



# Surfer

NOVEMBER 2024



## ACTIVITIES

### Morning Coffee Chat: The Power of Connection

By Gustavo Marchini

In our digital world, meaningful connections can sometimes be hard to find. However, for members of the Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, a group of mature gay or bisexual men and younger men who value their company, connection is essential. This is why we launched the Morning Coffee Chat on Facebook—a casual, daily space for members to share and connect.

The idea was simple: create a virtual café where members could drop by and discuss whatever is on their minds. Whether it's sharing personal stories, discussing news, or chatting about hobbies, this informal chat room offers a low-pressure way to stay engaged with the community.

**Turn to ACTIVITIES.** Page 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Henry Penas



The October Membership Meeting was arguably the best one we ever had.

The theme was HALLOWEEN. We asked members well in advance of the meeting to save the date and to start thinking about a costume.

Days before the meeting the warnings about hurricane Milton were everywhere. It was supposed to make landfall in the west coast of Florida on the Thursday after the meeting. We were all buying water and toilet paper in anticipation. It was supposed to rain heavily leading up to that Sunday accompanied by flooding.

I feared we would have a small turnout and very few members willing to leave home

**Turn to PRESIDENT,** Page 3

**BOARD MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS**

2

**MOVIES**

4

**NOVEMBER HERO**

5

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

7

**FOOD AND DRINK**

8

**BIRTHDAYS**

10

**CALENDAR**

11



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

**To join, go to:** [FtLPrimeGentlemen.org](http://FtLPrimeGentlemen.org)  
**and click on:** *Membership*

## Surfer

November 2024 Volume 21, Issue 11

Published by  
Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, Inc.



PO Box 100666  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310



[FtLPrimeGentlemen@gmail.com](mailto:FtLPrimeGentlemen@gmail.com)



[FtLPrimeGentlemen.org](http://FtLPrimeGentlemen.org)

### STAFF

#### *Editor*

John Dool                      Surfer Editor  
Gustavo Marchini      Facebook Administrator

#### *Contributors*

Doug Kent:                      Lunches  
Jim Richardson:      Birthdays & Anniversaries  
Ken South:                      Formal Dinner &  
   Gentleman of the Month  
Henry Penas:                      Obituaries  
Ed Slough:                      Events  
Mike Trask:                      Photographs

*Please submit all materials to the Editor by the 10th of the month before publication.*

#### *Distributors*

Auggie Azzarello: Paper  
Henry Penas:                      Digital

© 2024 by Fort Lauderdale Prime Gentlemen, Inc.

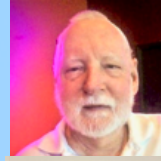
## BOARD MEMBERS

### **PRESIDENT**



Henry Penas  
(954) 297-6689  
HPenas@gmail.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT**



Ken South  
(301) 461-4516  
southy2222@gmail.com

### **TREASURER**



Paul McNamara  
(561) 254-9622  
polmac@aol.com

### **SECRETARY**



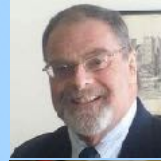
Tom Daniel  
(404) 414-7551  
wtdaniel74@gmail.com



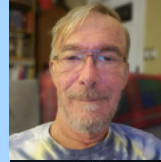
Jim Flora  
(646) 208-8092  
JamesFlora@aol.com



Ron Grassullo  
(516) 670-7799  
ronsullo@aol.com



Stew Pepper  
(954) 532-5451  
flpt@comcast.net



Jim Richardson  
(303) 638-5690  
jimedrich@gmail.com



Dick Huitema  
(773) 782-1608  
DHuitema@mac.com



**Special Advisor and  
Board Member Emeritus**  
Richard Lefebvre



**Treasurer Emeritus**  
Mike Trask

## ACTIVITIES

from page 1

Since its launch, the Morning Coffee Chat has quickly integrated into many members' routines. Its beauty lies in its simplicity and accessibility. Conversations vary from serious discussions about mental health to light-hearted chats about local events, allowing everyone to contribute at their own pace.

What makes this chat special is how it fosters a deep sense of connection and belonging. Members have shared how it helps reduce feelings of isolation and strengthens relationships within the group. For many, it's become a vital part of their day.

The chat provides emotional support, builds friendships, and creates a consistent routine for those seeking meaningful interaction. As the chat grows, we're exploring new ways to engage, from themed discussions to guest hosts.

In conclusion, the Morning Coffee Chat has brought our community closer, proving that even a simple daily conversation can make a difference. We invite all members to join and experience the power of connection firsthand.

## PRESIDENT

from page 1

wearing their costumes in the rain. The rain was moderate on Friday and Saturday, with a heavier forecast for Sunday.

Sunday arrived and the sun was out in the morning. A good sign.

Fast forward to 2:00 pm at the Pride Center. The room was festooned with bright, colorful decorations, a beautiful Halloween backdrop and the most fantastic and beautiful centerpieces on the 12 tables, created by our masterful decorator, Marck Santee.

Slowly, members started showing up. The costumes were in full display. By the time I started the meeting at 2:30 the joint was jumping. We had a master chef, a died in the wool nerd, a wolf, a Scots lad, a pope, a cardinal and two nuns, a pretty Asian fashion model, an Egyptian god, a pharaoh, a glow-in-the-dark angel with horns, a cowboy, Superman and 2 scary figures straight out of the Day of the Dead, to name a few.

The opening entertainment was Mustang Mary, a "female" country singer in full regalia lip-synching as she twirled around the room on roller skates. Under her pretty cowgirl shirt, she was wearing pasties with tassels on them. They twirled around as she skated along. A real show stopper.

The vibe in the room was electric. Anyone walking by would have wished they were a part of it. You should have been there!

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 466

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY BOYS





# MOVIES

By Ed Slough



## FREE MOVIES

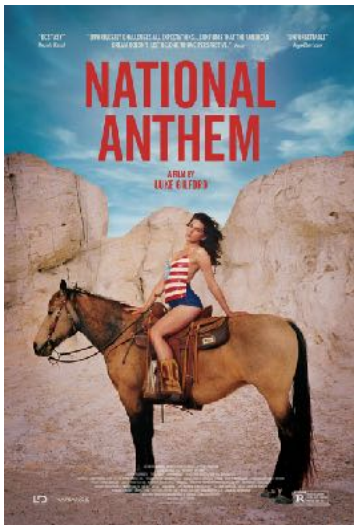
FRIDAY, November 15th at 1:30 PM

The Pride Center

FREE POPCORN AND SODA

A SAGE and Prime Gentlemen Event

### Featured Movie - "National Anthem"



Dylan, a soft-spoken 21-year-old construction worker, is the de facto father figure to his little brother and works odd jobs to help the family get by. After he finds himself with the opportunity to work at a ranch, he is welcomed by

a vibrant community of rodeo performers who openly explore their identities and sexuality. He is especially drawn to Sky, a trans woman who is a force of nature with whom Dylan connects very deeply, as he begins to forge his own identity.

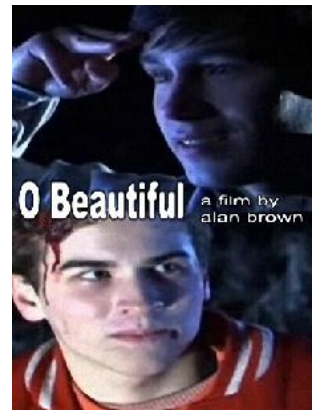
The concept of "chosen family" has much resonance for people whose actual families shunned or abused them. The ranch named 'House of Splendor,' is populated by queer rodeo riders of all sexual/gender identities; it is a place of "chosen family."

These happy people live together on the ranch, eat food they grow, take care of animals, and participate in rodeos on weekends.

One of the great powers of the queer rodeo is its ability to disrupt America's tribal dichotomies – liberal versus conservative, urban versus rural, 'coastal elite' versus 'middle America.' It's incredibly rare to find a community that actually embraces both ends of the spectrum." "National Anthem" is tender and sweet, and it expresses all of these things in its visual language, allowing these sensations to be present without speaking them out loud. No one monologues the theme of the film. The theme is present in every frame.

### Movie Short - "O Beautiful"

This is a difficult film to accept, but it's so



good. Brad, a gay young man in rural America, is gay bashed and gang raped (off camera) and left without his pants in a cornfield by a group of young locals. One of them, Andy, did not actively participate. He returns after the others have gone and tries to help Brad, who's injured and in shock. What unfolds after that is a stream of lies and confidences, and of desire and regrets.

# November Hero

By Ken South



Presidential adviser to Harry Truman, Bernard Baruch described in 1947 the post-World War II tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States as a "Cold War". Voice of America started transmitting radio broadcasts into Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Secretary of State George Marshall outlined the "Marshall Plan" for relief aid to Europe.

Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and became the first African American Major League Baseball player since the 1880s. On September 17, 1947, the "Fort Lauderdale Hurricane" caused widespread damage and killed 51 people.

Howard Hughes piloted the maiden, and only, flight of the H-4 Hercules flying boat known as "Spruce Goose", the largest fixed-wing aircraft ever built, and Meet the Press made its debut on NBC-TV on November 6, 1947 becoming the longest-running program on US television.

On August 9, 1947 Mr. November was born at the Alameda Air Station hospital in California, as his dad was in the US Navy. The family later increased by two boys and a girl. Since Mr. N was a "military brat" he experienced many moves in his early life, including living in England, and Texas. He attended elementary school in Japan and HS in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina but graduated from Pemberton Township HS of New Jersey in 1967.

Following HS, Mr. N joined the US Air Force and specialized in electronics. During his 4 years of service he was stationed in



both North Dakota and Alaska. "On the side," he spent time working in a salmon processing plant when stationed in King Salmon, Alaska.

He returned to NJ to attend Trenton State College on the GI Bill with a major in

mathematics and graduated in 1975. During this time, he met Trudi, a friend of his brother's, with whom he married. He also became interested in various campus Gay activities. He went on spring break with a roommate to Orlando, FL and was attracted to the town so he and Trudi moved there in 1976. Mr. N served as a math teacher at the Lake Howell HS. While living there, the couple had a boy and a girl. Also while there, Mr. N engaged his Navy reserve position and took on an Equipment Training position earning a Masters in engineering math and computer systems. He also became direct commissioned in the Naval Reserves in 1981.

Also in 1981 the couple moved to Fredericksburg, VA where Mr. N worked for the Naval Surface Combat Center as Combat Training Systems project manager. He also worked for the Marine Corps at Quantico, VA and earned a Masters in National Resource Strategy. Another son was born while in VA. Mr. N now has 9 grandchildren. At his marriage in a Roman Catholic Church to Trudi, he found out that she was really a Mormon, so all his children and grandchildren have been raised in the Mormon Church, causing some distress in his relationships with them.

Mr. N retired and the couple divorced in 2002, so Mr. N bought a condo in Roslyn, VA, just Metro ride away from Gay festive DC. He bought a travel trailer and started exploring Gay campgrounds including ones in Tampa and Orlando. Later he switched up to a motor home and continued his exploring including, Sawmill, Mars and Vitambi Springs campgrounds.

Mr. N moved to Palm Aire and purchased a condo in 2016. He first encountered Prime Timers while in the DC area and through friends, joined Prime Gentlemen here.

## General Membership Meeting Oct 6





### Holidays Dinner

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024  
6:00 pm Happy Hour 6:30 pm Dinner

**Tamarindo Harbor Grill & Bar**  
1025 N Federal Hwy, Ft. Lauderdale 33304





MENU

Caesar Salad	
1-Shrimp with Garlic	\$16.00
2-Lasagna Bolognese	\$13.00
3-Chicken Parmigiana	\$13.00
4-Grilled Pork Chop	\$12.00
Tiramisu	

Cash Bar (soft drinks/coffee/tea/water included with dinner)  
*(Tax & Gratuity & club discount included)*

To reserve and pay with a credit card, go to:  
[filprimegentlemen.org](http://filprimegentlemen.org) and click on *Reservations*.

White Elephant Gift Exchange  
Bring a wrapped gift you would like to "pass along"




If you must cancel and to get a refund, call Ken South  
301.461.4516 (South2222@gmail.com)  
no later than 5 PM the day before the dinner.





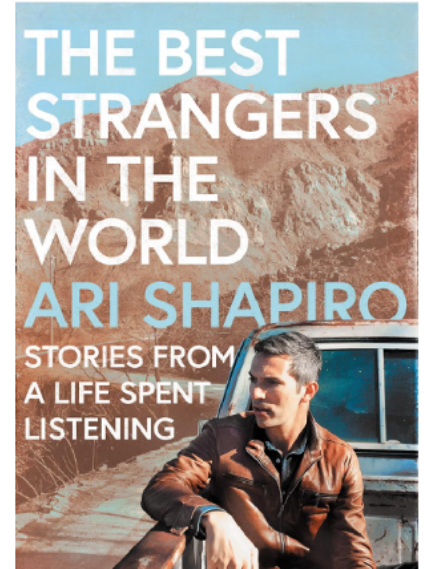
# Book Discussion Group

By Paul McNamara



The selection this month is "***The Best Strangers in the World: Stories from a Life Spent Listening***," by Ari Shapiro.

From the beloved host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, a stirring memoir-in-essays that is also a love letter to journalism. In his first book, broadcaster Ari Shapiro takes us around the globe to reveal the stories behind narratives that are sometimes heartwarming, sometimes heartbreaking, but always poignant. He details his time traveling on Air Force One with President Obama, or following the path of Syrian refugees fleeing war, or learning from those fighting for social justice both at home and abroad.



As the self-reinforcing bubbles we live in become more impenetrable, Ari Shapiro keeps seeking ways to help people listen to one another; to find connection and commonality with those who may seem different; to remind us that, before religion, nationality, or politics, we are all human. This is a testament to one journalist's passion for *Considering All Things*—and sharing what he finds with the rest of us.

*The Best Strangers in the World* will be discussed at the next meeting of the Book Discussion Group, to be held on Saturday, November 9 from 11:00 AM to noon at the Stonewall Library, 1300 E Sunrise Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, and simultaneously on Zoom via this link: [Book Discussion Group](#) (Meeting ID: 275139 4844 and Pass code: 076609)



## UPCOMING:

For the December 14th meeting of the Book Discussion Group; we will gather for a luncheon at **Rosie's Bar & Grill** in Wilton Manors.





# FOOD & DRINK



- MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Sunday, November 3, 2:00 pm  
Pride Center at Equality Park, *Community Room in The Residence*  
2040 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors, FL 33305
- EARLY BIRD DINNER** Wednesday, November 13, 5:30 pm  
GG's of N.Y. Italian Restaurant  
5440 N. State Road 7, North Lauderdale, FL 33319  
If you're going, contact Ed Slough at [wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com) so he can tell the restaurant how many to expect.
- DINER RUN** Thursday, November 14, 1:00 pm  
Myth Gastrobar  
2211 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305  
We will meet there at 1pm to enjoy this classic diner lunch menu. Call/text Doug Kent at 305-495-2978 or e-mail him at [dutchwood@att.net](mailto:dutchwood@att.net) to insure your place.
- LUNCHEON** Thursday, November 21, 1:00 pm  
Tee Jay Sushi  
2254 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305  
Mark your calendar now and remember to call or text Doug Kent at 305-495-2978 or e-mail him at [dutchwood@att.net](mailto:dutchwood@att.net) to reserve your spot.
- THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER** Thursday, November 28, 3:00 pm  
Checkers Old Munchen  
2209 E Atlantic Blvd, Pompano Beach, FL 33062  
If you're going, contact Ed Slough at [wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com) so he can tell the restaurant how many to expect and/or need transportation.
- NIGHT OUT DINNER** The November gathering at Tropics has been **cancelled** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- MIXER** Every Tuesday, 5:00 pm  
Tropics Grille Restaurant & Bar  
2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors 33305  
No reservations; just pay for your drink(s) and enjoy the buffet!



# PRIME GENTLEMEN EXCURSION

By Ed Slough



Vizcaya Museum and Gardens  
Saturday, November 30th at 10 am  
\$25 admission charge is waived

3251 South Miami Avenue  
MIAMI, FL 33129

There will be carpools for those needing a ride.  
Please notify me if you wish to attend:

[wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com)

Join us for a FREE two-hour narrated tour of the



home and gardens as the guest of SAGE member Jake Guin. There is a ramp to the first floor of the main home, but no handicap access to the second floor which is up a long stairway. We will have lunch in Coconut Grove.



November Hero  
Don Walsh



Thanksgiving Day Dinner  
Checkers Old Munchen  
November 28th  
3:00 PM

As in prior years, I am organizing a Thanksgiving day dinner so that no one needs to be alone on this holiday. Everyone who would enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving with a large group of friends is welcome. If you need transportation, just let me know, and I will arrange to have you picked-up. This has been a very nice holiday for those of us who attended in past years. You are encouraged to bring your friends. Please let me know if you plan on attending:

[wildhybrid@aol.com](mailto:wildhybrid@aol.com)

- Ed Slough

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Robert Kohl-Benfante	11/1	Robert Woodman	11/17
Steven Pavone	11/2	Mark Baker	11/19
Lorenzo Espinosa	11/2	Allen Bryant	11/19
James Richardson	11/4	Stewart Pepper	11/20
Jack Skay	11/6	Charles LoPiccolo	11/21
Paul Nix	11/6	Christopher Matthews	11/21
Fred Riley	11/7	Aziel Sales	11/22
Domenico De Placido	11/7	Jose Arvelo	11/22
Dennis Marrone	11/7	Edward Corbett	11/23
William Schwab	11/8	Albert Bocklet	11/23
Carlos Velez	11/9	Robert Baxter	11/24
William Wasser	11/9	Don Rice	11/24
Anthony Marino	11/10	David Stamps	11/24
Fred Retzloff	11/11	James Marcus	11/26
Richard Sanders	11/12	Robert Clark	11/26
David Morgan	11/12	Ron Bass	11/26
Osamu Miyachi	11/12	Joseph Placucci	11/27
Jerry Tvrdik	11/13	Daniel Glowa	11/29
William Mayo	11/14	Rodrigo Gutierrez	11/29
David Labbe	11/15	Joe Lonsway	11/30
Sam Letinich	11/16	Eugene Pennington	11/30
Elan Garonzik	11/16		

Chris Burt & Nick Polizos	11/19/1982	42 years
Jeffrey Piekarsky & Jose Arvelo	11/14/1990	34 years
Bill Barnard & Rob Hill	11/20/1991	33 years
Dan Driscoll & Bob Bozek	11/14/2003	21 years
Ken Bailey & Mike Fischer	11/24/2008	16 years
Bill Sawyer & Burke Laurendine	11/9/2018	6 years
Jim Flora & Jim Medeiros	11/19/2020	4 years
Kenny Mylott & Bob Giarratana	11/30/2023	1 years
Rick Vodicka & Carl Korynas	11/30	



OCT  
MOVIE "ALL OF US  
STRANGERS"  
/ 38 Attended



November 2024  
Night Out at Tropics has been **cancelled** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



# November 2024

# PRIME GENTLEMEN CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 - 8:00 AM Tennis BP - 12:00 PM Haulover HA	28 - 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	29 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# - 5:00 PM Mixer TR, p8	30 - 11:00 AM Bowling ML - 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	31 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 1:00 PM Luncheon, p8 - 3:00 PM Co-ed Dropln ZM# - 7:00 PM Walking SC	1	2
3 - 8:00 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM General Meeting PC, P8	4 - 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	5 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# - 5:00 PM Mixer TR, p8	6 - 11:00 AM Bowling ML - 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	7 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Collectors PC - 3:00 PM Co-ed Dropln ZM# - 7:00 PM Walking SC	8 - 2:00 PM History Group ZM	9 - 11:00 AM Book Discussion Group
10 - 8:00 AM Tennis BP	11 - 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	12 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# - 5:00 PM Mixer TR, p8	13 - 11:00 AM Bowling ML - 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM# - 5:30 PM Early Bird Dinner, p8	14 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 1:00 PM Diner Run, P8 - 2:00 PM Computer PC - 3:00 PM Co-ed Dropln ZM# - 7:00 PM Walking SC	15 - 1:30 PM Free Movies PC, P4	16
17 - 8:00 AM Tennis BP	18 - 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	19 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# - 5:00 PM Mixer TR, p8	20 - 11:00 AM Bowling ML - 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	21 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 12:30 PM Board ZM - 1:00 PM Luncheon, p8 - 2:00 PM Collectors Group - 3:00 PM Co-ed - 7:00 PM Walking SC	22 - 2:00 PM History Group ZM	23
24 - 8:00 AM Tennis BP - 12:00 PM Haulover HA	25 - 6:00 PM Online Mixer ZM#	26 - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 2:00 PM Trivial Pursuit ZM# - 5:00 PM Mixer TR, p8	27 - 11:00 AM Bowling ML - 1:00 PM Men's Dropln ZM#	28 Thanksgiving Day - 7:30 AM Tennis BP - 3:00 PM Co-ed Dropln ZM# - 3:00 PM Thanksgiving Day Dinner - 7:00 PM Walking SC	29	30 - 10:00 AM Vicaya Gardens Excursion

## LOCATION CODES

- BP** = Brummer Park, 3500 W Palm Aire Dr 33069
- HA** = Haulover Beach, 10800 Collins Ave 33154
- ML** = Manor Lanes, 1517 NE 26th Street, 33305
- PC** = Pride Ctr, 2040 N. Dixie Hwy 33305
- SC** = Skolnick Ctr, 800 SW 36th Ave 33069
- SL** = Stonewall Lib, 1300 Sunrise Blvd 33311
- TR** = Tropics Bar & Grill, 2000 Wilton Dr 33305
- ZM** = See weekly email Bulletin for link.





# Oct 6th General Meeting HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

