



The Rainbow Times

Number 30 • Summer 2021

**Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association,
Eleuthera, Bahamas • Founded 1979**



The Rainbow Times

Newsletter of the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association

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President's Letter



One of the first things I would like to discuss is the election of Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association Board of Directors. We hold elections every two years, usually in March to coincide with the Annual General Meeting (AGM). As previously discussed, the 2020 meeting was changed to a Zoom format because of government-mandated restrictions on the size of "gatherings."

I am hopeful that the 2022 AGM will be restored to live format. We are now six months from electing a new Board. In the last election, we had a healthy field of residents willing to stand for election. If you even *think* you might be interested, please spend the next few months considering whether that should be you this time.

According to our By-laws the RBPOA must put out a call for candidates to stand for election to the Board of Directors. This is the first notice. Our Secretary, Roberta Updegraff will collect all nominations for placement on the ballot. Please be informed that according to paragraph 11 of our By-laws, a candidate must be a member in good standing. You can email your intentions to Roberta at: secretary@rainbowbay.org. We will publish an early 2022 newsletter with all of the announced candidates and ballot information.

I will outline more information in an email blast this autumn. If you are not on my email list or are not receiving my email blasts send me a request at: president@rainbowbay.org.

Farewell old-timers: a lot of old familiar faces are disappearing. The following families have sold and closed on their homes in the past year, among them the Langworths, Watts's, Morrisons and Clements. But there are a lot of new faces, many new lots are being cleared, and construction in Rainbow Bay is robust. To this end, I put out information recently that we had a case of a lot being sold while someone else held a long-time claim to that same lot. I have prepared a separate article in this newsletter since we have new information. (See right.)

We closed our house for the season and left on June 25th. At that time there were very few part-time Rainbow Bay residents here, but the island was pretty well filled with tourists. Even in June, tourism was robust. Every day I passed by Rainbow Beach there were lots of tourists enjoying the water. I couldn't get into "Da Perk" at least two times because it was standing room only with all the tourists. Island restaurants were doing a brisk business and even new venues opened up—good news for our local innkeepers.

In the past eighteen months we have had some wins and some losses. Area beautification was slow, but ultimately accomplished. >>



The same applies to road maintenance. The fact that our tractor was out of circulation for about five months really slowed down improvements. We did get new signs made to replace the existing signs along the Queen's Highway. The sign on the north side has been erected. The sign on the south side requires new posts and by the time you read this, it should be up. The signs are highly attractive and show the place well. We still await the judge's decision on the pending lawsuit and I wish I could say more. ❖

Do You Really Own Your Lot?

In years past, many property owners obtained their land through one of several entities. In our case, it was Jay Gladwin Properties. For others, it may have been through Gordon Price, or it may have been through Rainbow Bay Ltd. or Eleuthera Island Shores Ltd.

As the years passed, many of those principals have passed on and with that, so did these entities. Within the last several years investors located in Nassau have apparently bought all the rights to "unregistered" properties in Rainbow Bay and are paying up the back taxes. They have already begun selling lots. We recently became aware of a conflict where a lot was sold and the original person who "thought" they owned this lot was notified.

This is very important: I strongly encourage every property owner to review all the documentation in their possession to see if you in fact have been granted a "Certificate of Conveyance" from the Bahamian Government for your property.

Your conveyance must be stamped, with book number, page number, etc. If neglected, there is a potential problem: Property owners think they own property, have paid taxes and maintenance fees for years, only to find that the lot was never registered properly. The RBPOA has never kept or collected copies of conveyances, so if you can't locate any documentation, I strongly suggest hiring a local lawyer. Sooner rather than later.

The "new" entity has reconstituted itself as Rainbow Bay Properties, Ltd., and our legal team states they are a legitimate company. Due diligence if you are a potential buyer.

If you are in doubt and want to check for yourself, deeds are registered at the Registrar General's Office in Nassau. From their website:

**Deeds & Documents Section
Registrar General's Department
Corner of Shirley and Charlotte Street
PO Box N 532. Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas**

Telephones:

242-397-9162 • 242-397-9165 • 242-397-9158

Fax: 242-322-5553

Email: RegistrarGeneral@bahamas.gov.bs

Hours: 9:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

Keep in mind that dealing with many government entities is difficult because of Covid. Phone calls and emails are not always returned. This may also apply to law firms. The Association is trying to work out a nine month "grace period" in the event of a conflict such as that mentioned above. ❖

Terry Clark

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Changes of Address

Please notify our Accounts Manager, Vicki Collins, if you relocate or change your RBPOA mailing address: vickicollins2013@yahoo.com

Calendar 2022

**March 19, 12 noon EDT,
9am WDT, 4pm UTC:**

Annual General Meeting
at the Poehlman Building.
Watch for more details.

Get Your Rainbow Times by Email:

110 members receive *The Rainbow Times* (and hurricane alerts) by email as a .pdf, saving us \$200 per year. Triple that would save plenty. If you'd like your copy by email, notify vickicollins2013@yahoo.com

Your copy will arrive six weeks before print copies. Your email address will not be passed to anyone, nor used for any other purpose.

Available Again!

Rainbow Rising, a history of Rainbow Bay, \$35.

Laminated color maps of Rainbow Bay from the original developer's brochure, \$30. Contact Matt Hoopes (page opposite).

Emergency Numbers

Police

• Governors Harbour: 911, 919, 332-2111 or 332-2117.

• Hatched Bay: 335-0086

Clinics

• James Cistern: Mon-Wed, 9am-2pm.

• Hatched Bay: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, 335-0091.

Resident nurse: 335-0620.

❖

What's Happening



Rainbow Cay from the heights of Rainbow Bay (Photo above and page 2 by Terry Clark)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Our Neighborhood Watch depends on volunteers. Driving around making our presence known can deter break-ins while getting to know the community.

Last year Sam and I drove around Fridays at dusk. Once we questioned a man carrying a crowbar or machete. He nervously answered, then ran to the Queens Highway calling his ride and just like that he was gone. We do not suggest approaching persons of interest. Call or report suspicious activity to Hatchet Bay Police at 335-0086, if no answer 919 or 911.

It is everyone's responsibility to help keep Rainbow Bay a safe community. Do your part by random patrols. —*Rosie Graham*

WE HAD LETTERS...

Readers might enjoy letters Bob Poehlman received after he became President of the RBPOA many decades ago...

• "What do you spend the \$25 membership fees on? *Answer:* "Saving up for a tractor, keeping the brush cut, building a garbage shed, repairing roads, paperwork to keep the thing running."

• "Why can't I have a telephone installed?" *Answer:* "You must go to the little telephone companies in the villages to make

a call. Your request for your own phone will require quite a wait."

• "Why can't residents collect mail from Governor's Harbour every day and deliver it to home owners?" *Answer:* "Sorry you miss your daily mail delivery. The mail boat comes in once a week."

• "Water: Will I have to dig a well?" *Answer:* "Homes are furnished with water by a cistern filled with rain water from roofs. Keep your gutters clean."

• "I'm visiting this winter and want to know about local amenities." *Answer:* "We have restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, clinics, but no rental shops for beach chairs, umbrellas or snorkel equipment. We do have wonderful sunny days, pristine beaches, and balmy waters. Not much else is needed to have a happy island life."

Love always from another island lover.

—*Maureen Poehlman*

One encounter to add to that, Maureen, from our old pal Ken Keene, longest reigning proprietor of the Rainbow Inn (*Rainbow Times 27*)...

A lady just in from New York: "Mr. Keene, do you realize your tennis court is *cement*?"

Krabby Ken: "You're lucky it has lines." —*Ed.* ❖

ABSENT FRIENDS



Vernita Bethel of James Cistern, 50, former manager at "Going Places" and an ordained minister of the Gospel, died suddenly to our great shock on the morning of July 29th. Afflicted with Covid 19, Vernita was airlifted into New Providence July 28th with extreme breathing difficulties. May God grant her rest.

Rainbow folk most often found Vernita at Big Rock Store just south (east) of Rainbow Bay, spelling her husband Tony at the counter. Others sought out the Wesleyan Methodist church services when she was in the pulpit, for she was a preacher with few equals.

She was always there with advice and help whenever anyone asked, and sometimes it took solid form—with the best quiche we have ever tasted, made for our 50th wedding anniversary party. She and Tony arrived a day earlier

because I'd given them the wrong date—the quiche was gone that night! It was such a shock to learn she was gone. Of the many tributes, we share the one that impressed us most—by another friend to many here. —RML



Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. -Isaiah 57:2

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those crushed in spirit. -Psalms 34:18

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you

and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

-Isaiah 41:10

Dear Tony, Jamaal, Tony and family, May God wrap his arms around you and your family and give you peace. Still at a loss for words but I know with assurance that God is well able to strengthen, comfort and keep you all. Vernita will always hold a special place in our hearts.

V: I never thought that last Saturday when we spoke it would be the last time I heard your voice. You were so strong and full of life. We will miss your pres-

ence, even at Wesley James's Cistern! But the indelible memories of you will continue to live on in our hearts. Your legacy we will continue to carry on. This is so hard but we are grateful to God for your life and were honored, blessed and richer that you passed this way. The mighty God you served and preached about will sustain us. So until we see you, again, sleep on peacefully in Him, my beautiful sister, your reward awaits. You always encouraged us to give our best. Our hearts are heavy and saddened.

—Brenda Stubbs ❖

FROM THE EDITOR: FAREWELL TO OUR PIECE OF THE ROCK

Looking back, I see we took on *Greetings from Rainbow Bay* (immediately renaming it *The Rainbow Times*) back in 2006, three years after we built "High Tide" on Wandering Shore Drive. We had produced three issues when unforeseen difficulties forced us to give it up. But—it seems like yesterday—number 9 (Autumn, 2010) saw us welcomed by a new Board, and suddenly here we are, saying good-bye after 25 issues.

In the beginning we had elaborate plans for the newsletter because there was no island journal, but the simultaneous arrival of our ubiquitous tabloid *The Eleutheran* eliminated that, and we settled down to eight pages strictly devoted to Rainbow Bay.

Alas time, the Churl, was running, and circumstances change. Our only son is in California (permanently, it seems, more's the pity) and his wife and two grandsons too far to share winters on the island. I will never retire, but my work as a writer continues apace, and age keeps creeping. Those who care may always find me (and some Bahamas articles) at richardlangworth.com.

So we are going, after living here for 292 weeks, 5 1/2 years, giving up what Hilton Johnson calls "Your piece of the rock." It is 40 years since Hilton, still one of our best friends, picked us up in his taxi: "First time on the island? Welcome to it!"

It is not without regret that we part company with our tropic home and, *ipso facto*, you in Rainbow Bay who have made life there worth the living. Barbara and I thank you deeply—you who are still there, and the many who, like us, are now history—for your welcome, your laughter, your bailing us out of jams, for making life here so pleasant for so long.

—Richard Langworth



"Walking On".... Lighthouse Point, photo by Ian Langworth, 2008.



Reflections, 1939: "A Unicorn in the Bahamas"

BY ROSITA FORBES

Modern photos by Ed Mune and Terry Clark



Editor's Note

Rosita Forbes (1890-1967) was an English travel writer and explorer. In 1920 she was the first European woman to visit Libya's Kufra Oasis, at a time when it was closed to Westerners. Falling in love with The Bahamas, she built an elegant house, Unicorn Cay, where she lived in the 1940s and 1950s. It still stands, on a stretch of pink sand off Banks Road south of Governor's Harbour. Forbes said Eleuthera was so magical she could fancy that "unicorns lived there." And when a shy little Bahamian girl handed her a seahorse with a spike on its head, she knew she had found her unicorn. Text is excerpted from her classic book, A Unicorn in the Bahamas, 1939. >>

The Bahamas have nothing to do with the tropics. They are—so far as climate and natural growths are concerned—decidedly temperate. I cannot think of any place in the world where the light is so clear. The law of gravity should not exist in an atmosphere of sea, sky and land all miraculously filtered, so that only the primal colors remain. ↑



At times the clarity is so accentuated that rocks and trees appear to have form without bulk. So The Bahamas have upon their visitors the effect of a post-Impressionist exhibition. The sense of proportion vanishes. Everything is equally important and nothing fully understood.

I remembered the reds of Rhodesia and longed to set them up against the Bahamian sea. All that is needed here, I thought, is a contrast. There are no other such blues in the world. Flower-sellers' markets in autumn, the windows of jewelers in the luxury streets of capitals, offer no comparison,

because sapphires, aquamarines and amethysts are not sufficiently alive. If wine could be made out of flowers and scent distilled from the depths of jewels, perhaps the combination might compare with the changing brilliance of the seas from which The Bahamas were born. ❖



A Vote of Thanks

BY MATT HOOPES

Richard Langworth, for 40 years a historian of Winston Churchill, Senior Fellow of the Hillsdale College Churchill Project, quickly corrected me when I said Churchill stated, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself”: “That was by Roosevelt, but Churchill *did* say, ‘We shall go on to the end.’” Well, the end has arrived with Richard’s retirement, and this issue is his last.

Long time residents Richard and Barbara bought their double lot on the Caribbean in 1982 and built “High Tide” in 2003, renting houses until then. They plunged into activities, from co-founding (with Arrington McCurdy) the Long Rider bicycling club, to sailing, exploring the island, collecting shells and Bahamian friends. Barbara volunteered at the Governor’s Harbour School for Exceptional Children

and local activities—and they hosted outstanding parties.

Richard was a board member for two years as well as publishing the biannual newsletter for 13 years—a far cry from the original four-page mimeographed annual. He filled it with news, helpful articles on maintenance, resident profiles, island life, flora and fauna, accompanied by vivid color photos. Richard also put the journal online to save the Association money—but printed copies are enjoyed by Eleutherans from Harbour Island to Rock Sound.

The Langworths sold their home here to be able to spend more time with their son Ian, his wife Emily, and grandsons Mikey (5) and Aiden (2), in California. Now that the end has come and gone, the entire community wish Richard and Barbara “Aldebest, mon!” They will sorely missed, as will Richard’s fine writing, editing and layouts. ❖

ADVERTISEMENTS

\$100 for 1 year on website & newsletter. Order from Bobbi Updegraff, tel. 242-335-0698 (robertaupdegraff@me.com).

To locate a lot, its location and dimensions, use the maps on our website: www.rainbowbay.org/public/maps/

Photographs of properties are also on website advertisements. Visit: www.rainbowbay.org/public/classifieds/

Section A, Block 5, Lots 20-21

Ship Sighter Road facing Atlantic. Double lots, 160’ frontage, 120’ deep, short walk to private beach. Beautiful view. \$39,500. George Keene (coyotekene@gmail.com).

Section A, Block 8, Lots 12-13

Twin Beach Road facing Atlantic. Generous 160’ road frontage x 120’ deep, sloping to 60’ above sea level, fine 180° Atlantic view. Build your “green dream” island home. \$42,000 negotiable. Photos & details, Katy Nelson tel. 239-455-4284. (katytara3@protonmail.com).

Section B, Block 27, Lot 8 Rainbow Hill Circle, 1/4 acre triangular, just across road from Rainbow Beach, elevation at the rear 40+’. Buyer pays all legal and transfer fees. Linwood Pendleton



Rainbow Bay Property Owners Assn.
PM 8068, 411 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 USA

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New Hampshire
Permit #726

PREFERRED PROPERTY OWNER:

Greetings from Rainbow Bay:

Twenty Years Ago: The Beach Recovers

Rainbow Beach is more beautiful than ever. It has made a remarkable recovery from Hurricane Floyd, due largely to the extraordinary efforts of the Poehlmanns. Bob and Maureen have lovingly cared for the plantings they and the Rainbow Inn donated to replace Floyd's ill effects, lugging water to the beach every other day and placing seaweed around hibiscus and oleander to nurture their growth. They also planted 50 palm trees that have nicely survived the summer drought. Many volunteers helped clean up the beach after Floyd, and volunteers will be needed again this year to keep it in top shape. The gazebos have been completed and offer a welcome respite from the sun at mid-day. Their thatched overhang is sized to withstand strong winds. A roof that is too wide would be easily toppled by a blowing storm. Trying to outsmart Mother Nature isn't easy. The beach erosion project was a major priority over the summer. The Board contracted to have the jetty extended out into the Bay in an effort to stave off further erosion. The improved jetty has been completed and appears to be effective. Time and tide will tell us as the winter storms roll in. George Chiulli contributes by refurbishing the picnic tables as needed. —AUTUMN, 2001 ❖

Times Past



The Rainbow Times, No. 11, Ten Years Ago: Quarry Roads

Twenty-three different quarry roads saw major improvements by the Symonette Group out of Rock Sound. Everyone I talked to liked what was done, but about a month later I heard grumbling that when the rains came the roads would just wash out and we would have wasted our money. I called a board meeting and we decided to ask for an estimate to pave threatened areas with pea gravel, sand and two coats of tar. The Symonettes bid \$43,000, and we decided to go forward despite the cost. I know some of you are thinking, "Why didn't you do my road?" Hopefully in another couple of years we will be able to address yours. For now we feel confident that these refurbished quarry roads should hold up in the rain and last a long time. It goes without saying that major road improvements like this can only be made with the support of our members who continue to pay their dues regularly. We would much appreciate your taking the necessary steps, if you are in arrears, to get caught up, or at least make a down payment. We are happy to work out an installment program too. I am pleased to say that the majority of our Association members continue to support us loyally by paying their dues, which is much appreciated. —JOHN KAVALI, SUMMER 2011 ❖