• Senior Citizens Committee. The Manhattan Beach Senior Citizens Resource Committee will hold its monthly meting at 10 a.m. at the Manhattan Heights Community Center, 1560 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach. Info 310-372-9505

- CERT Annual Meeting. June 17: Manhattan Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) annual meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. "Citizens Helping Neighbors, and Our City"
- Fun Class for Kids on Etiquette and Social Skills. The City of Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department proudly announces the return of its popular course in good manners by etiquette instructor Dianeh O'Farrill. "Etiquette and Social Skills for Children" Ages 6-12. A two-session course on Saturdays, July 18 & 25, or Saturdays, August 15 & 22, 2009 10 a.m - 1 p,m, Classes will take place at Live Oak Park Hall 1901 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach. Residents \$78; non-residents \$84. For further information, please call The Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department 310-802-5448. This popular educational program covers the basics of good manners needed by children to interact successfully in various social situations. It offers children tips on social interaction that help boost self-esteem and confidence. Manhattan Beach Recreation Services Manager Idris J. Al-Oboudi says: "Mrs. O'Farrill's class has been a very popular course. And now, back by popular demand, we are thrilled that the program will continue under the direction of her niece Dianeh O'Farrill." Dianeh is a graduate of San Diego State University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and has five years experience in teaching and developing socially confident boys and girls. In addition, she earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from the University of Southern California. For information please call The Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department (310) 802-5448

• Renewal Through Art Class. Renewal Through Art for Seniors is an art class for

adults 55 and older. A ten-week session will be offered on Thursdays at the Joslyn Center from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm beginning May 29. A variety of media will be used and techniques demonstrated with the overriding object the student's experience, not the art product. The class is free and students provide their own materials. Pre registration is required. Call the Older Adults Program at (310) 802-5447.

- Older Adults discussion group. Come discuss current events, movies, topics of local and national interest, whatever is on your mind. The discussion group meets every Monday from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. For more information please call (310) 802-5447.
- Play Reading. Fun and adventure await you. Spontaneous and unrehearsed activity facilitated by KC Johnson and Maria A. Ruiz, two experienced artists in the South Bay, offers each participant a role in scenes chosen for you - or you may bring your own short scenes to read. Every 1st Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info: 310-325-3251 or 310- 540-5635.
- Play Scrabble. This event is sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Parks and Rec and facilitated by the Manhattan Beach Senior Citizens Resource Committee. 1-3-1-1-2-3-1-1 (Scrabble). Play Scrabble every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Joslyn Community Center, 1601 Valley Drive. A free event, experience not required and all are welcome (4-1-1-3-1-3-1). 1:30 – 4 p.m. Info 310-802-5447.
- Poetry Reading Circle Recent/ longtime, amateur and wannabe poets are welcome to read their own o favorite poems every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Joslyn Center, 1601 Valley Drive, MB. Free Event, Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome. Info 802-5447.
- Petanque, French game of Boules at Live Oak Field, Manhattan Beach. Play Petanque (played by 17 million people in France), an outdoor social game for every lever of fitness; no experience required. Sponsored by Parks and Rec. All are welcome every 2nd and 4th Thursday 1-3 p.m adjacent to Joslyn Center. Info 310-802-5447. •

Manhattan Beach Sim

Dear Carol

I have had the same housekeeper clean my home every week for over twenty years. About five years ago her husband started to come with her. Last year her daughter joined the cleaning crew. They don't stay very long; with all of them working they do all of my small house in a little over an hour. They don't do a very good job. They are all short and I am tall. I see dust accumulating on the top of all of my taller furniture because they can only reach the front inch or two. Friends have recommended I ask them to use a step stool but the parents are elderly and the daughter is quite plump. I'm afraid one of them would fall. I want my house to be really clean the way it used to be but I don't want to hurt their feelings by making suggestions or getting a new cleaner. What should I do?

Dusty Dan

Dear Dusty Dan,

The longer we wait to tell people how we feel and what we want the harder it is to speak those words. You are paying the cleaners to clean your home to your standards. I suggest you tell them what you want in a gentle and respectful way with a smile on your face. Do not be surprised if they quit. They may feel they are doing you a favor because of the twenty years association you have shared. They may be looking for a release from the strenuous housework. No one knows what we want unless we tell

them.

Dear Carol.

My ex-husband and I were married for almost thirty years and divorced for five. I was very close to his family; I was the daughter his mother never had. My motherin-law passed away after a brief illness a few weeks ago. She left some money to her grandchildren, my children, and everything else to my ex-husband. I can understand her doing that, I am not a blood relative. I am not upset about not getting any money. I would like a remembrance of her though, just some little thing of hers that will remind me of the years of love we shared. I am not on good terms with my ex-husband, so I don't want to call him. Her household will be broken up soon so I know I have to act now

Dear Marla,

If your children are on speaking terms with their father they could ask if you could choose something from her things as a treasure. Or another relative or mutual friend could ask for you. If there is something specific you would like to have perhaps one of these people could ask for it and pass it on to you. This might be an opportunity for some healing to take place between you and your ex-husband; so consider asking him directly if you can even if it is in an email.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone.

Gardening



HOW TO GROW FLOWERING DOGWOOD TREES FROM SEED By Michael J. McGroarty

Flowering Dogwood trees can be easily grown from seed, however 99.9999 percent of the seedlings that sprout will be Cornus Florida, which is White Flowering Dogwood. It doesn't matter if you collect the seeds from a White Dogwood or a Pink

Dogwood, the seedlings are likely to be white. The only predictable way to grow a Pink Dogwood, Red Dogwood, or one of the beautiful Dogwoods with variegated leaves, is to bud or graft the desired variety onto a White Dogwood seedling.

Dogwood trees begin producing seeds right after the petals drop from the flowers. It's a

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