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## elcome to the March/April Newsletter

### Annual Update from Board Chairman John P. (Jack) Miles

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As many of you know, ITNOrlando suspended operations in November of 2016. A year ago this March, with the assistance of ITNAmerica, members of the prior Board of Directors, Zain Durrani, other volunteers, and the financial support of our members, ITNOrlando reestablished service, delivering rides to our members.

It is important to note that 36 ITNOrlando members donated \$11,640 to help us get rolling again. Without the assistance of our volunteers, and generous contributions from our members this would not have been possible so to all; a BIG THANKS!

The new board of Directors worked closely with ITNAmerica and Zain to plan out our first year of operation. Checking the financials, reestablishing insurance, validating what bills had and had not been paid, and reestablishing our merchant accounts are just some of the items that needed to be addressed. We agreed our objective was to demonstrate the financial sustainability and stability of ITNOrlando. The most important pillar in accomplishing that was recruiting and maintaining volunteer drivers.

The majority of our expenses are fixed thus we have little control over them. Operating expenses are about \$77,000 annually. The largest expenses are the payroll for our operations and chief everything officer, Zain. We are fortunate to be able to get a person or two to assist in our office through a program with AARP. Then there is insurance, including Board of Directors and Officers, General Liability, and the rather expensive, Un-owned Automobile Insurance. Other expenses are additional fees we pay to ITNAmerica for their services, which include the technology we use to manage and settle your account and book rides.

We were fortunate to be able to obtain donated office space from Commerce National Bank; a big thanks to them for their generosity. While it required a move, and we had to acquire some equipment, longer term, it will help us with our expenses. We operate on a very lean budget and even with that, yearend fundraising was necessary. We needed a minimum of \$7,500 to break even in 2017, and our annual appeal to our members raised \$8,800! We thank all who donated for their generosity!

## ***Annual Update (con't)***

For context, ITNOrlando has 273 members; number of monthly rides has averaged 300 and looking at our ride statistics and destinations the top general destinations: Publix, First United Methodist Church of Winter Park, Orlando Bridge Center, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Class Acts Beauty Salon, YMCA, not to mention all the trips to various medical offices. Since the inception of ITNAmerica, the national organization will surpass the 1,000,000 mile mark of rides provided sometime in 2018! That's quite a milestone for an organization that relies primarily on volunteer drivers, and we're proud to be a part of that accomplishment!

Ride requests started slowly in March 2017, and picked up gradually over the next few months, utilizing 95% volunteer drivers. We cannot thank our volunteers enough and in December we sponsored an appreciation gathering for them when we also recognized our volunteer of the year John VonMutius.

At our January board meeting, it was determined that we were in a position to begin adding new members. Yes, we added a few since resuming service, but did so very cautiously with an eye to both our bottom line and the number of volunteer drivers available to help our members. Our plan is to add 25-30 members over the next few months; something that we are very proud to be in a position to do in such a short period of time.

So never taking our eye off the target of financial sustainability, we are focusing on soliciting foundations for donations or grants and perhaps seeking matching funds for our annual appeal. What we lack in fundraising experience we try to make up for in our drive to maintain service for our members. We welcome any thoughts or ideas on fundraising for operating expenses. Additionally we welcome anyone with fundraising and grant writing experience that would be willing to volunteer and assist in this effort.

In summary, thanks. Thanks to our volunteer drivers as without their effort we would not be where we are. Thanks to Commerce National Bank for providing us with office space. Thanks to our members for your commitment and financial support of ITNOrlando. And lastly, a special thanks goes to our wonderful Zain Durrani. His dedication and commitment to our organization has not gone unnoticed. He works diligently to maintain our budget, assure that you are able to get to your appointments and events, and even drive some of you. We could not be expanding our service or keeping you going without his passion and expertise.

We look forward to serving your ride needs in 2018 and beyond. You are the reason we are in business and we know that by providing this ride service you are able to have a more fulfilling life.

Take care. We are proud to be a part of all of your lives.

## March Birthdays

Brenda Bolton  
Mati Braun  
Marydel Burton  
Pat Carroll  
William Carter  
Gladys Dennis  
Bernadette Fuhrman  
Betsy Hartnett  
Anna Henriquez

Isabel Lorie  
Candace Lowell  
Goldie Nolte  
Marion Painter  
Rodney Pearl  
Henry Ruiz  
Bill Warren  
Shannon Wise  
Clara Zaninelli



## April Birthdays

*Your accounts  
have been  
credited with  
your \$5 gift!*

Ethel Baluzy  
Elizabeth Brothers  
Ana Brown  
Carol Cole  
Beth Coleman  
Jean Esannason  
Arlee Gaines  
Elizabeth Head  
Doris Lane  
Nancy Loving

Julie Maxfield  
Cornelia McDonald  
Mercedes Miller  
Lois Mills  
Randi Sutphin  
Jane Watkins  
Jerome Whittier  
Linda Young  
Paul Zimmerman  
Judith Zogus

## **Leu Gardens**

Nature Connects Art with LEGO Bricks

Now through April 22

More than 450,000 LEGO bricks were used to create 16 sculptures

Free days are suspended through April



## **Morse Museum of American Art**

### **Spring Friday Nights Live Music**

5-8 P.M.

March 23 Victoria Lynn Schulz Harp Trio

March 30 Joshua Englert classical guitar

April 6 Beautiful Music Chamber Trio

April 13 Beautiful Music Romance Duo

Free after 5 P.M.

### **Evening Curator Tours**

7 P.M.

Fridays March 23 and 30, April 6, 13

free

Tours offered by curators on a limited first come, first served basis.

## ***Events (con't)***

### ***Morse Museum of American Art***

Easter Weekend Open House

Friday March 30-Sunday April 1

Free admission throughout the weekend

### ***Winter Park Sidewalk Arts Festival***

[www.wpsaf.org](http://www.wpsaf.org)

9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

March 16-18

Free

The bi-annual fine arts show in the heart of Winter Park.

### ***Brass Band of Central Florida***

(During Winter Park Sidewalk Arts Festival)

5 P.M.

March 17

Free

North Park Avenue Stage

### ***Downtown Library***

**[\(click here for info on all events\)](#)**

Social Worker@ the Library

9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Free

A social worker is onsite on the 4th floor to assist with any social or governmental issues.

## St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17 annually, is the observance of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What began as a religious feast day in the 17th century has evolved into a variety of festivals across the globe celebrating Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, and a whole lot of green.



For a fun look at global celebrations, the website History has created a fun graphic of [St. Patrick's Day](#) by the numbers. It's a great graphic with statistics such as where the greatest Irish populations live in the U.S., how many times there have been St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City (250), or what percentage of the population goes to a party (31%).



### A new St. Patrick's Tradition-Green Beer!

If you're interested in how to make the best green beer, a favorite of most St. Patrick's Day celebrations, try this from [Betty Crocker](#):

1. Put 2-3 drops green food coloring, the kind in the old fashion dropper tubes, in the bottom of a pint glass. (An icy cold glass is great!)
2. Pour your favorite light lager or IPA in the glass.
3. Enjoy.

(Just a heads up-don't mix blue and yellow food coloring as you'll get turquoise beer.)

## *First Day of Spring*

The spring or vernal equinox occurs on March 20 at 12:15 P.M. The equinox means that the amount of daylight and darkness are equal in the Northern Hemisphere and is marked annually on either the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

While the daylight and night are not necessarily equal, they are close enough. And while the equinox is celebrated at 12:15 P.M. on the east coast, it is welcomed around the world at that same moment, no matter what time zone. (In California, it would be celebrated at 9:15 A.M.)

Meteorologists celebrate the seasons differently. They consider spring to come in like a lion or a lamb on March 1 and summer to start 3 months later at June 1<sup>st</sup>.



### ***A bit of folklore.***

People have been standing raw eggs on end on the equinox for years. The good folks at the Farmer's Almanac tried it and found that eggs would still stand on end as late as March 22/23 so they are not certain if you could stand an egg on end other days of the year. If you try this, please let Zain know and we'll mention it in the next newsletter. We're curious!

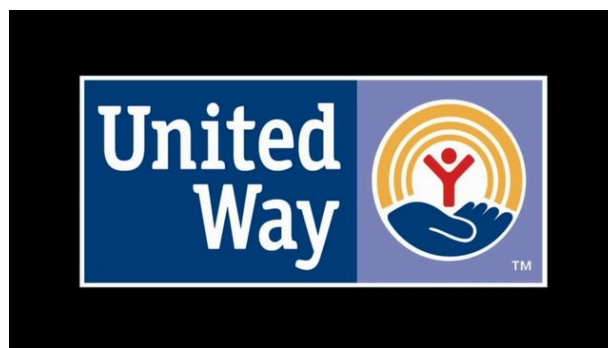
## *Happy Spring to all!*



## ***Free Tax Preparation***

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a free tax preparation service run by volunteers that is offered to families in Orange County. Volunteers from the United Way are available to help individuals file

their taxes at a time and location convenient for them. Here's some information from their [blog](#).



### **When meeting with a VITA volunteer, you'll need to bring:**

- Valid photo ID
- Copy of your 2016 tax return, if available
- Social security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for you and/or your spouse
- Income documentation, including W-2 forms for all jobs held during 2017, and any 1099 forms showing other income for the year
- Bank account information (including routing and account numbers) or a blank check for direct deposit, if applicable
- Health Care 1095A

To set up a time to meet with a VITA volunteer please call 211, the United Way assistance line.



## ***United Way 211***

Many of us have donated to our local United Way or its affiliated agencies in the communities where we live or have lived. It is amazing how a simple, single donation can help so many. While you may have helped in the past

by donating or volunteering, don't forget that United Way is here for you now.



## ***United Way 211 (con't)***

The 211 section of the Heart of Florida United Way offers assistance to our community for the following needs:

- Local Food Banks And Nutrition Programs
- Emergency Housing Assistance
- Disaster Relief
- Employment And Education Opportunities
- Veteran Services
- Health Care Information
- Support And Crisis Assistance For Mental Disorders.

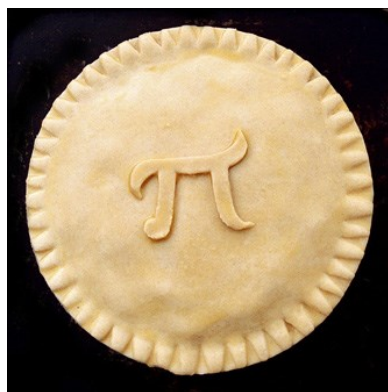
While these specific services may not fit your exact needs, the 211 resource area of our local United Way can help by connecting you with many of our community resources.

It's simple. Dial 2-1-1 and our local United Way will answer the phone and will help connect you to the resources you need.

## Pi Day

No, that's not spelled wrong. We're talking about 3/14 or Pi Day.

So, going back to our days in high school math class, we learned that Pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of a circle's circumference (the distance around the circle) to its diameter (the distance across the circle). Pi is a constant number, meaning that for all circles of any size, Pi will be the same. (Your writer is starting to struggle with math concepts again)



To determine the area of a circle, use the equation:  
 $A = \pi r^2$

Simply, the area of a circle is equal to  $3.14 \times$  its radius squared. (Your writer is struggling more). You'd need to use this formula to determine the area of a circle if you were, say, determining how many feet of cement you'd need to fill a cylinder. (Your writer is really struggling)

So why Pi Day? Because Pi is 3.14, give or take a trillion digits, people have started celebrating March 14 (3/14) as Pi Day. Many restaurants have joined in the fun and have offered specials on pies! (Your writer is no longer struggling, sweets are involved!)

Now we're talking turkey, or rather pie. So according to [epicurious.com](http://epicurious.com) what are the top 10 types of pies? In no particular order:

Apple  
Chocolate Crème  
Apple Crumb  
Pecan  
Blueberry

Pumpkin  
Cherry  
Peach  
Lemon Meringue  
Key Lime

### Doing a survey of the office, we'd learned that:

Zain's favorite kind of pie is Pecan Pie

Lisa's favorite kind of pie is apple with crumb topping with vanilla ice cream.



## ***April Fool's Day***

What was your favorite prank that you played on April Fool's Day? I remember one day in Columbus, OH when the newscasters talked about having to pay for TV service! What! Wait! TV was free when using the antennas. (That was in 1987, long before ESPN and HBO were on the air. Now, I long for the days of free TV.)

If you'd like an interesting history of April Fool's Day go to [The Washington Posts](#) article It's a cheeky, in depth look at April Fool's celebrations through the years.

A historian's look at the day considers the Roman celebration of Hilaria to be the first celebration of a day to relax and make merry with jokes and mockery. Other cultures and religions celebrated days of fun such as the two-day Hindu celebration Holi, the Persian festival Sizdah Bedar and the Jewish holiday Purim. The Catholic celebration of the "Feast of Fools" was initially celebrated on January 1st, but was thought to be moved to spring when the calendar was standardized. In France in the 16th century children would put signs on other's backs to spur on jokes.

It's all fun and games with many different takes on how it came to be.

And now don't we all wish we had free TV?

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