acrobats of Asia, Africa, Middle East, Polynesia, Haiti, Europe, and Central America. The performers will be fully adorned in their brilliant traditional costumes and for 4 continuous hours, they will perform in a premier concert hall at the *Metro Life Auditorium, 910 Winter Park Drive, Casselberry at the corner of SR-436 and Red Bug Rd.* This fun-filled family event, presented by the Rotary Club of Casselberry and Bright House Networks, is **FREE to the public.**

Between 3:00 and 5:00pm, some performing group leaders will conduct sampler workshops, and early registration at the Festival website is encouraged. Starting at 1:00pm, come taste a wide variety of ethnic cuisines and browse cultural art and craft exhibitions.

Watch for more stories about The World's Festival in upcoming issues of All Casselberry Magazine.



Asia Mexico Ireland



present



Africa Polynesia



Saturday
March 5, 2011
1:00 - 6:00 pm

MetroLife Auditorium
910 South Winter Park Dr.
Casselberry, FL 32707

RotaryFestival.org



Colombia Gypsy

FREE Admission
plus Dance Workshops
Exhibits & Cuisine



China Haiti

We thank these and other sponsors







*The Rotary Club of Casselberry Foundation is a project of Congressional District Programs, registered 501(c)(3) charity.
©2010 The Rotary Club of Casselberry TWF2011-A01[11/10]

LOVE THE HOLIDAYS

L List the things that are most important desires, concerns and traditions of the past and present. Create some new traditions.

O Outline your budget. A moment of restraint now will keep dollars in your pocket next year.

V Value your time, don't let yourself get stressed out. Say thank you to others because you value them and their time.

E Enjoy yourself.



**SANTA GOT
A WRAP AT
SIGN-O-SAURUS**



407-415-2033

Get the most out of your Poinsettias this year— and next!

Here's a note from Seminole County Master Gardener Bob Hotaling:

This seasonal favorite cannot be beat but it can have problems. I encourage you to go to the following website and read the entire article as it will discuss everything from leaf drop (and how to control it) to saving them successfully to use next year! It is an excellent article.

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/factsheets/sheets/poinsettias.html>



More Recycling Ideas and Links

Seminole County Guide to Recycling and Household Waste Collection: <http://search.earth911.com/location/NQZmHQA/?what=Antifreeze&where=32707>

Used Eye Glasses—Lions Club of Longwood Lake Mary—<http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/longwoodlakemaryfl/>

Recycle Greeting Cards—http://stjudesranch.org/help_card.php - Or you can turn a card into a gift tag by cutting them up into smaller pieces and attaching them to a gift.

Old Vertical Blinds become plant tags—If you want to identify what's in your garden, you can cut up old vertical blinds and stick them in the ground. Use a pencil with No. 2 lead for best results.

Christmas Trees—Every Wednesday, from December 31, 2008 to January 28, 2009 residents may place Christmas trees curbside for collection. Trees larger than 8 feet must be cut in half.

Household goods—Whether giving or receiving, you can find bargains at Goodwill, Salvation Army stores, and now Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in the Sam's Plaza Center on Hwy. 436.





Low Credit Card Debt Keeps Your Holidays Brighter



By Michael Molaka

Someone once said, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” Who would disagree? Cooler weather, warm coco, friends, family, food, parties and of course gifts galore. And, if you haven’t laid out a holiday budget yet you can find yourself spending funds very quickly on things that you didn’t plan on. I recently saw a figure that states that the average American family will spend around \$800 on holiday items such as decorations, food, and gifts this year.

Unfortunately many of us if we haven’t planned or saved ahead of time will put these expenditures on credit cards or borrow it from lines of credit. Unless we pay the charges off that same billing cycle, it could have an accruing effect on the true cost of the holidays purchases, due to those high rates attached with those cards. The average credit card rate today ranges from 15%-17% with default rates well above the 30% mark. Is your rate better than that? Worse than that?

The good news is it doesn’t matter; you don’t have to pay those higher rates at all. There are many alternatives to putting the charges on those high rate cards. Many stores have lay away programs, so you can pay as you go for the items and have them paid off by the time you pick them up (some minor fee’s might be associated with different programs). There are even websites that have a virtual lay away program if you’re more inclined to do your holiday shopping in the comfort of your home. But, if you find yourself in a giving spirit and or need some extra funds this year don’t automatically turn to that plastic card.

Many financial institutions, banks, and credit unions alike have lower cost “holiday loan programs” with attractive rates and terms to help minimize the true cost of that “Buzz Light Year” your three year old has been begging you for. I know mine is. So with better terms and lower rates hopefully that holiday debt can be paid down much faster this year than last.

Some estimates claim that approximately 30% to 40% of American families are still paying off last year’s holiday expenses left over from 2009.

So bundle up, enjoy your friends and family, takes some pictures of the little ones for memories, and keep those holiday debts low, low, low. Happy Holidays!

Michael Molaka
CFE Federal Credit Union—www.mycfe.com



(This article is not intended to render legal or financial advice. A competent professional should be sought to discuss your personal situation and specific needs)

How to Get What You Want This Holiday Season



Now you can have the happiness you want this holiday season with less rush, stress, and disappointment. How? It begins with knowing what you want. After all, if you don't know, what you want how can you expect anyone else to?

First, rekindle your memories. What made them special? What's important this year? From finances, to feasts, to football, you can make it happen. Have your love make a list, too. Then, discuss your answers. Finally, get the mistletoe and celebrate your best holiday season ever.

Tips:

- * List more than one choice for your requests. This gives you and your love options if your first one can't be fulfilled.
- * Say thank you often. Everyone needs to be appreciated if only for their efforts and thoughtfulness. A heart-felt "Thank you" is a timeless gift.
- * Need a little coaxing to get the something done? Sweeten your request with a gift certificate for hugs, kisses... whatever. Get creative!

Dear _____

To make the holidays easy, special, and fun for us this year, here's a list of my favorites:

Places to go _____

Events/Activities _____

Food _____

Songs/Music _____

People to be with _____

Holiday tradition _____

New tradition I'd like to create _____

My three biggest challenges and how you can help are _____

I'd like to go out for _____

I like to have (holiday/s) _____ at home.

Help for the Holidays—Local Businesses



AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE –

Action Gator Tire – www.actiongatortire.com
Mechanics Plus – www.mechanicsplus.com

BEAUTY AND STRESS RELIEF –

Lee's Hair Salon - 407-6757-9450
Beauti Control Mobile Spas – Faye Beach
spatreatments@ymail.com
Ancient Sun Henna - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Ancient+Sun+Henna>

CASH

The Gold Buying Company - <http://www.thegoldbuyingcompany.com/>
Barter International - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=BarterFirst+International>
Klassy Kids Consignment - <http://www.klassykidz.com/>

CATERING –

C. Mattern Catering - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=C.+Mattern+Catering>

CHILDREN –

Amaya Papaya Play Lounge –
www.amayapapaya.com
Klassy Kidz Consignment - <http://www.klassykidz.com/>

CLOTHING AND APPAREL –

Red Willow Dry Cleaners - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Red+Willow+Cleaners>
Angora Design – Alterations, Seamstress, and more - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Angora+Design>
Klassy Kidz Consignment - <http://www.klassykidz.com/>

EVENT VENUE– ENTERTAINMENT—

Gallery J Studios – www.galleryj.com
Music Teachers' Collective - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Music+Teachers+Collective>
Harpist Gilbert - <http://www.myspace.com/gilbertromeroharpist>

GIFTS –

Blue Sky Collection - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Blue+Sky+Collection>
Office Depot - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Office+Depot>
Ol' Time Cigarshop – www.oltimecigars.com

JEWELRY—

Jewelers of Maitland- <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Jewelers+of+Maitland>
Silpada Jewelry - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Silpada+Designs>

HOME CLEANING, IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIR –

Capitol Cleaning & Company - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Capitol+Cleaning+%26+Company+,LLC>
Color Tile – Carpets Plus –
www.colortilecasselberry.com
Kitchens by Antonio –
www.kitchensbyantonion.com

PET SERVICES – Above and Beyond Pet Sitting -

<http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Above+%26+Beyond+Pet+Sitting+,LLC>
Feelin' Groomy Pet Salon and Self Service Dog Wash – www.feelinggroomypetsalon.com

PHOTOGRAPHY –

R. Buckley Photo <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=R+Buckley+Photo> and
www.rbuckleyphoto.com

SHIPPING—BILL PAYMENT—Pak Mail of

Casselberry <http://allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Pak+Mail+of+Casselberry>

TRAVEL—

CRS Hotel Reservation Services -
www.CRSHotels.com



Photo by: Sam McMullen

Risa Henig

Artist of the Month

If you were looking for spectacular holiday entertainment this year, you had no further to go than Casselberry Woman's Club to find Risa Henig. Risa is an outstanding artist whose vocal range delighted a room full of members and guests with her repertoire of classic carols and popular Christmas tunes.

Throughout the half hour presentation, audience members laughed, smiled, and tapped their toes along with her. When she sang Silent Night, even the hardiest of us fought back tears. After hearing her it's easy to tell why she's garnered leading roles in West Side Story, Grease, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Annie, A Grand Night for Singing, and may other productions for National Tour and regional theater.

What makes her an even greater delight is that Risa is practically home grown right here. After living in New York and Connecticut where she started singing on stage at age 5, her parents moved to Indian Hills in 1968. She was here before Disney, Risa is quick to point out with a melodic laugh and enchanting broad smile. Growing up, she attended English Estates Elementary, Tuskawilla Middle School and Lake Howell High. From there, she went on to the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, one of the world's foremost training grounds of musical theater talent.

In New York, Alan Henig, a young theatrical sound technician heard about Risa, but never met Risa. After she came back to Orlando, he heard her name again. This time he called, and the match was perfect. Today they live in Royal Oaks off Red Bug Road with their 11 year-old daughter, Rachel, who Risa and Alan proudly admit, has a voice to rival her mother's.



Left, Risa with her husband Alan, and right with her mother Mina Waxman, also a talented singer. Mina still lives in Indian Hills. How lucky we are to have them all in our community.



If you have the opportunity to hear Risa, it will be a delight you'll never forget. She often performs at the Celebration Hotel, Grand Bohemian Hotel, and currently with The Caroling Company.



Excellence Pays Off for Students

Brittany Pendle sold hot chocolate at Jazzin' Up the Holidays this month, trying to pay the fees for participating in the Lyman Diamonds Dance Team and Winter Guards. The cost is over \$1,200 per year. Successful students like Brittany can obtain a \$500 scholarship for participating in activities like the Diamonds and Winter Guards, but there are other ways to earn money for college such as the Casselberry Chamber of Commerce scholarships.



Brittany with Lilian Casselberry

The Casselberry Chamber of Commerce will award five \$500 scholarships to students from Lyman, Lake Howell, and Winter Springs High Schools. The scholarships are open to any graduating senior who has been employed by a business on a part-time or full-time basis during their senior year 2010-2011.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Transcript, prepared by the Guidance Department, showing an overall GPA of at least 3.0 is recommended.
2. A letter of recommendation from a teacher.
3. A letter of recommendation from an employer.
4. A personal letter of recommendation (cannot be a family member).
5. Plans for attending a post-secondary institution (copy of proof of acceptance, if available).
6. A 100 word summary on one specific community service project completed sometime during your four years in high school. What did the experience teach you? Typewritten and double spaced.
7. A typewritten (double-spaced) essay of 350 words or less which answers the following question: *"What experience(s) have taught me about the importance businesses have in the community?"*

Once the completed entries have been submitted all essays will be numbered and judged by the Chamber's Scholarship Committee who will review and rate them. The judges will rate the essays on composition, quality and content. Scholarships will be awarded at the April 6th, 2011 Chamber monthly luncheon.



Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for courses at any college or university. The winners must provide proof of acceptance and entry into a post-secondary institution by the award date in order to receive the funds.

For an application contact Hank Lander, Communication Solutions, c/o Casselberry Chamber of Commerce, 445 Surrey Run, Casselberry, FL 32707. Phone:



Neighborhoods Get Decked Out

While many of us shy away from displaying our talents, the holiday season is just the opposite. After rummaging through boxes and storage bins, not to mention a trip to Home Depot, Target, and Big Lots, we head for the outdoors. There for all the neighborhood to see, we happily display our home decorating talents, hobbies, interests, and religious beliefs, and sense of humor. Our mediums vary from lights to plants, plastic blow up characters to fine ribbon and wood crafting. No wonder it's said, "T'is the season to be jolly," because we can all share and admire our neighbors' views as well as our own. Here are a few of our residents caught in the act of home decorating early in the season.

Left: Victor and Lillian Garcia of Lost Lake Lane choose to let their reindeer run free on the front lawn.



Right: At the Camelot home of Ralph and Melanie Golden, the old fashioned approach works best. He chooses to keep them and the bears fenced into their candy cane stockade.

Bottom left: Ralph puts the finishing touches on the candy cane fence. Hope the critters don't get loose.





Above, Linda Smith outside her home on Sausalito.

Right and below left, this tastefully decorated home on Jasmine Road uses a flag and wreath to compliment the colorful bougainvillea.

Bottom right: Barbara Clark at her Guinevere home in Camelot loves to decorate and garden as a stress reliever. Wrapping her barren tree with lights and balls will make it dazzle at night.



Congratulations Arnold and Sandy McVige *111 Carriage Hill Drive*



What an outstanding Celebration of Lights!

Photo by: Faye Beach

Sandi Solomon's Potato Latkes (Pancakes)

6. From page 47

2 lbs. potatoes
1 medium onion
1 large egg, beaten
3-4 tbs. flour or matzah meal
salt and pepper to taste
vegetable oil for frying



1. Peel the potatoes and put them in cold water. Using a food processor, or grater, coarsely grate the potatoes and onion.
2. Place together in a fine mesh strainer to squeeze out water.
3. Mix the potatoes and onion with the flour.
4. Add the egg and salt and pepper.
5. Heat a griddle or non-stick pan with at least one inch of vegetable oil.
6. Drop around 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture into the pan. After a few seconds, flatten the mound with the back of spatula.
7. Fry for a few minutes until golden. Flip the latke over and brown the other side.
8. Remove to paper towels to drain.
9. Serve immediately or keep warm (and crispy) in a 250 degree oven.

DO YOU KNOW A GOOD BUSINESS WHEN YOU SEE ONE?

Wonderful! Then we want to know about it!

We're already planning on participating in the Seminole County Chamber of Commerce hunt for the best in several categories.

***TELL US WHO IN CASSELBERRY YOU
THINK SHOULD BE VOTED:***

Entrepreneur of the Year

Family Owned Business

Home Based Business

Small Business Advocate

Not-For-Profit Business of the Year

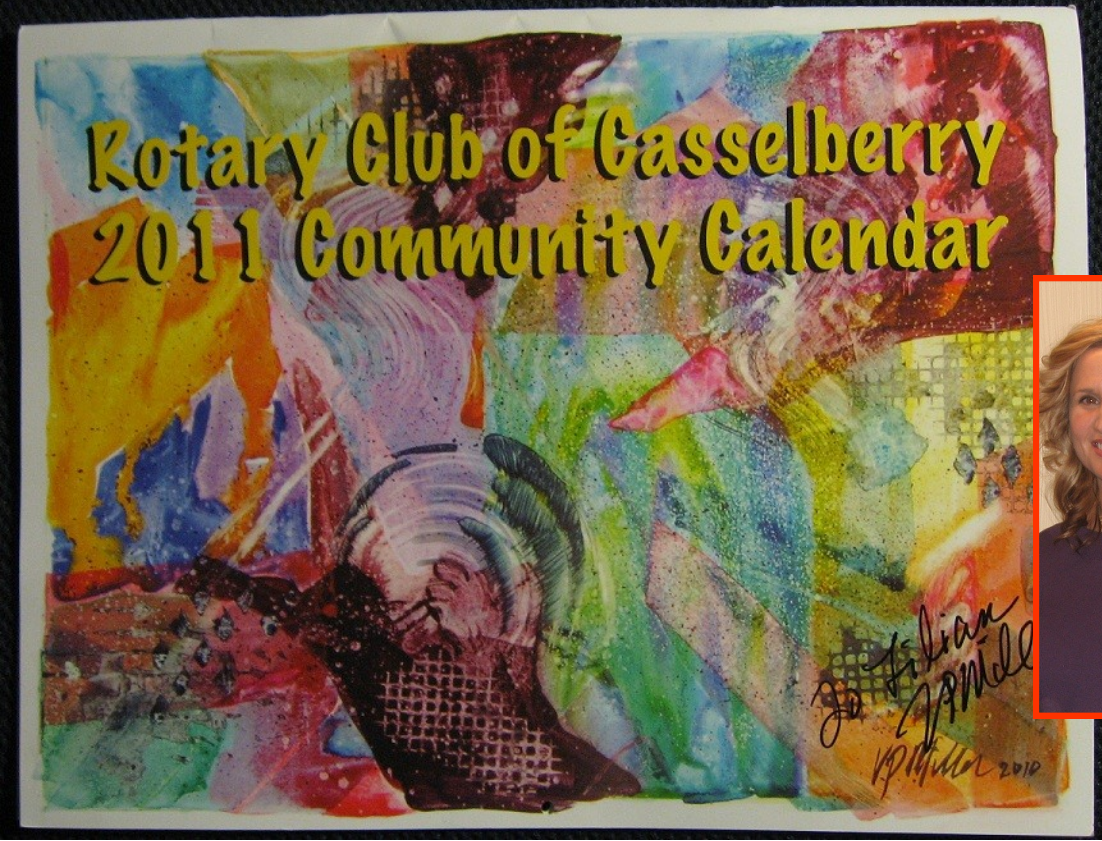
And SMALL BUSINESS—PERSON OF THE YEAR

HISTORY OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK –

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. As part of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes this special impact made by outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. In 2010, National Small Business Week will honor the estimated 27.2 million small businesses in America. Small businesses are major contributors to the strength of the American economy. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business. They also create 60-80 percent of new jobs in the country. Small businesses drive innovation, create 21st century jobs and increase U.S. competitiveness.

Keep watching for more information on this event.





Linda Moore, city Recreation Manager, with cover artist, V. P. Miller.



Abner Dobeck, June artist, signs his page for November artist Kathleen Bodeur. His painting is behind them. Kathleen's is seen below.



Below, September artist, Gary Paduch, and his "Katrina" below him.



Season's Greetings
from
Reiss Engineering



**A Full Service Civil and Environmental
Firm Serving the City of Casselberry,
the United States, and the World**

By Jim Boswell

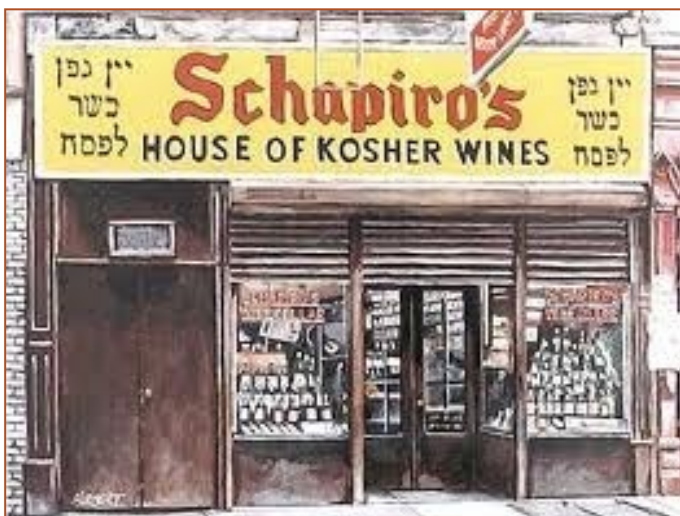
This started out to be an article on the wines of Hanukkah, but it hasn't turned out that way. Not being of the Jewish faith, I learned a couple of things about Hanukkah. First of all, there is no traditional wine for Hanukkah. That put a damper on things right off. Hanukkah is a celebration of the miracle of the oil lamp centuries ago when one day's worth of oil lasted for eight days. It is a celebration that centers around food, rather than drink. Traditionally, the foods are fried in oil because of the origins of Hanukkah.

Of course there are Kosher wines, and they are not all sweet anymore. Most gentiles think of Manischewitz (pronounced *man ah SHEV itz*) when we think of Kosher wine. There used to be an ad on TV that had a tag line of, "Man, oh Manischewitz". Perhaps the new tag line should be "More than Manischewitz".

Since there are no traditional Hanukkah wines, we can look at some things going on in the wines from Israel. Some very good and very interesting wines are being made in Israel. Some are Kosher and some are not. They are not ceremonial wines, they are wines to be enjoyed just like any other wine.

The term Boutique Wines probably originated in California, but it describes what is happening in Israel right now. Small artisanal wineries are the norm. So what kinds of new wines can be found there?

The grape varieties are not ancient types because the area was ruled by Muslims for centuries, and the vineyards were destroyed. The wines now are made from grape varieties that can be found in fine winemaking areas throughout the world. You can find everything from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot to Chardonnay and Gewurztraminer.



It's not your father's Manischewitz. Enjoy!



Jim's passion for wine began more than 35 years ago. Early influences were television shows *The Galloping Gourmet* (Graham Kerr) and *Julia Child*.

Before blogging, Jim has had a distinguished career in management. He has given his time and energy to his community in leadership positions in both business and nonprofit sectors, including the Boy Scouts, Rotary, and Casseberry Chamber of Commerce.

You can follow Jim at www.AvoidBadWine.com, a blog



targeted toward the casual wine drinker rather than the wine connoisseur. "Our main interest is in helping people find out what they like and how to find it at a good price."

The easy way to create a party they will remember!

Do you want a **Sophisticated Event** to impress your clients? How about an **Intimate Atmosphere** for your special occasion? A Funky, Dynamic Venue—maybe even a **Rat Pack Party** where we can arrange to bring in your

Gallery J Studios

UNIQUE—WARM—HIP

A Party Waiting to Happen!

Go to www.galleryjstudios.com

**BOOK NOW
for the Holidays!**

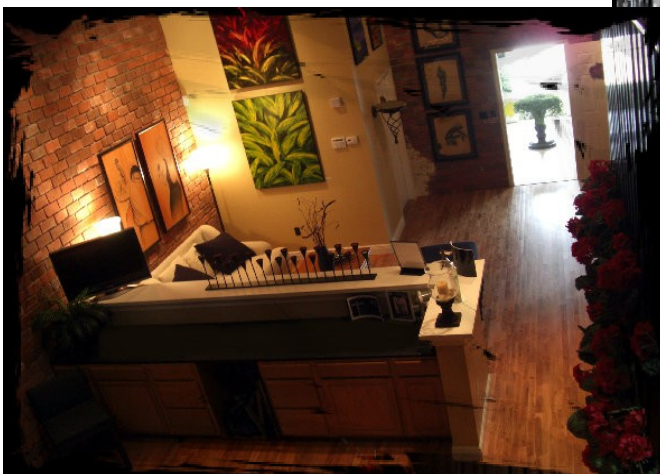




Photo by: Lilian Casselberry

We invite you to *The Other Side of the Highway*

There are a good many commercial buyers and real estate brokers who think of Casselberry from the perspective of a location's price, traffic count, demographics, and legislative reviews. That's certainly necessary. But during this busy holiday season, we on this side of the highway invite you to take a closer look at our city as a place you and your employees might want to call home.

Part of Casselberry's charm is that a good number of residents came here years ago, raised their families, and stayed. They've resisted their family's urge to move them to a condominium because they love their home and their neighborhoods. Slowly these homes are coming available, and buyers will look at them with a discerning eye.

We here invite those who are looking for more than a home—but a new hometown. If you are one of those people, you'll find excellent schools, plenty of parks, and homes to suit most every taste. Think of the freedom and peace of mind knowing that all these are close to homes in a variety of styles and price ranges. With a wise eye to remodeling, your dollar will go farther in Casselberry.

But Hibbard Casselberry thought less about the size of a man's wallet—and more about how he would fit into a pew at church on Sunday morning. (Photo looking west to Highway 17-92 from Sunset Drive)

SIEMENS SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY AWARDS

SIEMENS

One of the Top 3 Small Cities
in the US
2010



Above left: Industrial lot near Highway 17-92. Right: A commercial lot well located at the intersection of Seminola Blvd and Winter Park Drive. Both available through Glenn Swindler CCIM—407-808-9557



**For more commercial, industrial,
improved and unimproved land
go to Total Commercial:**

<http://1-1-1-1-1-1.com/allCass/>



Freestanding Restaurant on Highway 17-92
Contact Jeffery Tanner 407-571-5557 and
Kimberly Manson 407-571-5528—Coldwell
Banker Commercial Real Estate



Better Leadership Together



Which Way Did He Go?

By Bill Hufford

Several years ago there was a cartoon show where one character was chasing around another character and was continually losing him. Invariable, he would end up asking, “Which way did he go?” It was his signature line.

When it comes to leadership you don’t want to be the one continually losing those who intend to follow you. In fact, the mark of a good leader is one who knows where he is going and clearly shows others the goal and how to get there.

When I reflect on this Christmas season, faith and family, and how that applies to leadership my thoughts go to Abraham. There is no question that he was a great leader of not only his family but of the nation that followed him.

Abraham was obviously a passionate man that cared for his family and followed after God. He had a great vision and a desire to lead. But was he the ideal leader?

Let’s look at the backdrop to the story and see what “instructions” he was given, how he processed them, and what specific action steps he took.

In Genesis 12:1-2 it says, “Now the Lord said to Abram, [that’s what he was called before his name was changed] ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.’” Everything is going well so far. In this case God told Abraham what to do. It helps when God gives you a vision!

Having received his instructions one would presume, like a good leader, he knew just what to do, where to go, and how to accomplish the task. Unfortunately, God pointed the direction, but He didn’t include a road map. In Hebrews 11:8 it says, “By faith...he went out NOT KNOWING where he was going.”

Now, I don’t know about you, but if I were in his family, it’s right about here that I would want to sit down and have a family talk. What kind of leader would ask his family to leave home and friends and have no clue where he was going? But that is what happened - and the rest, as they say, is history. Many nations were blessed because of what Abraham did.

In a recent book, the authors discussed the pros and cons of changing your leadership approach when trying to get a new product to market. You could research it to death before finally bringing it to market, possibly after your competitors had theirs out for months. They defined that approach by changing the traditional line, “Ready, Aim, Fire.” Or you might take the alternative approach and launch the new product and make adjustments as you go. “Ready, Fire, Aim.” I guess you could say that Abraham was the first to demonstrate this methodology.

So how does this apply to today?
Which way do I go?

For many of us the road has been a difficult one these last few years and we truly don't know what to do next. We may want to lead, but are asking for a “sign” as to what to do, or what steps to take next. Fear and uncertainty keep us frozen in our tracks. So what do we do if we don't get a clear sign? It might be a time where we “by faith” move or not move at all until the details have been spelled out.

As we reflect on what this season is all about this is a good time to learn from Abraham. Look to God. Renew your faith in Him. Then lead in confidence. You and your family may not know all the details or have all the answers for what comes next. But rest assured, He does!



In Hebrews 11:8 it says, “By faith...he went out NOT KNOWING where he was going.” Now, I don't know about you, but if I were in his family, it's right about here that I would want to sit down and have a family talk.



If loneliness is a problem during the holidays, here is a link that is sure to make you smile.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=hN8CKwdosjE

Off the Grid Gourmet

By Faye Beach

Christmas is a special time of year for many of us and we all have special memories of the Christmases that stand out in our minds. Our Christmases in North Florida were not elaborate, but my memories of them bring me to a place I will always cherish.

It was a simple yet exciting time where the smells, the lights, and the music created a magical place in what was usually ordinary. Our tree was always a cedar tree cut down on my Granddaddy's old farm.

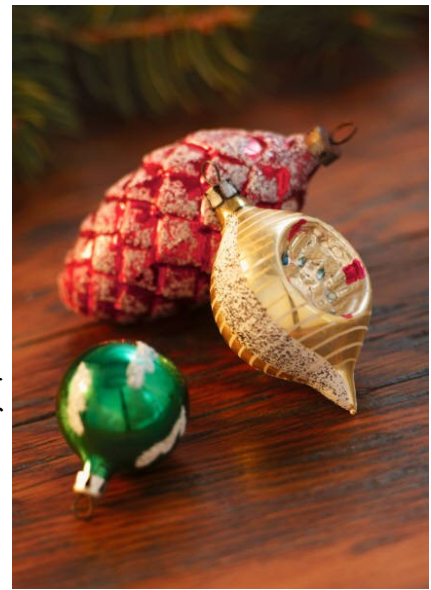
The tree usually had a hole on one side so Mama would cut branches from other cedar trees to fill in. She used a bucket filled with dirt and broken bricks to wedge the tree and the branches together to form the most beautifully shaped tree one could imagine. It was magnificent and the smell of the fresh cedar was intoxicating. It was always decorated with the same lights and ornaments, and today many of those ornaments are on my tree. The lights had to go, however. They were the kind that if one went out they all went out, and it took forever to find the blown bulb.

Oh, and by the way, you must have a glass of eggnog while decorating the tree. My family did not drink, but you had to put one teaspoon of bourbon in the eggnog for flavoring, even for us kids. You know, we always bought a fifth of bourbon every Christmas even though we never finished the bottle from the year before. Now what could have happened to the bottle from last year?

On Christmas Eve we would hang our stocking on the mantel piece. We did not have fancy stockings with our names on them. Our stockings were always Granddaddy's gray wool hunting socks that had red and green stripes around the top. I would put red ribbon on my stocking so Santa would know it was mine and not my brothers. On Christmas morning we would run into the living room to see what Santa had brought, and to check out our stockings. They were always stuffed with an orange, a tangerine, pecans still in the shell, some candy canes, and candy kisses. The orange and tangerine were just like the ones in the kitchen, but the one in our stocking always tasted better than the ones in the kitchen, and the pecans were far superior.

I would like to take this time to say Merry Christmas to you all and hope that you have the kind of Christmas that will live in your heart forever. As we plan and prepare for the big day I would encourage you to remember the true meaning of celebrating Christmas and emphasize what is really important. It is not about what we get or what we have, but about the love of Jesus Christ who was born and died for each of us. What a present He gave us!!

I am very happy to share with you some of my mama's favorite recipes for the holidays. She made them with love and joy for her family. If buying lots of gifts is not in your budget try making a few special goodies and share them with those whom you care about. When someone takes time and care to prepare homemade goodies it shows they are giving you something to enjoy and a little piece of themselves. That cannot be bought at the mall.



Merry Christmas Everyone - and God Bless!

These recipes for Martha Washington Balls and Rum Balls are being typed from my mama's hand written recipe, and I am not making changes. I really wish you could see the originals. To me they are fabulous.

Martha Washington Balls

Combine:

- 2 Boxes powdered sugar
- 1 stick margarine, melted
- 1 can condensed milk

Mix well and add following ingredients:

- 2 cans coconut
- 2 cups chopped nuts (nuts in our house meant pecans)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Blend well. Roll in small balls and put in freezer for 1 hour.

Topping

- 8 oz. semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- ¼ pound paraffin wax

Melt chocolate morsels and wax together in a double boiler. Dip balls in this mixture.

Toasted Pecans

Cover a cookie sheet with one layer pecan halves. Dot with butter (just enough that when melted the pecans will be lightly coated). Sprinkle with seasoned salt to taste.

Place in preheated 325° F. oven. When butter melts stir until nuts are lightly coated.

Continue to bake until nuts begin to brown. Remove and let cool. Do not overcook. Nuts continue to cook when removed from the oven.

These make wonderful gifts. Place in a decorative jar and



Rum Balls

- 1 cup crushed vanilla wafers
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 ½ cup finely chopped nuts
- 2 T. cocoa
- 2 T. light corn syrup ¼ cup light rum or (2 T. cream and 1 T. rum flavoring)

Combine fine crumbs, sugar, nuts, and cocoa. Add syrup and flavoring, mix well. Form into balls ¾ inch in diameter. Roll balls in chopped nuts or granulated sugar. Serve as unbaked cookie. Store in tightly covered container. Makes 5 dozen.



Don't forget your best friend this season

Above and Beyond Pet Sitting - <http://www.allcass.com/biz.asp?Business=Above+%26+Beyond+Pet+Sitting,+LLC>

Feelin' Groomy Pet Salon and Self Service Dog Wash - www.feelinggroomypetsalon.com

Sharing Hanukkah

with City Commissioner
Sandi Solomon



The holiday of Chanukah (Hanukkah) celebrates the events which took place 2,300 years ago in the land of Judea, which is now Israel. Chanukah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, but the starting date on the western calendar varies from year to year.

In Judea 2,300 years ago there was a Syrian king named Antiochus. The king ordered the Jewish people to reject their God, their religion, their customs, and their beliefs. He wanted the Jewish people to worship the Greek Gods. There were some who did as they were told, but many refused. One who refused was Judah Maccabee. Judah and his four brothers formed an army and chose as their name the word, "Maccabee", which means hammer. After three years of fighting, the Maccabees were successful in driving the Syrians out of Israel. They then went to reclaim the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Maccabees wanted to clean the building and to remove the hated Greek symbols and statues. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, the job was finished and the Temple was rededicated. They wanted to light the eternal light, known as the Ner Tamid, which is present in every Jewish house of worship. Once lit, the oil lamp should never be extinguished. Only a tiny jug of oil was found with only enough oil for a single day. The oil lamp was filled and lit. Then a miracle occurred as the tiny amount of oil stayed lit not for one day, but for eight days.

Jews celebrate Chanukah to mark the victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. The Festival of the Lights, Chanukah, lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the oil. The word "Chanukah" means rededication. In America, families celebrate Chanukah at home. They give and receive gifts, decorate the house, entertain friends and family, eat special foods, and light the holiday menorah, an eight branched candelabra with a ninth branch for a so-called "helper" candle called the Shamash. Each of the eight candles represent one of the eight nights of Chanukah, which in turn represent the miracle of Chanukah.



Special blessings are chanted before the lighting of the candles and the family sings traditional songs together afterward. Special foods are eaten, potato latkes and sufganiyot (donuts), foods that are fried in oil. Jews greet each other with "Happy Chanukah" or "Chag Samayach", which means Happy Holidays!

Sufganiyot (donuts)

“Sufganiyot are best eaten within a few hours of making. Of course, most sufganiyot in my house never make it to the table!”



Ingredients:

2 tbs. active dry yeast, 1/2 cup warm water (100 degrees to 110 degrees), 1/4 cup plus 1 tsp sugar, plus more for rolling,
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour plus more for dusting, 2 large eggs, 2 tbs unsalted butter at room temperature,
1/2 tsp freshly grated nutmeg or cinnamon (optional), 3 cups vegetable oil, 1 cup seedless raspberry or strawberry jam or caramel (dulce de leche),
powdered sugar, baking syringe or pastry bag (for filling the donuts)

1. Combine yeast, warm water, and 1 tsp sugar in a small bowl. Set aside until foamy, about 10 minutes.
2. Place flour in a large bowl, making a well in the center. Add eggs, yeast mixture, 1/4 cup sugar, butter, and nutmeg or cinnamon.
3. Using a wooden spoon, stir to form a sticky ball of dough.
4. On a well-floured work surface, knead the dough for approximately 8 minutes, until it is smooth and soft, and bounces back when poked with a finger. Add more flour as necessary.
5. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Set in a just warmed oven to rise until doubled, approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
6. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and roll it to 1/4 inch thickness.
7. Using a 2 1/2 inch round cutter or drinking glass, cut 20 rounds. Dip the edge of the glass or cutter into flour as necessary to ease in the cutting.
8. Cover the rounds with plastic wrap and let rise for another 15 minutes.
9. In a large frying pan, heat oil until a deep-frying thermometer registers 370 degrees. Using a slotted spoon, carefully slip 4 rounds into oil. Fry until golden, about 40 seconds. Turn sufganiyot over, fry until golden on other side, another 40 seconds.
10. Remove the sufganiyot onto a paper towel lined baking sheet.
11. Once they are cool enough to handle, fill the donuts with jelly or caramel. Fill a syringe with 5-10cc of jelly. Place the tip of the syringe right inside the edge of the donut. Squirt the filling inside, until you can see it bubbling from underneath the surface of the donut. Be careful not to overfill the donut.
12. Powder each donut with sugar on both sides.
13. During the final four steps of making sufganiyot, time is of the essence. Filling the donuts while still hot is ideal. If possible, work on your sufganiyot with someone else - while they fry, you can fill and powder with sugar.

B'teavon! (Bon Appetite in Hebrew)

For Sandi's recipe for Latkes go to page 34

SEEN AROUND THE CITY



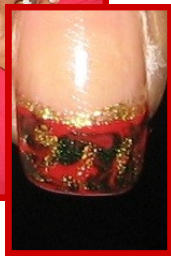
It's a busy time of the year for Rakesh & Ketna Sukhadia at PAK MAIL at the corner of Highway 17-92 and Seminola Blvd.



Did you remember to stop to think about Pearl Harbor and our service men and women on December 7?



Michelle Braddy at Bank of America got all decked out for the holidays—from her spangled earrings to the tips of her fingers. That's the spirit, Michelle!



The Woman's Club is growing with delightful women of all ages. Right: are two new members Jessica Rosario (left), and Joyce A. Rogers.



Left: Balloons have become a holiday art form, as you can see by our colorful Nutcracker by Amusement with a Twist.

Right: Domes have now taken over yards, complete with snow falling on Park



Girls of All Ages Just Want to Have Fun!



Whether it's at the Women in Finance Holiday party and fundraiser for KISS—the Tree Lighting at City Hall—or hangin' with Santa at the Carriage Hill party...

Girls just want to have fun this season!





Upcoming Events

City Calendar: For meetings, <http://casselberry.org/CurrentEvents.aspx>. The most comprehensive calendar is on the right side, sorted by week and month.

Standing meetings:

Rotary Club of Casselberry— Every Wednesday 7:15 am—Metro Life Church, 910 S. Winter Park Dr. Casselberry. The Rotary Club will not meet the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the one between Christmas and New Years. For more info: www.casselberryrotaryclub.org

Womans Club of Casselberry: the first Tuesday of the month (October-June) beginning at 11:30. For more info call Carol Fildes at 407-695-2026 or go to www.womansclubofcasselberry.org

Jan 4 - Canine Companions for Independence, trainer will speak about training companion

Angel Food—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
www.angelfoodministries.com

Friends of the Parks

- Jan. 15 **Martin Luther King Community Service Day**
- Jan. 22 **Air Potato Raid- Wirz Trail Head**

Boy Scouts—Troop 341— for ages 11-18— Monday nights 7:30—9 at Community United Methodist Church.

Seminole County Public Schools
Dec 20-22 Early dismissal for Students
Dec 23—Schools close for the holidays—Reopen for Third Quarter—Second Semester on January 10



Some Local Christmas Services

Casselberry United Methodist Church Calendar— <http://www.casselberrychurch.org/events.aspx?view=calendar&date=2010/12/01&year=2010&month=12&catid=0>

Ascension Lutheran Church Holiday Calendar—<http://www.ascensionlcms.org/>

Metro Life Church Events—<http://www.metrolife.org/events.html>

Westminster Presbyterian Church Sunday Worship Service is at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Fellowship Hour with refreshments. Sunday School in Shepherd Hall at 9:30 a.m.

East Coast Believers Church—<http://www.eastcoastbelievers.org/322277.ihtml>