

## **Rate Increase – October 1**

Due to increased expenses particularly in the area of insurances and increased reliance on paid drivers, what we charge for rides will increase on October 1. While our pickup and membership charges will remain the same, the cost per mile will increase from the current rate of \$1.75 per mile to \$1.90. This price is still less than our rates in 2013 of \$2.00 per mile with a \$3.00 pickup charge. It is also less than nearly all other transportation options including Uber, which lost billions of dollars last year. The cost of our Road Scholar Program rides will remain the same.

ITN SunCoast, as a non-profit organization, is mission driven and is committed to making transportation convenient, comfortable and affordable for as many community residents as possible. The people who “profit” from what we do are our riders and the community as a whole. No individuals profit financially from our operations. We work hard to keep our expenses low and pride ourselves in being very efficient. Over the past year, the average cost of an ITN SunCoast ride was less than \$15 while our average expense per ride was nearly \$20. At the same time, the number of rides we provided increased from 15,000 to 20,000 putting increased pressure on the need to raise more money through fundraising and grants. This year we need to raise \$125,000 to be able to continue providing rides. Your help in meeting our fundraising goal is needed and greatly appreciated. Please help us help you!

## **JoyRides!**

Remember when going for a drive to nowhere in particular was in itself an experience – a way to get out of the house? ITN SunCoast's JoyRides! starts in October. This premium service is a tailor made 1-2 hour experience. The cost is \$40 for one or more riders with our Joyride! volunteer drivers/tour guides and is sure to put a smile on your face.

Choose your drive based on geography (Anna Maria, St. Armands/Lido Beach, Longboat Key, Downtown Sarasota, Venice or Lakewood Ranch) or a theme of your choice (historic or nature sites or looking at the changes/development that is occurring). Choose your ride atmosphere based on music (40s, 50s, mixed Oldies, 70s), silence, tour narration, small talk or discussion topic (music, movies, current events, social issues, religion/spirituality etc.)

For more information or to sign up for a JoyRide!, call the ITN SunCoast office at 941-364-7530.

## **Casino Anyone?**

In response to numerous, enthusiastic requests, we are considering providing rides to the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Tampa. Is this something you would be interested in? If so, how often are you likely to go and how long would you like to stay at the casino? Would you like to go during the day or in the evening? Your feedback is needed in order to determine if this is something new we should offer. Please give us a call or send us an email if this type of fun appeals to you!

## **Extra Stops**

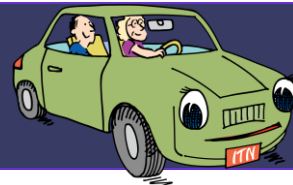
We try to be as flexible as possible in providing rides. Toward that end, you are welcome to make multiple stops during a trip. Many times our riders want to do a number of errands while out like going to the bank or post office, picking up a few groceries, dry cleaning or a prescription, or get drive thru coffee or a snack. Not a problem (mostly). When you request a ride, please let us know at that time if you know you want to make multiple stops. That way we can schedule our drivers accordingly. If you decide spontaneously that you would like to make an extra, unplanned stop, please remember that fulfilling these requests is left to the discretion of your driver. These days we are providing over 100 rides one or two days a week. On occasion our drivers simply do not have the time to fit in an extra stop. Please be understanding.

## **Convert Your Car to Cash!**

Do you have a car in the driveway that is costing you money to register, insure and maintain and that you almost never use? ITN SunCoast makes selling your car quick and easy and we get great prices for you! We will pick up your car and make all the arrangements for its sale. With the proceeds, you can put some of it in your personal transportation account with us to cover the cost of future rides and use the balance as a tax deductible donation to ITN SunCoast. For more information, call us at 941-364-7530.

## **Things to Remember About Our Services**

- If a driver is late, call us sooner than later and let us know.
- No tipping or use of our drivers outside of ITN; if we find out, the driver is discharged.
- Free Rides for family and caregivers when accompanying a member.
- Be kind to our Drivers – many are volunteers and all want to provide you with outstanding service.
- More volunteer drivers needed!!!



## **Meet Our Board Secretary & Superstar – Linda Davis**

By Linsea Mohr

Riders, fasten your seatbelts. You are about to embark on an entertaining voyage with a distinctively eclectic ITN personal tour guide and chauffeur. On your short excursion around town, you'll laugh, reminisce, learn local history and even sing a song a la Car Karaoke. It's a guaranteed smile upon reaching your destination.

Your driver is ITN's Secretary of the Board of Directors, Linda Davis.

Linda's own journey to Sarasota has been a long and winding road full of career highlights and adventures galore. Born and raised in Gary, IN, she pursued education in college at Drake University in Des Moines, IA and earned two masters degrees. High school biology was her specialty in a teaching career that spanned 31 years in Hoffman Estates, IL. She landed in Sarasota in 2007 and started volunteer driving for ITN in 2011 as a way to give back.

"The ITN experience has been rewarding beyond belief," Linda said of her seven years of service thus far. Her unwavering dedication hasn't gone unnoticed either. Banker's Life selected Linda for their first Golden Beacon Award that donated \$2000 to ITN.

Linda's quest to enhance the rider service is ongoing. In 2016, she launched a Car Karaoke campaign whereby riders can sing along to tunes old and new. Clients can opt to have their singing performance added to the ITN Facebook page where the "karaoke concerts" are posted.

When she's not driving, Linda is delving into her many hobbies including other charitable causes, travel, skiing, golfing and fusing glass. She realizes that keeping her mind active and body fit will lengthen her lifespan and quality of living. That philosophy transcends to seniors who routinely participate and engage in an active lifestyle.

"ITN's Let's Go Places offers seniors the opportunity to be involved with others and absorb everything the Sarasota area has to offer," she said. Another way Linda advocates staying involved while simultaneously supporting the community is to volunteer as a driver for ITN.

So next time you climb aboard Linda's car, you're in for an exciting escapade with a top notch driver whose foremost maneuver is to make it a memorable ride.

## **ITN Member Spotlight: Gloria Burhyte**

By Linsea Mohr

As a little girl, ITN member Gloria Burhyte, 93, fantasized about becoming a ballerina who could float and flutter like feathers on air. At a mere seven years old, her dream came true.

Gloria trained under the tutelage of renowned Russian dancer and choreographer Michel Fokine at the School of American Ballet in NYC for the next 11 years. At 18, she broadened her horizons beyond ballet to appear in a night club show in 1942 with Ol' Blue Eyes himself, Mr. Frank Sinatra. She made the leap to Broadway, acting and dancing in hits like, "Something for the Boys" with Ethel Merman and "Bye, Bye Birdie".

Although she reveled in the acclaim of captivating audiences on stage, it was her second act of wife and mother that she found equally rewarding. It began the night she met her real-life leading man, Egbert L. Burhyte, officer in the Air Corps. She hung up her dancing shoes to marry and four children followed. During her family years, Gloria also became a legal secretary.

She retired to Sarasota in 1993 while still maintaining her adventurous spirit and unique ability to happily live in the moment. Her ballet vantage point of grace intersecting with athleticism inspired her to teach chair yoga to seniors in her building to help them fulfill physical mobility goals. For her, discipline, music and movement work synergistically in a tapestry of artistic expression that yields positive health gains as well. Other interests spanning from traveling the globe to bridge, healthy food, opera, museums and more maintain her positive outlook in the face of every new day.

ITN helps her on her way to new adventures. She's participated in Let's Go Places by visiting The Friendship Center in Sarasota with a friend. "It's a wonderful service," she said. "ITN is more convenient, dependable and affordable than other transport services in the area."

In the playbill of her life, Gloria's third act couldn't have been choreographed any better. From ballet to family to teaching yoga, she continues to dance her way through life with elegance and ease amidst the backdrop of sunny Sarasota paradise.