## By KATHERINE CUSTER

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## Sea Isle City Connection

## Proof that age is just a number

Ah, the golden years: sipping tea as you swing on a hammock and relax while the world hurries by.

Aren't these the rewards for a lifetime of work? Certainly the members of Sea Isle City's AARP would disagree. As they show, staying active is its own reward.

Inside the Sea Isle City Community Lodge on JFK Blvd., where this friendly group meets once a month, a beehive of activity can be observed. Along with debating issues that affect our nation's seniors, these active citizens also plan social events, organize charitable functions and generally support each another with camaraderie and respect. It's a wonderful thing to behold.

"There's a lot happening here," boasts
George Marinari,
president of the Sea
Isle chapter. "It's also
a wonderful deal" he

adds, noting the low cost of membership (a total of \$17 will get you involved on both the national and local levels).

It is obviously an enticing bargain to quite a few residents because members number more than 290, making them one of the largest groups in the region. "It is exciting to think that we are one of the strongest chapters around" adds the jovial president, who runs the meetings with humor and wit.

However, the excitement doesn't stop with numbers. As their calendar shows, these seniors have big plans for the future. Best of all, anyone age 50 and above is invited to join their ranks.

Upcoming events include a visit to The Franklin Institute to view the King Tut Exhibit, along with a weekend bus trip to Washington, D.C. as well. There are also casino excursions planned and a Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 8 at the Deauville Inn.

And then there's



Members of Sea Isle AARP Board of Directors meet regularly to plan future events.

Bingo. Each month these ladies and gents gather for a Bingo Luncheon, where Mayor Len Desiderio often does the officiating.

"He calls the numbers with such panache," says Irene Jameson, Public Relations Chairperson for the chapter. "The mayor really makes us laugh."

It's clear that these folks like their fun. But along with the many social aspects they enjoy and the charitable works they perform, these go-getters also serve as a valuable source of support to one another.

Additionally they possess a wealth of information cover-

ing a wide range of topics. Let's say you would like to join an exercise class but don't feel the local gym is for you. Or maybe you would like to polish your driving skills and save money on car insurance. The answers lie within.

Who ever said information is power was right, for this group is definitely empowered.

Anyone interested in joining can write: AARP Chapter 710, PO Box 22, Sea Isle City, NJ 08243. And let's all remember the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln: "It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years."