

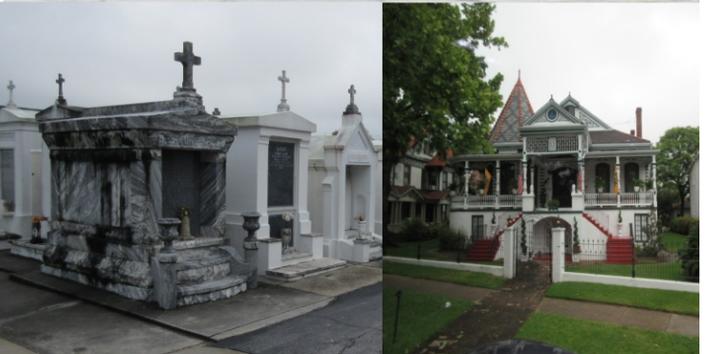
## Birthday Month!!!

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Yes, this was a birthday month, both for me and our friend, Barbara Marciano. We celebrated it together this year as we have done in the past. Our birthdays are a week apart. This year John & Barbara joined us on a bus trip to New Orleans, which is why they were here. This was a bus trip out of Lakeside Crossing, arranged by a Lakeside resident, who is a retired travel agent. We always enjoy trips with other Lakeside residents. We did have some difficulties with the bus, which did cause discomfort for some. On the way home, we were given a different bus which was greatly appreciated. Never the less, we had a good time and I have picked some pictures to demonstrate that.

The first picture is our effort to keep John 'entertained' before we left on the trip! John fixed our ceiling fan in the screen porch. "Thank you John." Of course we have to have a picture of Bourbon St, which is the next one! This was a relatively quiet week in New Orleans as there were no big events going on. The next picture is of some New Orleans entertainment in the way of street music. Also of interest was our tour of one of the cemeteries, which are unique with the burials above ground, in tombs or vaults, because of the high water table. Each one is unique, and often holds more than one body.

Some other pictures are of unique houses, The WWII Museum and the St Louis Cathedral with General Andrew Jackson on his bronze horse in the foreground. The Cathedral-Basilica of St Louis King of France is the oldest Catholic Cathedral in continual use in the US.



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Well to continue with the birthday month, I had the surprise of a lifetime!! My dear granddaughter Lana 'orchestrated' a visit, including her brother Timothy. This was my birthday surprise, and what a surprise it was!! Lana did tell her grandfather, so he made up a story that we were going to pick up a neighbors' relative at the airport. When we got there, Lana was standing outside the terminal waving her arms which I didn't see as I was looking for someone else. How funny is that? It blew me away!! So we go back to the house, enjoying the whole experience. It is getting a bit late, around 9 or 9:30PM and Bob says, "Well, lets get going." Going, going where, I say? Where do we end up, but back at the Airport, again!! They ask me to guess who we are picking up now, and I did guess, Timothy!! What a great time we had. We had not seen Lana or Tim since Lana's graduation from St John's University. We had a lot of catching up to do. By the end of their visit, there was no doubt in our minds that they were on the right road. They are both working hard and looking constructively toward the future.



The next to last picture is of Tim and Lana getting ready to board their flights to return home. What a wonderful birthday! Thank you guys!!

I included this last picture of all of us together back in New York. That was a fun Summer for me too.

