



# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association



## Presidents Message Spring 2017

This newsletter edition covers activities from the previous ~ 4 months via pictures of attendees. All of the events as well as this newsletter occur due to the efforts of Association volunteers. That said, we could really use some support from members of this Association. All of our events require an Association coordinator to keep the planned activity on schedule and report on progress to the Board of Directors. All it takes is 3-4 hours a month; it's not a part time job. Please consider helping us continue to provide these great social activities by volunteering to become a Board member or coordinator of a specific event.

### Looking back...

The new Lifetime Membership offering is off to a great start. To date we have ~40 members who have upgraded their membership from annual renewal to Lifetime at a cost of \$100 for FL residents and \$75 for out of state residents.

From an accounting perspective, we will amortize those funds. The Lifetime membership payments, once received, will undergo an established periodic amortization and our financial records will show a prepayment (liability for the organization) offset by an annual reduction in that liability.

Once again, wine tastings held at the historic De Hoernle train station in Boca Raton have been a hit with members. The wines are selected and introduced to attendees and participants even get to take their wine glass home – all for ~\$25 per person. That's a great buy for an evening of food, entertainment and education.

Spring training baseball, made available for members in the north end of our coverage, saw good attendance. We had a Delray Beach Playhouse event and one at the Willow Theatre at Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton as well. Our usual social offerings with high member participation included FAU basketball, our quarterly luncheons at the Ale House in Boca Raton, golf tournaments, social gatherings at various locations as well as our participation in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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## Have You Watched One of Our Broadcasts?

Sometimes getting into the 21<sup>st</sup> century isn't easy. Such is the case with our "shoebox" video production efforts. For those who are not aware, we have been doing live broadcasts of our Lecture Series meetings for the last three years.

Our results have not reached the level of a CBS or NBC, but we're far from being two tin cans and some string. Comments from our growing list of viewers led us to purchase additional equipment that is bringing improved audio and video to members that are not able to attend meetings in person. Those that tuned into the latest broadcast got a fairly good show given our production limitations.

Most importantly, though, the events are viewable live or later via links available to our members on our website..We are experimenting with improved audio that should make the broadcasts easier on the ears, and are also planning on doing some editing to eliminate the extra junk that creeps into a live broadcast.

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# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

This newsletter is provided for our dues-paying membership by the IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association (IBMSFQCCAA), a nonprofit organization based in Boca Raton, FL and formed in 2011.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of IBMSFQCCAA-sponsored social and volunteer activities as well as general items of interest. Newsletter content is provided in the spirit of camaraderie to help foster IBM alumni connections.

**Circulation:** The Newsletter is circulated to most of our members and friends via the IBMSFQCCAA website (<http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org/>). It is also sent by mail to members who do not have Internet access. Please provide feedback via email to:

[info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org) or mail to:

IBMSFQCCAA,  
P. O. Box 273284,  
Boca Raton, FL 33427-3284.

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**WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT. HELP US MAKE THIS A GREAT ORGANIZATION.  
PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO FRIENDS WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.**

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## Welcome New Members

Rob Baker  
Javier Chacon  
Nelson Farfan  
Les Hauck  
Ed Schatz  
Robert Singer

## Farewell

*We have learned of the following members of the IBM Family who have passed away.*

Donald Johnson	Oct 2015
Willard Greene	Dec 2015
Frank Roedell	Dec 2016
James Buchanan	Feb 2017
Hugh Higgins	Feb 2017
Gavin Wilson	Feb 2017

**Please Update Your Contact Info**

**Please update your contact info by clicking on the "Feedback" tab of our website—Thanks!**

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ **May 25 - 5:30 pm**      **Sunset Cruise of the Intracoastal on the Lady Atlantic**
- ♦ **Jun 08 - 11:30am**      **Lunch - Ale House**
- ♦ **Jun 09 - 5:00pm**      **Meet & Greet at Funky Biscuit (Royal Palm Plaza – Boca)**

## Credits

Newsletter Editor: Julie Goodwin

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Newsletter Review: IBMSFQCCAA BOD Members

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Photography: Angelo Gasparri, Jud McCarthy, Lew Miller, Dave Pavek, John Ryan, Vance Vallandigham

Events Calendar: Dave Pavek



## President's Message (cont.)

We have relabeled our quarterly member meetings as the IBM Lecture Series. Members have enjoyed a great variety of subjects including works by locally published authors, scuba travel logs from all over the world and the history of China, with a wider variety of presentations scheduled for this year. As a testimony to their emerging popularity, attendance at the IBM Lecture Series has risen significantly. Full lists of the 2016 and 2017 completed (with member participation counts) and projected events are posted on the Activities page of our website.

### Looking forward...

We have some exciting events planned and or proposed for 2017. As each event becomes formalized, specifics of the dates and locations will be made available on the web site. All the planned and proposed event offerings are posted on the website and fill up quickly.

### Here are the confirmed / planned Spring/ Summer 2017 events :

- ◆ [Planned—Lunch at the Boca Ale House \(10% discount on regular menu items\).](#)
- ◆ [Planned – Summer get together @ Funky Biscuit, Boca Raton featuring 60's and 70's music – fun atmosphere](#)
- ◆ [Planned – Intercostal cruise with a steel band on board sails out of Delray Beach at a reduced rate](#)
- ◆ [Planned – 9th Wine Tasting to sample the wines of Australia and New Zealand](#)

We are always seeking volunteers in order to deliver the most diverse and popular member events. All it takes is about 3-4 hours a month. We appreciate hearing your thoughts on events to create more member participation.

Please contact me directly ([GreggCesario@aol.com](mailto:GreggCesario@aol.com)) or by cell @ 561 265-8851.

## Have You Watched One of Our Broadcasts? (cont.)

So, if you can't travel to our next Sugar Sand Park event or you have a situation that keeps you at home, just look for the instructions on how to connect to the broadcast that are included in the event announcement. And, for those "patient" souls that have been with us from the beginning, thank you for hanging in as we work to make it better.

*Jim DeArmond*

## A Message From the Acting Secretary

Support of active communication amongst our members has been a key objective since our inception. In that regard you may have noticed that we've recently created additional means of interacting with fellow members.

The addition of a [Facebook Closed Group](#) encourages members to share their views and discuss matters of common interest.

You might have also noticed that we have increased the frequency of EMAILs from the Board of Directors. Please make sure that your email address is current and that your Spam blocker allows us to get through.

Your comments and feedback guide us in keeping the Association relevant to the membership. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Angelo Gasparri*



## What Ever Happened to Jerry Merckel?



**Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Merckel** was a Nuclear Engineer with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission prior to joining IBM Boca Raton. After more than 20 years of product development with IBM Boca he ventured into the world of startup companies. For example, he was instrumental in the formation of two university spinout companies, GeoFocus with the University of Florida and GeoAge with the University of North Florida. In addition, he was the Executive Vice President of the Exxon Corporation and founded a new Multimedia Division where he served as General

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Manager. He was also Vice-President of Development for Cylex Systems, an Internet-based Application Solutions Provider. In recent times he has served as a Professor of Electrical Engineering with the University of North Florida (UNF) for over fifteen years. He was recognized by the Florida Engineering Society as the 2006 “Engineer of the Year”.

Recently Dr. Merckel has been focused on forming charter schools that feature education excellence via a classical education. He currently is active in community service such as serving as a mentor with Veterans seeking to start their own business. Dr. Merckel is also busy these days with a family of three children,

eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren and Gator sports. Dr. Merckel holds degrees in Electrical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Engineering Physics and Engineering Science. He can be reached at [jerrymerckel@comcast.net](mailto:jerrymerckel@comcast.net).



## What Ever Happened to Larry Rojas ?



Hilario (Larry) and Yolanda Rojas

Hi ALL,

I retired from IBM January 2, 1994. Very soon after, my life became rather hectic taking care of Heidi, my wife. Two months after I retired, her doctors found that her liver was in a very bad condition due to Hepatitis C. She had a liver transplant at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami in 1996. Unfortunately the transplant was

## Where Are They Now

unsuccessful and she died on May 1999 in Miami. After her death I moved to Miami permanently.

In 2000 I married Yolanda Gonzalez now Rojas and I have been enjoying the Happy Retired life ever since.

I have been involved since retirement with several volunteer activities: I taught computer classes to Spanish speaking seniors, was a Board member of the Peace Education Foundation, the Broward County HRS Citizens Oversight Committee, and the Miami Dade County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee. Since moving to Miami I have been and still am heavily involved with the management of my building's condo association where I have managed significant building upgrade projects. Living in Miami I have been able to

re-establish contact with many of my highschool and college friends which makes for an enjoyable social life.

If you come down to Miami please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Hilario and Yolanda Rojas  
150 Ocean Lane Dr. Apt 7H  
Key Biscayne FL. 33149  
[305 815 8935](tel:3058158935)



Jud McCarthy—Kissed on the head by Glenda!

## Annual Meeting – Dec 2

Our Annual Meeting was held in the Maple Room at Sugar Sand Park. After a short business meeting, we were entertained by Broadway & Hollywood songstress Glenda Grainger (accompanied by Gary Lawrence on piano). We provided holiday refreshments and held a raffle.

### Raffle Winners Were:

- ◆ Karl Domas- IBM Cookbook
- ◆ Phyllis Guy- Chocolate Cookbook
- ◆ Diane Lomatch—Indian Food Cookbook



Gary Lawrence (Accompanist) and Glenda Grainger (Singer)

## FAU vs Univ of Texas Football—Nov 12



Jud McCarthy enjoying a hot dog at the Football tailgate

## Lunch - Ale House - Dec 8

On December 8th, we had another great lunch meeting of IBMSFQCCA members and guests. 42 attended and everyone had fun reminiscing and telling stories.

If you have not attended one of these luncheons, please come and catch up with your friends and colleagues!



L to R: Jud McCarthy, Dave Pavek, Don Carpenter



L to R: Dolores Latchford, Javier Chacon  
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L to R: Rose Loricchio, Rita Gasparri, Betty Wisner,  
Gail Carpenter  
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L to R: Lew Miller, Paul Finke, Max Enos, Bill Paul,  
Denny Wainright

Lunch - Ale House - Dec 8 (cont)



L to R: Javier Chacon, Joe Herko, Carol Esser, Gail Beitzell, Nick Smicklas, Bob Berens



L to R: Dave Pavek, Vance Vallandigham



L to R: Henry Meudt, Tom Hearn, Larry Salerno



L to R: Joan Anderson, Lee Stone, Kay Stone, Ed Anderson



L to R: Angelo Gasparri, Norm Lawson, Bob Schonger, Ernie Galinis



L to R: Bob Wisner, Don Crandall, Chris Jacomine (Don's daughter), Judy Bradley, Wayne Cohen



L to R: Charlie Helton, Karl Domas



L to R: Allan Larson, Gary Wisgo, Lou Walewski, Sue Larson, Aurora Siegl, Rob Baker

**Basketball at FAU Gym (FAU vs Univ of Texas (UTSA)) - Feb 25**



Juan Rionda



Left Back to Front: Ed Cohn, Lew Miller, Lani Miller, Dave Johnson, Right Back to Front: Dave Gravelle, Robert, Joy Lowall, Jud McCarthy, Phil VanVliet, (Ron Langlois- not pictured)



Joy, Jud, then Dave, Gravelle, and Dave Johnson

**Wayne Cohen's Men's and Women's Breakfasts - Feb 28**



Left Front to Back (Angelo Gasparri, Wayne Cohen, Len Desmond, Don Carpenter, Dave Lonser) Right Front to Back (Walt Depew, Bob Wisner, Jud McCarthy, Len Shiner, Emory Palmquist (Arrived later))



Left to Right (Carol Palmquist, Rita Gasparri, Gail Carpenter, Betty Wisner, Rose Loricchio) Front Center (Patty Desmond)

**General Meeting - Run the Run In - Mar 3**



John Shelly, Don Carpenter



Sally Ling



George and Jackie Maxwell





St Pat's IBMSFQCAA Truck

**St Patrick's Day Parade—March 11**



Jud's McCarthy's 63 Chevy & Rose Loricchio



St Pat's Parade Prep Team



Front Left:- Barry Stofan  
 Back Right to Front: J. B. Sojourner, Tom Hearn, Dave Pasley, Walt Nawrocki, Chuck Whetsel, Doug Graybill

**IBM North Gathering - March 24**



Left Front to Back: Ellie Stofan, Ron Hoekzema, Henry Deer, Charlie Rupp, Don Roy, Rich Rocheleau,  
 Right Front to Back:-Rose Loricchio, Doug Graybill, Chuck Whetsel

## Spring Training Baseball - Miami Marlins vs NY Mets - March 27

The game featured outstanding infield play by both teams (particularly at shortstop) as well as some spectacular outfield plays that contained the batters on both teams. Most of the game was a pitcher's duel with the exception of the fifth inning when the Mets were able to get to the Marlins' starting pitcher for 6 runs in that inning (including one crucial Marlins error). After that the pitchers on both teams took over again, making the final score 6-0 in favor of the Mets.



Left to right, middle row: Juan Rionda, Marty Bruemiester, Ron Langlois, Phil Van Vliet, Jud McCarthy



Left to right, lower row: Dave Johnson, Tex Rittner, Ken Kuehl



Kathy Moore, Steve Grotowski



Right to left: Greg Ryan, John Ryan, Jud McCarthy, Phil Van Vliet, Ron Langlois, Marty Bruemiester, Juan Rionda



## March Quarterly Luncheon

49 members and guests enjoyed a good time and nice meal at Miller's Ale House on March 9th. Please mark your calendar for our next quarterly luncheon on June 8th. We look forward to seeing you there!



L to R: Lee Stone, Kay Stone, Len Sheiner, Angelo Gasparri, Don Carpenter, JB Sojourner

L to R: Joan Anderson, Edie Davis, Ted Davis, Norm Lawson, Bob Schonger, Jud McCarthy, Larry Salerno, Ed Anderson



L to R: Ed Gull, Bill Montgomery, Dave Pavek, Tom Hearn

L to R: Sy Schulman, Jim Joyce, Nick Smiciklas, Gail Beitzell, Carol Esser, Joe Herko, Judy Bradley, Pete Martinez

L to R: Len Desmond, Bob Wisner, Don Crandall, Chris Jacomine (Don's daughter), Mike Herzlich, Bob Ewart, Wayne Cohen



Gregg Cesario



L to R: Betty Wisner, Rose Loricchio, Patty Desmond



L to R: Lou Yovin, Bill Paul, Lou Walewski, Gary Wisgo, Rob Baker



Brent Davis, Debbie Davis, Eric Quirindongo, Clif Stone

## Wine Tasting Events

During March we held two wine tasting events for our members and current IBM employees. Knowledgeable wine expert, Dr. Edward Cohn, returned to introduce half a dozen popular priced red and white wines: As is our custom, light snacks were provided to help transition between the tastes and flavors of the different wines, and attendees were able to retain their “keepsake” wine glasses:

- ◆ March 10 - Wines of South America (37 attended)
- ◆ March 31 - Wines of the Pacific Northwest (33 attended)



Starting with Jerry Leitherer, facing, and going counterclockwise, Bev Leitherer, and guests Maxine Ross and John Ross. In the background, Bob and Betty Wisner and Len and Patricia Desmond.



Back corner of this photo that shows the American flag, you will have a photo of IBM Employee Mary Kamerer and her husband, Mark. Also in the table are Thelma Armenteros and (hidden) Dave O'Connor. In front is Gail Carpenter and (hidden) husband Don.

### March 10 Wine Tasting



Our first IBM Employee attendee, Erica Leibowitz, at a table with her 3 non-IBM guests (Nancy Silk, Erdina Francillon and Angelica Guardia).

### March 31 Wine Tasting



From the left, Euginia Bastos ( an employee of GBS- Watson Health, Boca Raton), sitting with member George Maxwell and his wife Jackie.



Wine expert Ed Cohn entertains the group. Phil Goodwin, Joe Herko, Carol Esser & Julie Goodwin at near table. In back is our newest Life member, Ed Schatz. Ed just retired after 49 years with IBM.