



Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen

July 2026 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Henry Penas



On Saturday, June 20, we held our 23rd Anniversary Banquet. It was a luncheon at Tropical Acres. We had 106 attendees. Besides the usual excellent food the restaurant served, we had a wealth of door prizes to give away.

Starting in early June, board members and other volunteers did all the legwork to make the event happen.

The process of getting door prize donations is complex. We identify businesses in the area with whom we have a connection. They are mostly restaurants that we frequent at our monthly luncheons, monthly dinner parties, early bird dinners and nights out at Tropics. We then find out the names of the managers of those establishments and send them a letter of solicitation.

That leads to a follow-up phone call to hopefully seal the deal, followed by a visit to the establishment to pick up the prizes.

In the letter we make the case that it's a win-win situation. The door prizes are the highlight of the luncheon and most of the attendees leave with a gift certificate. It's a win for the restaurants because most winners will go with a friend or two and the restaurant gets new customers. We also print the list of donating businesses in our newsletter for all the world to see!

I want to thank Doug Kent and Ed Slough for the work they do year-round, booking all those lunch and dinner opportunities for us to enjoy.

I want to give a special thank you to Paul McNamara for all the work he did in making the dinner arrangements and the table place cards.

Hopefully next year's Anniversary Banquet will be even better. We are currently working on arranging our yearly Holiday/White Elephant Banquet. It's never too early to hunt for your White Elephant Exchange gift.

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A social club of mature men and those who enjoy their company.

Visit **wp.ftlprimegentlemen.org**
and click on: [Join](#)

SURFER

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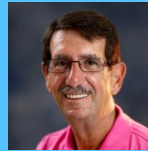
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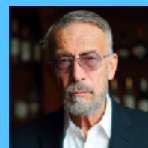
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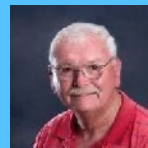
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Treasurer Emeritus

Mike Trask





KINKY BOOTS: THE MUSICAL

Friday, July 17 @ 1:30 PM at the Pride Center

Free movie including popcorn and soda!

A SAGE and PRIME GENTLEMEN Event



The entrances of drag queen Lola in *Kinky Boots* are a thing to behold—rising from a trapdoor draped in a floor-length crimson gown and wearing a curly blonde wig, part Diana Ross, part Whitney Houston. The musical is based on the 2005 film inspired by the real-life story of a troubled Northampton shoe factory that switches to making thigh-high boots for drag queens. It's a riot of feathers and sparkle, with the production going all out on the costumes.

The foil to Lola's otherworldly glamour is the everyman character Charlie Price. Charlie is likable yet directionless, pulled back home from London by the death of his father to reluctantly take over the ailing family business. A chance encounter with Lola and her friends leads to a mad scheme to save the factory, along with a bit of culture-clash comedy. *Kinky Boots* approaches gender and sexuality in a warm, good-humored way and lightly explores themes of fathers and sons, expectations, and acceptance.

Harvey Fierstein's book offers a fair amount of "tell, don't show" along the way. "We may have been born in a small factory town, but I sure as hell don't intend to stay!" Charlie's fiancée explains. Cyndi Lauper's lyrics have a certain pop-music predictability, although you couldn't call her paean to stilettos, "Sex Is in the Heel," obvious. The pop-rock energy of Lauper's songs drives the show, and there is also some Latin flair in the dynamic and versatile choreography.

MAN OF THE MONTH

IRVING CAMIEL

Interviewed by Kenneth Sabanosh

Born on October 18, 1938, in Stamford, Connecticut, our Hero of the Month grew up in a close-knit family with two brothers and a sister. His father owned a small jewelry store, and many of his childhood memories revolved around helping with the family business and spending weekends at farmers' markets and antique fairs. Those early experiences sparked a lifelong appreciation for design, craftsmanship, and the beauty of well-made objects.

After graduating from high school in 1956, he pursued his artistic interests at the New England School of Art in Boston, where he studied art and interior design. A naturally creative person, he quickly discovered a passion for transforming spaces and helping people create environments that reflected both function and beauty. His education provided the foundation for a career that would span more than fifty years.

Following college, he worked as a furniture manufacturer's representative before establishing his own interior design company. Over the years, he collaborated with furniture manufacturers, design studios, and corporate clients on a wide variety of residential and commercial projects. His talent for combining aesthetics with practicality earned him numerous accolades and the respect of colleagues throughout the industry. Among his proudest accomplishments were the high-tech corporate interiors he designed, many of which received awards for innovation and visual impact.

Relationships have played an important role in shaping his life. He was married and raised three sons, all of whom have gone on to successful careers. He is also the proud grandfather of three granddaughters and two great-granddaughters, and he treasures the close and accepting relationship he shares with his family. Later in life, he found love with a talented bridal designer, a relationship that lasted more than a decade. He then shared eight meaningful years with Laurence, an educator, author, poet, and philosopher. Laurence passed away in 2023, leaving behind many cherished memories.

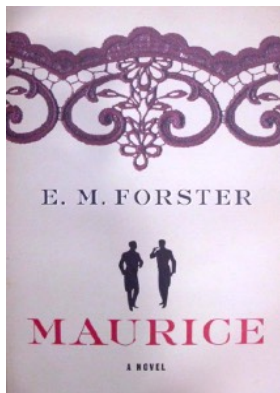
Giving back to the community has always been important to him. During the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, he became actively involved in fundraising and awareness efforts within the design community. He also volunteered with educational programs and charitable organizations, strongly believing in the importance of service.

Today, he enjoys antiques, architecture, interior design, classical music, opera, and travel. After moving to Palm Aire, he was introduced to Prime Gentlemen by a neighbor and quickly discovered a welcoming community of friends and activities. Looking ahead, he is excited for new adventures, continued friendships, and perhaps even a new romance.

His guiding philosophy is simple: **"Be yourself and never be afraid to love."** Those words beautifully reflect a life filled with creativity, resilience, generosity, and heart.

BOOK DISCUSSION

by Paul McNamara



JULY SELECTION:

Maurice: A Novel

by E.M. Forster

This month's selection for discussion is "*Maurice: A Novel*" by E. M. Forster.

E.M. Forster's reputation as one of the finest writers of the twentieth century is based on an output that is both modest in size and remote in time. His last novel, *A Passage to India*, was published in 1924. The appearance of a complete but hitherto unpublished novel is, therefore, a literary event of the greatest importance.

Maurice describes the long and difficult process by which a typical product of middle-class suburbia and education realizes that he is a homosexual. It culminates in an ecstatic love affair through which Maurice both fulfills his nature and, in the compelling series of episodes in which the book closes, rejects his entire inherited system of values and conduct. In this combination-of fulfillment and its inevitable concomitant, rejection-lie the author's reasons and inspiration for writing the novel. Forster wished at once to demonstrate the possibility of love outside normal experience and to expose the rigid structure and morality of a society that did not merely condemn such experience as immoral but, in a more insidious way, regarded it as unnatural.

Although its homosexual content was the reason why Forster decided that the novel, completed in



AUGUST SELECTION:

Tramps Like Us

by Joe Westmoreland

1914, should remain unpublished until his death, *Maurice* cannot be defined by its purpose nor by its theme. It was written by a great novelist at the height of his powers - as those who read it surely find evident.

Maurice will be discussed at the next meeting of the Book Discussion Group, to be held on Saturday, July 25 from 11:00 AM to noon, at the Stonewall Library, 1300 E Sunrise Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, and simultaneously on Zoom. (Meeting ID: 275139 4844 and Passcode: 076609)



PRIME GENTLEMEN EXCURSION

by Ed Slough



DEERING ESTATE

Saturday, July 25 @ 11:00 AM

16701 SW 72nd Ave, Miami, FL 33157

Admission ticket is \$16 for seniors and \$18 for adults



Nestled along the southwestern edge of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, the Deering Estate is one of South Florida's most significant historic and environmental landmarks. The estate's earliest structures date back to 1896, when Samuel H. Richmond built a pioneer home for his family. An addition completed in 1900 became the Richmond Hotel, the first hotel between Coconut Grove and Key West. Today, the estate is best known for its beautifully preserved historic buildings and rich natural surroundings.

Between 1913 and 1918, industrialist and art collector Charles Deering acquired the property and transformed it into a self-sustaining winter residence for himself and his wife, Marion. He renovated the Richmond Inn, added support facilities, and enlisted renowned botanists David Fairchild and John Kunkel Small to help restore the area's native ecosystems. In 1922, architect Phineas Paist completed the estate's iconic 13,000-square-foot Stone House, designed to showcase Deering's extensive collection of art, antiques, and furnishings from around the world.

After Charles Deering's death in 1927, the estate remained in family ownership until 1986, when it was acquired by the State of Florida and added to the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the Deering Estate is managed by Miami-Dade County and supported by the Deering Estate Foundation. Visitors can explore its historic homes, preserved tropical hardwood hammock, and pine rocklands; join guided tours and seasonal ghost tours; and enjoy the site as a venue for weddings and private gatherings.

We will meet at the entrance at 11:00 AM and join a scheduled narrated tour of the estate at 11:30 AM. There is also a nature tour at 12:30 PM. There will be carpools for those wanting a ride. Notify Ed Slough if you wish to attend: wildhybrid@aol.com



FOOD & DRINKS



EARLY BIRD DINNER

Wednesday, July 8, 5:00 PM

Ferdos Grill

4300 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

This Middle Eastern restaurant offers a prix fixe dinner with hummus, greek and tabbouli salads, a choice of beef or chicken shish kebab with vegetables and rice, & dessert for \$25 per person, excluding beverages, tax, & gratuity. To **RSVP**, contact Ed Slough at wildhybrid@aol.com

DINER RUN

Thursday, July 9, 1:00 PM

Lester's Diner

250 W State Rd 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

This is the original location of Lester's & its extensive menu is sure to please even the most discriminating diner devotee. To **RSVP**, contact Doug Kent at [305-495-2978](tel:305-495-2978)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, July 11, 2:00 PM

The Pride Center at Equality Park, Main Hall

2040 N Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

No reservations required; just bring a dish to share for our potluck meal!

DINNER PARTY

Wednesday, July 15, 6:00 PM

Seaside Grill & Tiki Bar

1406 N Ocean Blvd, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Enjoy ocean breezes, great food, and good company in a relaxed beachfront setting as we celebrate friendship, sunshine and community. To **RSVP**, contact Gustavo at gustavomarchini@hotmail.com

NIGHT OUT DINNER

Wednesday, July 22, 5:00 PM

Tropics Grille

2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Join us for happy hour and a half-price menu, hosted by SAGE. To **RSVP**, contact Ed Slough at wildhybrid@aol.com

LUNCHEON

Thursday, July 30, 11:30 AM

Calypso Restaurant & Raw Bar

460 S Cypress Rd, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Outstanding fresh, well-prepared seafood & great service await those who attend this luncheon. To **RSVP**, contact Doug Kent at [305-495-2978](tel:305-495-2978)

BREAKFAST

Every Monday, 9:30 AM

Pub on the Drive

2283 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

No reservations required; just pay for your coffee and food!

MIXER

Every Tuesday, 5:00 PM

Tropics Grille Restaurant & Bar

2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

No reservations required; just pay for your drink(s) and enjoy the food!

CELEBRATIONS & NEW FACES

ANNIVERSARIES

7/3/1973	Donn Murphy & Harold Carrow	53 yrs	7/2/1989	Deric Bownds & Len Walker	37 yrs
7/15/1985	Henry Bernstein & Michael Loscalzo	41 yrs	7/4/2011	John Hughes & Peter Kelly	15 yrs
7/2/1988	Robert Barnett & Frederick Cassity	38 yrs	7/24/2013	Eric Blomquist & Webb Peter	13 yrs
			7/12/2017	Richard DeVries & Nilo Castro	9 yrs

BIRTHDAYS

7/2	James McWilliams	7/19	Mel Beluscak
7/2	Kenneth Westlake	7/20	Walter Rhodes
7/5	Eric Blomquist	7/20	Charles Munster
7/6	Ralph Tanzi	7/21	Daniel Rosenblatt
7/7	Dennis St. Jean	7/21	Donn Murphy
7/8	Roman Cisneros	7/22	Richard Palmer
7/9	Jason Runyan	7/22	Hans Hilgefert
7/9	Peter Webb	7/23	David Esbin
7/12	Chuck Carroll	7/23	David Treece
7/13	Carmine Coppola	7/24	Marco Sangiorgi
7/13	Naylon Leapley	7/24	Roland Laperle
7/14	Arthur Marquardt	7/26	George Wagner
7/14	John Hamwey	7/26	John Reid
7/14	W Wrege	7/26	Ken Gault
7/15	Rick Phillips	7/27	Claude Brent
7/16	Benjamin Herman	7/27	Ken Mylott
7/16	Gregg Warren	7/27	Thomas Valentino
7/16	Michael A Nelson	7/29	Bill McDaris
7/18	Louis Heidel	7/30	Richard Padilla
7/18	John Dowd	7/31	Louis Burkhardt
7/18	Lloyd Schell	7/31	Myron Mikailian
7/19	Gary	7/31	Richard Sgritta

NEW MEMBERS

Gary Beasley
Ismael Cintron
Marco Sangiorgi

Peter Kelly
Stuart Silver



GALLERY

June Monthly Meeting



Congratulations to our 50/50 Winner!



GALLERY

June Monthly Meeting



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JULY BOYS!



GALLERY

June Monthly Meeting



GALLERY

Walking Group



Breakfast at Pub on the Drive



Dinner Party at Milanos Bakery



Movie Group



GALLERY

Night Out Dinner at Tropics Grille



GALLERY

23rd Anniversary Banquet



GALLERY

23rd Anniversary Banquet



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23rd Anniversary Banquet



GALLERY

23rd Anniversary Banquet



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			11 AM Bowling ML 1 PM Bowling MA 1 PM Men's drop-in ZM 4 PM Single Men's Mixer	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Collectors PC 3 PM Co-ed Drop-in ZM 7 PM Walking SC		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8 AM Tennis BP	9:30 AM Breakfast PD 11 AM SOB/A VC 6 PM Online Mixer ZM	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM 5 PM Mixer TR	11 AM Bowling ML 1 PM Bowling MA 1 PM Men's Drop-in ZM 5 PM Early Bird Dinner	8 AM Tennis BP 12 PM Board Meeting ZM 1 PM Diner Run 3 PM Co-ed Drop-in ZM 7 PM Walking SC		2 PM Membership Meeting PC
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8 AM Tennis BP	9:30 AM Breakfast PD 11 AM SOB/A VC 6 PM Online Mixer ZM	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM 5 PM Mixer TR	11 AM Bowling ML 1 PM Bowling MA 1 PM Men's Drop-in ZM 6 PM Dinner Party	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Collectors PC 3 PM Co-ed Drop-in ZM 7 PM Walking SC	1:30 PM Movies PC	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 AM Tennis BP	9:30 AM Breakfast PD 11 AM SOB/A VC 6 PM Online Mixer ZM	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM 5 PM Mixer TR	11 AM Bowling ML 1 PM Bowling MA 1 PM Men's Drop-in ZM 5 PM Night Out Dinner	8 AM Tennis BP 3 PM Co-ed Drop-in ZM 7 PM Walking SC		11 AM Book Discussion Group 11 AM Excursion @ Deering Estate
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8 AM Tennis BP Haulover Beach	9:30 AM Breakfast PD 11 AM SOB/A VC 6 PM Online Mixer ZM	8 AM Tennis BP 2 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM 5 PM Mixer TR	11 AM Bowling ML 1 PM Bowling MA 1 PM Men's drop-in ZM	8 AM Tennis BP 11:30 AM Luncheon 3 PM Co-ed Drop-in ZM 7 PM Walking SC		

LOCATION CODES

BP =	Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr, Pompano Beach 33069
HA =	Haulover Beach, 10800 Collins Ave, Miami Beach 33154
MA =	Margate Lanes, 2020 N State Rd 7, Margate 33063
ML =	Manor Lanes, 1517 NE 26th Street, Fort Lauderdale 33305
PC =	Pride Center, 2040 N Dixie Hwy, Wilton Manors 33305
PD =	Pub on the Drive, 2283 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors 33305
SC =	Skolnick Center, 800 SW 36th Ave, Pompano Beach 33069
SL =	Stonewall Library, 1300 E Sunrise Blvd, Fort Lauderdale 33311
TR =	Tropics Bar and Grille, 2000 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors 33305
VC =	Volen Center, 1515 W Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton 33486
ZM =	Zoom, see weekly e-mail bulletin for link

