



St. Augustine Beaches NEWS JOURNAL



NEWS INFORMATION FOR & ABOUT ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH & ANASTASIA ISLAND



2024 National Night Out October 1

St. Augustine Beach will join thousands of communities nationwide to celebrate National Night Out. The local event will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1 at the St. Augustine Beach Pier, 350 A1A Beach Boulevard. The free event is presented locally by the St. Augustine Beach Police Department in conjunction with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the St. Augustine Police Department.



The community is invited to the festival, a unique crime/drug prevention event presented nationwide by the National Association of Town Watch, an organization dedicated to crime and drug prevention and safety awareness.

The local event will feature free food and beverages, music, exhibitors, free goodie bags, raffles for locally donated prizes, and exhibitors. Law enforcement personnel will be on hand to answer questions and emergency vehicles will be on display. For information call 904-471-3600.



St. Augustine Beach and Beyond . . .

By Lorraine Thompson (staugbeachwatch@aol.com)

Working her way through life—reflections from a Centenarian

More than 30 years ago while walking on St. Augustine Beach with my husband Charles, we became acquainted with a friendly Black lady, Dr. Dorothy Israel, known as Deeh to her friends. She was usually accompanied by her husband Rudy Israel and their dog Destiny. The couple had recently retired and relocated to Rudy's hometown, St. Augustine Beach. Although Rudy (and Destiny) are no longer alive, Deeh continues to reside on Anastasia Island.

Coming from Harlem and moving to St. Augustine Beach with her new husband Rudy Israel in November 1994, Delores Israel's New York friends doubted that she would stay in St. Augustine very long.

But they were wrong.

On September 22 Dorothy Israel was honored on the occasion of her 100th birthday, at St. Cyprian Episcopal Church in downtown St. Augustine's Lincolnville neighborhood.

"It is hard for me to believe that I have lived this long. It has been an interesting journey," she said from her island home. "I had great parents who were immigrants from the tiny Island of Barbados who believed strongly in education. Dad worked on the Panama Canal and Mom became a seamstress. Her dresses sold at Saks fifth Avenue and other high priced stores."

One of the things her mother taught her that she said influenced her life is, "Don't let your color define you. Let your actions define you."

Among some of her earlier reflections:

As a youth in New York during the Harlem Renaissance--dancing at the Savoy to the tunes of Duke Ellington and reveling in the sounds of Ella Fitzgerald at the Apollo Theater.

As a student at New York University--In 1940's where she was assigned as an intern at the Harlem Boys Club, she met First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who was invited to speak to community residents.

"I was asked to be on the welcoming committee to show her around the center which I did nervously," Deeh recalled. "She was gracious and much to my surprise greeted and talked with the young Black students with sincere interest and support for their artistic endeavors. It was a motivating factor that led me to enter the social work field as a way of helping the less fortunate.

"Attending the March on Washington in 1963 helped me realize the importance of working together to bring about change. Dr. King, who I had met when he was studying for his Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Boston University, was an outstanding person. Being at the March and seeing thousands of people willing to stand for hours to support freedom left an indelible mark on me."

Focusing on education, Deeh received a Degree in Social Work at Atlantic School of Social Work, Tulane University School of Social Work, Certificate in Education from Tulane University. After earning her PHD in Counseling Psychology from the Union Institute and University, she taught at both New York University and



Dorothy Israel

(continued on page 6)

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