

Taking the time to reflect on 2021

How memorable will Christmas of 2021 be for you? How many good deeds did you do for someone else in 2021? Were you able to help someone in need? Did you help someone who was not a member of your family or a close friend?

Suppose your phone rang and an elderly woman said she has been sleeping in her car because she needs help paying a deposit on a place to stay. Who would you call or tell her to call? Would you simply ignore her because you do not know a resource to help her?

That example is from an actual call I received on our Helping Seniors information line (321-473-7770). Because of my work with the elderly, I knew a resource to help her.

I have encountered many similar situations these past 25 years. The good



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

news is I can answer these questions and provide a positive answer; the bad news is we could be doing so much more to help those nonprofit organizations that assist such cases.

At this time of year, many religious and other organizations sell Christmas trees to raise money. Volunteers take time off work, or retirees pitch in to sell trees so that they can help others. Sadly, there are so many people who cannot purchase a tree, much

less a Christmas meal, or would have a difficult time cooking that meal in their car or in a wooded area camp site if they are homeless.

We who have or who had a job that let us plan for retirement are quite fortunate, as we can live a life that most of us are privileged to enjoy. Christmas is a very special time of the year for Christians and other faiths. We celebrate in different ways, but all faiths can agree on the importance of helping others.

While this is a season of joy and good will, it is also time for depression. One Christmas card we opened had a letter in it from a woman who told of the passing of her husband of many years. It was too difficult for her to keep writing individual notes of his passing, so she put that brief note in all her cards. She was using that

method as a way to cope with her loss.

We each have our defense mechanisms, but should also keep in mind that there are those willing to help. And, those of us who can help should feel blessed to be able to say a kind word, lend a helping hand, and remember that this is a special time of the year to be kind to others and think about what we could have done better in 2021 and resolve to do better in 2022.

As we close 2021, I thank you for letting me into your lives with my column and wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and best wishes for a peaceful and rewarding 2022.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Calendar

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During this winter camp, students from 1st through 5th grades can explore nature with us through animal encounters, hands-on science, and outdoor investigations as we discover the magic of nature.

Visit BrevardZoo.org/education/zoo-camps to register. If the camp date is not visible after you click the REGISTER NOW button, that camp is full; please call 321-254-9453, ext. 219 to join the waitlist.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Brevard Federated Republican Women: The Brevard Federated Republican Women will host their lunch meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The meeting time is 11:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 11:30 at the Space Coast Convention Center located at 103 Tucker Lane behind the Holiday Inn Express (Southwest corner of State Route 520 and I-95). The guest speaker will be Matt Susin who serves on the Brevard County School Board. Matt is parent, former teacher, and businessman. Matt is also Vice Chairman of the Brevard School Board representing District 4. Matt is a dynamic and enthusiastic vocal advocate moving the School Board toward providing the best

education for our 63,000 students and the hiring and retention of the very best teachers. The Meeting fee of \$25 includes a lunch entrée of Tuscan Chicken with Penne Alfredo, salad rolls, and dessert. A gluten free entrée is available upon request. Advanced reservations are required and must be made by noon on Friday, December 31, 2021. Any reservations made after 12 noon on December 31, 2021 will be charged \$30. Reservations can also be made by calling our 24-hour reservation line at 321-727-1212 or by visiting www.brevardfederatedrepublicanwomen.org where you can make and pay for your reservation on-line. If you have any questions, please contact President Jill Gentis at

773-896-8616.

Friday, Jan. 7

Melbourne Garden Club: The monthly meeting of the Melbourne Garden Club will take place on Friday, Jan. 7 at Eau Gallie Public Library, located at 1521 Pineapple Ave in Melbourne. A Social time will take place from 9:30-10:00 a.m. with the General meeting taking place at 10:00-10:30 a.m. The Program will follow from 10:30-11:30 a.m. with a presentation on the "Challenges of a Transplanted Gardener" given by Mary Lou Stallard. For more information on the Melbourne Garden Club, visit <https://www.facebook.com/melbournegardenclub1927/>

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