

From the Wild Bird Center via Facebook



Rehabber Greg and Outreach Coordinator Maggy are celebrating Halloween a little early this year. In fact, they celebrate it all throughout baby season!

All baby animals go through a stage of "imprinting" where they form their identity based on their caretakers and the other individuals they are exposed to. We do not want our patients to imprint on us, so during this stage we take several steps to avoid it by obscuring our faces and not talking around babies in the imprinting stage. Whenever possible, we house babies of the same species together so that they imprint on themselves. Lone babies are given a mirror to have a "friend."

Imprinted birds cannot be returned to the wild for a

number of reasons. One is that if a bird is too comfortable with humans, it often gets itself into trouble with an improper diet, as people love to feed friendly wildlife, which by the way, is illegal! (Bird feeders are a different story, but they also have their issues... That's a post for another day!) Getting fed improper food causes a host of health problems that can be fatal.

How you can help? Do not feed birds bread, do not toss seabirds fish, and do not try to get wild birds to eat from your hands! Most importantly, never attempt to raise a baby bird yourself; this is also illegal. Call a local wildlife center and they will gladly help. They have all of the tools and experience to meet a bird's medical, dietary, and social needs!

JOY CENTER
every wednesday

- Tech Savvy Seniors
- Gentle Flow Yoga
- Stretch, Strength & Balance
- Ukulele Class and Jam Session
- Beginning Majongg
- Book Club
- Line Dance
- Storyteller's Cafe
- 5 Crowns
- American Sign Language

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Tiny Tim introduced our generation to the ukulele, but it took many decades and some extraordinary ukulele musicians, to finally give it the respect it deserves. Some people credit the tiny instrument with the ability to bring about World Peace, if only our global leaders would begin each summit by strumming You Are My Sunshine.

The JOY ukulele program has evolved from its original jam format to include a repertoire of more than fifty songs. We perform anywhere we are invited, and even a few places we are not!

Our newfound notoriety required us to choose a name, so as to save people from having to awkwardly describe us as, "You know, that ukulele group from The JOY Center." Now sporting a proper name, "Ukulele JOY" shares JOY at many events, but perhaps our favorite gigs are our semi-spontaneous Ukulele Flash Mobs. We take our title of JOY Ambassadors seriously.

We are an assortment of mostly goofballs with varying talents, who take great pride in the often-heard comment, "It looks like you are having so much fun!" Admittedly, expectations are low for a Ukulele Hootenanny, but the second part of that comment is absolutely true.

What's that Sound? Ukulele JOY

by Susan Anderson



Ukulele JOY enjoys great acoustics, and plenty of room to stay six feet apart, in the sanctuary at St James the Fisherman Episcopal church, MM 87.5.



The dolphins at the Dolphin Research Center rocked-out during a private concert April 13, 2022.

If you like to challenge yourself to keep your mind sharp, this might be the answer to all your doctor's recommendations: be social, learn new skills (left hand, right hand, reading chords, singing...), get out and enjoy new and spontaneous experiences, try to have less stress and more fun in your life.

Ukulele JOY is just one of several activities offered at the JOY Center every Wednesday from 9 AM-4:45 PM. The JOY Center is the brain child of a handful of community-minded people determined to create a place for Keys seniors to engage by participating in programs such as ukulele. We are working diligently to secure a "forever home" in the old Courthouse, but for now we meet at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church at MM 87.5.

Mike Ehlers has graciously agreed to step in during the summer months and offers a beginner class Wednesdays at noon. If you are curious to give it a try, there will be a ukulele for you to borrow! The regular group follows at 12:45.

Stalk us on Facebook at **Ukulele Notes** to witness the fun, then come strum with us! (Or visit JOY on the web: JustOlderYouthInc.org.)

