



# VILLA MYKONOS NEWS

*The Newsletter for Concept In Time Owners Association*

Keith Brown, Editor

Fall

Desh Deschler, President

Larry Silverman, CFO

Marla Horn,

Secretary



**PRESIDENTIAL NEWS...Desh**  
Deschler, President

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!

As usual, I will start my article for our Fall Newsletter with a wish for you.....

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE HAPPY AND BRIGHT AND 2011 A YEAR OF GOOD HEALTH, GOOD FORTUNE AND MUCH HAPPINESS.....

You may think it still early, but I had to send you this holiday wish now if I wanted to avoid being too late. Since you will not receive our winter newsletter until the end of 2010, this was my only opportunity to send my well wishes to you all.

Hopefully, 2011 will bring change to our world....positive change. The first thing we need to do is to get ourselves down to our voting poll. There are so many ballot measures that need our support in this election cycle – measures that could change the course of life for all of us and all that follow. Please make your vote count. We need it so badly. California is in deep “do-do”. Our vote can help bring it back to its envious glory and give us the liberties we are entitled to as citizens.

I’m off my soap box now and on to the thing I like to talk about best--our beautiful Villa Mykonos. Michael and I had been there every few weeks this year.

Board Meetings, using our interval time, and playing Manager when Ken Jacobi is on vacation gives us a great deal of time to observe the resort and meet more owners and RCI guests. I do not recall exactly what improvement had been done when we first stood there and said, “Kripes! This place is LOOKING GOOD!” It has gotten even better every following visit.

It is not any one significant change that has occurred that sparked this revelation. It has been a cumulative effect. A lot of this and that; here and there; has made a remarkable difference...and it continues. I hope you have plans to come to Villa Mykonos and enjoy the ambiance--that feeling of being at home when away from home--and the pride of ownership and contributing to keeping Villa Mykonos a jewel in the desert, as Michael and I do.

There is so much wonderful news to share with you, but I usually take up the most press space, leaving the other members with less to write about, so I will cut my newsletter article a little shorter this time.

I do want to mention that anyone who wishes to run for a position on the Board of Directors

should request an application so it can be completed and returned to us.

This year, there are two, two-year board positions up for election. Each person elected will serve on the board for two years. The officer positions on the Board are decided from among the board members at the first meeting after the annual elections.

Villa Mykonos is unique among timeshares by being completely GLBT owner-owned and managed. Villa Mykonos cannot continue and prosper without owners who are willing to step forward and serve on the Board of Directors. However, if you are like me, you will discover how much more it seems one gets in return from being of service to our owner base in this capacity.

We need your application, along with a short biography about you, and a brief statement of interest for serving on the Board. Let us know a little about yourself and why you want to run for the Board. We need these items back from you by no later than December 1, 2010, in order to prepare the ballots for the election.

Your information will be included with the ballot which is sent to all owners with the January mailing. Election results will be announced at the Annual Owners Meeting at Villa Mykonos, on February 20, 2011. Please contact the General Manager, Ken Jacobi, or any Board member to express your interest and receive an application.

I also want to again thank those owners who continue to contribute helping replenish the reserve fund from the horrid unexpected tax increase last year. You are all jewels. Additional contributions are still welcomed.

As another year quickly draws to a close, I am reminded how time is fleeting by. While we have welcomed a few new owners over the

last couple of years, our ownership base is still largely long-time owners and even many original purchasers. We aren't getting any younger. Give some thought to your will or trust and leave Villa Mykonos to someone that wants to continue your dream. Better still, invite your friends and younger acquaintances to become owners at Villa Mykonos. Now is an excellent opportunity.

Wishing you all an outstanding autumn and terrific holidays!

Take Care,  
-- Desh

**“Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing nobody’s going to know whether you did or not.”— Oprah Winfrey**



**FINANCIAL UPDATE...**  
Larry Silverman, MD, Chief  
Financial Officer

As your Chief Financial Officer, I know all too well how difficult this continued recession has been on many of our owners. Delinquencies are at the highest level I can recall in more than 15 years of Board service.

I call and leave e-mails to all delinquent owners requesting that they please contact Brandy Jones or me. Brandy is the board member who deals with Owner Relations (*VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com*). Together, we will come up with some sort of payment plan and, at the same time, stop any invoicing for late fees. It is in all our best interests to work with each other.

Unfortunately, in most cases, my request for a return call or email does not result in any return contact with me. If the Board does not have a chance to make suitable arrangements in light of the individual's financial circumstances, then there is no choice but to

turn the account over for collection. The collection agency may then report the delinquency to the credit reporting bureaus, which will hurt your credit score.

The rest of the Board and I are fellow owners at Villa Mykonos. The last thing we desire is to put your account into collection or to ruin an owner's credit score. We are all in this together and want us all to succeed.

Yes, Villa Mykonos is a vacation spot where we go to relax and unwind from our normal day-to-day responsibilities. However, it is also a business and requires the timely payment of assessments from every owner to pay the costs of owning and operating the resort. Every owner pays an equal rate, based on intervals owned. If any one single owner does not pay, it means we do not meet our revenue goals and the ability to stay current on paying the resort bills or having adequate reserves.

I and the rest of the Board spend a great deal of time preparing the annual budgets, keeping track of expenses, and making difficult choices that must be made. Nevertheless, we cannot keep Villa Mykonos looking attractive and a place you will want to come to for vacations without everyone paying their share. Therefore, please contact Brandy or myself as soon as possible if you received any notice of a delinquent assessment payment via E-mail, invoice or phone message.

#### **UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS**

*An owners' association such as ours can only be effective if we have great people on the Board of Directors. A committed Board of Directors is a necessity in keeping the resort running smoothly. Therefore, PLEASE consider running for a Board of Directors position for the Annual Owners' Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, February 20, 2011. The Nominating Committee needs to hear from you by December 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can put your name on*

*the Ballot. Contact Ken or any Board member for details. We need your help to keep Villa Mykonos great!*

--Larry

**“Be alert to give service. What counts a great deal in life is what we do for others.”— Anonymous**



**MANAGING THE VILLAS...Ken Jacobi, General Manager**

Happy Fall!

As we enter the last quarter of the year, I must say a lot of you took my advice and booked early. That is the good news. The flip side is that we now have VERY limited availability for the remainder of this year. (December has the most time still available.) So, if you still have interval time to use, you had better start looking at dates and getting your requests in. The Villa Mykonos website information is repeated below again to help you with that process.

Remember, if you are not going to use your time and intend to bank it with RCI, you are nearly out of time and luck to do so. RCI requires a minimum of 30 days before the start of the stay and you have to be booked within your season. For owners with Summer Week Intervals, that means the season is nearly over and you will have the most limited time frame to use or to bank with RCI.

The website address is:

[www.villamykonos.com](http://www.villamykonos.com)



The Owners' section LOGIN information is:

**Username: mykonos**

**Password: greece**

(All lowercase letters, and the same username and password for everyone.)

On the website, you can now view a reservations calendar to see what dates might be available. You can also submit an owners' reservation request.

Unfortunately, the reservation calendar does not update in real time. Therefore, a date shown on the calendar may not be available if another request has come in before the system can be updated. The system is not foolproof, but it certainly helps to show what is available since the last update.

It is most helpful if you have a few alternative dates in mind when making reservations and viewing the calendar. Once you find the dates you want, you can submit the reservation request form. I receive the request form and can then confirm the availability. If the time you requested is still available, I will send you a confirmation via email. Should a couple of requests cross, I will inform you of alternative dates that are available, or you can call to discuss it with me further. Those that already have used the reservation calendar have found it to be very helpful.

**(Please note that we are already fully booked for Pride week and Leather Pride in November. However, we have started a waiting list for those periods.)**

Also in the Owners' section of the website, you can find copies of the CC&R's, Rules and Regulations, Board Meeting Minutes and copies of the Newsletters. We have not uploaded all the past items, but we are current for the last quarter at this point. If you have any suggestions for items you would like to see on the website, please let me know since we are now controlling the website in house.

### **At the Property**

An owner and Board member has generously donated new pool floats and a rack to the resort, to the tune of over \$500.00. PLEASE be respectful of the new floats and use them with

care. Also, please put them back on the rack when you are done using them.

One other pool item....PLEASE close the pool umbrellas when you leave the pool area for the day. Palm Springs gets very powerful winds that will damage the umbrellas and break the glass tables if the umbrellas are left open at night. If you see an umbrella open after the sun has dropped down below the mountains, or when it is getting very windy, please help us out and lower down the umbrella. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

As this newsletter is being written, we are in the process of converting another upstairs bathroom. Unit 3 will now have a second shower in the upper bedroom, as well as a regular tub. This is our first try at having both a tub and shower, of the configurations approved at the 2009 Owners' meeting. However, the tub will not be a Roman tub like was originally installed. Rather, it will be a standard-size tub, along with a separate, large shower.



***"Open, Simsim!"  
("Open, Sesame!" –Eng.  
Translation)***

We now have the current gate code available on the website in the Owners' Section. So, in case you have forgotten it, the gate code will be available to you...you just have to remember the website Owners' login information, which is repeated above, and have access to the Internet and Villa Mykonos website. Like Ali Baba in *The Arabian Nights*, the gate will magically open with the code.

### **Boiling Over**

We have had a couple of instances involving HOT water in the back building—Units 7 through 10. If you are staying in Unit 7 and use the bathtub upstairs, PLEASE DO NOT turn

off the tub by using the diverter knob. We have a hot water recirculation pump on each set of buildings. When this diverter valve is left on, it keeps the hot water flowing through all the faucets (including the COLD water pipes)--even if there is no water flowing into the tub.

So, if you are staying in Units 7 through 10 and ever encounter having ONLY hot water--even from the COLD water faucets--*please* let me or housekeeping know about the problem right away. If we are not there, please check with the person using Unit 7 and ask them to turn the diverter valve back on. This problem only happens with Unit 7, because it is the last unit on the circuit for the hot water tank for the back building.

Hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!

See you soon!

-- Ken

**“A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.” –Dwight Eisenhower**

#### **OWNER RELATIONS... Brandy Jones, Owner Relations**

Our annual meeting is just around the corner--February 20, 2011--and there are two positions on the Board of Directors that are up for election.



As owners, the experience and insight into the actual operations of Villa Mykonos gained while on the Board is invaluable. If possible, I believe every owner could benefit from that experience. Knowing how it works from the inside brings it together on the outside.

I have enjoyed my experience on the Board. I found that my participation has been more rewarding because I have had a more active

part of how nice the resort looks and the roles each officer plays in setting priorities. Working with the budget adds a great insight and appreciation for what it takes to keep our "little paradise" thriving for years to come. Of course, all the hard work owner/manager Ken Jacobi puts into the day-to-day operations is a task worth many times what we are able to afford.

When the original developer declared bankruptcy, it was the owners who stepped forward to take over the property and keep that original vision alive. Over time, various owners have volunteered to lend their own ideas and energy to serve on the Board. I think many of you who have been to the resort in the last three to four years would agree there have been many improvements. And our CFO, Dr. Larry Silverman, has been instrumental in creating the budget, tracking expenses, and ensuring the reserves continue to be funded to meet state requirements (although we still have a long way to go to be fully compliant).

We need additional owners to come forward to fill these vacancies to make sure the improvement of our joint investment continues and we build on the momentum and strength of the past few years. If you have any new ideas, being on the Board is a great opportunity where such ideas are discussed and worked through in order to bring about change.

Before I was elected to the Board, I was just an ordinary owner who visited the resort during my interval time. It was always nice, but since being on the Board, I have developed a different perspective for my visits. It is now a true sense of ownership.

Now, when I walk the property and grounds, I look at it all quite differently from before. Now, I know what it took to put that new tile in the units and to remodel the bathrooms,

and all the landscaping and attention to detail that makes Villa Mykonos such a special place. My conversations with Mat and Ken are more mindful and prideful. I now look around and ask what else is needed? What can I do to help? I feel like when I was a kid when my family would travel back home, to West Palm Beach, Florida. The first place we would visit was my grandmother's. I remember even then the pride of knowing this woman was "my" grandmother...and me wanting to help her in anyway needed. Making sure that everything was welcoming and ready for the rest of the family as they came in is the same feeling I now get when I am at Villa Mykonos.

Being even just one part of making Villa Mykonos that special place we all enjoy has been an honor and privilege. All this has come from serving on the Board and working with the other board members. It is a great experience that started out of my just being curious-what exactly does the Board do? Now, I know.

I invite you all to join in that same opportunity by nominating yourself or another owner that you know who would make a great addition to the Board. We cannot keep Villa Mykonos going strong without you and other dedicated owners who are willing to volunteer and give their time and talent to guiding Villa Mykonos into the future.

Please contact me, Ken Jacobi, or any of the other board members to request a nomination application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com](mailto:VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com).

### **RCI Update**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, RCI is offering a free membership opportunity. The initial fee to join RCI will be waived during this limited time promotion. You must still pay applicable exchange fees, but it still represents

a savings. You must be a Villa Mykonos owner to take advantage of this offer. The offer cannot be used by anyone else.

There was a flyer from RCI about this promotion attached to the Summer newsletter. You can also check out the details at: [www.rci.com/freemembership](http://www.rci.com/freemembership).

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for the annual Owners' Meeting on February 20, 2011.

Take care and have a wonderful holiday season!

-- Brandy Jones

### **MARKETING... Keith Brown, VP Marketing**

We continue to follow up on suggestions from fellow owners for additional outreach avenues, especially Internet-based venues. A lack of an advertising budget hampers using any for-fee outreach. As always, your suggestions for additional outreach sources are appreciated.

A writer for the *Las Vegas Night Beat*--a Las Vegas, Nevada-based GLBT publication--recently stayed at Villa Mykonos, at the suggestion of one of our owners. He wrote a very nice feature article on Villa Mykonos--referring to Villa Mykonos as now being his "secret hideaway." The article is attached to the newsletter.

Remember, you can submit your comments, questions, articles, jokes, quotes, et cetera, to me at [VP.Marketing@villamykonos.com](mailto:VP.Marketing@villamykonos.com). Please, do not forget we still would like submittals for our *Spotlight On Owners*. David Liggett and Mark Hawk have shared their story with us this time. No need to be bashful. Let us celebrate and share in your unique hobbies or accomplishments and contributions at work or in your community. Send your stories to [VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com](mailto:VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com).



## SPOTLIGHT ON OWNERS

By Brandy Jones – VP, Owner Relations

### David Liggett & Mark Hawk

Mark and David met in 1987. Since that time, their relationship has been legally sanctioned by the State of California three times, annulled once, reinstated, and once again called into question.

Mark and David became "legal" domestic partners in 1993. Then, they were "legally" married when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom said the City Clerk could issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The California Supreme Court subsequently annulled those marriage licenses.

After the state again recognized legal marriage between same sex couples in 2007, Mark and David once again decided to "tie the knot." This was done on David's 50th birthday, in September 2008. Just two months later, as a result of Proposition 8, the right of same-sex couples to marry was eliminated, although couples married prior to November 2008 were still legally recognized as married. As the couple laughingly says, "Thank goodness the wedding dress was 'wash and wear!'" Mark and David spent their 2008 honeymoon weekend at Villa Mykonos.

Mark is a Nurse Practitioner with the Trauma Service Center at San Francisco General Hospital. He also serves as an Associate Professor in the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in the School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco, where he is also pursuing his PhD in Nursing. David is the Director of Facilities and Campus Architect for City College of San Francisco (CCSF).

While Mark was in Palm Springs for a nursing convention, in 1992 or 1993 (Neither could remember the year), they decided to purchase, thinking they would go once a year to have time together and relax. So, the couple has been coming to Villa Mykonos for almost 20 years.

Over the years, Mark and David started going more and more frequently during the year. Often going three or four times a year. They almost always spend the Fourth of July week at Villa Mykonos. The weather played a part in their decision. Both of them actually like the 115-degree heat. However, their two 150-pound Newfoundland dogs found the change in weather from cool, foggy San Francisco to the warm, dry heat of Palm Springs to be quite a shock. (Sadly, the two dogs are no longer with them.)

Mark and David are part of the original owners that worked to take over Villa Mykonos when the developer declared bankruptcy. (As David says, "Original gold card members, ha, ha--remember the promises of chilled champagne and a fire awaiting you on your arrival with one call to the Concierge?") They well remember assembling in the driveway and discussing and voting to form an association to try to take control of the property. (Those of us who became owners after that meeting are grateful for those owners who stepped forward back then.)

The last several years, the couple started to think they would retire in Palm Springs. So, with a housing market and mortgage rates favorable for buyers over the last year, Mark and David bought a home in Palm Springs. They are now down about every four weeks.

When I asked about their plans for using Villa Mykonos now that they own a home in Palm Springs, they simply replied that they have several options. Sometimes we trade and use

RCI to exchange timeshare properties. Other times we use our interval week as a special gift for friends or family visiting us in at home. They often need extra rooms and we think how nice it would be to set them up at Villa Mykonos -- sharing our "little paradise" with them. It sounds good to me!

David and I were serving on Classified Senate together at CCSF when we compared Palm Springs stories one day. We then realized we had Villa Mykonos in common.

This past week, David and Mark were at Villa Mykonos to celebrate my (Brandy's) retirement. As other owners and RCI guest checked in for the weekend, we told about the party and invited them to bring their favorite dish/drink. Thanks to Ken and Mat for putting out the flyer and telling everyone. It was a

nice gathering and a great way to meet new friends.

What started as a quick convention trip to Palm Springs ended up with the couple buying into Villa Mykonos. Over the years, that purchase has lead to many happy moments and memories, good times, good friends and, in many ways, their future, as they look to move to Palm Springs full-time in a few years.

I thank Mark and David for sharing their story with us. If any other owner would like to be in "Owner Spotlight," please email me at:

[grandlady57@gmail.com](mailto:grandlady57@gmail.com) or  
[VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com](mailto:VP.OwnerRelations@villamykonos.com).

**“A wise man makes more opportunities than he finds.” -- Sir Frances Bacon**

**PALM SPRINGS 2010 EVENTS CALENDAR**

October 23	-----	Annual Desert AIDS Walk
October 10-14	-----	Samsung Golf Tournament
November 6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	-----	Palm Springs Pride
November 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	-----	Palm Springs Leather Pride
December 5 (5PM to 8PM)	-----	Festival of Lights Parade- Palm Canyon Dr.
December 20	-----	Andy Williams Christmas Show (7pm McCallum Theatre)
December 31	-----	City of Palm Springs New Year’s Eve Happening

**DIRECTORS & MANAGEMENT**

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