

Cutler Bay NEWS

APRIL 12 - 25, 2016

communitynewspapers.com

305-669-7355

Realize that none of us are here forever

BY ERNIE SOCHIN



I know that most of you look forward to the humor in most of my articles. Well I can't always be funny especially after the events of the past several weeks.

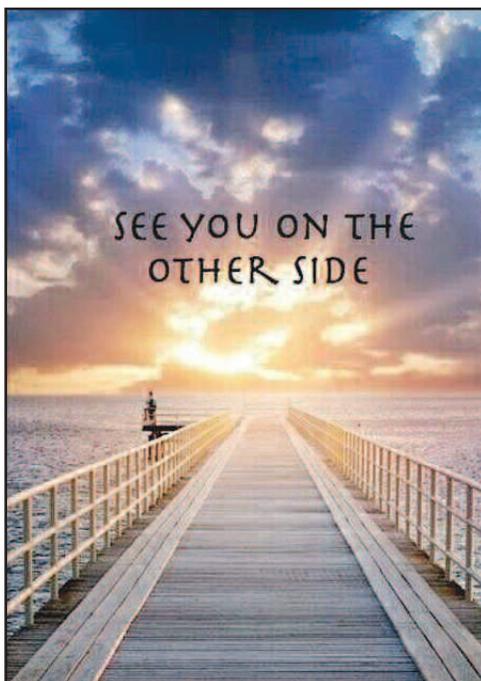
It started with my losing my balance on a simple evening walk and falling flat on my face doing all sorts of damage, some of which still aches. After going to physical therapy for several weeks, I decided to attempt to move some concrete blocks that I've been saving in my backyard to eventually make a walkway to my shed.

Guess what happens when I went to lift the first block? Smash! Back to the therapist who, as nicely as possible, asked me "what in the hell are you doing?"

I have no logical answer other than the fact that I have not quite adjusted to my new age and the reality that there are limits to what I can do now. As you get older, life seems to go flying by and, before you know it, you no longer are eligible for a long-term loan or able to lift heavy objects from the ground.

If all this wasn't bad enough I received a call from a member of my family informing me that a nephew, just a few years younger than I am, just passed away from some sort of auto immune disease for which the medication that he was taking was no longer effective and he was given a short time to live.

Fortunately, I was able to speak to him by phone just a short time before his eventual demise. One of his sisters, my niece, told me that his last words were "see you on the



other side."

My nephew, as many in my family, is not particularly religious. I understand that there really is no "other side," however it is nice to think about and hopefully I am wrong about this, but I doubt it.

Naturally I became very depressed upon hearing the news, something you simply can't help when it relates to a member of your own family. The very next morning, as I looked through the obituary notices, something you do when you get older, I noticed that the wife of a very good friend of mine also had just passed away.

Of course, I went to the funeral and learned that her death was caused by a simple thing like choking on a piece of steak which she thought could be cleared

up by adding another piece of steak to help digest the first one. This didn't work and she died shortly after this happened.

Things like this can really get your mind blowing as you search for answers to questions that defy logic. You do your best to console those around you, but what can you actually say to someone who has suffered the loss of someone very close to them. We read every day in the newspapers about people being shot, hit by automobiles in which the motorist drives away, or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I had a couple of Jehovah's Witnesses come to my door just the other day. I always try to be extra courteous to these people because, after all, they're only out there trying to do good, but I can't resist the temptation to question their beliefs suggesting that perhaps their time could be better spent in the neighborhoods that truly need help.

We usually end our conversation in the most courteous manner in which they leave several of their booklets while I point to the tiny scrolls, called a mezuzah, attached my door frame. Don't ask me why, other than the fact that it is a tradition and I love tradition. There are times that I really would love to be able to think that someday I will meet up with my loved ones and friends who have passed and start life all over again. Wouldn't that be great?

I guess the only thing that may be learned from all this is that when you have loved ones around you show them as much love as you can, be as good to them as you are able, and realize that none of us are here forever.