

The *Spine* of South Knolls

FOUR SEASONS
At South Knolls

We are the Official Publication of the Four Seasons at South Knolls Homeowners Association, Inc.

Volume 17 • Number 3

AUGUST 2026/SEPTEMBER 2026

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THE SPIRIT OF SOUTH KNOLLS NEWSPAPER STAFF

Cathy Monroe, **Editor**

Joel Goldberg, **Staff Photographer**

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Carol Rogers	Helen Kelly	Sue Mignemi
Paula Schichtel	Pat Horvath	Anthony Maviglia
Sheldon Kirschenbaum		

Loren McCreesh, **Board Liaison**



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Clubhouse Concierge/Front Desk	732-833-2153
After Hours/Emergency	732-390-1100
Gatehouse	732-928-9558
Homeowners Warranty (Khov)	800-428-2516
Orleans/Lennar Warranty Dept	609-245-2221



COVER PHOTO BY JOEL GOLDBERG

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www.jacksontwp.net

The township updates this site with Mayor, Council,

department names and contact information.

Public works information pertaining to recycling is also available.

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2026 Open Board Meeting Dates

4th Quarter Open Board Meeting – November 5th –
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Safety Reminder - SPEEDING

The speed limit in the community is 24mph. It is important to use caution when driving, especially near the clubhouse, as there is lots of activity with people walking and drivers exiting/entering the parking lots. There is also increased activity around the community as people are out walking. Be sure to stay alert.

Refer to Parking Rules Regulations from Resolution NO.06-04 for more details

The main entrance to the clubhouse is designated as a pickup/drop-off area only. Unattended vehicles are prohibited.

Parking in spaces designated as "handicapped" is limited and reserved for individuals that have a handicap. Proper vehicle handicap ID (a current permit, placard or handicapped parking plates) is required. If an owner is driving a handicapped person to the clubhouse, he/she should drop the handicapped individual off at the front door and park in a non-handicapped space. Owners are encouraged not to park in a handicapped space if going on an extended association sponsored trip.

- * Parking is prohibited in front of mailboxes, marked "fire zones" and any area designated as a fire lane.
- * Parking opposite from another resident's driveway should be avoided in order to prevent potential accidents and homeowners confrontations.
- * Parking near double yellow lines is a safety hazard and is prohibited
- * Parking within 15 feet of a stop sign, cross walk or any corner is prohibited.
- * Parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant is prohibited.
- * Vehicles must be parked in the direction of traffic.

Refer to Policy Resolution 06-02 Regarding Pet Rules for more details

Homeowners, guests, invitees, agents and others shall accompany the pet in their charge always, shall keep the pet on a leash when it is not on the Homeowners lot and shall carry with them at such time devices necessary to remove the pet excrement which removal shall be done immediately.

The only common property where animals may defecate and urinate is the grass strip between the sidewalk side of the street. Pets cannot urinate or defecate near the mailbox or the 3 ft area surrounding the mailbox. The side of the street where there is no sidewalk is NOT to be used.

Animals are prohibited from the Clubhouse and Wildflower recreation areas including Clubhouse parking lots, the patio, tennis courts, pickleball court, bocce courts, shuffleboard courts, Golf areas of putting green/driving range, and all pool areas.

Refer to Sports Amenity Information for more details

As a reminder, please take care when using the amenities so that they can be preserved and enjoyed by all our homeowners. All amenities are to be use at your own risk and have age restrictions. There is NO smoking or vaping in any amenities of the clubhouse and Wildflower recreation areas.

Wildflower Amenities are Basketball, Pickleball, Bocce and Shuffle Board.

Clubhouse Amenities Billiard, Ping Pong, Corn Hole, Golf: Putting Green/Driving Range Area, Tennis and Pool /Spa Areas

All resolutions and Sports Amenity information can be found on portal.premiermanagement.net in the documents section of Vantaca



HOURS OF THE CLUBHOUSE

Clubhouse Hours are from 5:30 AM to 12:00 AM
Indoor Pool Hours - 5:30 AM to 9:00 PM

GUARDHOUSE HOURS OF OPERATION

The Huntington Drive guardhouse is occupied from 6:00 AM to 9:30 PM. The guard on duty leaves the guardhouse at 9:30 PM to perform an inspection of both the community and the clubhouse before leaving for the night at 10:00 PM.

If you have guests coming to the community after 9:30 PM please note that the guard will not be there to let them in. They will need to use the after-hours call box to reach you for entry.

To use the after-hours call box guests must tap the magnifying glass in the top right corner of the screen, when prompted they can enter either your name or address. After your guest selects your name/address you will receive a phone call. The phone number that will show up will be 848-346-0585. When you answer the phone press the number 9 and the gate will open to let them in.

CREATIVE WRITING

ROBINS GALORE

by Donna D'Andrea

All these robin red breasts
As plump as they could be
Scattered all about our lawn
How hungry can they be?

I guess the rain brings out the worms
The worms bring out the birds
At least fifty or so I'd say
More than I've even seen or heard

A sure sign of spring
With early April showers
A bit ahead of season
Along with early blooming flowers

Can't wait to shed our extra coats
Along with winter faces
And join the birds out in the yard
Enjoying the warm open spaces!



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: LORRAINE WALSH

By Carol Rogers



Growing up, Lorraine Walsh was the oldest of five children born in Brooklyn. She moved to Staten Island when she was ten years old. She attended all school levels but going to college was not an option. Not long after high school graduation with really no skill, she decided on a whim to walk into an Army recruiting station.. When she returned to her apartment and told her mother what she had done, the entire neighborhood likely heard the response of, “What?!!!”

The following four years were among the best of her life, however. After Basic Training at Fort McClennan, Alabama (it was in October, but it was HOT), she was assigned to Ft. Lee, Virginia. They didn’t quite know what to do with this 102 pound recruit. Lorraine was physically fit, but it was determined that it would be difficult for her to be a stevedore on the docks, one of the only jobs available at the time. So they gave her an administrative assistant position as a legal clerk. And she learned to drive a Jeep! Then, in 1978, she was sent to Izmir, Turkey to NATO Headquarters. It was during the Iranian crisis so there was tension in the area. She lived in an apartment with the Turkish people since there were no accommodations for women on the base. She had to pay her own rent for what she describes as primitive conditions. The most primitive area of her home was in the bathroom. A flash heater provided hot bath water. There were two toilets. The American one had a water tank on the wall with a pull chain.. The Turkish one had a spigot for handwashing next to the hole in the floor. No Charmin’ in this location! At NATO Lorraine was an administrative assistant.

After her discharge, Lorraine made her home back in Staten Island. Her first job was with American International Group, also known as AIG. She worked there for a few years, then moved on to SIAC (Securities, Industry Automation Corporation, which was a subsidiary of the New York and American Stock Exchange, where she held several positions. At first, with the ASE, she was a Data Entry Specialist, moving to several locations within SIAC. She was a secretary to a vice president and an SVP within the organization, but her favorite position was in the Security division. After a few years she was transferred to 11 Wall Street which was the home of the NYSE. What a place to work! It was very prestigious and exciting. Lorraine remained within the NYSE family for 28 years, retiring fifteen years ago.

Lorraine’s position there was administrative, but mostly fingerprinting. It didn’t matter if you were a full time prospective employee or a contractor, once you entered the building, you were escorted to the security office. That was where the truth prevailed! Most individuals were processed with a clean past. However, at times there were a few who didn’t make the cut. Lorraine would, in a funny gesture, ring a bell, alerting her colleagues that this person needed to be shown the door! She also met some celebrities who were visiting the office. Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn were in that “set”. Little did Goldie Hawn know the reason Lorraine had joined the Army was because of the actress’ part in Private Benjamin.

In 1990, Lorraine married her childhood sweetheart, Kevin. Sadly, after a long illness, he passed away in 2002. In 2016, Lorraine’s sisters told her of a development in Jackson called South Knolls. At the time, her sister Ellen lived on Harmony Road and her sister Donna resided in Manalapan. She purchased a home, and her sisters both moved to South Knolls, as well, on Marlow and Heath. Lorraine is rightly proud of her lovely home. She says she pinches herself whenever she drives down Huntington and presses the garage door opener., pleased with her accomplishments. She is on the board of the Irish American Club, and is a former board member of the Women’s Club. Lorraine is also on a bocce team and is a member of the Heritage Club. She is honored to be called upon to be a flag bearer on patriotic holidays. She participates not only in Clark Fitness programs, but enjoys similar activities at the Jackson Senior Center.

On the horizon, Lorraine plans to travel more. She has been on thirteen cruises and hopes to complete a few more to get to the next level. A Mediterranean cruise is planned for 2027. In September, she will be going to Sicily where her boyfriend has a home. What a great way to see a country! And visits to National Parks are on her bucket list. But mostly, Lorraine enjoys socializing with her many friends and keeping active!

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HAPPY HOOKERS

By Ann Conway

Summer can be so busy with travel, visits with grandchildren and all the outdoor activities that our attendance is lighter. But a few of our group shows up every Wednesday. The weather being so hot this summer our projects are smaller. This was perfect timing for the annual bear dress project to start up. The Senior Center will need several hundred of them for the Christmas bears and their Holiday gift shop.



Beth recently donated another of her amazing quilts.



Terri donated the scarf and hat set.



I made more walker bags; these two are in honor of our country's 250th birthday. They went to the veterans last month.



I recently made a trip to Cape May and stayed in one of the Victorian B&Bs. I took a photo of the lovely old cross-stitched picture that was on the wall of our bedroom. Such beautiful work with the lace surrounding the fabric.



If you have a craft you would like to share with us or wish to learn one, please join us. Or just come to visit and chat. We meet on Wednesdays, in the craft room, from 10-noon. We also take donations of yarn and fabric. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please give me a call (732-276-7627).

COOKING WITH SUE

EASY FISH TACOS

by Sue Mignemi

Ingredients for 8 servings:

Cabbage Slaw

3 cups green cabbage, shredded
 ½ cup red onion, diced
 1 cup sour cream
 1 lime, juiced
 ¼ tsp. Salt

Tacos

4 tilapia fillets
 ¼ tsp. Cayenne pepper, ground
 ½ tsp. Garlic powder
 ½ tsp. Cumin
 ½ tsp. Salt
 ½ tsp. Pepper
 16 corn tortillas

Garnish

Cilantro, to taste
 Lime, to taste

Preparation

In a large bowl, combine green cabbage, red onion, sour cream, lime juice, and salt. Chill until ready to serve.

In a bowl, mix cayenne, garlic powder, cumin, salt and pepper. Season tilapia fillet on both sides with the seasoning mix.

Over medium-high heat, cook 2 fillets at a time for 8 minutes, flipping halfway. Repeat for the remaining fillets.

Using a fork, break apart the fillets into bite-size pieces.

Right before serving, heat the corn tortillas in the pan over high heat. Remove from the pan and assemble the tacos with the cabbage slaw and tilapia.

Garnish with cilantro and lime juice.
 Enjoy!

SUDOKO

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

			3		5		4	9
				8				
		4				6	1	
	9	2					8	
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Solution on page 30

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CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS, SENIOR PUBLISHING!

By Helen Kelly

Do you ever wonder how our Spirit newspaper is produced? It has been a collaboration between editor, writers, proofreaders, and publisher, Senior Publishing, founded by Bill Kirms a century ago. His heir, Bill Kirms, has been our main publisher, these past 20 years.

On the comfortable, pleasant Saturday afternoon of July 11, from noon to six PM, the Kirms' Senior Publishing Company celebrated their 100 year anniversary. This is a true American success story! Started in a garage, the company now resides in a large publishing facility in Neptune Twp.

Senior Publishing primarily serves 130 senior community newspapers throughout Ocean/Monmouth Counties. Forty of them were represented this day.

The venue for this event was Oak Tree Lodge, a sprawling outdoor picnic and game area in Wall Twp. Continuous music by the country band, Runaway Train, enlivened the day. A spread of food included sausage and peppers, fried chicken, French fries, baked beans and assorted salads. Water, coffee/tea, and choice of soda were offered. ...and, of course, a gigantic cake!

Many activities filled the day. Families enjoyed playing ball and everyone enjoyed the general vibe.

Cathy Monroe, as Editor, was invited with a plus one. She invited me to join her as I am a long time member of the spirit staff. Shortly after the festivities began, a woman came to our table and asked the name of our community. I replied South Knolls and she answered that she is Donna, our graphic designer, Donna, who recently prepared a memorable centerfold for Paula Schichtel's 100th birthday. Working together to produce *The Spirit* has been a rewarding experience.



Irish American Club River Queen Cruise





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IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BRING OUT THE GOLD AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

(Sponsored by the Wine Tasting Club)

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. For the past 12 years, South Knolls has supported The Frances Foundation for Kids Fighting Cancer by displaying gold bows and raising funds to help pediatric cancer warriors and their families. Last year, our community raised more than \$7,000 which assisted The Foundation in providing financial and emotional support, and moments of joy to children and families facing the challenges of childhood cancer, as well as assistance to grieving families who have suffered the unimaginable loss of a child. The Foundation also donates funds for pediatric cancer research.

This September, gold bows will again be displayed along the entry drive, and residents are encouraged to place gold bows on their mailbox posts to show support and raise awareness.

The suggested donation is \$5 per bow. Donation options:

- **Clubhouse:** Bows will be available at the Ambassador Desk from **August 1 through August 31**. Please bring a check made out to THE FRANCES FOUNDATION. Cash cannot be accepted at the Ambassador Desk.

- **At my home:** Bows will be available at 14 Turnbridge Court beginning **August 1 and continuing throughout the entire month of September**. Please bring cash or a check made out to CASH or THE FRANCES FOUNDATION. The bows will be in a covered bin along with a donation envelope on my front porch.

- o Please note: The pickup bin is not visible from the street.
- o If the bin is empty, leave your name and address on the pad provided, and I will deliver a bow and pick up your donation.

Please donate, pick up a bow, display it throughout September, and encourage friends and family to do the same.

Please also watch for details about the “**Swim, Bike, Walk, Run, Pickle**” fundraiser, sponsored by The Showtime Club, which will run throughout September.

Thank you, as always, for your support!

Pattie Tucker

14 Turnbridge Ct.



GALS ON THE GO

By Jackie Lisnow

At our end of the year June meeting, we had an awesome “Nu to Me” display. Over 150 items went to new owners. The Gals will surely enjoy their new gifts.

Have a wonderful, healthy summer and we’ll see you in September.

Watch for our August trip to The Axelrad Bell Theater to see *Driving Miss Daisy*.

WELCOME

The movers have certainly been very busy lately. We have five new families in our community. They are:

Richard and Jacqueline Tomer on Banstead Way

Stephen Bigger on Huntington Drive

Kitty Pollack and Joe Medero on Cromwell Lane

Mario and Maria Bolanos on Marlow Drive

Debra Weiss on Huntington Drive

I hope you all enjoy your new homes.

Welcome to South Knolls.

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For more information contact

Helen Kelly (swimming) hmkelly@optonline.net

Sam Lebovits (biking) sammycfda@gmail.com

Mary Flattery (walking/running) mflattery@optonline.net

Steve Beckenstein (pickleball) steve.beckenstein@gmail.com

SHOWTIME CLUB – GARDEN STATE GROOVE



SHOWTIME REVIEW GARDEN STATE GROOVE

By Benj Leibowitz

Friday, June 5, Showtime's second event of the season highlighted the GARDEN STATE GROOVE with lead vocalists T.J., Darlene, and Mary. Before introducing the group Ben Leibowitz introduced the Showtime Board of Directors. He then acknowledged and thanked the hard work of the stage crews and hospitality team.

Ben then introduced the GARDEN STATE GROOVE in which T.J., Darlene and Mary took over with band leader Richard Barres setting the beat at drums. The band consisted of 4 singers, a sax, trumpeter, keyboard player, and two guitar players. What followed was 45 minutes of non-stop high-energy, wide musical range that had the SHOWTIME members foot-stomping and clapping throughout their performance. The evening was filled with music from everything from Motown, Classic hits to Country Rock, Latin, and Hip-hop. Songs such as *Moon dance*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You*, *I Want to Dance With Somebody*, *Uptown Girl* and *Dancing Queen* had us ALL GROOVING through the first set. The backdrop had a continuous collage of photos of well known

Gaden State venues created by our all-talented Patti Tucker. The band brought their own specialty lighting that transformed the ball room into a concert theater.

There was a brief Intermission with coffee and ice cream served. The Garden State Groove returned to the stage and introduced the 9 members of their band to start the second set with a beautiful rendition of *All Night Long*, followed with other hits *Twist and Shout*, *Dancing in the Streets*, *Give Me Everything* which again had the audience clapping and singing. At the end of the show the audience wouldn't let the band finish the show crying for MORE as they kept yelling for more the band then played encores. The group accommodated them with T.J., Darlene and Mary leading them in the hit song *I Had the Time of My Life* from *Dirty Dancing*. The crowd went wild..... The Showtime members left with the following comments: "The best show ever."... "This group was the greatest." ... "I loved their energy." ... "Oh to be young again... bring them back."

SHOWTIMES next show August 1 Theater Rock Tribute.



WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By Louise Mekosh

The Golf Course at the Battleground Country Club set a perfect backdrop for the annual Women's Club End of Year Luncheon held on June 16, 2026. The event brought together many members and friends to celebrate the past year of impactful fundraising success and deep-rooted fellowship.

From the moment that the members walked through the doors, the atmosphere was filled with warmth and pride.

Some of our Board officers took on new positions and President Camille Riviuccio started the meeting with a beautiful flower ceremony.

Camille and the Board thanked Pat Mansour who completed her first year term as Secretary, however Pat stepped down because she and her family were moving out of state. The new slate of Officers sworn

in: Camille Riviuccio-President; Pat Napoli-1st Vice President; Ginny Fitzgerald-2nd Vice President; Barbara Pearson-3rd Vice President; Carol Kirschenbaum-4th Vice President; Sheila Goldman-Secretary; Lorraine Ward-Treasurer; Louise Mekosh-Past President.

The officers completed the traditional flower ceremony and then the members enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon having a delicious lunch and dancing with the many hits played by the DJ from Universal DJs.

The board will continue working throughout the summer to plan fun and informative events for next year. All members are reminded to renew their membership for the new year beginning in September. Any new residents interested in joining the Women's Club can email us at fsskwomensclubnj@gmail.com.



ENJOY GIVE BACK BBQ AND DINNER DANCE, SUPPORT FUND-RAISING, AND COMMEND COMMITTEES' STELLAR WORK!!

Come Celebrate: Please join us at the clubhouse patio on August 22 for our Annual Give Back BBQ (12-1:30PM). Terrific opportunity to see what our Club has to offer and grab a delicious bite to eat. Always fun, with plenty of grilled hot dogs, burgers, salads, watermelon, and soft drinks. There will be a 5050 and a few additional surprises!

Nineteenth Annual Dinner Dance: We are holding our annual Dinner Dance this October Again, we will be at Southgate Manor in Freehold. Stay tuned for more information from the Men's Club. We all look forward to cocktails with appetizers and carving, pasta, and seafood stations. One of your favorite DJs will help you dance the night away. The fabulous dessert bar will again finish the evening off with a bang.

Pasta Night: We had the Annual Pasta Night fundraising at our July members meeting. The event was a complete sellout and a smashing success. Our charities will be rewarded while we all had a wonderful evening. The menu obviously included delicious pasta, along with meatballs, sausage, salads, antipasto, desserts, and soft drinks. A DJ provided music. Many danced the night away.

Kudos to Joe Spizzirri and the Ways and Means Committee for rolling out a night of fun. The memory of several of our Hall of Famers manning the spaghetti pots on hot plates and the wives preparing the sauce and meatballs linger. One of many treasures we continue to cherish! This year, D'Angelo Italian Market provided catering, acknowledging that this was a fundraising event.

Charity 50/50: The drawing will be held at our Holiday Party on Tuesday December 15. Anyone in the community can obtain tickets by contacting John McGregor, program lead, or any of the other board members. Last year, the proceeds exceeded \$12,000 and of course three lucky winners shared half!

God Bless America and Old Glory: The Veterans Committee did an excellent job coordinating our annual Flag Day festivities on June 14. The program highlights included an honor guard of flag bearing veterans representing each branch of our armed forces

and the community participating in the national pledge of allegiance. The well attended program also featured refreshments and several patriotic and historical videos.

Don Marotto continued the Tag a Flag program allowing residents to honor family veterans. Those one hundred sixty or so flags were placed on the clubhouse front lawn, including tags identifying veterans who were honored. Program proceeds were contributed to the Bowlers to Veterans Link, a charity that our member HOF bowler, John Petraglia, champions.

School Supplies: Thanks again to Rich Maczka for leading our school supplies drive. The collection went to St. Vincent DePaul to help prepare needy community children for the upcoming scholastic year. Thanks to our community for being so generous.

Play Ball: Gene Jacono and Dave Alvo led baseball game nights during July and May. By the time this is published, I hope we are basking in the glory of seeing a big Yankee victory over the Phillies during our trip to Philadelphia. And of course, we all enjoyed our annual night at the Blue Claws, with refreshments, over in Lakewood.

Chow Down and They are Off: Dennis Palmese led a great luncheon at IKKO hibachi steakhouse in Brick on July 9. Always one of the most popular events of the year. Definitely a load of repeat clientele at IKKO – good sign that it is a home run.

Dennis also led the Day at the Races at Monmouth Park and a luncheon at Moores during June and May, respectively. He does a great job on these get-togethers, which is very much appreciated by our members.

Dog Days: Our team fires the grills (regardless of rain or excessive heat) and runs the 50/50s drawings at Hot Dog Fridays. The raffles were done in support of Bread from Heaven and St. Vincent DePaul and for June and July. Please continue to give generously to these fine charities - that is appreciated.

Hope to see you all soon!

RESTAURANT REVIEW...OSTERIA CUCINA RUSTICA

By Janice LoPresti

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, we had the pleasure of dining at Osteria Cucina Rustica, 91 South Main Street, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746. It is an Italian restaurant known for its rustic ambiance, authentic cuisine with fresh ingredients. House made pastas, seafood, steaks and an extensive wine and cocktail list to name only a few highlights. It has many dining areas to choose from as well as a lively bar section. Known for its attentive service, huge portions for casual as well as special occasions. Osteria translated in Italian literally means a place where the owner hosts his guests. Lifelong friends Steven Botta and Angelo Bongiovanni have collaborated to design and recreate an authentic Osteria. Authenticity from the exposed beams to the limestone plaster walls to the one hundred year old reclaimed wooden floors create an unparalleled dining experience. The friends began their training very early on in their mother's kitchens, inspiring much of the menu they feature today.

Osteria is open for lunch and dinner. Lunch consists of paninis like Italian cheesesteak, grilled chicken, prosciutto di Parma, soups and salads, and dishes like eggplant parmigiana, chicken Milanese and burgers (\$14 -\$24). Check for special luncheon hours. Grilled fired pizzas are also available anytime.

Dinner menu offers too many options to mention. Some choices in appetizers would be Torre, eggplant tower, carpaccio, filet mignon, cuppa di clams and shrimp beeps, soups and salads (\$16-\$24). Prime dishes like spaghetti, pacheri, fusilli al forno and ravioli (\$24-\$35) homemade of course. Secondi dishes like bronzini - filet of sea bass, pollo rustic - breast of chicken over polenta, filetto di manzo - center cut of filet mignon, costata di Maile - center cut pork chop and aragosta arrabbiata - angry lobster (\$34 - \$65). Contorni sides like beluga lentils, broccoli di papa and grilled white asparagus (\$12-\$14). Desserts like cannoli, affogato, tortoni, homemade biscotti and tiramisu priced (\$12-\$18). There is also a special Sunday sauce dinner available only on Sundays. A numerous number of specials available daily.

There were four of us that day for dinner. We shared the burrata served with prosciutto, the Toscana salad and the meatball special. Audrey had the special halibut oreganata (with artichokes, cherry tomatoes, lemon white wine sauce topped with bread crumbs), Chris had the pacheri (with a slow braised bolognese ragu) and Rich and I both had the special filet mignon (with a port wine reduction). We shared broccoli garlic and oil, mashed potatoes and asparagus.

For dessert, we shared gelato and Italian cheesecake. The food was excellent, the service impeccable, the portions huge and the meal quite memorable.

Any questions, please call 732-577-8288. Reservations are highly recommended. Inside and outside seating is available. Hours and days may vary. Parking lot available. It is about a 35 minute drive from our community. A bit pricey but so worth the amazing food. It is definitely a culinary delight you will want to experience.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW...THE POLO CLUB

By Janice LoPresti

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, we had the pleasure of dining at The Polo Club, 216 Route 34, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733. It is a modern American restaurant with a posh, upscale and private club feel. It is known for its stylish decor, cocktails and a menu featuring steaks, seafood and shareable plates. It is owned by the Peach Group. There are a bar, lounge and patio for a variety of seating spaces. It is a bit pricey, however, the food quality was superb.

The Polo Club opens for dinner at 4:30 p.m. Reservations are strongly recommended. The menu consisted of a raw bar serving oysters on the half shell and classic shrimp cocktail to name a few (\$20-\$25). Soups and a variety of salads to share, like Caesar, Polo wedge and kabob salad (\$16-\$24). Small plates like crispy calamari, togarashi cauliflower, lobster mac and cheese, roasted octopus, the club burger and petite filet mignon (\$18-\$26). House Specialties like herb roasted chicken, king salmon, pan seared scallops, grilled French pork chop, and bone in veal parmesan (\$28-\$54). Signature steaks like NY strip, porterhouse and American wagyu (\$44-\$88). Sides like pommes puree, creamed spinach, and grilled asparagus (\$10-\$15). Desserts like creme brûlée, key lime pie and poached pear (\$10-\$15). Of course there were numerous daily specials, too many to mention, all sounding delicious. There was an extensive list of wines, beers and cocktails to complement the meal.

Six of us were having dinner that night. To begin with homemade bruschetta and two different kinds of bread were served. We shared three appetizers, a kabob salad (tomato, cucumber, red onion, feta and filet mignon), butternut squash soup, and Nikkei tuna tartare (avocado, blood orange and wontons). Rich and Chris had the king cab filet mignon served with asparagus, glazed carrots and Polo steak sauce. Janice Ann and Audrey had parmesan crusted halibut with English pea risotto, blistered tomatoes and lemon parmesan cream. Andrew had the short rib cavatelli with mushroom ricotta and truffle parmesan cream sauce. I had the small plate of filet mignon sliders with bacon onion jam, American cheese, Polo sauce and au-gratin potatoes. All of the meals were absolutely

exceptional in quality, quantity and taste. We shared creme brûlée, key lime pie and a poached pear for dessert with some regular coffees. Again, all were outstanding, scrumptious and plentiful. The service was excellent. Waiters did not rush the courses, gave us plenty of time in between. Our dinner actually lasted three hours. It was most enjoyable.

Any questions, please call 732-444-1931. It is about 33 minutes from South Knolls. There is a parking lot. When you enter, you will see two lions in front and many horse photos inside. There were several different areas for seating to choose from. The lavish and comforting decor raised our expectations for the food to be of a high level to match. Indeed, it did and we were definitely not disappointed. It is certainly worth a visit for any special occasion. Life needs to be celebrated when you are able to. So go, savor the moment, make new memories and enjoy!

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THE VETERAN'S COLUMN

By Sheldon Kirschenbaum



TERRY THOMPSON

This is the second addition to the *SPIRIT* with this recurring column wherein we will honor and make you acquainted with some of the vets living here at South Knolls by telling their stories, or as much as they may wish to relate. In addition we will end with current issues affecting veterans and announcement from the FSSK Men's Club Veterans Committee.

As you are aware there are many Vietnam vets residing here in our community who were either summoned or volunteered to serve their country. This issue we will be interviewing a veteran who enlisted in the Army to avoid the draft and being sent to Vietnam. Lets' see how that worked out for him.

The veteran I would like to introduce you to is Terry Thompson, our neighbor on Kingston Drive, whom many of you already know. Terry was a local boy from a working class family in Point Pleasant. He attended a prep school (on Scholarship), where he played varsity football for four years. Upon graduation he went to Rutgers to the Engineering College which he did not do well in at all and dropped out. He decided to switch to the Liberal Arts School but was informed he would have to reapply in the fall. Terry was in fear of being drafted and being sent to Vietnam as an infantryman. He decided to go the recruiting office and the recruiter told him to pick a military specialty none of which at first appealed to him. The recruiter suggested a communications specialist (teletype) and assured Terry that he would not be sent to Vietnam. Well, we will see how well that went.

Terry did his basic training at Fort Dix and then went to Fort Gordon, GA., the Army Signal School, where upon arrival they shuttled him around until finally he was trained in teletype and then had to obtain a Secret Crypto clearance so he could actually

do the job. Eventually, he was assigned to an 8 man detachment which was assigned to a logistics company in Fort Lee, VA. Shortly after his arrival they inform him that the unit is shipping to Southeast Asia and his detachment is going with them. But, hey, his recruiter told him he would not have to go to Vietnam! But that did not cut any ice, orders were orders. Just prior to departing for Norfolk News to catch a troop ship his 8 man detachment was told to stand down. The logistics company went on a long cruise down the coast thru the Panama Canal and eventually to Vietnam.

The eight man detachment became holdovers, no assignment, just hanging out. After a few weeks of boredom an officer showed up at the barracks looking for two volunteers and Terry, who knew better, raised his hand any way....you guessed it, Terry was going to Vietnam.

After a thirty day leave, on July 4, 1967, Terry flew to Hawaii, then to Guam, a stop in the Philippines and arrived in the Republic of South Vietnam on July 5, 1967.

After some confusion as to where he was assigned he landed in the Headquarters Company of the 1st Logistics Command in Saigon where stayed for six months before being transferred to the new building for the 1st Logistics Command in Long Binh (about 22 miles north of Saigon). His unit, basically, provided a messenger service between various Commands (such as MACV, infantry divisions, etc.).

Terry's scariest experience was during the 1968 Tet Offensive in late January 1968. His sixteen man detachment, made up of clerks and communications specialists, were issued .45 caliber pistols for which they had little or no training and M-16 rifles, were then trucked to a perimeter of the base that was a large mud flat facing the jungle. Upon arrival they were given sandbags and entrenching tools and were told to dig in with four men to a hole. After a few hours, it was nighttime now, a young lieutenant came up and informed them that there were enemy sappers demolitions expert opposite them in the jungle with the intention of blowing up the ammunition dump which was some distance behind them. Well, after that information they fired at any sound or perceived movement in front of them and probably a couple of water buffalos in the process. Sometime, in the wee hours of the morning, the detachment was shook by a tremendous explosion accompanied by a terrific white light. The ammo dump at Long Binh, a meter

Continued on next page

Veteran's Corner Continued

or two directly behind them was blown up by the sappers. This ammunition supply depot had the largest quantity of munitions in the entire county from small arms ammo to rockets and bombs. Terry's detachment survived the Tet Offensive.

As July 1968 was coming up Terry had to make a decision, his tour was up, he survived a year, go home or extend his tour. Terry was promoted to Sargent E-5, "Buck Sargent", prior to the end of his tour of duty. He knew what he had in his current command, not sure where they would send him in the states. Terry signed up for another tour. He took a 30 day leave and came home to New Jersey.

Before he went on leave Terry grew a large honey blond handlebar mustache and was quite tan from the ever present sun in Vietnam (except during the monsoon season). Upon landing in the states he decided to take a cab home from the airport. When he entered his parents' house he put down his duffle and went in to the living room where group of women sat, his mother was having a Tupperware party and she was in the kitchen. Although most of the women knew him they did not recognize him and called to his mother that a strange man just barged into the house. His mother came out and after a moment asked why he did not tell them when he was coming home. Terry had four weeks leave but after three weeks he caught a flight from McGuire Air Force Base. He said that he felt safer in Vietnam than in New Jersey with all the riots and peace demonstrations going on here at home.

Terry returned to Vietnam and served another seven months in Long Bihn, for a total of nineteen months in country. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service and was discharged from the Army.

Upon discharge he tried various jobs from working telephone lines for NJ Bell, laying cable for cable TV in Point Pleasant and Bayhead, eventually he decided he wanted to get into computers and went to an employment agency who placed him in a local bank making a subsistence wage. After working there a while he asked the VP in charge if he could see the

computers, well there were no computers it was all sent offsite. In a quandary Terry decided to stick it out with the bank and this was the beginning of his career in banking. He is probably the only non-college graduate who was President and CEO of two large regional banks.

The story does not end, yet, Terry was deeply involved with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located near the Garden State Art Center in Holmdel and prior to its renovation there was a plaque on the wall thanking him for his good work. He was also asked to attend board meetings for the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, twice at the NY Stock Exchange and once in Washington. Here was a Sargent sitting with Senators, Congressmen. Generals, corporate CEO's, and the like being asked his opinions.

While at one these board meetings he was talking with a two-star General (Major General) about their experiences in Vietnam and he told the General the story about the Long Bihn ammo dump blowing up. The General at the end of the story turns to Terry and says "Don't ever tell that story again!" Terry was taken aback and asks why and the General repeats himself and then explains that the tank unit under his command was charged with protecting the Long Bihn Ammunitions Depot. Small world!

Terry is retired now and lives happily with his wife Elaine here in South Knolls and if you meet him give him your thanks for being a patriot. He is a really nice guy and interesting to talk with. Note that Terry's father was a Pacific Theatre World War II vet and his grandfather was a World War I pilot who survived to talk about it.

I met with Don Marotto, head of the Veterans Committee of the Men's Club, and we decided that a full Muster Meeting of all veterans residing in South Knolls, men and women, members of the Men's Club or not, should be held in September to exchange information and ideas for the betterment of all FSSK vets' and their families. We would hope to identify issues with the Veterans Administration, discuss experiences and possibly bring in a VA official and address issues within the group. An announcement and notification will be sent as soon as we have a date and time.



WOMEN'S CLUB

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH - JUNE 2026

By Debora Scatuccio

The Women's Club Annual Volunteer Brunch was held on June 3rd in the FSSK Ballroom. The club holds the event to recognize the contributions of our member volunteers who give their time, talents, and skills in service to the club and our community.

Every year a lovely gift is given to each of the volunteers, this year a frame with a personal message was placed at every place setting. The tables were elegantly prepared and included a floral centerpiece. Tee Time Catering of Brick Township provided excellence service and a delicious brunch.

Without the efforts of our board and the various committee members the club would cease to exist.

The collaborators make an impact in many ways. A few examples are coordinating monthly meetings and special events, preparing food and drinks, clean-up, event registration and managing the website, collecting dues, designing club posters & flyers, taking photos and writing articles for the Spirit, updating membership info, and assisting with sign-ups, running the clothing drives and helping families in need during the holidays. In addition, run Bingo, and raise money to benefit charitable causes the members care about.

The words of Martin Luther King, Jr. truly summarize the spirit of our volunteers. "Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."



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Joe will be selling his famous shepherd's pie for you to take home for dinner.

The Men's Club will be adding breakfast sandwiches and ice cream cones to their menu of bagels and coffee in the morning, and burgers, hot dogs and soda later on.

Carol is offering personal fruit pies (when a whole pie is just too much) to her selection of full size pies,

seven types of scones, jams, local honey and apple-sauce.

Guest baker Lorraine will be selling slices of Italian cheesecake with raspberry sauce...perfect with a cup of Joe's coffee from the Men's Club. A limited number of whole cheesecakes will also be available for purchase.

So pack up your shopping bags and enjoy this big neighborhood party complete with acoustic guitar music and vocals. Admission is free; door prizes every hour. We have been promised more sourdough bread this year as well as additional pumpkins and florals from the Garden Club. Hint: come early so you won't be disappointed!

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SOUTH KNOLLS COMMUNITY BOWLING LEAGUE

By Joe Conti

Our 20th bowling season begins on Wednesday September 2nd, and will conclude on the last Wednesday in April. We bowl at 10 o'clock in the morning at Howell Lanes on Rt. 9. The cost is \$10.00

We welcome new bowlers. We have bowlers at all skill levels so it doesn't matter if you haven't bowled in years. We always need substitute bowlers and may also need a bowler or two to complete teams.

There are no prizes. It's about fun, a little exercise, and a good way to meet some of your neighbors.

If you have interest you can contact me at;
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THIS AND THAT

By Paula Schichtel

Zoey LoPresti was named to Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Spring 2026 Dean's List, a member of the graduating class of 2026 majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She was praised for Academic Excellence. Those named to the Dean's list have excelled in all of their work. Gram **Janice LoPresti** of Wolverton Court, is so proud of her beautiful granddaughter, Zoey!!!

Celebrating more wonderful news..... On Saturday, July 18, 2026, Richard Charles LoPresti married Betsy Elizabeth Banks. The beautiful ceremony and wonderful reception was at The Milford Yacht Club in Milford, Connecticut. The couple was surrounded by family and friends. **Janice LoPresti** of Wolverton Court is the very proud mom.

Pat and Ellen Gallagher had a lot to celebrate this year. They celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on July 17 in the Dominican Republic Puerto Plata with their whole family. They were also celebrating their grandson Connor's graduation from Villanova College, their granddaughter Maryellen's 18th birthday and daughter-in-law Marriette's birthday. They all had a great time.

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3	8	1	4	2	7	5	9	6
5	7	6	8	1	9	4	3	2
7	4	5	2	9	1	3	6	8
6	3	9	7	4	8	2	5	1
1	2	8	6	5	3	9	7	4

HERITAGE CLUB – THE EDDIE TESLA BAND



THE FSSK CHORUS CELEBRATES THE 250TH AMERICAN BIRTHDAY

By Helen Kelly

On Saturday June 27, at 7 PM, the FSSK Chorus, directed by Kathy Cush, presented a lively musical tribute to celebrate America's 250th birthday, featuring the songs of singers from the original 13 colonies.

Soloists included Don Marotto singing two Frank Sinatra hits, *Luck Be a Lady Tonight* and *Fly Me to the Moon*. Ashley Corrao gave a commanding performance of Donna Summer's hit, *Bad Girls*; Larry Reiff rendered a true Bobby Darrin sound with *Dream Lover* and Francine Belson sang a verse of *Sittin' on the Top of the Dock*. *Special acknowledgement to our wonderful 29-member chorus for their fine singing and for all the practice.*

An enthusiastic audience filled the ballroom and joined the chorus in a few beloved American patriotic songs, ending in a rousing "God Bless America." Oh yes! Our community was ready for the birthday celebration!

With a red, white and blue dress theme, the chorus stood under a giant image of the American flag lit up on screen. With all the excitement building up to July 4th, the very air seemed charged.

After the concert, Don Marotto, the sound assistant, presented Kathy with a bouquet of flowers and a gift from the chorus. This was followed by refreshments from chorus members, set up and served to the community and guests by the always supportive Social Committee led by Joe Spizzirri.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!





SHOWTIME REVIEW DECADES IN DUET

By Benj Leibowitz

Saturday March 28 Showtime introduced it's 2026 season with a remarkable show THE DECADES IN DUET. Vocalists, multi-talented award-winning husband/wife songwriters Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn celebrate love and music in their well know production of Decades in Duet.

Before introducing Annalyse and Ryan, Ben Leibowitz introduced the Showtime Board of Directors. He then acknowledged and thanked the hard work of the stage crews and hospitality team. Patti Tucker was also thanked for her artistic talent by creating the poster for the show's advertisement.

After that he asked the Board members to step forward and introduced Showtime's president Steve Rankin who made a special presentation. Steve asked Bob Friedrich to join the Board to accept a plaque recognizing him as an original founding member of the Showtime Board. The audience responded with a round of applause.

Ben then introduced the "Dynamic Duo" Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn and accompanying band to the stage. They say "it takes two to make a dream come true," and this dynamic duo gives that old adage new life as they brought their years of headline experience

together to create this special Showtime event. Featuring cross-genre favorites from the 60's, 70's and 80's, they took command starting the evening with a lively John and Dee rendition *Don't Go Breaking My Heart* followed by a Parton and Rodgers *Island in the Stream* to which the audience cheered wildly getting into the mood of the evening. They continued with Paltrow and Lewis *Crusin*, Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett, *Lady Is A Tramp*, Crocker and Warnes, *Up Where You Belong* and Sonny and Cher, *I Got You Babe*.

There was a brief Intermission with coffee and cookies served. Annalyse and Ryan returned to the stage and introduced the three members of their band to start the second set with a rousing Queen and David Bowie *Under Pressure*. The audience reacted positively to Frank and Nancy Sinatra's *Somethin Stupid* and an original Annalyse and Ryan *Tough Luck*, and a medley featuring Meat Loaf, *Paradise by the Dashboard Light*. The second set came to a close with a Rod Stewart and Tina Turner *It Takes Two* to a standing ovation and encore *I've Had the Time Of My Life*. Truly a great show and a wrap for an outstanding SHOWTIME production.

Next Show GARDEN STATE GROOVE Saturday one of NJ's premier bands. Friday June 5.

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB – JERSEY BEACH BOYS

By Janice LoPresti

On Wednesday, June 10, 2026, The Italian American Club hosted The Jersey Beach Boys in our South Knolls Ballroom. The doors opened at 5:30 to a packed house of eager members. Dinner was catered by D'Angelo's. It was an indoor style barbecue menu consisting of pulled pork, sausage and peppers, chicken skewers, barbecue ribs, baked beans, corn on the cob, orecchiette and broccoli, along with a variety of salads and fixings. Needless to say, there was plenty of delicious food to choose from.

Dinner was served by many Italian Club members assisting the group. Seconds were up for grabs as always. The show began promptly at 7:00 p.m... It was a high energy tribute act. The show mashes up the west coast surf-rock harmonies of the Beach Boys with the slick choreography Doo Wop sound and swagger of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Signature songs like Surfing USA and California Girls were performed with the legendary dance moves and stage showmanship. There were also interactive moments throughout the evening, including comedy and historic storytelling. It was a feel good concert that had the entire audience smiling from the first note to the final bow. Rob, Daniel, Chad, Chris and Joe met

originally in 1998 while studying as music majors at the University of Delaware. They started out as a simple college of an a cappella group developing their national touring tribute acts.

Following a short intermission, dessert, consisting of ice cream sandwiches and cookie, coffee and tea were served. The second part of the act was way better than the first. The audience was mesmerized by the group through the night. The audience was happy to be so engaged with fabulous song and dance. Beach Balls were tossed into the audience, providing a spectacular finish to the show. What a great way to end the season for IAC.

50/50 was called; special thanks to Dennis Mansour for selling the tickets. Neil Russo won that night. Thanks also to Bob Friedrich for the wonderful photos he always manages to take. Thanks also to all who helped make the event a true success. Members are what make the Italian American Club so special. Kudos to all who work so diligently on the board. Thanks Cathy!

Looking forward to the new season in September.

Grazie a tutti ..Thanks to all ..Trascorri una meravigliosa estate.. Have a wonderful summer...



IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

By Cathy Monroe

Several members of the Irish American Club recently cruised to Bermuda. We all had a wonderful time. I'm used to small ships and was a little reluctant to make the move from a 100 passenger ship to a 1000+ passenger ship. I was wrong. It was a wonderful adventure, or as one member of our group put it, "Too much, too much food, too much fun."

I had been to Bermuda many, many years ago, so I was anxious to see how much it had changed. It is still beautiful, the water is still as clear as it was then and the people are still as friendly.

A few members of our group attended Sunday Mass and took a cab to the church. After Mass, one of the parishioners insisted on driving our group back to the ship. It is something she likes to do for visitors. She is a native Bermudian and gave a little tour, showing the hotel where her mother worked for many years.

The people were very warm and friendly. The island is beautiful, not commercialized and the beaches were a hit with those who spent the day there.

Some of our group not only enjoyed the entertainment, they became part of it. Al Kozich, Joan McMahon and Rosemary Sebring participated in "Battle of the Sexes", Al stole the show. In the "Perfect Couple" content, Bill and Rosemary Sebring were strong contenders and had the audience behing them. Their performance was so good, it was on the ship's TV channel.

There were several tours available. One was a Tea and Tales tour of the south side of the island. Our guide was very knowledgeable about the area, and the tea was served at a beautiful locale overlooking the ocean. Very relaxing.

Everyone seemed to enjoy this cruise and the opportunity to get to know our fellow club members better.



CREATIVE WRITING

ROSE PETALS

By Donna Pardi-D'Andrea

Rose petals lie upon the ground
No longer the full and round
Spiral of perfection
They have lost their connection

To each other, and pull apart
To expose a dried up heart
That has no luster
About it no more cluster

Of petals intertwined
Each part to unwind
Until it holds no more
Separate from the core

It drops off. But next to
It a tightly wound new
Bud is ready to uncurl –
New circles of beauty slowly unfurl



ARRIVAL OF SPRING

By Donna D'Andrea

Tulips peeping through the ground
Their heads turned toward the light
Oh to finally be unbound
Pushing up and up in height

Their heads turned toward the light
Their bodies stretching free
Pushing up and up in height
Unearthed so joyfully

Their bodies stretching free
They finally reach their prime
Unearthed so joyfully
Their beauty so sublime

Awake from winter's slumber
Tulips peeping through the ground
The earth is filled with wonder
Oh to finally be unbound



AWESTRUCK

By Donna Pardi-D'Andrea

High up in the mountain
On winding roads we travel
As we drive through this scenic land
The wonders of nature unravel

Peaks that rise to touch the clouds
So awesome to behold
With lakes and babbling brooks below
Their majesty unfolds

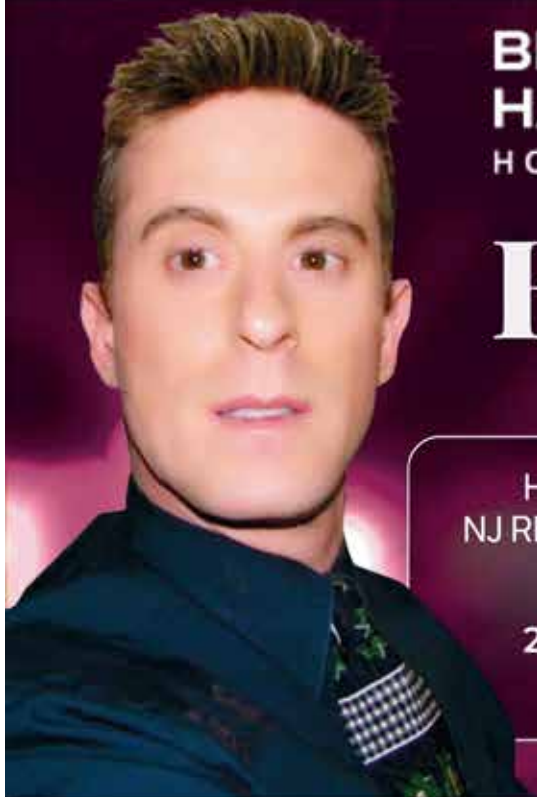
There's fields of grapes
Lined up so neatly
And mountains with waterfalls
That flow so sweetly

It touches a place
Within my soul
That feels so peaceful
And feels so whole

I see every detail
So intimately woven
Intermingled
And infinitely chosen

As if we're all links
In a wondrous chain
Flowing to and from
One and the Same

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