

## **Save the Date - Jane Brody on January 17**

The 3rd Annual Come Ride With Us! event will focus on education, awareness and resources to help all of us age well in community. This year, we are pleased to feature Jane Brody, acclaimed New York Times Columnist and American Author and deemed “High Priestess of Health” by Time Magazine. The Come Ride With Us! luncheon will take place on January 17, 2019 at The Carlisle in Sarasota. We are looking for individual and business sponsors for the event. Individual tickets will be available for \$50. Funds raised will help combat social isolation and loneliness among seniors and adults with vision challenges through the programs that we offer. For more information, contact Stacy Prouty, our Director of Development & Marketing, at 941-364-7530.

## **GIVE65 – Thanks!**

Thank you to those who donated to ITN SunCoast during Give65 in July! As the result of your generous support, which is needed to maintain our ride services, \$5,725 was raised. We were one of only three nonprofit organizations in Florida selected to participate in GIVE65, a 65-hour online giving event to help nonprofit organizations serving seniors raise funds and increase awareness. Sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care Foundation that contributed a 1:1 match, GIVE65 highlighted 120 senior-focused nonprofits from across the United States. Funds donated to ITN SunCoast during GIVE65 are earmarked for its Road Scholar Program that provides rides at a reduced cost to seniors living on limited incomes.

## **Free Rides to the Polls**

Election season is upon us and there are important elections on August 28<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. In the spirit of supporting people who do not drive to stay engaged in the community and who like the experience of casting a paper ballot, ITN SunCoast will provide free rides to the polls. Rides will be available for “early voting” (August 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>) and on election day to anyone 60+ and adults of any age who do not drive. Give us a call a few days in advance and request your free ride to the polls.

## **Any Questions About Medicare?**

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and our local Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers can assist you with your Medicare, Medicaid, and health insurance questions by providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential and are available to Medicare beneficiaries, their caregivers and those soon to be eligible. SHINE counselors are not insurance representatives and will not sell you a product.

One on One Counseling is available at a number of locations in Sarasota and Manatee Counties by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 239-652-6900 ext. 58259 in Sarasota County or 800-336-2226 in Manatee County. ITN SunCoast provides free rides to SHINE appointments. Just give the ITN SunCoast office a call after you have made an appointment.

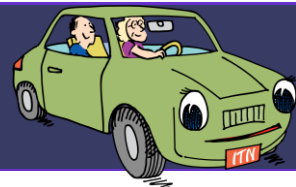
## **Health and Wellness Week with the Orioles – August 6 & 8**

Join us for the Orioles' Health and Wellness Week featuring free health screenings, interactive Fitness Demos, nutrition & wellness experts and much more. Stay to watch a ball game in an air conditioned suite on Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The event runs from 11:00am - 3:00pm both days at Ed Smith Stadium, 2700 12th St in Sarasota. There is no charge to attend and ITN SunCoast will provide free rides. Other Wellness Event Highlights include:

- Doors Open at 11:00 am
- Free Admission & Parking (East Lot)
- Orioles vs. Red Sox at 12:00 pm – Gulf Coast League
- More than 20 Displays by Area Providers
- Free Health Screenings
- Ballpark Fare Specials
- Nutrition & Wellness Experts
- Free Bottle of Water!

## **Labor Day – Can You Believe It?**

Labor Day is just around the corner on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. For those from the northeast or midwest, it traditionally represents the end of the summer and the beginning of the cooler time of year. For us here in Florida, it is a hint of the long awaited end to the summer heat with the promise of evenings in the 70s and 60s. The ITN SunCoast office will be closed on Labor Day. As the result, please remember to make your ride requests for the weekend (Saturday, Sunday & Monday) as well as Tuesday by 1 pm on Friday, August 31. Thank you!



## **Meet Our Board Treasurer & Hero – Don Deibert**

By Linsea Mohr

As the transport industry forges ahead at warp speed, Don Deibert is on board to navigate the road map of ITN's future. Deibert, 63, serves as a treasurer of the ITN SunCoast Board of Directors, does the bookkeeping for the organization, and is one of our more active volunteer drivers. In addition, Don is the current chair of ITN America's Affiliate Committee Advisory Board (ACAB) that represents the voice for all ITN affiliates.

Uplifting those in need with gentleness and patience is integral to Don's DNA. He has an extensive social work background and found his sweet spot when he came to Sarasota three years ago by volunteering for ITN. Don has a distinctive way of lifting riders' spirits while he transports them around town.

At his core is his unyielding advocacy to help others. "I'm a religious person so I try to give back to others," Don said.

Deibert's tireless giving has manifested in his contribution to new frontiers at ITN. On the horizon is a new software system being developed by ITN America to provide more streamlined operations. The software pilot will begin with the ITN affiliate in Westbrook, Maine. Ongoing ITN SunCoast projects he participates in include identifying grant opportunities, fundraising events (including the January Luncheon and the spring Non-Event Event) and marketing projects.

Don derived his compassion and benevolence from social work while a foray into business and life experience taught him tenacity. "I've learned that in anything, if you don't succeed, just continue until you do."

Revered for his work in the non-profit field, in addition to all he does for ITN SunCoast, Deibert currently manages the Road to Recovery, a volunteer driving program in Western North Carolina (where he used to reside) that is under the umbrella of the American Cancer Society.

When he takes a breather from ITN, Don relaxes with his Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Izzy and Andrew. Originally from Camden, NJ, he grew up in Vero Beach, FL and came to Sarasota in 2015 to be closer to his brother and family in Lakewood Ranch.

## **Member Spotlight: Joe and Jo Wieczynski**

By Linsea Mohr

The orator. He was a brilliant scholar and professor with a Ph.D. in Russian Studies and European History with a passion for teaching college freshmen how to unravel the mysticism of faraway lands of bygone ages. Students flocked to his classes drawn in by his scintillating instruction style and zest for life. His name is Joe.

The writer. She was a journalist and editor at Georgetown University. She was an amalgamation of loveliness, beauty and brains with a penchant for the written word. Her name is Jo.

Their enduring love story began by a simple twist of fate chance meeting through a friend in 1960 that changed both of their destinies forever when they married two years later. Their union produced three sons who have varied careers ranging from architect to CFO of Aetna to President of Exxon Mobil Indonesia and three grandchildren.

Joe's own career of teaching along with authoring several books and articles enabled their family to travel the world on a never-ending journey of exciting adventures. Other notable credits he attained were when he worked for the US Library of Congress and served as an intelligence specialist for the US National Security Agency.

As Joe, 84 and Jo, 81 downshifted into their retirement years in 1999, they chose Sarasota for its picturesque outdoors, cultural caliber and small-town accessibility. "Anything you want is available in Sarasota," Joe said. That includes their wide spectrum of hobbies and interests including the Ringling Museum, the Asolo Theater, the beach, shelling, golf, tennis, holding a Board position at the now defunct Banyan Theater Company, the arts, Michael's on East and much more. Beyond their activities, Jo launched Kidz Quilts, a charity that has bestowed more than 7000 quilts for newborns in local hospitals.

These days, Joe and Jo carry on their learning escapades on a smaller scale within the borders of Sarasota. ITN has transported them to their destinations over the past five months. They are interested in the Let's Go Places activities calendar next month too and they appreciate the concierge service ITN provides. "The drivers are always reliable, punctual and courteous," Joe said. "We look forward to every ITN ride."

Joe and Jo are a couple who has embraced the Sarasota life and all that it has to offer. They credit their longevity of years to having a good mindset, varied interests, reading and staying active. They love to live every day to its fullest and discovering expeditions unknown around town.