

MAY 2026

SPOONBILL NEWSLETTER



SPOONBILL EVENTS

Group members receive event invitations from group leaders. Please be sure to RSVP if you plan to attend so hosts may plan accordingly. If you have RSVP'd in the affirmative and need to cancel, kindly advise the group leader and host as many events have a waitlist. Interested in joining a group? We'd love to have you! Simply email SpoonbillNeighbors@yahoo.com for information on groups and how to join.

- **Community Outreach** – Our 2026 Easter Food Drive was a tremendous success; the largest collection yet! Thank you to everyone who generously donated food and personal care items to support homeless families and veterans in need.
We visited St. Augustine Youth Services (Sayskids.org), a residential program serving boys aged 5 to 18+ who are wards of the state. Their dedicated team is doing meaningful work in our community. Stay tuned as we identify opportunities to support this organization.
The Community Outreach group works with the homeless coalition and other non-profits helping the less fortunate in our community. To get involved, email Louise Nelson at lzn@mindspring.com.
- **American Sign Language Conversation** – Join neighbors learning and practicing basic American Sign Language in a relaxed, home-based setting. Monthly classes are guided by Pat Langley, with a focus on participants' goals. If interested, please contact Meri-Kathryn Peed at mkpeed@aol.com.

- **Book Club -**

The Book Club met in April for an interesting discussion of *The Queen's Gambit*, a coming-of-age story about an orphaned chess prodigy who rose to fame while battling addiction and loneliness. Leading the discussion, Dianna posed the question "Is it a blessing or a curse to be a genius?"

The May meeting is Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00. Please RSVP by May 8 to lzn@mindspring.com to confirm attendance. Book Club will be on hiatus July and August.

Coming selections:

- May - *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxle
- June - *The Girls in the Stilt House* by Kelly Mustian

To join Book Club and enjoy thoughtful conversation, please contact Louise Nelson at lzn@mindspring.com.

- **Dining In** - Dining In is a fun way to enjoy good food and friendship in the comfort of our homes. For more information about this group please contact Meri-Kathryn Peed at MKPeed@aol.com.

- **Dining Out with Neighbors**

The next gathering of Dining Out with Neighbors will be May 13 at The French Pantry. Please RSVP if you plan to come. If you are not a member of the Dining Out group, we'd love for you to join us! Contact Lisa Stern at sternl2001@aol.com.

- **GoGos 2.0** - A heartfelt thank you to Dianna Christakos for organizing our visit to the *St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine*. We enjoyed a personalized tour, learning about the first Greek colony in the New World while taking in the beautiful Byzantine frescoes and exhibits. Lunch at The Columbia Restaurant made the day even more special. See picture at the end of the newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

- May 11 – Nineteen GoGos will enjoy a private tour of the St. Francis National Guard Barracks, Museum, and Cemetery at 1:00. There is still time to sign up. The barracks originated as a Franciscan Monastery in the early 1700s and presently serves as the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Parking has been arranged. If you are interested in joining, please RSVP to letitiajolly@gmail.com.
- Sunday, June 28 - Sharon Wasmer has coordinated a sunset cruise aboard the *Schooner Freedom* which is open to GoGos and guests. We have 20 spots on hold until May 31, so act quickly if you'd like to join the fun. The cost for locals is \$58.58 per person. Wine, beer, and soft drinks are provided, and you are allowed to bring your beverage of choice. It's not uncommon to see dolphins, manatee, and a variety of birds. Check-in is at 6:15 and sail time is 6:45. To reserve, call the Schooner at 904-810-1010 and tell them you are reserving a spot(s) under the Sharon Wasmer/Spoonbill GoGos group. Once

you reserve, please email sharon.wasmer@gmail.com and letitiajolly@gmail.com so we know you will be attending. For more information about the GoGos, please contact Tish Jolly at letitiajolly@gmail.com. Come join the fun!

Happy Hour - The Happy Hour group will meet Friday May 8 at 5:00. Bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share. You are encouraged to show off your cooking skills, although it is not required. Kindly introduce yourself to new members and give them a hearty Spoonbill welcome. Please contact Lorri Maloney at lmaloney58@gmail.com to join this fun group or to share ideas on how to make it even more special.

- **Lunch Bunch** - Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, May 28 at 11:30. Location is TBD. Interested in joining? Contact Angela Siragusa at staug15@gmail.com.
- **Mexican Train** – Ladies Mexican train is Monday, May 4 at 1:00. The event is full with a waitlist. If interested in playing Mexican Train, please contact Nancy Hill at sunrosefam5@msn.com. Many thanks to Nancy for coordinating the Mexican Train group. Penny Jones will graciously take the lead in June.
- **Walking Group** – The walking group is gauging interest in a guided tour at a cost of \$20 per person. The tour is titled “Underground Jacksonville” with Gary Sass of AdLib Tours (adlibtours.com/tours). The tentative date is Monday May 11. The walk will most likely be mid-morning and end with lunch. This private tour requires a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 25 participants. Walkers will carpool to Jacksonville and are welcome to invite partners and friends. The walk will most likely be mid-morning and end with lunch. Interested in this group? Contact Sue Whittle for more information at sue@whittle.com. See picture from the April Yachts to Quarry walk at the end of the newsletter.
- **Welcome Committee** - If you would like to be a part of this team and welcome new neighbors to our community, please email Carol Lorenc at chlorenc@comcast.net.
- **Whiskey Group** – In April, Whiskey lovers enjoyed sampling Scotch-style whiskeys from anywhere but Scotland. The group will not meet in May. Anyone interested in joining may contact Mike Blaker at mike.blaker@gmail.com.

Wine Lovers – Ken and Sharon Wasmer will host Wine Lovers on Saturday, May 9 at 6:00 to sample foods and wines of Spain. Many thanks to Chris McGlade and Mimi Iannuzzi for hosting a fabulous tasting of Pacific Northwest wines in April. The food offerings were wonderful.

Connect with Mark Turgeon at turgeon.mark@gmail.com for more information or to join Wine Lovers.

Spoonbill Neighbors is more than a social organization; it's a place of connection, friendship, and shared experiences. Thank you for being part of what makes this community so special.

Until next month,
Cheers!!!

Karen and Patty



See pictures below.



Go Go's at the Columbia Restaurant



Walking Group at the Yachts to Quarry Walk