



## Acknowledging Acts of Kindness Club Newsletter

March 2022

Our March meeting is on **Thursday, March 10th at 12:30 at the Bacall Recreation Center**. We will have a lot of exciting things to discuss and a look at some wonderful stories of kindness. Our speaker will be our own Jen Smith who will share the story of her club, **Abundance of Love**. You don't want to miss this. We also hope to have Anne Sheehan who is here for the month from Dayton, Ohio. She will give us an update of our affiliate in Dayton.

### Our Third Anniversary Celebration

In February we dedicated our meeting to celebrating our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. This included a presentation of all our AAOK's, donations, and lots more information about our club and its history. We also recognized our founder, Joe Santoro, with a Certificate of Kindness. We have come a long way since our first meeting with 12 members, especially since the pandemic knocked us out of business for a year. Thanks to all for making our club such a success!



## Jukebox Bingo Fundraiser

Our February fundraiser was an amazing success. We had some 240 people fill the theatre at Rohan Recreation Center. The night, hosted by Ric Mitchell, was full of laughter and fond memories as we played Bingo based on all the songs we knew as kids. These funds will put us in a great position to carry out our events as well as to continue donations to other caring clubs here in The Villages. Everything we

do is focused on our mission to create a **Culture of Kindness** in The Villages and beyond.

Our many thanks to those of you who were a part of this event, and those who contributed gifts. One of the highlights of the evening was our guests of honor, Mary and Jim Courtney. They are members of our club who have recently found it necessary to move to assisted living. They are both in their 90's and have been married for 67 years! They had such a wonderful time, and we had a wonderful time watching them enjoy themselves. Our thanks to Stan and Cheryl Misiasek for supplying their transportation.



**Click on the picture of Mary and Jim for a little surprise.**

## Upcoming Event

On March 17 we plan on marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade at 3:15 in Spanish Springs. We put in for 4 carts and 10 walkers and I think we have our 4 carts. But we need volunteers to walk along and pass out our kindness cards and some kindness rocks. This will be the first St. Pat's parade we have participated in

– we were scheduled for last year but it was cancelled. The event is a lot of fun just like the Christmas parade, but shorter. **So please let me know if you would like to be involved by sending me a note at [lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net). If I don't get enough walkers we may have to cancel.**



## Welcome to Our New Members

In our February meeting we welcomed 5 new members! We now have 182 members from 61 different Villages! Please join me in welcoming:

Patricia Toale – Charlotte

Lynn Ferrell – Duval

Linda Martin – Gilchrest

Carol McKenna – Virginia Trace

Pat Maerz - Summerhill

## AAOK Events

On February 17 we had a wonderful AAOK event for a wonderful lady. We honored Margaret Furlong at a breakfast event at the Hope Lutheran Church.

Margaret volunteered for many years at Lowell Prison in Ocala working with a group of ladies in the ***Crafts of Conviction Group*** teaching crafting skills and sharing stories from the outside world. Margaret was also instrumental in getting the Community Resource Center off the ground. She worked with the ladies that made several different items, such as baby clothes, and small children's quilts that were distributed through the fire department. Dolls were given to ladies in nursing homes and also to children in the hospital as learning tools

She is a huge supporter of '***Abundance of Love***' and delivers carloads of craft items from Hope Crafters to AOL for distribution. She is always working in the background and it was our pleasure to acknowledge Margaret's many years of service.

Our thanks to Jen Smith, Barbara Bickley, John Mairino, and Debbie Fisher for all their help.



We invite you to be a **Kindness Whistle Blower** if you have someone in mind who deserves one of our monthly acknowledgments. Attached is a form you can use to

make a recommendation, or you can always download it from our website, [aaokclub.org](http://aaokclub.org). They will also be available at our meeting.

Our monthly Acknowledgement Events are one of the most exciting things we do. We have a lot of fun doing these and we are always looking for people to be involved. **Any member can be a part of these events.** Our Candidate Selection and Event Coordination Focus Group reviews the recommendations and plans the events. We pride ourselves on making these events very creative, fun, and full of surprises. They take little time and are very rewarding.

## Notes from Our Board of Directors

Up till now we have been operating without formal by-laws. We are working on these, and should have them soon. Our current Board consists of:

Linsay Collier – President

John Maiorino - Vice President

Jen Smith – Treasurer

Carol Cholette – Membership Chair

**We need a Secretary!** If you are interested let me know. As Secretary you will be a member of the Board and be responsible for keeping notes of meetings. I guarantee you will enjoy working with our Board! We also need someone who can update our website from time to time. If you have some website skills we will train you in how you can easily carry out these updates.

## Education Focus Group

We have an Educational Focus Group to collaborate with local schools to encourage students and staff to use our process of acknowledging acts of kindness. This group, under the leadership of Margaret Wolfe, has been doing an

outstanding job during a relatively difficult period. **Just think of the possible impact on our future in helping kids learn how to live lives of kindness!**

They have distributed 3500 cards to schools in Lake Panasoffkee, Webster, South Sumter, Fruitland Park, and Lady Lake. They are also working on Villages Charter, Bushnell, and Wildwood schools. Margaret will update us on this effort at our upcoming meeting.

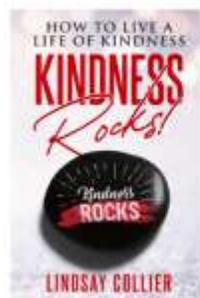
**The Lady Lake Elementary School has a particularly innovative use of our Kindness Cards which Margaret will review at our meeting. It's a chance for some of you to get involved in a very exciting monthly activity at the school. I had the pleasure of attending on of these and it was a wonderful experience!**

## Kindness Rocks! book

Several people have asked me if I can make my book, *Kindness Rocks! How To Live a Life of Kindness*, available for sale at the meeting. To be honest, I am somewhat sensitive about this because it's a bit of a conflict, being President. That said, I will have some available for just \$10 (about ½ of what Amazon would charge) at our next meeting. **For those who buy the book and leave a review on Amazon I will give back \$5 to our club.**

### Kindness Is the New Cool!

This new book will give you all you need to live a life of kindness!



*It's been said that 'Kind' is the new cool. The main thrust of this book is to help you to raise your own level of kindness and promote a culture of kindness wherever you go. This book takes a unique look at the nature, characteristics, and benefits of kindness. Most importantly, it details dozens of ways that you can use to lead a life of kindness. These techniques will help you lead a more fulfilling, happier life, and also to become a prophet of kindness with all those you impact. You will also have fun along the way and experience some wonderful stories of kindness.*

## Club Shirts, Hats, Nametags, and More

**Custom Apparel** in the Publix Plaza on 466 has a catalog of products with our club logo. This includes men's and women's Tee and polo shirts, full zipper fleeces, nametags, masks, totes, and hats. And the prices are very reasonable. Their catalogue can be seen at [aaokclub merchandise](#) and you can order on line if desired. Visit them today and checkout their great selections so you can show our AAOK Club colors.

## Social Events

From time to time we like to have some social events for the purpose of getting to know one another and just having fun. In the past we have had Himalayan golf, gatherings at restaurants, etc. If you have any ideas for future social events, please let us know. **The Himalayan golf has been a very popular event and we are planning another Himalayan golf event soon. You can find out more about this at our March meeting.**



## Kindness Certificates

Our Certificates of Kindness are another very easy way we use to acknowledge acts of kindness. If you have someone you know who has shown exceptional kindness you can use this to acknowledge them. We will provide you with a copy complete with the recipient's name. If you would like to do this let me know ([lindsaycollier@comcast.net](mailto:lindsaycollier@comcast.net)) and I will work with you to make it happen.



## Website and Facebook Sites

We have a terrific website ([AAOKClub.org](http://AAOKClub.org)) and **we need someone to update this site. If you are interested, and have some skills on websites please let us know. We will supply training and this job won't take a lot of your time.** Visit this often to see the latest events and news. Our blog is a way of sharing interesting articles on kindness, and **we invite you all to contribute to this.** The latest blogs include articles from two of our members and a story of kindness that will bring tears to your eyes. If you have something you would like to share sent it to [aaokclub@gmail.com](mailto:aaokclub@gmail.com) and we will make sure it is added (with your name of course). While you are on the site check out the latest blogs and enjoy.

We also have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AcknowledgingActsOfKindness>

and a Facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2392926004127163>

Check them out, give a big like, post some good stuff, and share it with as many as you can! You will find a lot of interesting examples of kindness on these sites.

**See you on March 10th!**

Stay Healthy, Happy and Kind!

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