Prime Gentlemen Newsletter

December 2026

surfer



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Henry Penas



On Saturday, December 19, we will celebrate our **23rd Holiday Event**. In the early days, our gatherings were small, and we held them in cozy venues when we had far fewer members. One cherished tradition has always been the **White Elephant Exchange**, which remains the highlight of the event.

Here's how it works: Every attendee brings a wrapped gift and, in turn, receives one. The gifts should be funny, outrageous, and inexpensive ($20 or less).

As dessert is served, our elves will distribute gifts randomly to each table. Once the gifts are opened, you can try to exchange yours with anyone at your table. If someone requests your gift, you must relinquish it, but you are still free to negotiate exchanges with others.

When you arrive at Tropical Acres at 12 PM on December 19, look for the gift table. There, you'll receive a ticket in exchange for your wrapped gift. When the exchange begins and the elves come to your table, you'll need to give up your ticket to receive a gift.

The best way to ensure you have the most fun is to bring a gift so you can get one in return!

There are still seats available for the Luncheon, but you better get your reservation in soon. Simply click on this link to access the reservation page. You must log in first before selecting your entrée and paying for your lunch. The deadline for reservations is at 5 PM on December 16. If you need to cancel, please do it by the 16th for a refund. Hope to see everyone there!

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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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Treasurer Emeritus
Mike Trask

MOVIES

by Ed Slough



LILIES NOT FOR ME

Friday, December 11 @ 2:00 PM at the Pride Center

Free movie including popcorn and soda!

A SAGE and PRIME GENTLEMEN Event



Set in 1920s England, the film explores the dark history of conversion therapy through the story of Owen James, a gay man who is institutionalized in a psychiatric facility for attempting to live freely and openly with his sexuality. Through conversations with his psychiatric nurse, Owen recounts his past relationship with Phillip, a medical student who persuades him to undergo a dangerous testicular transplant procedure in an attempt to cure their homosexuality. The procedure results in the deaths of two men, including Charles, with whom Owen develops a relationship, ultimately leading to Owen's arrest and institutionalization.

The film moves between the bleak and oppressive atmosphere of the psychiatric institution and the warmth and intimacy of the cottage, highlighting the contrast between repression and love. Through its three gay characters, the film presents different responses to homosexuality: Owen's acceptance of his identity, Phillip's desire to suppress his sexuality, and Charles's preference for living his truth in secret. It also emphasizes the meaningful friendships that develop between gay men and compassionate nurses who recognize the cruelty of these so-called treatments and challenge the system from within.



MAN OF THE MONTH

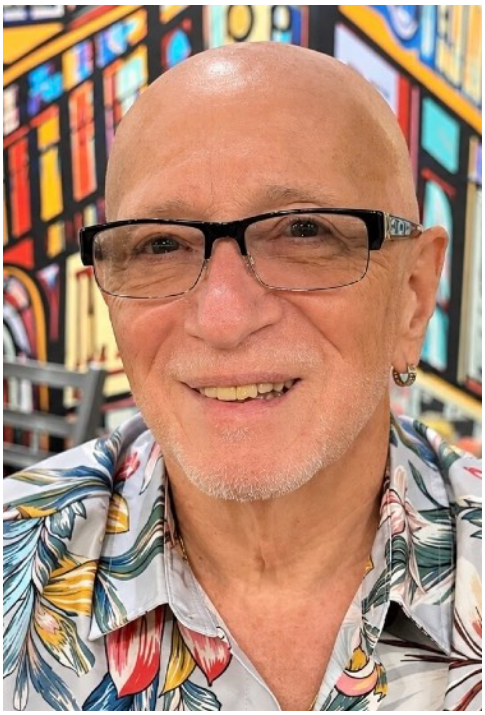
LEONARD GRAZIANO

Interviewed by Al Remer



This month's "Man of the Month" is Leonard (better known as **Lenny**) Graziano. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, in an area called Greenpoint that was a very nice, quiet, Italian neighborhood. On hot summer nights, one neighbor would bring out coffee, another would bring out cake, and everyone would sit out in front of their houses and socialize. Lenny attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School and later attended Delahanty High School. After that, he enrolled in the Fanuele School of Music, where he studied concert piano. Lenny graduated from the school, earning his teacher's certificate in music. In addition, he attended the Mandl School of Medical Assistants and received a degree in laboratory techniques.

Lenny lived in one place until he was 52 years old. During those years, he met Bill (a New York City firefighter), with whom he spent 41 years until Bill passed away from cancer at the age of 71. Lenny's entire family accepted Bill with open arms, something that was unusual in those days, especially for a Catholic family. Also, Bill never had a problem at the firehouse with anyone knowing that he was living with Lenny. During their early years together, Lenny worked for Anchor Savings Bank for 17 years. However, Bill talked Lenny into leaving the bank and going to work for the New York District Attorney's Office, from which he retired in 1995.



The only regret Lenny has had in his life was not being able to marry Bill, as gay marriage wasn't legal in those days. Lenny always wanted to be able to refer to Bill as his husband. When Bill retired after 28 years with the FDNY and Lenny retired after 13 years from the New York City District Attorney's Office, they moved to Sheffield, Massachusetts, and built a house in the Berkshire Hills, where they lived together for about 18 years. After Bill's death, Lenny moved to Palm Bay, Florida, for about 10 years and now resides in Palm Aire. Lenny has been a member of Prime Gentlemen for about 5 years. He loves to swim, walk, and ride his bike. Also, he enjoys playing his Mason & Hamlin antique grand piano every day.

BOOK DISCUSSION

by Paul McNamara



DECEMBER MEETING:

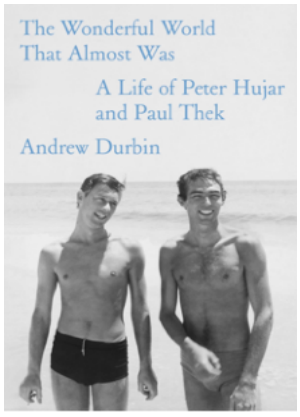
In lieu of a discussion meeting, the group will gather at **11AM** on **Sunday, December 13**, for the *Annual Holiday Brunch* at **Rosie's Bar & Grill**.



JANUARY SELECTION:

The Wonderful World That Almost Was: A Life of Peter Hujar and Paul Thek

by Andrew Durbin



STONEWALL NATIONAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

For more than a decade, the Stonewall National Museum and Archives has generously provided the Book Group with complimentary meeting space. More importantly, for over 50 years, Stonewall has done something no other institution has done: preserved the complete story of LGBTQ+ life in America. The art, the activism, the joy, the struggle, the brilliance. All of it. Through collecting, Stonewall preserves and shares the history and culture of the LGBTQ+ community and our significant contributions to society. Most events, exhibit openings, and receptions have always been free to the public.

Recently, with the government eliminating all direct and ancillary funding to "DEI" organizations, public funding for Stonewall has come under fire. The threat has extended beyond public funding, with certain government officials threatening corporations and private foundations with consequences if they contribute to Stonewall. These actions are dangerous to all LGBTQ+ persons.

Each Prime Gentlemen member is encouraged to consider making a contribution, joining the museum as a member, or renewing an existing membership. Your support will contribute to its vital efforts in this time of extreme need. Membership is not simply about borrowing books but sustaining a national movement that protects our history and culture.

Please make your donation right now, and ask someone else to do the same. Membership information is provided on the Stonewall homepage: https://stonewall-museum.org/

ROUND TABLE EVENTS ARE COMING IN 2027!

What do you know that you could share with your fellow Prime Gentlemen?

Every one of us has something to share. It might come from a career, a lifelong hobby, a special interest, somewhere we've traveled, something we've studied—or simply years of experience. Beginning in January 2027, the Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen will introduce a new series of Round Table Events, designed to bring members together to learn, share, discover and connect. Each month, we plan to explore a different subject, with members—and, when appropriate, invited guests—sharing their knowledge and experience in a friendly, informal setting. But before we create the calendar, we want to discover the knowledge and talents that already exist within our own membership.

Could YOU lead or contribute to a Round Table?

You don't need to be a teacher, lecturer or professional speaker. Perhaps you're the person everyone asks about growing orchids. Maybe you've researched your family history for years. You might know how to take fantastic photographs with a smartphone, have traveled to fascinating places, love music or theatre, understand AI, enjoy cooking, or have spent your career working in a field others would find interesting. You could give a short presentation, demonstrate something, lead a conversation, answer questions—or simply share what you've learned.

Some of the subjects we're currently considering include: Photography; Ancestry & Genealogy; Writing & Storytelling; Artificial Intelligence; Gardening; Travel; Music; Sports; Mindfulness & Wellbeing; Food & Cooking; Film & Theatre; and Art, Architecture & Design. And these are only ideas. Have another subject you're passionate about? We want to hear about that too!

What happens after a Round Table?

This is where the idea becomes particularly exciting. Imagine that one month's Round Table introduces Smartphone Photography. Members attend an introductory session, exchange ideas and learn some basic techniques. If enough participants would like to continue, they could form a Photography Group and meet again for further sessions—perhaps photo editing, creating digital albums or going out together on a photography excursion. Meanwhile, the following month's Round Table introduces an entirely different subject. Over time, our Round Tables could therefore become a way of discovering new activities and interest groups created around what our members genuinely enjoy.

First, we need YOU!

Right now, we're not asking you to sign up to attend a particular Round Table. We're looking for Prime Gentlemen who have knowledge, experience, skills or passions they would enjoy sharing. If that's you, please get in touch with Gustavo and tell him a little about your subject and what you might like to share. Let's find out just how much knowledge, experience and talent is sitting around our own Prime Gentlemen table.

Contact Gustavo Marchini at gustavomarchini@hotmail.com.

FOOD & DRINKS

EARLY BIRD DINNER

Wednesday, December 9, 5:00 PM
The Mason Jar Cafe
3000 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
This cafe offers delicious homestyle classics, generous portions and an irresistible selection of homemade desserts. To RSVP, contact Ed Slough at wildhybrid@aol.com

DINER RUN

Thursday, December 10, 1:00 PM
Rosie's Bar & Grill
2449 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors, FL 33305
Everyone who attends will enjoy a classic menu and great service!
To RSVP, contact Doug Kent at 305-495-2978

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, December 12, 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!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 19, 12:00 PM
Tropical Acres Steakhouse
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
Come and celebrate our annual holiday luncheon with us! See the flyer on the next page for more details.

LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 31, 1:00 PM
Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine
2807 E Oakland Park Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
Known for its outstanding Cuban menu, this will be our last luncheon of 2026, so come and join us! To RSVP, contact Doug Kent at 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!


FORT LAUDERDALE PRIME GENTLEMEN
Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen
2003
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2026
Celebrate the Season with Friends
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2026
Cash Bar Opens
12:00 PM
Luncheon
1:00 PM
TROPICAL ACRES STEAKHOUSE
2500 Griffin Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
MENU
ENTRÉE | MEMBER | NON-MEMBER
Roasted Prime Rib | $42 | $55
Broiled Salmon | $34 | $47
Stuffed Chicken Breast | $28 | $40
Pasta Primavera | $24 | $38
ALL ENTRÉES INCLUDE
Salad • Rolls & Butter • Dessert
Coffee • Tea • Iced Tea • Water
MEMBER PRICING
Member pricing also applies to the member's significant other (spouse or partner). All other non-member guests pay the Non-Member price.
WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE
To participate, please bring a wrapped gift with a value of $20 or less.
RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Click here to register and pay online
RESERVATIONS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUND REQUESTS
BY 5:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 16, 2026.

CELEBRATIONS & NEW FACES

ANNIVERSARIES

12/4/1994	Gary & Richard Brownscombe	32 yrs
12/20/1999	August Azzarello & Stewart Pepper	27 yrs

BIRTHDAYS

12/1	John Kardys
12/2	Bobby Weiss
12/3	David Durham
12/3	Donald Carbon
12/4	William Collins
12/6	Leonard Roche
12/6	Joseph Skarzynski
12/7	Stephen Tessino
12/9	Raymond Patterson
12/10	George Bradshaw
12/10	John Seader
12/11	Gerry Zaebst
12/13	Robert Ottman
12/13	Tim Shaffer
12/14	Jerry Ganz
12/14	Juan Bujosa
12/14	Lewis Shena
12/15	Ellis Squires
12/16	Jimmy Carden
12/16	Robert Shaw
12/16	William Young
12/17	Victor Garcia
12/18	Uriel Elon
12/19	Wayne Howington
12/20	Richard Huitema
12/20	Henry Penas
12/21	Tomas Rosales
12/21	Lyle Blocker
12/22	Barry Carter
12/22	Robert Oliver
12/22	Peter Thyne
12/22	William Sandrik
12/23	Richard McNany
12/24	Joel Cyr
12/26	Patrick Vida
12/27	Charles Geldernick
12/27	Timothy Byrnes
12/28	August Azzarello
12/28	Boyce Brawley
12/29	Richard Keaton
12/29	Mark Britton
12/29	Steven Rowe
12/31	Peter Kelly

NEW MEMBERS

Alberto Santos
John Spartz
Wilfredo Pabon

GALLERY

November Monthly Meeting



Congratulations to our 50/50 Winner!



GALLERY

November Monthly Meeting



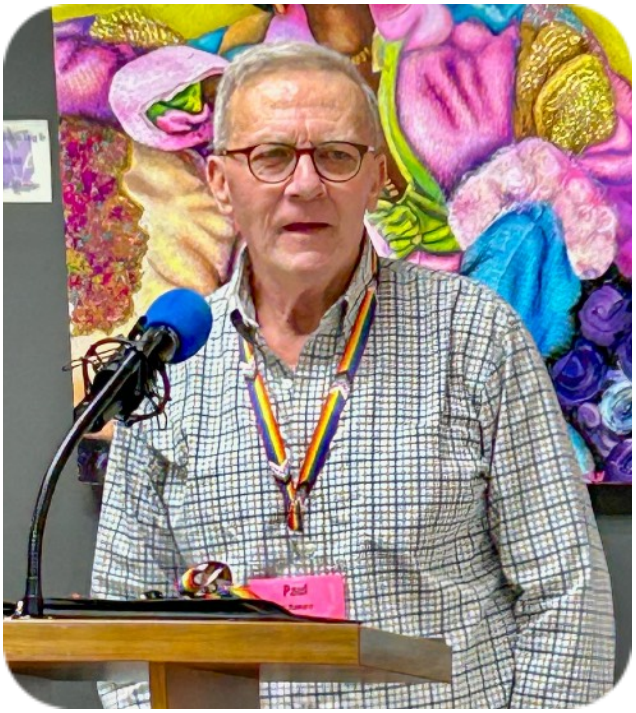
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER BOYS!



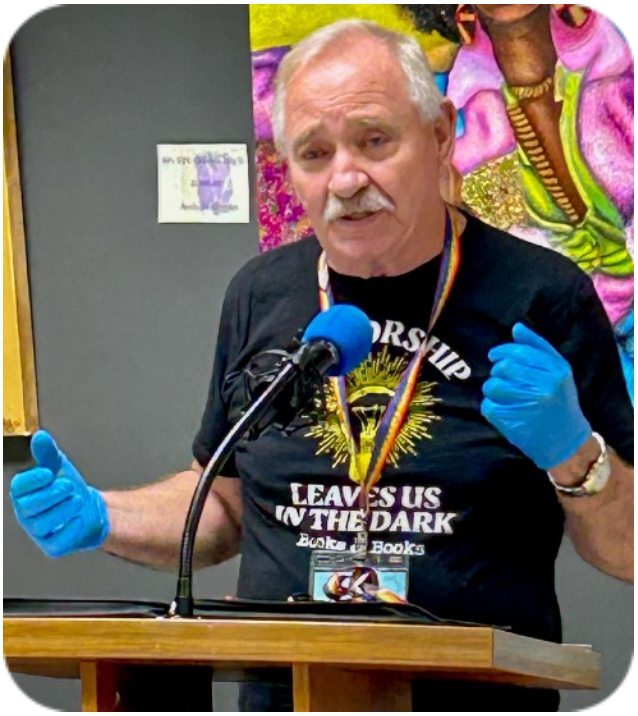
GALLERY

November Monthly Meeting









GALLERY

Night Out Dinner at Tropics Grille





GALLERY

Movie Group







CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2026

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

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 33304*
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

surfer

Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen 2003