Boca Raton

Planned seaside mansion leads city to explore beach property acquisitions

By Sallie James

A city decision to allow construction of a four-story beachside mega-mansion on an undersized oceanfront parcel is having a ripple effect.

In the wake of the controversial Dec. 8 City Council decision, the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District has agreed to identify all privately owned, buildable beachfront properties, obtain available market values for the parcels and find out if council members would support an acquisition if it had public value.

“I am certainly not opposed to evaluating the possible acquisition of what beachfront property is available and how it could be used by the public,” said Commissioner Robert K. Rollins. “Let’s make sure we have the consensus of the City Council for us to move forward with this. They are our partner and would be responsible for going through with a bond issue.”

The discussion on beachfront property was spurred by a Dec. 16 letter from Boca Raton

Along the Coast

Highland Beach police begin to wear body cameras

By Rich Pollack

While law enforcement agencies throughout Palm Beach County — and the country — are exploring the feasibility of equipping officers with body-worn video cameras, the small oceanfront town of Highland Beach is jumping ahead of the curve.

Beginning this month, Highland Beach police officers will be wearing body cameras that can be turned on during routine traffic stops and other encounters with the potential of confrontations or arrests.

“We’re fortunate in Highland Beach to be able to work in an environment where we don’t have dangerous situations routinely, but they do happen,” Chief Craig Hartmann said. “Having body-worn cameras will add another level of transparency and accountability.”

Although the number of reported crimes in Highland Beach is minimal, Hartmann points out that it’s not unusual for officers to come across volatile situations when responding to a variety of calls. Those calls include domestic complaints, attempted suicides or cases where a resident

Many warned, several cited during road safety week

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach Police Officer Paul Shersty was driving south along State Road A1A one Saturday morning when he noticed a car continue through a dedicated crosswalk just as two pedestrians began to walk across.

Shersty turned on his lights and pulled the car over.

Motor Vehicle Citations
Moving – 2
Nonmoving – 12
Speeding – 11
Warnings – 2
Verbal warnings – 3

Bicycle Citations
Red light – 1
Traffic Violations – 4
Warnings – 21
Verbal warnings – 194

Pedestrian Citations – 3

Results of the South Florida Safe Roads Task Force targeted enforcement on State Road A1A last month.

Highland

Beach police
begin to wear
body cameras

HAHAHAHA!
Laugh with the Delray Beach Public Library (and a top comic).

Boca beauty
New construction in The Sanctuary.

“ArtsPaper”
Dr. Seuss
It’s the Cat in the Hat, Horton and some really bizarre taxidermy.

Just say ‘Om’
Prepare to relax with yoga nidra.

Luff House to become restaurant
Historic building is on Palmetto Park.
A wish for residents in 2016: Be informed, get involved

I sit at my desk the day after Christmas— with several extra pounds on my waist and a purring office cat on my lap— I think about how much there is to be better informed as we slip into the New Year. Because I’m in the business of publishing a community newspaper, I also think about all that we need to keep an eye on in 2016. No matter how much may be be with the sugar and tryptophan of the holidays, it’s important to remember that we can’t protect democracy by building gates around our personal desires and forgetting our place in the larger community.

Here are some of the local issues for the coming year:

- **Beach erosion:** It isn’t going away. Even if you believe that pumping sand on public beaches is a waste of time and money, it does allow one of the main economic drivers of Florida (tourism) to continue. As our population increases (there are now 6 million people living in the South Florida corridor), there is a growing need for recreational space, and there are very few public beaches remaining. No matter how many gates we put up, tourists (and residents) will want to come to the beach. Those of us lucky enough to live along the shore need to take a broader look at the role beaches play in our economy and not succumb to an “I’ve got mine” mentality.

- **Sober homes:** The growing recovery industry’s meteoric rise over the past few years has taken almost everyone by surprise. We’ve all known family, friends or neighbors who have battled with addiction and are thankful for professionals who provide assistance for this disease. What we didn’t expect was for the recovery industry to explode when laws and a lack of regulations provided access to easy money for those who prey on the needs of others. Now we have the fourth-largest industry in Palm Beach County giving little back to the communities where they see the most potential profit. It’s become an issue for government agencies (aka our tax dollars) to deal with. Unless recovery industry leaders step up their efforts to police their own (it’s not like they don’t have the money), it’s going to take a long time for the wheels of government to provide a solution that benefits both the communities and the growing need for addiction treatment.

- **Guns for hire:** Advance apologies to all my attorney friends, but it seems that no dispute (no matter how small) is settled in our area without costing thousands of dollars in legal fees. Again, much of this ends up being paid by the taxpayers. In meeting after meeting, I watch individuals, businesses and developers seek special allowances from local government by hiring well-connected lawyers who know what it takes behind the scenes to get things done. Can’t blame them, it’s how things work.

But after seven years of attending local government meetings, I see the same attorneys before our councils and commissions again and again. And it becomes obvious that a very few people are behind the changes (good and bad) happening in our communities. Someone is profiting, and seldom is it the taxpayer.

Will any of these concerns be mitigated or solved in the coming year? Doubtful. These are complex issues. Still, I hope for 2016. Already I see citizens organizing and becoming better informed. In today’s changing media world, this is essential. It has become more and more important that traditional “follow-the-money” journalism be supplemented by courageous citizens who are willing to become part of the solution: solutions that work for everyone.

Mary Kate Lening, Editor
ULTRA LUXURY ESTATE PROPERTIES FOR A DISCERNING CLIENTELE

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Council postpones pay raise discussion, may put on August ballot

By Sallie James

The Boca Raton City Council postponed discussion of an ordinance that would give city lawmakers a raise, planning to address it in January the possibility of setting the wage level at a percentage of Palm Beach County Commission salaries and putting the question to voters in August.

The city’s elected officials say they’re underpaid and need a raise, but how and if they will ever get one is a complicated process that depends on voters. City Council members last month spent nearly an hour discussing a proposed ordinance that would have put the question to voters in March 2016 instead of November 2016. After much discussion about when the proposal should be placed on the ballot, council members favored August. They instructed the city attorney to draft a new ordinance for consideration that ties council raises to a percentage of the salaries of Palm Beach County commissioners; establishes those percentages of 40 percent for the mayor and 30 percent for council members; and sets the ordinance’s effective date as Oct. 1, 2016.

As part of the discussion, city activist Glenn Gromann voiced strong support for pay hikes, calling elected officials’ salaries that are modest.”"Weinroth liked Mullaugh’s proposal but wanted the measure to be considered by voters in March 2016 instead of November 2016. After much discussion about when the proposal should be placed on the ballot, council members favored August. They instructed the city attorney to draft a new ordinance for consideration that ties council raises to a percentage of the salaries of Palm Beach County commissioners; establishes those percentages of 40 percent for the mayor and 30 percent for council members; and sets the ordinance’s effective date as Oct. 1, 2016. As part of the discussion, city activist Glenn Gromann voiced strong support for pay hikes, calling elected officials’ salaries “archaic indentured servant situation.” Resident Kevin Meany also favored raises, saying they would enable more people to run for office who otherwise could not afford to. Mullaugh suggested tying pay hikes to those of other elected officials because any change to Boca’s salaries must be done by referendum, Boca’s elected officials haven’t had a pay hike since 1984. Boca’s mayor is paid $750 a month, or $9,000 a year. Council members earn $600 a month, or $7,200 a year. Attempts in 2004 and 2006 to get voters to approve raises both failed. Mullaugh suggested a referendum seeking pay hikes in the hope of encouraging more candidates to run for office. The job, considered part-time, often requires 20 to 30 hours a week, because elected officials have to attend city workshops, council meetings, Community Redevelopment Agency meetings and a variety of other municipal events in addition to studying meeting materials to understand the issues, he said. Under Mullaugh’s proposal, the annual salary of the mayor would be equal to the salary of the Florida Senate president/speaker of the House, with the annual salaries of council members equal to those of state legislators. The current salary for the Senate president/House speaker is $41,181; the current salary for Senate/House members is $29,697. An alternate suggestion was to link Boca salaries to those of the Palm Beach County Commission, with the mayor’s salary equal to 40 percent of a county commissioner’s salary, or $38,550, and council members’ salaries equal to 30 percent of a county commissioner’s salary, or $28,766. Because voters have twice rejected pay hikes, council member Scott Singer wondered if the measure would fare better if it started with voters. “If there is a cry in the community to increase the pay and perhaps encourage more candidates to run, I think it should start there,” Singer said. “If you want to enhance the likelihood of its passing, I think it should start more organically.” City Council member Jeremy Rodgers disagreed that a “signature-based introduction” was necessary to ask voters to consider council raises. “I have heard quite a bit of support for it and I’ve heard some support against it,” Rodgers said. He quipped, “If this was an hourly job we would all have lawsuits because we are not getting paid minimum wage for the time we put in.” Mayor Susan Haynie said the proposed pay hikes have the support of the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowners, which represents all Boca homeowener associations. The new ordinance is expected to come up for review sometime in January.
Restaurateur Arturo Gismondi confirmed he intends to convert the historic Luff House into a restaurant by this time next year.

The two-story, 2,492-square-foot Luff House — named for pioneer residents Theodore and Harriet Luff — was built in the 1920s at 390 E. Palmetto Park Road in a Florida interpretation of the bungalow style, employing coral rock on the porches and chimneys. Although it is a familiar sight in Boca Raton, the building has never received a historic designation.

Gismondi, 46, said the restaurant will be called Luff’s Fish House, with both indoor and outdoor seating.

“We had a soft spot for that location and for the historical aspect of the building,” Gismondi said. “We always wanted to put a concept in there.”

Gismondi added the building’s structure inspired the restaurant, for which he has acquired a 10-year lease from owner James Batmasian.

“I’m the type of restaurateur who doesn’t think he’d like to open a fish house and then go looking for a location,” he said. “This location suggests a Key West-style fish house that’s very informal, very outdoorsy, where customers can wear flip-flops. We’ll only use the first floor for the restaurant, while the second floor will be used for storage.

Gismondi’s vision for the restaurant — realized by local architect Derek Vander Ploeg — will have seating for about 45 diners inside with room for more than 100 outside, under two covered porch areas, which he sees mimicking the structure and tone of the house.

“It’s going to catapult Palmetto Park Road into a lively street,” he said. “It’s going to be one of the first concepts where passers-by will see a lot of people outdoors. We’ll have fish sandwiches provided by local fishermen — grouper, snapper, mahi-mahi, oysters, clams — and a bar. We’ll probably serve lunch and dinner seven days a week.”

Gismondi, who lives in East Boca, is no stranger to the restaurant business. He opened Trattoria Romana about a block away from the Luff House in 1993, as well as Cannoli Kitchen in two Boca locations, at 2001 N. Federal Highway and 22191 Powerline Road.

“I also opened the Biergarten restaurant in Royal Palm Plaza and most recently La Nouvelle Maison, which is adjacent to Trattoria Romana,” he said.

Gismondi said his only hurdles to opening Luff’s Fish House involve reassuring Boca Raton city officials that the transition from a residence to a restaurant will go smoothly.

“Nothing has been done to the property in over 15 years,” he said. “So now it’s about approaching the city with our concept and explaining what we want to do. They’ve been very cooperative. They’re very happy about this, but there are rules that need to be adhered to as well, such as Americans with Disabilities Act regulations, parking and traffic impacts.

“I’m really excited about the project. There are not a lot of fish houses in the area and I feel like we’re filling that void.”

Boca Raton

Luff House to become a restaurant

By Steven J. Smith

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Delray Beach

City responds to amended Atlantic Crossing complaint

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach officials took the high road when responding to the second amended complaint filed by the Atlantic Crossing developers in federal court for the Southern District of Florida.

The response, filed Dec. 14, kept to the legal issues of the complaint and why it should be dismissed. Many, the response said, were not ready to be heard, failed to state a cause of action or follow proper procedures when suing a municipality.

“The city is contractually entitled to require a connector road between Northeast Seventh Avenue and U.S. Highway 1 and to demand reconveyance of the abandoned alleys when the plaintiffs fail to meet the conditions of their agreements,” the city’s response said.

The complaint had alleged the mayor and two commissioners had wanted to stop the project from being built.

The proposed $200 million Atlantic Crossing sits on 9.2 acres at the northeast corner of Federal Highway and East Atlantic Avenue in the city’s downtown. The project, developed by a partnership between Ohio-based Edwards Companies and Ocean Ridge resident Carl DeSantis, will contain 356 luxury condos and apartments plus 80,000 square feet of restaurants and shops and 79,000 square feet of office space.

“We are reviewing the city’s filing and will respond in the court. We are confident this matter will proceed, and we’ll continue the legal process until our property rights are secure,” Don DeVere, Edwards Companies vice president, said.

“At the same time, we are always open to working with the city to reach an amicable settlement. Toward that end, we’ve already submitted an application for a site plan modification that would include an access drive from the core of the project at Northeast Seventh Avenue to U.S. 1, and are working with the city to confirm a timetable to complete that process. If we can obtain approval of this application, we could then settle all of the issues in the lawsuit with the city.”

The Planning and Zoning Department received the amended site plan and is reviewing it to see whether the connector road will mitigate traffic concerns the City Commission had, said Tim Stillings, department director.

“The proposed road configuration that the city’s traffic engineering consultant, Rob Rennebaum of Simmons & White, reviewed in June and deemed “just slightly better” than the two-way configuration that could create “internal conflicts in the central core.”

In the meantime, the other partner, DeSantis, sent a letter Nov. 27 to a group of Delray Beach residents appealing to them “to stand with us and ask city commissioners and staff to facilitate those steps so that we can get underway.”

When his spokesman, Jeff Perlman, was contacted about the letter, he sent this response for property owner CDS International Holdings via email: “Since City Hall has been reluctant to settle, it was time to go directly to the people. The fact is Atlantic Crossing was approved by the Delray Beach City Commission two years ago, but has been held up at every turn since then, even though it is fully compliant with the city’s land use regulations and requires no variances or waivers.”

The developers sued the city in June, claiming the city has not issued a site-plan certification that was approved in November 2013 and affirmed by a previous City Commission in January 2014.

The case was moved to federal court in October when damages sought by the developers rose to $25 million. The lawsuit has a late May trial date in federal court in West Palm Beach with U.S. District Judge Donald Middlebrooks. It also was assigned a federal magistrate, Dave Lee Brannon, who can help arrange settlement or mediation discussions. A pretrial conference is set for May 25.

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Bethesda is Joint Commission certified in hip and knee replacement.
In your last issue, I read a letter submitted by Ed Harris of the National Humane Society. In it he suggests that the collection of ivory is a barbaric, horrendous and shameful hobby that should be ended.

It is well-known that his group is attempting to ban all sales of any object made wholly or in part from animal ivory. This would include antiquities purchased legally by passionate and responsible collectors. Such a ban would render their collections worthless. This type of ban would include furniture with inlays, early painted portraits, pool tables and balls, walking sticks, chess sets, historic arms, scientific instruments, scrimshaw, musical instruments such as pianos, guitars, bagpipes, violin bows, etc. The one thing Mr. Harris does get right is that the major cause of this horrific act of elephant poaching is demand in China and other Asian countries for the ivory tusks. On the other hand, he conveniently fails to mention the long-standing U.S. laws that prohibit any type of importation or purchase of modern ivory. Facts show that there is little to no interest in America for modern carved ivory trinkets and that most ivory trade takes place within the antiques world.

It is urgent and important that the world work to combat elephant and rhino poaching; but at the same time the rights of Americans, who have done nothing illegal, must be protected as well.

Destroying fine antiquities and their value will do nothing to save the life of another elephant but could well have a serious impact on the financial well-being of many law-abiding collectors who were planning on the value of their antiques collections to help fund their retirements.

John Rinaldi
Delray Beach
No resolution of legal cases in sight

By Dan Moffett

It should surprise no one in Gulf Stream that Mayor Scott Morgan and the town's two litigious residents, Martin O'Boyle and Chris O'Hare, look back on 2015 with radically different opinions about their dueling court cases. O'Boyle and O'Hare have dozens of lawsuits pending against the town, most dealing with hundreds of public records requests. In recent months the two men have publicly trumpeted their successes.

Most notable is a federal judge's dismissal of the town's RICO conspiracy suit against them last June, a decision the town is appealing. Then in November, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Richard Oftedal made a similar ruling, and dismissed the town's request for an injunction that would have prevented the two men from making more requests for public records.

O'Boyle and O'Hare have criticized Gulf Stream's legal counterattacks against them and the resulting bill for taxpayers of about $1 million in attorneys' fees over the past year.

But Morgan believes that, despite the setbacks, the fight-back legal strategy is paying off. The mayor cites several successes.

"One is the O'Boyle Law Firm, which everyone knows was started by Mr. O'Boyle and run by his son, and which really was the scourge of the state of Florida, across municipalities in every county of the state," Morgan said during the Dec. 11 town meeting. "Most of its lawyers have fled and the couple left are handling the existing cases they have. But its effectiveness is really in question."

"That sham nonprofit organization set up by Mr. O'Boyle to be essentially the bank of money that would come in from all those public records cases, it would be tax-free as well," Morgan said, "that company is essentially shut down."

The mayor said that Joel Chandler, the former executive director of CAFI, has "turned whistleblower and he will shortly be testifying on behalf of the town of Gulf Stream" against O'Boyle and O'Hare.

"So with that in mind, I think we’ve had a pretty good year," Morgan said. "Keep things in perspective, and stay the course."

O'Hare used expletives to characterize the mayor's assessment.

"A bunch of lies, sir," he told Morgan. "You are full of bull."

Oftedal made two more rulings in December that went in favor of O'Hare and O'Boyle. The judge denied the town's request to consolidate dozens of the cases, and he rejected a motion for a rehearing on the November ruling.

O'Boyle told the commission that he is willing to sit down and negotiate a settlement. He blamed the town's attorneys for refusing to come to the table, and commissioners for "squandering dollars" of taxpayers on legal defenses.

Morgan has said repeatedly that the town is willing to enter negotiations as soon as the two men drop their lawsuits.

"You're using our money," O'Boyle told the commission. "There is no accountability with you folks, and that I find to be outrageous. … The town in my opinion has forgotten many of the basic tenets of honor and integrity, and it’s my belief they’re out of control."
Along the Coast

Frankel, Deutch agree to redistricting swap

By Dan Moffett

After months of uncertainty over redistricting, a state Supreme Court ruling and a handshake between Democratic allies appear to have cleared up congressional boundaries for coastal constituents.

In a 5-2 opinion in December, the Florida Supreme Court signed off on a map for the 27 districts that was submitted by the Florida League of Women Voters and approved by Tallahassee Circuit Judge Terry Lewis in October. Shortly after, U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, and Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, surprised many political pundits by agreeing to switch districts in the new configuration. Deutch, who currently represents congressional District 21, will run for the newly redrawn District 22 seat, as Frankel gives up District 22 and moves to the new District 21.

Confused? You probably should be. But here’s what it means for Palm Beach County’s coastal communities:

Deutch will represent Highland Beach and Boca Raton, with the rest of his district falling south into Broward County.

Frankel will represent an all-Palm Beach County district that includes Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Worth, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, South Palm Beach, Lantana and Hypoluxo.

Frankel, the former mayor of West Palm Beach, said the decision to move north was made easy because of her close allegiance with Deutch.

“I have deep respect for Ted Deutch’s tireless service to South Florida along with great affection for him as a friend. His decision to run in the new Broward-based seat reflects his long commitment to serving the community where he has worked and raised his family,” Frankel said in a statement.

“As the junior member of the South Florida delegation, I will honor his decision as I look to represent Palm Beach County in 2016. More importantly, Ted and I will remain focused on tackling the challenges of South Florida together, for as long as our constituents continue to elect us.”

Deutch lives west of Boca Raton in unincorporated Palm Beach County, a residence that actually sits in Frankel’s new district. House members are not required to live in their districts, however.

“Rep. Deutch will continue to maintain the strong connections he and his family have had for many years with Boca Raton and Highland Beach,” a spokeswoman said.

The new Florida congressional map includes redrawn South Florida boundaries: District 21 - Ted Deutch; District 22 - Lois Frankel. Deutch and Frankel have agreed to switch districts. SOURCE: League of Women Voters

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The new districts will be in effect for the November 2016 elections.
SAFETY

Continued from page 1

Rather than write a ticket, he issued the driver a verbal warning.

The verbal warning was one of three issued to motorists during targeted enforcement efforts along State Road A1A last month coordinated by the South Florida Safe Roads Task Force.

The enforcement efforts, conducted mainly during a Saturday and Sunday morning, were part of a weeklong education campaign designed to raise awareness of the need for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to safely share the road. The effort involved police officers from towns and cities up and down the coast, as well as Florida Highway Patrol troopers.

"The campaign was not designed to write tickets," said Tara Applebaum, spokeswoman for the Safe Roads Task Force and executive director of Dori Saves Lives/The Dori Slosberg Foundation. "All of the agencies involved in the task force are looking to create awareness of major issues that are causing serious injuries and fatalities."

To help get the word out, the task force placed several message boards along State Road A1A during targeted enforcement efforts along State Road A1A during the week of Dec. 7 to let those using the road know that a vehicle-, bicycle- and pedestrian-safety message was in effect.

During those targeted efforts, law enforcement officers wrote 25 citations to motorists, five citations to bicyclists and three tickets to pedestrians.

Officers also wrote 31 warnings to bicyclists and issued close to 200 verbal warnings to them, most coming when officers or troopers pulled over packs of riders.

During one stop in Highland Beach, Trooper Paul Croy pulled over a group of more than 30 bicyclists, reminding them of the need to share the road and not impede the regular flow of traffic whenever possible.

"We're here to protect you all," he told them.

Later, Croy and other troopers pulled over a pack of bicyclists after one of the troopers said he saw some of them taking up much of the southbound lane of State Road A1A and impeding traffic. Two citations were issued.

The leader of at least one bicycle club, zMotion, says his group has made an effort in recent years to ensure riders share the road and remain safe.

"zMotion and a lot of the other clubs have really scaled back and focused on obeying the laws," says Chris Hoch, the group's executive director.

Hoch said that each group of riders has a ride captain — or more, depending on the size of the group — who reviews the laws with the group and works to make sure the rules are being followed. "The captains are the ones who make sure everyone is safe and not breaking any laws," Hoch said.

Task force members say they plan to conduct additional enforcement efforts later this year and are discussing the possibility of hosting a safety fair.

"Human nature is to get complacent, so we're continuing the education process for everyone involved," said Highland Beach Police Lt. Eric Lundberg, one of the founders of the task force.

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City moves to join coastal urban greenway

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach will join cities from Maine to Key West to create an “Urban Appalachian Trail.”

At their Dec. 8 meeting, city commissioners unanimously approved the designation of the route along Federal Highway to George Bush Boulevard and along A1A to Highland Beach.

“The designation will allow us to get grants,” said Randal Krejcarek, environmental services director. He also said the city has a local initiatives grant that can be used to add George Bush Boulevard to the trail.

The Delray Beach portion of the East Coast Greenway (green line) next goes to the Florida Department of Transportation for approval.

The Florida Greenway would create an urban trail that can be used for recreation, exercise, transportation and tourism. The Florida Department of Transportation will be the next approval needed because it owns most of the right of way along those roads.

Delray Beach has 3.1 miles of sidewalk that is 9.6 feet wide along the ocean and can be used as the trail for pedestrians and bicyclists, Krejcarek said. The sidewalks would have to be striped to create separate lanes for pedestrians and bicyclists.

City staffers would work with the Greenway Alliance to post markers along the route to identify the trail as part of the national urban Greenway.

In other action:

The city’s employee parking pilot program was pulled from the agenda. City Manager Don Cooper later said the reason was over county concerns about its garage. The program calls for downtown employees to use the South County Courthouse garage in the off hours, a total of 350 spaces at a cost of $20 monthly per vehicle.

Cooper said the program may come back in late January for commission approval or be incorporated into the city’s overall parking program.

Tree canopy to get better protection

By Jane Smith

The city strengthened the future of its tree canopy in December by toughening an ordinance protecting shade trees.

The first change was renaming the ordinance, last revised in 2008, formerly called the Tree Ordinance. It is now known as Tree Preservation, Protection, Enforcement and Maintenance.

The next change will bring the job of protecting specimen trees under the planning and zoning director, instead of the chief building official.

Other changes for hardwood trees that need to be protected include: lowering the minimum diameter from 24 inches to 8 inches of the trunk measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground and not allowing palms to replace canopy trees. The revised ordinance also requires trees of 24 inches or less in diameter to be moved, if possible.

The 2008 revision created a Tree Trust Fund in the city. In some cases, developers preferred to pay into the trust fund instead of preserving or moving the trees, wrote Tim Stillings, planning and zoning director, in an October memo to the City Commission.

Fees and fines also will be increased, with a final determination of the amounts to come in June, Stillings said. Commissioners approved the changes by a 4-0 vote; Commissioner Al Jacquet had left the dais.

In other business: On Dec. 8, city commissioners unanimously approved design and architectural changes to the city’s downtown and beach area. Highlights are:

Seven architectural styles were identified as fitting the city’s image, along with a provision for mixing styles; and width is limited to 75 feet for storefronts on retail streets.

The commissioners also took advantage of the coming change in ownership of its current trash hauler, Southern Waste Systems, to Waste Management to extract some deals for the city.

Before the sale is closed, John Casagrande of Southern Waste gave the city the 13 big-belly solar trash compactors at the beach and also agreed to service the city’s parks on Sundays at the rate of $400, instead of $800. But he wanted to keep the cost increase that went into effect in October.
Delray Beach

Restraint called for in redo of ‘Central Park’

By Jane Smith

After months of butting heads on the future of the Old School Square grounds, the City Commission and Community Redevelopment Agency board sat down and agreed to redo the process to upgrade the green space, often called the “Central Park” of Delray Beach.

“Keep it simple,” Mayor Cary Glickstein said. “Don’t let the designers and architects drive the process,” he added, recalling the message delivered by Fred Kent at a Town Hall lecture last year. Kent, a part-time resident, is an authority on revitalizing city places.

“We need to stop using it as a fairgrounds,” the mayor said. The grounds host the Garlic Fest, Bacon & Bourbon Fest and the Craft Beer Fest. The city will limit the number of festivals there starting in the fall.

The city’s Green Market, run by the CRA, also uses the grounds weekly during the season.

The grounds are part of a four-acre historic area that includes the two former city schools and gym and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The CRA had budgeted $1 million for improvements and planned to get them started after the season ended in May, but city commissioners questioned that expense when other areas in the CRA district still need alleys and sidewalks.

The city owns the property and would have to approve the changes before the money was spent.

Plus, commissioners agreed the improvements proposed by Currie Sowards Aguila Architects of Delray Beach called for too much stuff squeezed into a small area — water features, more pavement to avoid annual sodding of the grounds and futuristic elements.

Commissioners also agreed with the mayor’s idea of restraint being needed when redoing the grounds.

Now the CRA will go back to the drawing board, holding community forums around the city to find out what residents want done on the Old School Square grounds. The outdoor restrooms and concession stand likely will be razed.

The joint meeting was held Dec. 8, just the second time the two groups met last year. At the April meeting, both groups talked about getting together quarterly so that they are on the same page when it comes to deciding how to spend residents’ tax dollars.

CRA board member Cathy Balestriere had pushed for the December meeting. Her first comment was, “I’m happy to be here.”
By Dan Moffett

An engineering misstep will force Manalapan to keep weight restrictions on its Audubon Causeway bridge for a couple of months longer than expected while workers replace the aging span.

Commissioner Peter Isaac said when engineers originally drew up the project, they failed to take into account moving Florida Power & Light poles during the bridge demolition. Dealing with the power poles means that it could take until April to remove weight limits and allowing heavy trucks and service vehicles to use the bridge.

“It’s the only substantive difference” in the construction plan so far, Isaac said. Drawdy Construction of Lake Worth, the lead contractor, still believes the new span will be completed by July.

“I guess we’re on schedule with the revised schedule,” Isaac said.

He says residents shouldn’t be misled by a lack of workers and activity at the construction site itself. During the early weeks of the project, the contractor has been doing fabrication work offsite on structural members, getting them ready for installation and assembly as construction picks up steam in January.

The new bridge will be 1 foot higher and wider than the current structure, with a functional life expectancy of about 50 years. The town still hopes to hold construction costs to about $800,000.

“Contrary to rumor,” Isaac said, “there has been progress on the bridge.”

In other business: All three incumbent town commissioners who were up for re-election — Clark Appleby, Ronald Barsanti and Simone Bonutti — filed for another term and were unchallenged. So Manalapan voters won’t have any local choices to make at the polls on March 15.

“I’m delighted our team remains intact,” said Mayor David Cheifetz. “We don’t have an election. That’s great.”

The Town Commission swore in a new but familiar member and said goodbye to a departing one during the Dec. 15 meeting.

Former Mayor Basil Diamond rejoined the commission, filling the Manalapan Point seat vacated by Tom Thornton, who has moved out of town.

Diamond served as mayor from 2011 to 2013 after holding a commission seat for six years.

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Parting gifts
Town Hall, Manalapan – Dec. 15

Tom and Mary Thornton laugh as they are presented with gifts at the Dec. 15 Manalapan Town Commission meeting by Mayor David Cheifetz and Town Manager Linda Stumpf. Commissioners passed a resolution honoring Tom Thornton, a former commissioner, for his decade of service at Town Hall and his wife, Mary, for her leadership role in renovating the town’s library. ‘Tom and Mary have always served the town with enthusiasm and skill,’ Cheifetz said. I personally will sorely miss them, as will everyone on the podium and in the town.’ Avid golfers, the Thomsons are moving to the city of Atlantis. Jerry Lower/Coastal Star
Delray Beach

Missing details continue to vex iPic theater proposal

By Jane Smith

Drama continues to swirl around the iPic movie theater as it makes its way through the Delray Beach approval process. The proposed luxury movie theater on the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Federal Highway will have to navigate its way through the City’s Site Plan Review and Appearance Board. The site plan was tabled Dec. 16 it lacked details allowing board members to judge whether the project meets the city code for such areas as lighting, landscaping, parking and security.

iPic’s agent, land-use attorney Bonnie Miskel, said her client could get the information it needs for the Jan. 14 board meeting.

The company wants to build a high-end movie theater where tickets cost $15 to $25, with 497 luxury seats in eight theaters, topped by two floors of office space and a nearby parking garage with 315 spaces. According to the board, the site plan lacked a leading zone area, a parking agreement with the city and its Community Redevelopment Agency for the 90 public spaces in the garage; and a security program for the complex—including the third-floor terrace that would be open to the public.

Its members also pointed out other flaws, such as an insufficient turning radius for valet drivers to get into the garage, and the location of the movie theater’s garbage containers across two lanes of traffic on the other side of the valet stand. Also, its lighting segment did not meet city code, board member Andrew Youngongoose said.

“I’ve just too much for the site,” said Jose Aguila, board chairman.

The board granted three waivers requested: no rear setback space, because the Martini property it abuts would be one iPic plans to buy and incorporate into the project; not meeting the building frontage requirements for the first and second floors; and no windows along Federal Highway because it is a movie theater.

Principal planner Scott Page said at the meeting that stairwells and elevator shafts are not part of the measured height. iPic wants to use elevator technology that gives users a fast ride and needs to have the equipment at the top of the shaft and not at the bottom. Doing so would add 10 feet to the building’s proposed height of 95.9 feet, but that increase was not mentioned in Pape’s report.

Eleven people spoke during the public comment section.

Karen Granger, executive director of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, was the most effusive. “We should be rolling out the welcome mat to them,” she told the board members.

Sandy Zeller, president of the Marina Historic District Homeowners Association, spoke about the traffic impacts in his neighborhood. According to a May traffic study included with the plan, theater traffic approaching from the east would be directed into his neighborhood, he said.

The iPic development team had submitted a new traffic study in November that reflects the two-way traffic on Southeast First Street and no longer directs traffic into the Marina district.

But Zeller thinks traffic still will cut through his neighborhood when Atlantic Avenue is clogged. That’s why he wants the iPic owners to pay into a traffic mitigation fund managed by the city that would put streetlights into the Marina district.

After the meeting, he said the iPic site plan was not ready to be submitted to the board.

“That was pointed out by the board members, who are volunteers, and not the city’s planning staff. I’m disappointed,” said Zeller, who is a lawyer for municipal planning and development board chairman.

The previous night, the iPic team faced a skeptical CRA board when it tried to amend the sales agreement for the fifth time. The CRA owns the 1.6 acres known as the “old library site.”

Just after the CRA board members sat at the dais Dec. 15, they were given the latest contract proposal that said iPic would move its headquarters provided the city would issue a certificate of occupancy by March 31, 2018. Miskel said her client was able to negotiate a lease extension with its Mizner Park landlords during the construction period.

But CRA board member Daniel Rose and Chairman Reggie Cox objected because the agency has no control over when the city issues that certificate. The board deadlocked on that vote, and Miskel and her team left the meeting.

The CRA attorney then advised that the move could be considered a “technical default” leading to a breach of contract.

The board members reconsidered and agreed to a May 31 deadline for approvals and an Oct. 31 deadline to close the sale. They also switched the language to say: 30 days after the certificate of occupancy is issued, iPic must open a movie theater and move its headquarters to Delray Beach.

When the sales contract was drafted in 2013, it did not contain any type of “poison pill” the CRA could extract from iPic, if it failed to perform as promised, board member Youngongoose said at an October meeting.

He wanted to see stronger language in the contract about iPic’s agreeing to move its corporate headquarters to Delray Beach and consequences added before he would agree to extend the contract a fifth time.

Rose, who is a lawyer, persuaded his colleagues to agree only to a short time extension until Jan. 31 to allow the CRA attorney to negotiate with Miskel and her team and bring that deal back to the board for approval.

The negotiated deal failed to mention the headquarters move. The weekend before the CRA meeting, when speaking to a downtown merchants group, Miskel said her client was not contractually obligated to move its headquarters to the new building, according to people who attended the meeting.

The total iPic office building is listed as rentable for $30 a square foot on LoopNet.com, a website that lists commercial real estate for lease or sale.

In another action, the board agreed to have its staff advertise for letters of interest for its Arts Warehouse. The request would be advertised on Dec. 20 with a Jan. 26 deadline.

City’s planning review to cast a wide net

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach is starting an ambitious review of its comprehensive plan, Planning and Zoning Director Tim Stilling told commissioners at their second December meeting. The revision will take nearly two years to complete, he said.

The plan, required by Florida law and last updated every seven years, he said. The last evaluation was finished in 2008. Since then, in 2011 the state Legislature repealed part of the law that required new development to be able to handle the impacts it made on various public services, such as roads and schools. But the city wants to consider these potential impacts as it reviews a revised plan.

“The main emphasis is on the community plans and to make sure the community plan reflects them,” Stilling said.

Since 2011, the economy and real estate market have picked up, he said. The city also has completed the Federal Highway improvements and is assessing the Community Redevelopment Agency corridor.

The state requires nine elements in comp plans: future land use, transportation, housing, public facilities, coastal management, conservation, open space and recreation, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvement.

Delray Beach wants to add five others: economic development, historic preservation, healthy communities, sustainability and public education.

The city planning staff has identified other influencing factors that also will be addressed, including sea level rise and climate change, beach protection and access, workforce housing, rehab and sober homes, parking management, and service levels.

Early this year, Stilling said to hire a consultant to help his staff work on the plan.

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Negotiations are back on for restaurant at Wildflower site

By Steve Plunkett

Boca Raton City Council members are shrewd negotiators, it turns out.

Barely a month after the Hillstone Restaurant Group withdrew its proposal to build an eatery on the city-owned Wildflower site, it’s back at the negotiating table.

“Hillstone continues to believe the property is ideally suited for one of its signature restaurants,” Glenn Viers, the group’s vice president, said in a Nov. 24 email to the city. “We also feel one of our Hillstone Restaurants would be economically advantageous to the city while achieving the broadest enjoyment for the public.”

Council members immediately adopted a wait-and-see attitude when Viers wrote Oct. 22 that Hillstone was no longer interested in making a deal.

“I’ve been in business,” Councilman Scott Singer said at the time. “Sometimes when you get a letter saying we’re no longer negotiating, the next thing that happens is negotiations continue.”

Boca Raton bought the 2.3-acre parcel on Palmetto Park Road in 2009 for $7.5 million so residents could have access to the Intracoastal waterfront. It then decided to lease the land, the former site of the Wildflower nightclub, to a restaurateur.

Hillstone originally proposed paying $500,000 a year in base rent with a 5 percent increase every five years and 5 percent of any profits over $10 million going to offset property taxes. The city countered with Hillstone paying the same base rent but with a 2 percent increase every year.

Hillstone then suggested it pay $600,000 in annual rent but be given a $250,000 offset for property taxes. The city proposed a face-to-face meeting, and the restaurant group announced its withdrawal.

In the latest letter, Viers said Hillstone would pay at least $600,000 in base rent or 5 percent of gross profits, whichever is greater, but the city would be responsible for property taxes. The company’s plans do not include a dock, he said.

“Hillstone would not, however, object if the city desired to install and maintain one... along the southern portion of the shoreline which will not affect the (diners’) views of the Intracoastal,” Viers wrote.

The letter does not specify which brand of restaurant Hillstone would build. The group already operates a Houston’s Restaurant west of Intracoastal, Wildflower nightclub, to a Dockside Grill and a Hillstone in Coral Gables.

Weinroth resigns from airport board, says work is done

By Rich Pollack

Saying he’s achieved what he was selected to do when he was appointed to serve on the Boca Raton Airport Authority, Boca Raton Deputy Mayor Robert Weinroth resigned last month from the independent board that oversees airport operations.

“I went on the Airport Authority with the charge by the City Council to improve communication and create a partnership with the board,” Weinroth said. “I believe I have accomplished what I had hoped to achieve on behalf of the city.”

In an unusual step, the City Council appointed Weinroth, along with Deputy City Manager George Brown, to the authority in May, marking the first time a sitting council member was appointed to the board since it was created in 2004 by an act of the state Legislature. The decision — and Weinroth’s casting of the deciding vote on his own appointment — raised eyebrows and led to a complaint to the Florida Ethics Commission.

At the time of his appointment, Weinroth said he did not plan to stay on the Airport Authority board for his full two-year term.

After announcing his decision to leave the board, effective this month, the deputy mayor said he felt the end of the year was a good time to step down.

Shortly after joining the board, Weinroth spearheaded efforts to revise its bylaws to improve transparency and to eliminate restrictions that some thought handcuffed board members, limiting their ability to openly discuss airport authority matters without going through a cumbersome reporting process.

Weinroth said he believes that communication between the City Council improved during the months he was on the board and that the authority’s executive director, Clara Bennett, played a major role in that goal being accomplished.

“Ms. Bennett had brought in an open dialogue with the city,” he said. “The transparency that I hoped to bring in with the revision of the bylaws was complemented by what she has done.”

The deputy mayor said he does not know if the state ethics commission investigation into his appointment will continue but said he hopes it will.

“I hope there’s a decision that the appointment was a political one and was not an unethical one,” he said.

Weinroth’s seat on the board is one of seven, with five of those seats appointed by the Boca Raton City Council. The two remaining seats are appointed by the Palm Beach County Commission.

The seat Weinroth is vacating is reserved, by state mandate, for a Boca Raton resident living west of the airport.

Weinroth said the city clerk’s office is accepting applications for the board vacancy and he expects the council to fill the seat by the end of January.
Revival plans for Lake Wyman won’t be tied to Wildflower property

By Steve Plunkett

Boca Raton is reviving a 4-year-old plan to rejuvenate Lake Wyman Park, but will not install temporary park facilities at its Wildflower property.

The City Council in a Dec. 7 workshop made a commitment to pursue a multimillion-dollar grant to refurbish the park. Boca Raton and the county together would pay 30 percent of the cost.

The rest of the money would come from the Florida Inland Navigation District, which mostly pays for the Intracoastal Waterway from Key West to the Georgia border, but also awards grants for waterfront projects.

“I really feel confident that if we all got together, we could fund this,” Mayor Susan Haynie said.

The county first applied for the Lake Wyman grant in 2011. FIND agreed to pay $2.1 million to scoop out a spoil island that would be used for sewage storage when the Intracoastal is dredged. Eleven acres of Australian pines and Brazilian pepper would have been removed from the spoil island and two smaller islands FIND owns.

The project also would have restored a canoe trail in Rutherford Park and built a six-slip boat dock. A boardwalk would have been lengthened and picnic and beach areas added along with an observation platform.

The city and county each would have contributed $450,000. The city persuaded the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District to split its matching money so each would have given $225,000.

But the same day the beach and park district was approving the request, the city withdrew its OK, saying it wanted FIND to pay for a study of tidal flushing in the canoe trail and to dredge the canal that separates the project area from the Golden Harbour neighborhood.

The new deadline to apply to FIND is April 1.

On the Wildflower site, the council decided it would cost too much — $300,000 — to open the parcel to the public while the city negotiates with the Hillstone Restaurant Group to put a new restaurant there.

Dan Grippo, public works director, said a wall on the site at the northwest side of the Palmetto Park Road bridge could be removed and minor repairs to a seawall done cheaply.

But the parcel also would need irrigation lines and new light fixtures installed.

“There is no electric to the lighting currently,” Grippo said. “The parking lot is unraveling, the pavement is crumbling, there’s bumps in the parking lot that’s just roots coming up from trees. … The curbing’s all crumbling, so that would have to be redone.”

Instead, council members said they wanted city staff to apply for a permit to build floating docks at the Wildflower site. Grippo said the docks, which might accommodate four to eight vessels, would cost $200,000 to $350,000.

Councilman Scott Singer said people who want to sit by the Intracoastal can do that at other waterfront parks that are underused.

“If you want to go out and look at the water right now and enjoy that view, go out to Red Reef Park,” Singer said.

The council also decided not to pursue putting in a third boat launch at Silver Palm Park, just south of the Wildflower site, but asked city staff to move a tugboat and barge that are docked there on high-demand days.

Grippo said boaters crowd the launch area each year on Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day and the first day of lobster mini-season.

“And on those days one to two park rangers provide assistance from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for smooth operations,” he said.

Grippo said the longest time that people wait to launch on the busiest days is 20 minutes. The rest of the year the wait is 10 minutes. The city has sold 702 boat launch permits to city residents and 343 to nonresidents, he said.

The council also told city staff to issue a request for proposals from consultants to develop a comprehensive waterfront plan to guide the city’s actions on future park projects. Boca Raton owns 15 properties on the Intracoastal or on canals leading to it, Assistant City Manager Mike Woika said.

Beach District looks for March joint meeting with City Council

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District hopes to reschedule its joint meeting with the city for sometime in March.

The district and City Council had planned to meet Dec. 7 to discuss agreements on building new sports fields and renovishing the beaches.

Arthur Koski, the district’s executive director, and Breann Harms, assistant executive director, were meeting with their city counterparts to create an agenda for the meeting when they realized they needed more information.

The district and the city decided at a June joint meeting, their first in four years, to get together more regularly to discuss items of mutual interest.

Both parties plan to schedule three other quarterly meetings of the City Council and district commissioners.

— Steve Plunkett
As state legislators and Delray Beach officials outlined new measures last month to strengthen their armory of tools in the fray against an onslaught of troublesome and poorly run sober homes, they acknowledged doubt over the potential effectiveness of those efforts.

“There is no one here who can guarantee how this is going to unfold,”Rep. Bill Hager, R-Boca Raton, said during a news conference at which the measures were announced.

His uncertainty was echoed by John Lehman, president of the Florida Association of Recovery Residences, the entity chosen by the Department of Children and Families to establish a voluntary credentialing system for the unregulated sober homes and apartments. They act as halfway houses for people recovering from substance use disorders but are often problematic for the residential neighborhoods that surround them.

“We don’t think this is going to be a miracle solution,” Lehman said, referring to the legislative measures. “We will not be able to clear all this up in short order, but we are committed to the process.”

Delray Beach officials estimate there are least 850 sober homes in the city, with more opening on a regular basis. When treatment facilities are added to the tally, the approximate number rises to well over 2,000.

Some of the sober homes, also known as recovery residences, have themselves become de facto treatment centers, in violation of licensing and zoning laws. Drugs are provided and tests of dubious efficacy performed in order to claim brazenly inflated insurance reimbursements.

There is no one here who can guarantee how this is going to unfold, state Rep. Bill Hager said about a new bill targeting dubious practices associated with the drug-rehab industry. He spoke during a news conference at Delray Beach City Hall. ABOVE: Hager (center) is flanked by (left) Neal McGarry, executive director of the Florida Certification Board; John Lehman, president of the Florida Association of Recovery Residences; Delray Beach Mayor Cary Glickstein, and state Sen. Jeff Clemens, Glickstein described the industry as Delray Beach’s most intractable problem.

Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

A federal task force headed by the FBI is investigating some sober homes and treatment centers for financial malfeasance, including widespread allegations of insurance fraud and kickbacks from treatment facilities to sober homes in exchange for referrals. A grand jury is expected to hand down indictments soon.

Delray Beach residentSteve said he ended up in a sober home after a year and a half, living in Florida since he was 10. He is a native of Baltimore who has lived in Delray Beach in February “to show them firsthand what is going on.”

When the teeth in the law lie in a provision set to take effect in July, under which treatment centers — which are regulated as medical facilities and where addicts are ostensibly detoxed under doctors’ supervision — will be permitted to refer patients only to sober homes that are certified. The thinking is that those recovery residences that do not meet certification standards, or which choose to operate outside the system, will ultimately fail because treatment centers will not send them the residents they need to stay open.

Another proposal, Senate Bill 1138, introduced at last month’s news conference by state Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth, would target unethical marketing and business practices at both treatment centers and sober homes. One of the practices at issue involves enticing clients with free rent and other perks at recovery residences as long as the clients seek medical help at particular treatment centers, which then collect hefty insurance payouts that they share with the sober homes.

In an indication of how fraught the conditions are in some of the facilities, Clemens’ bill asserts that people staying in residential treatment centers or recovery residences have “the right to a safe living environment free from drugs, alcohol, harassment, abuse and harm.”

Addicts who fail in their attempts at recovery or who get kicked out of sober homes because they did not follow the rules “end up on the street, still suffering from an addiction,” Maya Cary Glickstein said in a telephone interview. “And they become victims of crime — or perpetrators of crime.”

Glickstein, who described the “unaccountable and hugely profitable” residential recovery industry as Delray Beach’s most intractable problem, said his office was working with Rep. Lois Frankel, a Democrat who represents Florida’s 22nd Congressional district, to amend language in federal administrative rules and the Fair Housing Act so local governments can have solid standing in their efforts against wayward sober homes and other facilities.

“It provides the legal cover for us to start regulating what is a completely unregulated industry,” the mayor said.

“That’s the hope. It’s the best we’re going to get, given the FHA and the ADA as they exist. We have bad actors exploiting federal laws that are not intended for this purpose.”

The mayor described sober homes that “are run like barracks,” many of them “off the grid” until police receive a call about a disturbance.

“The officers show up, expecting two adults in the house and they walk in and it’s a sober home with eight or 10 adults in there,” Glickstein said. “The police can’t even note it on a report.”

Although the city has only the faintest idea how many legitimate players in the rehabilitation and recovery industry who genuinely try to help people with addictions and whose “heart is in the right place,” Glickstein said the collateral damage on the city from the “tidal wave of bad actors” is almost incalculable.

“A significant percentage of nonviolent crime in Delray Beach can be ascribed to the transient population that lives in these sober homes and is affiliated with this rehab industry,” said Glickstein, who plans to invite Frankel and Gustavo Velasquez, the assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to speak in Delray Beach in February “to show them firsthand what is going on.”

Meanwhile, he said, the problem “is getting worse and we can’t do a thing about it.”

Sitting outside the Starbucks café at U.S. 1 and Atlantic Avenue one afternoon in mid-December, a man identified himself only as Steve said he had lived in a sober home for a time about a year and a half ago, along with as many as eight or nine other people. He ended up managing the place for about six months.

“It helped me get where I am today,” said Steve, a 32-year-old native of Baltimore who has lived in Florida since he was 10. “It got me in recovery.”

But there were problems.

“The person I worked for was all about the money, not so much about anybody else,” Steve said. “I witnessed how the clients were being treated. If someone was late for a conference or slightly relaxed, he just looked the other way. He didn’t abide by the rules himself. I knew what was going on, I got in the right mind to quit — before anything else got worse.”

The COASTAL STAR
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Rare opportunity to own this Old-World Mediterranean style Townhouse which offers direct Intracoastal living. This is one of only four units in the Harbour House, making it quiet and secluded. The home boasts a Private Yard with Pool, Top tier gourmet kitchen, wet bar, elevator, two vehicle garage and large master bedroom coupled with His and Hers bathrooms and Walk in closets. Located on a private street just a block North of Atlantic Avenue. A short stroll to fine boutiques, restaurants and the beach. When it comes to architectural design, location, and pure sophistication... this home takes the crown. $3,200,000

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“Villa Abrigo” Regarded as one of Delray Beach’s most coveted Mizner Era Mediterranean properties. Located in the heart of downtown on historic “Banker’s Row,” Tropical grounds surrounded by Spanish style stucco privacy fence, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautifully restored and tastefully updated main house plus guest house. Located within the OSSHAD zoning which allows mixed use for this prize property. $1,650,000

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or visitor dealing with mental illness fails to take his or her medication.

In the past, Highland Beach police have dealt with domestic situations that turned violent and had an incident where a nonresident was acting erratically and was later found to have taken the drug flakka.

The body cameras being used are small pager-like devices capable of shooting both video (with audio) and still shots. Officers turn them on when they encounter a situation with the potential for confrontation or when recording evidence. When they return to the station, they place the camera in a docking station, which downloads the information that is saved for 90 days or longer if needed.

The cameras will be used to document accident or crime scenes and can present an accurate account of officers’ actions should they be called into question.

“Cameras can reduce use of force and citizen complaints because officers and residents know they’re being videored,” Hartmann said. “We expect that our officers are acting appropriately and that the cameras will confirm that when there are encounters.”

The six cameras and the necessary software and equipment needed to operate them had a price tag of about $5,000. The money came from the Highland Beach Police Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that collects donations from the community to cover the cost of improvements and enhancements to the Police Department not requested during the town’s budgeting process.

“This is something extra we’re able to do thanks to the support of our foundation,” Hartmann said. “This is money donated by residents and it ensures they get the best possible police services.”

Although officers will begin using the cameras this month, the implementation is the result of several months of research used to develop a protocol that takes individuals’ right to privacy into account. Highland Beach’s accreditation and training manager, Eric Aronowitz, who has been leading the project, said the department has developed a detailed policy using ones created by other departments and the International Association of Police Chiefs as a guide. “There are certain situations where the cameras cannot be used,” Aronowitz said. “Our policy is very specific.”

Highland Beach police officers will not turn the cameras on during casual contact with residents or during routine calls where there is no perceived potential for confrontation, he said. Officers are not required to announce when the cameras are being used, but Aronowitz said the department is recommending to all of its 15 full-time officers and three reserve that the fact is known when they turn the cameras on.

Privacy issues are one reason other departments in the area are proceeding with caution before moving forward. In Ocean Ridge, Police Chief Hal Hutchins says his department is taking a wait-and-see approach, hoping to learn from the experiences of other departments.

“This is fairly new,” he said. “We’re watching and considering all aspects of these programs to try and determine if this is something that would be beneficial to residents of Ocean Ridge.”

Larger agencies in the area are taking a more aggressive approach, with departments in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach all currently researching the feasibility of implementing body-camera programs.

In Delray Beach, Chief Jeff Goldman plans to equip 20 officers with cameras in a pilot program after the department completes a policy development phase currently underway — and a purchasing study. Boca Raton police spokeswoman Officer Sandra Boonenberg says her department plans to begin a pilot program during the first quarter of the year, while Boynton Beach police have a committee studying the issue with the goal of developing an efficient and effective program. West Palm Beach police do use body cameras for certain incidents.

In Highland Beach, Hartmann says his department — thanks in large part to the support of the nonprofit foundation — is able to take a proactive approach when it comes to body-worn video cameras.

“We want to have this in place to get ahead of the curve before something bad happens and prevent it from happening if we didn’t have them,” he said. “We need these cameras when something does go wrong. You just hope it doesn’t happen.”

MANSION

Continued from page 1

Mayor Susan Haynie requesting the district take such action. What could be built on privately owned oceanfront property has been a hot topic in Boca since the mega-mansion was approved for 2500 N. Ocean Blvd. City Council members on Dec. 8 reversed a Zoning Board of Adjustment decision that prohibited construction of the 10,000-square-foot house. The Zoning Board of Adjustment had refused to approve variances for property width and front yard setbacks.

City Council members defended their decision, claiming the city would likely face litigation because more than a dozen such variances had been approved in the past. Outraged residents warned that the four-story house would forever change the face of the beach, disorient nesting sea turtles, and set a precedent for future development.

Originally, property owner自然 Lands LLC had sought two variances to build the 10,432-square-foot house: an 11.5-foot variance from the minimum lot width of 100 feet; and a 14.7-foot variance from the minimum front yard setback of 25 feet.

When the issue was appealed to City Council on Dec. 8, the request for a front yard setback was dropped. Natural Lands LLC attorney Charles Siemon told the council the house was a “reasonable” use for the nonconforming parcel and the width variance was essential to make an economically beneficial use of the property. Resident George O’Rourke said the city’s decision to approve the huge house on a nonconforming lot instantly increased the value of other beachside properties. “What they have done effectively is made the undeveloped property more valuable. And now the mayor is suggesting that another entity (the district) buy remaining surrounding properties,” O’Rourke said. “What they have done is create extra value in these other properties now.”

Jack Fox, president of the Beach Condominium Association of Boca Raton and Highland Beach, was pleased to learn the district will begin researching the availability of undeveloped, privately owned beachfront properties.

“We were shocked the city would vote 4-1 to reverse the decision of their own zoning board,” Fox said. Fox said his condo association had worked with the city to get beach lighting reduced to better protect nesting sea turtles, noting that the city had even embedded lights in the roadway to help reduce area lighting.

“Here we are, after doing all that work, and someone wants to plop a 10,000-square-foot residence right on the beach that will have big windows and spread light everywhere,” Fox said. “The last thing we wanted was this monstrous residence built on these beaches.”

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Home bulldozed as part of $11 million sale

By Christine Davis

A Highland Beach pre-real-estate-crash spec house at 3621 S. Ocean Blvd. with 200 feet on the ocean, was recently torn down as part of an $11 million deal to develop six upscale townhouses on the site.

Boca Raton agents Frank Jichetti of United Realty Group and Scott Pressman of The Keys Company Realtors represented the seller, Riverside Realty Trust (formerly 3621 S. Ocean Blvd. LLC), a company managed by Joseph Lucania of New York. The buyers, Capital Development Group LLC, Halstatt Real Estate Partners LLC and Grafton Street Capital LLC, were represented by Jeffery Cohen of Douglas Elliman Real Estate.

Back in April 2003, a Boca Raton Magazine article reported that the 12,056-square-foot-house sited on 1.05 acres, Casa Bella Riente, had a pre-construction price of a “whopping $15.9 million!” Features included an “oceanside VIP Suite, a second-floor master, a putting green, a huge outdoor loggia and Hawaiian fire pit for pig roasts.”

“It was a beautifully done $18 million house, but the market crumbled, and following court actions and disrepair, it ended up being torn down just a couple of weeks ago as a condition of the sale,” Cohen said.

“[Our client (Riverside)] bought it in November 2014, the same day the previous owner (3621 South Ocean Blvd. LLC) bought it out of foreclosure for $7.5 million and flipped it for $8.3 million and change,” Jichetti explained. Riverside then listed the property for sale for $12.5 million while working on getting all the approvals.

The property is in a mixed-use zoning area with a high-rise just across the street, and Riverside started developing the property for two buildings with a total of six townhouses, Jichetti said. “We had town approval, council approval, and all the permitting. The new owners bought the whole package from our client already entitled,” he said.

Pressman added, “This is a very high-end premier project. The new townhouses are going to sell $6.5 to $7 million apiece.”

The new owners will continue to work with Delray Beach architect Richard Jones, who drew up the plans. “Each four-story, four-bedroom townhouse will have a roof-top terrace, 5,000 square feet of air-conditioned space, private elevator and splash pool,” Jones said. “They will have a very contemporary design with an open floor plan, and the majority of the rooms will have views of the ocean. Construction is scheduled to start by the beginning of the second quarter in 2016.”

Capital Development Group is connected to contractor Joshua McAlees of North Palm Beach.

Halstatt Real Estate Partners was built upon the legacy of Barron Gift Collier, a key figure in the development of Southwest Florida.

Grafton Street Capital is a Miami- and New York-based real-estate investment firm co-founded by Sean Posner, son of the late real estate investor Steven Posner and grandson of the late corporate raider Victor Posner. Sean Posner co-founded the company with Jed Resnick, previously a senior executive at LeFrak Organization, a New York City-based real-estate development and management firm.

The single-family home on the beach in Highland Beach has been torn down to make way for six townhouses. Photo courtesy Palm Beach County Property Appraiser
Ms. Claus’ Cookie Parade is months in the baking

By Ron Hayes

Up, down and all around the park they rode. Seven golf carts adorned with tinsel garlands. Two dozen elves in Santa hats. Neighbors hungry for holiday calories. And 2,300 cookies.

Shortly before 4 p.m. on the Saturday before Christmas, Briny Breezes’ annual Cookie Parade departed the auditorium. First in line was the music cart, loudspeakers pleading All I Want For Christmas Is You. Two carts back, Ms. Claus rode, resplendent in her billowing red dress, white stockings, white apron and dark sunglasses, celebrity-size.

The sunglasses were neither pretentious nor inappropriate. Here in Briny Breezes, Ms. Claus is a beloved holiday tradition.

For 363 days a year, she is Bev Williams, wife of Lewis, mother of Mike and Laurie, formerly of Mount Airy, Md., a Brinyite for 15 years.

And then, for two days in December, she becomes Ms. Santa Claus, leading her parade of golf carts door to door, dispensing home-baked cookies, kisses, hugs and holiday cheer.

“The whole thing was a small feat of good deed that got out of hand, as good deeds sometimes do.”

“I started out just baking cookies for neighbors who were sick or alone,” Williams says. “Maybe 15 people.”

She began with one golf cart and one elf in Section 2. And now it’s come to this, a two-day procession through the park, with multiple elves to carry her cookies, holiday tunes ringing out and residents with smartphones rushing forth to claim festive cookie bags and get their pictures taken with Ms. Claus.

But then last night in bed I said, ‘Could I do that one more time...?’” says Jack, the former mayor. “I told them from him and dole them out,” says his wife. “We eat them all the very first night,” admits Shirley Hill, wife of Mike Hill, the current mayor. Erin Wolffbrandt has been waiting outside their trailer for the travel club, and I’ve had a good time. Somebody said ‘We eat them all the very first night,” admits Shirley Hill, wife of Mike Hill, the current mayor. Erin Wolffbrandt has been waiting outside their trailer for the travel club, and I’ve had a good time. Somebody said ‘I went to my first parade, too. She’s heard it before.’

People were happy and we had a good time. Somebody said ‘To Bev’s House For The Holidays and Bing Crosby dreams of a White Christmas.’

The west side of North Ocean Boulevard was done Saturday, then they came back Sunday and finished the east side around 6:30.

In all, Williams distributed about 230 bags of cookies and countless hugs and kisses.

In the week before Christmas, Ms. Claus would bring the remaining cookies to the Alzheimer’s care center at her Presbyterian church, her doctor’s, lawyer’s and dentist’s offices.

“I made cookies,” boasted Pat Barnes, 98 and a resident since 1958. “I don’t say they’re any better than hers, but they’re no worse.”

Barnes has heard that this will be Ms. Claus’ last cookie parade, too. She’s heard it before.

“People were happy and we had a good time. Somebody said ‘You’re not quitting, are you?’ and I said, ‘Yes, I am.’”

Imagine. A Briny Breezes Christmas without Ms. Claus and her cookie parade.

“But then last night in bed I said, ‘Could I do that one more year...?’”
Three candidates have qualified for the two Lantana Town Council seats up for grabs in the March 15 election.

For the Group 1 seat, incumbent Lynn Moorhouse, a dentist who has served since 2004, is unopposed.

For the Group 2 seat, newcomer Anthony Arsali, an attorney, is opposing incumbent Malcolm Balfour, a freelance writer and television producer who has been on the council since 2013.

— Mary Thurwachter
Here are Randy & Nick’s most recent notable transactions in the beach area. Contact Randy & Nick if you or anyone you know is interested in listing your luxury property.

SOLD: Direct Oceanfront. Rep Seller: $769,950
SOLD: Direct Oceanfront. Rep Seller: $16,950
SOLD: Direct Boca Raton. Rep Seller: $12,999
SOLD: Direct Oceanfront. Rep Seller: $11,999
SOLD: Ocean to Intracoastal. Rep Seller: $11,895
SOLD: Ocean to Intracoastal. Rep Seller: $8,150

*Sold Information as per MLS, list price reflected.
Imagine being a young resident of Boca Raton in the early 1940s when World War II was raging and the city was welcoming the Boca Raton Army Air Base. "The war was a very exciting time to be here," says Dr. Peter Barrett, who back then was a 7-year-old living with his family on the beach near where the Beresford Condominiums stand today.

Barrett, who is on the faculty at the UCLA School of Medicine, recently returned to the Boca Raton Historical Society where he shared his childhood memories of the war through his presentation "The Spies Next Door: Boca Raton during WWII." He recalls the food and gas rationing, coastal blackouts and the Civil Air Watch Tower where he went on Friday afternoons to identify planes that flew overhead. He also experienced German submarines passing off the coast and torpedoing merchant ships, and, yes, even the evidence of German spies operating along the beach.

Back then, there were freighters and tankers that would make their way along Florida's coast en route to Europe and Africa, where their cargoes were invaluable to the war effort. Realizing this, the Germans launched Operation Drumbeat in which they sent submarines to patrol our eastern shore and blow up those supply ships.

In 1942, 24 merchant ships were sunk between Cape Canaveral and Boca Raton. And Barrett's grandfather E.E. Barrett recorded seeing 12 ships torpedoed off Boca Raton.

Barrett remembers being awakened early one morning by an explosion that nearly threw him out of bed. It was a freighter being blown up off the coast. After such incidents, the family scavenged the beach and found eight-sided cans of Maxwell House coffee compressed by the force of the blasts and oars from lifeboats as well as cases of pineapples and eggplants. "We ate eggplant boiled, baked and fried. I didn’t eat it again for 65 years," says Barrett, who admits he's back to liking it today.

But the presence of the war in Boca Raton really hit close to Barrett’s home on a June day in 1942. His family was awakened at 3 a.m. by a motorcycle roaring up to their house and someone banging on their front door. They peered out to see a military policeman carrying firearms. He told them that flashing lights had been seen on the beach that could be signals to enemy vessels, which back then would be an act of treason.

Of course, Barrett’s family knew nothing about the signals but told the man the house next door belonged to a Detroit snowbird, Dr. William Sanborn, who had returned home for the summer.

With that, the authorities headed for the Sanborn house, which appeared abruptly vacant. They found wet towels, cans of food and an unmade bed as well as a telescope and semaphore signaling device set up in the oceanfront bay window.

Barrett remains convinced there were spies next door but he’s never had confirmation. Today this story is just part of the colorful lore of Boca Raton’s wartime past. "As youngsters we didn’t know our lives were special and that we were experiencing history. After all, it’s the only childhood we knew," he says.
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Suzi Goldsmith

Suzi Goldsmith is a dog’s best friend. And a cat’s, too. Since she founded the Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton, which marks its 20th anniversary this month, Goldsmith and her team have saved more than 53,000 canines and felines, not just locally, but all over the country.

When disasters strike, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, or when other shelters have animals that are going to be scheduled for euthanasia, Goldsmith and her rescue team will drive their two cargo vans to places such as Georgia and South Carolina to bring the animals back to her no-kill shelter in Boca Raton.

There they will be nursed back to health and readied for adoption, along with animals surrendered to the shelter by owners who no longer can or wish to care for them. More than 1,500 of these animals are adopted each year.

“My one drive in life is to save as many animals as I can,” says Goldsmith, a Manalapan resident. “Putting them into happy, loving homes gives them a second chance at life, and is my way of giving back to the community.

“We do not put any animals down here,” she said. “If an animal has some kind of injury or disease, we will spend any amount of money and effort to save it. That’s what I believe in, and that’s what makes the difference between Tri-County and other shelters.”

She was 8 years old when she got her first dog, a black cocker spaniel named Rokie, from the Michigan Humane Society. “It was one of the loves of my life,” she said. “That dog taught me compassion, understanding, dedication and respect for animals.”

This month, Goldsmith will be honored for her rescue work during Tri-County Animal Rescue’s 14th annual Doggie Ball at Boca West Country Club. The award she will receive was created by TCAR and is named after Jeannette Christos, the woman who co-founded TCAR with Goldsmith.

This February, Goldsmith hopes to break ground on a new veterinarian center that will be built on the shelter’s 12-acre property. It will provide low-cost spaying and neutering, as well as rabies shots, for dogs and cats whose owners could otherwise not afford it.

Goldsmith, 68, visits schools with animals from her shelter, because “we must teach children from kindergarten on up to respect animals,” she says. She also takes them to nursing homes and drug rehab centers “to show compassion.”

“Sometimes no other thing or being can replace the friendship of an animal,” says Goldsmith, who always has at least one or two rescue dogs in her home.

She says her husband, Rick, jokes with friends all the time that if she has to make a choice between doing something with him and doing something with her dogs, she’ll always choose the dogs first.

“What keeps me happy are my animals,” she says. “I love my family and I love my friends, but an animal will never disappoint you. Ever.”

— Marie Puleo

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A: I grew up and went to school in Detroit.

I was influenced by the Midwestern down-to-earth set of values.

Q: What professions have you worked in? What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?
A: I was in the travel industry for 30 years. I am most proud of the fact that I started the travel section of the Entertainment Coupon Book which is sold in every city in the United States.

Q: What advice do you have for a young person selecting a career today?
A: Try to get as much education as you possibly can in the field that you want to go into. Education is crucial to anything we do in life.

Q: How did you choose to make your home in Manalapan?
A: I moved to Manalapan 16 years ago because of its location, beauty and charm.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in Manalapan?
A: Logistically, it offers the best of all worlds. It is just as easy to drive to Palm Beach as it is to drive to Fort Lauderdale.

Q: What book are you reading now?
A: The only books I have the time to read have to do with dogs and cats. I never tire from reading them. Right now I’m reading The Life and Love of Dogs, by Lewis Blackwell.

Q: What music do you listen to when you need inspiration?
A: When you need relaxation?
I listen to Legend 100.3 FM from the moment I get into the car going to the shelter and until I return home at 6:30 p.m. It is beautiful, calming music that always makes me happy and puts a smile on my face.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A: “The essential conditions of everything you do must be passion, choice and love,” by Nadia Boulanger.

Q: If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you and why?
A: Julia Roberts. She has played women who have had to fight for different things. I think she’d be perfect.

Q: Who/what makes you laugh?
A: The sight of an animal wagging their tail puts a smile on my face and laughter in my heart.

If you go
Tri-County Animal Rescue’s Doggie Ball
Dinner and dancing, live and silent auctions and a band.
When: 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Jan. 31.
Where: Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton.
Tickets: $250-$325; 482-8110 or www.tricountyanimalrescue.com.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star
Founders of Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton and will be honored at the Doggie Ball. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Suzi Goldsmith’s one drive in life is to save as many animals as she can. Goldsmith, who lives in Manalapan, is one of the founders of Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton and will be honored at the Doggie Ball: Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

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South Palm Beach

New Palm Beach manager’s plan
wins positive reviews

By Dan Moffett

After only a couple of months
on the job, new Town
Manager Bogdan “Bob” Vitas is
earning high marks from South
Palm Beach Town Council
members.

The positive reviews are
especially encouraging for
residents who watched in
dismay as Vitas’ predecessor,
Jim Pascale, butted heads with
the council pretty much on
arrival early last year and
was gone by
June.

Vitas presented a “90-day
action plan” to council members
on Dec. 15, and they liked what
they heard.

“You really took our goals
seriously,” said Mayor Bonnie
Fischer. “You listened to us.”

Vice Mayor Joseph Flagello
said Vitas has shown a genuine
commitment to make good on
the promises he made when he
was hired in October, and his
cooperative nature “wasn’t just a
tactic for the interview.”

Councilman Robert Gottlieb
commended Vitas for getting in
step with the town so quickly.
“It’s hard to believe you’ve been
here such a short time,” Gottlieb
said.

Councilwoman Stella Gaddy
Jordan said Vitas’ action plan
was right on target: “You did
an excellent job,” she told him.
“The timeline is more than
appropriate.”

Some highlights of the Vitas
plan:
• Review the town’s police
service options, “including
status quo, contract (with)
other agencies, or a blended
approach.”
• Evaluate the Town Hall
for repairs, renovation or
replacement.
• Create a financial plan that
includes “special funds devoted
to (beach) renourishment rather
than commingled in the general
fund.”
• Develop a five-year, long-
range capital improvement
plan that considers street light
upgrades, beach renourishment,
sidewalk improvements
and possible Town Hall
improvements.
• Develop an administrative
policy manual with personnel
rules and regulations, as well as
job descriptions.
• Continue outreach efforts
to government organizations
outside the town.
• Develop social media
connections such as email
and Facebook to help keep the
community informed.

“We want to clarify who we
are,” Vitas said of the planning.
“Clarify where we are. And
clarify where we want to go.”

He said he wants to schedule
a series of workshops over the
next couple of months to let
council members and residents
weigh in on what the town’s
priorities should be.
“The job of the town manager
is to keep you updated,” he told
the council.

Vitas, 58, was the city
manager of Key West from 2012
to 2014, and before that served
for five years as the village
administrator of Lake Zurich,
Ill.

In other business, council
members reluctantly accepted
the resignation of Town Clerk
Yudy Alvarez, who after nearly
da decade as a town employee
is moving to North Carolina to
be with family.

Alvarez has been head clerk
since April 2014 and started
with the town as permit clerk
in 2006. Council members
expressed special gratitude for
the extra work Alvarez put in
during the five months last
year when the town had no town
manager.

“She really stepped up to
the plate for us,” Fischer said.
“I’m really thankful for what
she’s done. She’s a wonderful,
wonderful person.”

Flagello said Alvarez will
always be considered “an
honorary South Palm Beach
resident.”

Political newcomer Robert
Gargano has filed to challenge
the at-large seats held by
Gottlieb and Jordan in the
March 15 municipal election.
In recent town meetings,
Gargano, 68, has questioned
some of the council’s contracts
with vendors. The top two vote-
getters will claim seats.

Share Your Story

Have a great love story to share?

Love stories can melt
your heart, make you smile,
or leave you grasping for a
handkerchief. Hollywood
loves them, of course, but
ture love doesn’t only exist
in the movies. The Coastal
Star is looking for real
love stories from readers
to share in its February
Valentine’s edition. If you
have one, we would love to hear from you. Email suggestions
and details to maryt@thecoastalstar.com. Please include your phone
number and the best times to reach you.

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in Casablanca, one of the most
famous love stories of all time.

Annual resort, golf, and associate* memberships are now available
at the world-class Seagate Country Club. Members enjoy:
• 18-hole championship course and
practice facilities
• Legendary golf instructor, Craig Harmon
• Kids’ golf and tennis programs
• Har-Tru tennis courts
• Seagate Beach Club access for
Resort and Associate Members
• Selection of world-class dining
venues
• 4,200 sq. ft. fitness center, classes, and pools

For more information, please contact Membership Director, Kate Park, at
561-701-9025, kpark@seagatedelray.com, or visit SeagateGolfMembership.com

Resort Wear Year Round!

1100 East Atlantic Ave
Delray Beach, Florida
561.276.8088
www.snappy-turtle.com

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Preservation architect presents vision for old high school

By Jane Smith

The latest savior of the historic Boynton Beach High School attracted about 25 members of the grassroots group Save Boynton High to the city library on a stormy December night. They braved the weather to get a sneak peek at architect Rick Gonzalez’s plans to reuse the old school.

The group had invited Gonzalez to talk about his plans, said organizer Barbara Ready.

Gonzalez wants to turn the vacant structure into a community arts and civic center, which went over well with the group formed in August after the City Commission, which owns the school building, voted to demolish the nearly 90-year-old structure listed on the city’s historic inventory.

A well-known preservation architect, Gonzalez said he has done eight studies in 13 years on the old high school. He showed his latest plan individually in November to each city commissioner.

He wants to create a “nucleus for the community” by combining the uses in the Civic Center, Madsen Center (Stage Left Theater) and the Arts Center.

His vision includes:
• Two retail outlets at both corners on the front of the building that faces Ocean Avenue. A small coffee shop would be perfect, he says.
• The first floor would contain the children’s art and after-school programs; cheerleading, dance and karate programs; youth leadership separate from the teens group; and a space for community theater with a small stage in the rear.
• The second floor would be adult programs such as dancing and arts along the front of the building. The gymnatorium would become a community center. It would host commission meetings, weddings and other celebrations that need 300 seats and include a “green room” for preparations. It could also host films and lectures with seating for 700 and other cultural events that need 700 seats.
• He also wants to widen the staircases, redo the restrooms and make them wheelchair-accessible, install an elevator and create a catering kitchen.

To stabilize the building would cost an estimated $525,000 to $600,000, Gonzalez said.

He wants the city to give his team the land and the high school to help create that vision. If the city were to create such a center, it would cost taxpayers millions, he said.

Ready’s group likes his plan but Gonzalez didn’t go forward with his plans individually to each city commissioner. At that meeting, commissioners will decide what’s next for the old high school — go forward with the Gonzalez plan, open it up to other developers, broaden it to include the entire 17-acre Town Center area or demolish the old high school.

As of press time, the city had spoken with several developers about Town Center, but none had put down the required $20,000 deposit to hire an outside consultant to review the plans, said Eleanor Krusell, city communication manager.

Gonzalez said the city also can issue a bond to cover the renovation costs or look for a moneyed donor who would like to see the high school renamed.

He cited The Harriet Himmel Theater in the CityPlace as an example. His firm helped to convert a Methodist church, built in 1926 in the Spanish Colonial architectural style, into a multisite theater that can be rented for weddings, fashion shows and meetings.

Boynton Beach High School was added to the city’s list of historic places in February 2013. It was designed by prominent school architect William Manly King, who used features from the Mediterranean Revival and Art Deco styles, according to the Boynton Beach Historical Society.
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Scenes of the Season

The Lynn Philharmonia performs with music director and conductor Guillermo Figueroa on Dec. 12 at Boca Raton Resort and Club. The performance marked the orchestra’s 13th annual Gingerbread Holiday Concert. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

After making his way to the scene via a BMW convertible, Santa greets children during Delray Beach’s annual lighting of its 100-foot Christmas tree, which was delayed to Dec. 10 because of rainy weather. Photo provided by VMA Studios

One of Santa’s helpers takes a selfie before the Delray Beach Jingle Bell Jog 5K on Dec. 19. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

The annual Boynton Beach Boat Parade ran along the Intracoastal in Boynton Beach and Delray Beach on Dec. 11. ABOVE: Palm Beach Eco Tours’ entry is decorated with sea creatures such as dolphins, sea turtles and manatees. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

RIGHT: Rob Sweeten takes a photo of his daughter Mackenzie, 5, as she sits atop The Avenue Church’s live nativity-scene float during the Delray Beach Annual Holiday Parade on Dec. 12. Also on the float are Rob’s wife, Suzi, and their daughter Maddison. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star
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Obituaries

Luigi Federico Creatore

By Bill Meredith

BOCA RATON — Successful composers often remain in the shadow while the artists who perform their music skyrocket to fame, and one of the most versatile such writers was Luigi Federico Creatore.

The Manhattan-born Creatore died on Dec. 13 in Boca Raton due to pneumonia, according to his wife, Claire Weiss Creatore. He was 93.

Creatore’s compositions, some written with his cousin Hugo Peretti (1916-1986) and George David Weiss (1921-2010), included 1961 hits by Elvis Presley (“Can’t Help Falling in Love, from the film Blue Hawaii”) and “The Tokens (The Lion Sleeps Tonight)” which reached No. 1 in 1961.

In 1977, Creatore and Peretti won a Grammy Award for their production of the original cast recording of “Rolling Stone.”

“A lot of smithereens” — names like “Lover Come Back,” “Spoken Words” and “If the Mirrors Could Talk” — were sometimes whimsical, sometimes old school. But they were always magnificent, McGuire said.

Some of her accomplish- ments include: chairwoman of the South Florida Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers and national chapter member; appointment to the governor’s design team refreshing the Florida governor’s mansion in Tallahassee; member of the Delray Beach and National Historical Preservation societies; member of the Old Schoolhouse, an 18th-century chairwoman of many designer showhouses for various charities.

She and her husband were once active members of The Little Club, Colony Beach Club, Goliath Game Fishing Club and The Louisville Country Club. She was club president in the early 2000s.

A funeral Mass was said Dec. 12 at her beloved parish, St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church.

The new store will open Jan. 2 at 2915 S. Federal Highway, Suite 33, Delray Beach.

Virginia Wesley Courtaway

By Emily J. Minor

DELRAY BEACH — Virginia Wesley Courtaway, a prominent interior designer who, in her 40 years in town, recreated everything from the Florida governor’s mansion to a neighbor’s tiny kitchen, died Nov. 29 at her home under hospice care.

She was 76 years old.

Virginia Courtney was the longtime owner of Virginia Courtney Interiors Inc. on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach.

Her design partner, Hazel McGuire, who had worked with Mrs. Courtaway for some 13 years, said the business will certainly continue. A new shop will open in January, McGuire said.

She certainly had an eye for the unusual,” McGuire said.

“If you wanted the mundane, if you wanted Rooms To Go, we weren’t for you.”

In Chicago, a daughter of a lamp designer and her granddaughter of an architect and builder, Mrs. Courtney is said to have chosen the arts at an early age.

She attended Beloit College, the Art Institute of Chicago and Ecole des Beaux Arts in France. She quickly established her passion for 18th-century antiques and interior design.

But office manager Greg Kirkpatrick, who started doing Mr. Courtaway’s company books about two years ago, said his boss had a wonderful knack of interpreting all different kinds of styles, and bringing them to life.

“Everyone who worked with her and who had hired her, they all said she had very good taste and was just so knowledgeable about design, and was just all-around talented,” Kirkpatrick said.

It wasn’t anything catastrophic that claimed Mrs. Courtaway’s life. Friends said she had been recuperating from a fall when she began to develop complications that limited her movements even further. A widow since the death of her husband, Erskine Howard Courtaway Jr., Mrs. Courtaway was attended to by her three stepchildren.

The family arranged for a private service, but Mrs. Courtaway could rest peacefully before she died, Kirkpatrick said.

From singing in the church choir, to doting on her Scotty dogs, Mrs. Courtaway was also a private woman who exuded a special elegance,” McGuire said.

In healthier days, she enjoyed tennis, photography, painting, cooking and boating.

Her professional accomplishments never ceased to amaze, and her portfolio was full of beautiful projects that seemed to mix just the right amounts of color, texture and light. Her designs were sometimes whimsical, sometimes old school, but they were always magnificent, McGuire said.

With Mrs. Courtaway’s passing comes the realization that she leaves behind a legacy, McGuire said.

“Her memory will be a wonderful thing.”

Mary C. ‘Polly’ Brady

By Emily J. Minor

BRINY BREEZES — Mary C. “Polly” (O’Flanagan) Brady, of Briny Breezes and Plymouth, Mass., passed away peacefully on Dec. 15, surrounded by her family.

She was 76 years old.

As a child in South Boston, Mass., Mrs. Brady developed a love of the ocean that stayed with her for her entire life. She was a resident of Plymouth for over 50 years. She taught in the Plymouth school system for over 30 years and helped run the family business charter boats, the Polly Dean and the Mary Elizabeth, during the summer.

Following her retirement, she and her husband, Tim, moved to the coastal community of Briny Breezes, where they continued to enjoy the ocean for the last 16 years. They split their time between Florida and Plymouth, where they made sure they could return to spend time with their children and beloved grandchildren.

A proud 1961 graduate of Regis College in Weston, Mass., Polly enjoyed spending time with her friends in Briny Breezes, participating in activities at the Plymouth Yacht Club and being around her family.

Polly was the dear and devoted wife of Timothy C. Brady Sr., loving mother of Timothy C. Brady Jr. and his wife, Laura, of Massachusetts, John E. Brady and his wife, Julie, of Vermont, Mary Beth Brady and her husband, Dana, of Massachusetts and Terrence O. Brady and his wife, Karen Hepinstall, also of Massachusetts.

She was also the cherished “Granna” of Timothy III, Rebecca, Sean, Rose, Ryan, Colleen, Devin, Patrick, Connor, Meghan, Molly, Emily, Christopher and Emma; dear sister of Jane Lennon and her husband, Andrew, of Massachusetts, John O’Flanagan and his wife, Margaret, of Colonia, William O’Flanagan and his wife, Anne, of Pennsylvania and the late Kathleen O’Flanagan and Ann and Louis Keneally; sister-in-law of the late Patricia McNeil. She also is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Brady’s funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 2, 2016, at St. Peter’s Church, in Plymouth.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mrs. Brady’s memory may be made to the Boston Higashi School, 800 N. Main St., Randolph, MA 02368.

An online guestbook is available at www.KloufyFuneral.com. Inquest will be private.

—Submitted by the family

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Counties reviews anti-terrorism preparedness

By April W. Kimley

The Dec. 2 mass shooting at a county facility in San Bernardino, Calif., raised wide concern about domestic terrorism and prompted Palm Beach County commissioners to examine the preparedness of the county’s own facilities.

“Any employee who attacked his fellow employees (in California),” said Steven Abrams, the county commissioner who initiated the request. “So we want to go over the security we have at the county facilities and see how there can be any improvement.”

On Dec. 7 Abrams asked County Administrator Verdenia Baker to report back to commissioners on county security readiness and whether any improvements were needed, such as training or new equipment.

Although some of these reports were ready by the Dec. 15 meeting, there wasn’t time to address this issue adequately at this year-end meeting. Instead, the reports are expected to be presented to commissioners on Jan. 26.

Nonetheless, Abrams also commented that he believes the county is very well-prepared for mass violence incidents.

“If nothing else because we have experienced it here in the anthrax attack and some of the 9/11 terrorists who were living in the area,” he explained.

Abrams was mayor of Boca Raton at the time of the 9/11 attacks.

Soon after 9/11, anti-terrorism activities were stepped up at virtually all security agencies in Florida and local municipalities. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement set up a Terrorism Hotline (1-855-352-7233), and the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office inaugurated a Homeland Security Bureau, now headed by Maj. Robert L. Allen, along with a number of specific anti-terrorism programs such as C-PAT (Community Partners Against Terrorism) and B-PAT (Business Partners Against Terrorism).

Since that time, procedures in many police departments have evolved to deal with new conditions. These changes are the result of the rapid rise in the number of domestic mass shootings in the U.S. over the past decade, not just international terrorism.

Boca Raton Police Chief Daniel Alexander explained that there are two major changes in how police departments such as his handle mass shooter incidents today. First, officers are instructed not to wait outside for backup when an incident occurs. Instead, they are trained to enter and confront and contain the shooters right from the start.

Second, fire-rescue is brought in much sooner to be ready to participate more quickly.

Local police departments also learn about most incidents faster than they did 15 years ago, because communication among agencies has improved dramatically.

Municipalities also have a liaison officer with Homeland Security, as well as ongoing ties with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Representatives from all municipalities meet at least monthly, according to Alexander, and many top officers in the county such as Alexander and Delray Beach Police Chief Jeffrey S. Goldman are graduates of the FBI National Academy.

Some law enforcement units in the county engage in anti-terrorism practice drills. Almost all agencies and municipalities also prepare through “table top exercises,” where command staff discuss and examine a wide array of potential scenarios and responses.

You should be prepared, too

Despite this preparation, civilians are still considered the first line of defense against terrorist incidents. Residents and visitors “have to be our eyes and ears,” said Alexander.

Ocean Ridge Police Chief Hal Hutchins agreed. He said he is glad to see the catch phrase “See Something, Say Something” being dusted off again. This message was widely used after 9/11 to urge people to stay alert to what was going on around them and report unusual activity.

It paid off when a backpack was discovered near a Delray Beach military recruitment site last June. Traffic was blocked off in the area until it was determined that the backpack did not contain anything dangerous.

Citizens should also be responsible for knowing what to do if they find themselves in the center of a shooter situation. Alexander recommends following the standard formula — “Run, Hide, Fight.” The Boca Raton Police Department has a number of videos up on its YouTube site that provide information on how to deal with dangerous terrorism situations (www.youtube.com/bocapolice).

Although no agency can be prepared for every contingency, it is clear that a great deal of time, energy, and expense has been put into detection and preparation to deal with mass shooter incidents in Palm Beach County.

This has created confidence within the law enforcement community.

As Alexander notes, “I’ve served in a number of different agencies, and I believe that Palm Beach County is one of the best prepared counties in the state.”
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Boynton Beach:
Six resident advisers named to CRA

By Jane Smith

Six Boynton Beach residents will advise the city commissioners when they sit as the Community Redevelopment Agency board. The residents, appointed at the second commission meeting in December, are:
- Linda Cross, a retired CPA.
- James DeVoursney, a dermatologist.
- Brian Edwards, a marketing and development worker.
- Thomas Murphy Jr., a firefighter.
- Robert Pollock, a Postal Service worker and Army retiree.
- Christina Romelus, an adjunct professor and business owner.

Commissioner Mike Fitzpatrick was not able to attend the meeting; he will appoint a seventh member at a future meeting.

Ten residents had applied to be on the board, Mayor Jerry Taylor said. The remaining ones are: William Todd Jackson, insurance agency owner; Paula Melley, consultant; Genevieve Morris, retired quality assurance manager; and Edward Tiedmann, commercial/industrial real estate broker.

The advisory board will make recommendations on programs, activities and financing issues to the CRA board. The CRA works to reduce blight in areas east of the interstate and along the Intracoastal Waterway in Boynton Beach.

The advisory board was created in October after two community members — Buck Buchanan and Woodrow Hay — were ousted from their positions on CRA board.

At the September CRA meeting, they had disagreed publicly with Vice Mayor Joe Casello and Commissioner Mack McCray over their low performance marks for the agency’s executive director, Vivian Brooks. "The problem is not with Vivian, not with the city manager and not with the staff. The problem lies with the leadership of the city," Hay said at the Sept. 8 CRA meeting. "I really wish there was an evaluation for each of us by the city for the way we behave up here on the dais."

Commissioner David Merker said the second September commission meeting, held on Rosh Hashanah. "That's when Casello proposed an all-commission CRA board. Commissioner Fitzpatrick voted no, but the motion carried because McCray and the mayor voted yes. At the Dec. 15 commission meeting, before nominating a resident to the advisory board, Merker said, "Buck Buchanan and Woodrow Hay were appointed, did nothing wrong. They should still be there."

"What has happened is a charade. And you, the people who are out there, are not being respected."
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Agreement close for new fire-rescue equipment, services

By Rich Pollack

After months of negotiation, the town of Highland Beach is close to signing a fire and rescue service agreement with Delray Beach that would make it possible to have a new fire truck and a new rescue truck in its station.

Last month, Highland Beach town officials voted to sign an agreement with the city of Delray Beach — pending approval of final cost numbers — that would enable the city’s fire-rescue department to continue to staff the town’s fire station and provide service to its residents and visitors.

The agreement is expected to go before the Delray Beach City Commission for approval later this month.

“This proposed agreement accomplished a number of points that are favorable to the town,” Town Manager Beverly Brown told commissioners during a special meeting to discuss the agreement last month.

In addition to covering the cost of personnel, the agreement will make it possible for Delray Beach to purchase both a ladder truck and a rescue truck that would serve Highland Beach.

Delray Beach would then lease the equipment back to Highland Beach with the town having the option to buy the fire truck after 10 years for $10. The town also would have the ability to buy the rescue truck for $10 after Delray has made the final payment to the manufacturer.

“The proposed agreement provides for an immediate purchase of an aerial ladder truck and the future purchase of a rescue vehicle to be paid at cost only,” Brown told the commission.

The agreement also spells out that Highland Beach will pay for maintenance of the truck at cost only and will pay for operating overhead fees at cost only.

It’s estimated that the fire truck will cost $832,000, with Delray Beach receiving a multivehicle discount because it will be ordering two trucks for the city department’s use. The rescue unit is expected to cost about $33,000, and the town will also pick up its share of the finance charges.

Highland Beach is still using its own 12-year-old rescue truck but Delray Beach Fire-Rescue Chief Daniele Connor told town commissioners that the vehicle is past its prime.

“This truck has earned its stripes and it needs to be replaced,” she said.

Highland Beach leases a ladder truck from Delray for about $8,500 a month, since the town’s 20-year-old truck — which was frequently out of service — was sold at auction last year. Connor explained to Highland Beach commissioners that there will be times when the ladder truck assigned to the town will be across the bridge for training, maintenance or assistance with other calls. She said, however, that she will provide the town with reports to document those events.

“At all times fire apparatus and personnel are available to respond to residents of Highland Beach,” she said later. In instances of training or employee physicals, for example, Delray Beach Fire-Rescue will provide a unit to staff the Highland Beach fire station.

The Delray Beach chief estimates that once both municipalities have signed the agreements and placed the orders, it could still take 10 to 11 months before the fire truck arrives and a year for the new rescue vehicle to be in service.

In other business, Highland Beach Mayor Bernard Featherman will be hosting his annual Coffee with Mayor Featherman gathering on Jan. 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Highland Beach Library.

The mayor will present a recap of the town’s accomplishments in 2015 and will discuss plans for 2016. There will also be an open forum for residents to discuss concerns and suggestions for improvements.

Coffee with Mayor Featherman will also feature a presentation by Claudette Jones, RN, MSN, who will talk about stroke issues and prevention measures that can be taken.

For additional information call town hall at 278-4548.

Former volunteer takes helm at library

By Rich Pollack

Lois Albertson and the Highland Beach Library have been friends for a long time.

Coming to the community for many years to spend personal time with her grandparents, Albertson would make frequent visits to the small community library then tucked away inside Town Hall.

Albertson — who has a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of South Florida and a master’s degree in information systems technology from George Washington University — moved to South Florida more than a decade ago. She volunteered at the town library one night a week while working full-time for a consortium that provides training and resource sharing services to about 40 South Florida libraries.

In September, she joined the staff of the Highland Beach library as a full-time library assistant. Then late last month she was named as the new library director, following the decision by interim Library Director Suzi Hayes not to take the position full time.

“I’ve always loved libraries and books,” said Albertson, 51, who worked as the staff development director for the South Florida Library Information Network prior to joining the Highland Beach library staff. “I’m very excited about the new position. After many years of coming here and volunteering, this library feels like home.”

Albertson, whose mother, Linda, lives in Highland Beach and actively supports the library, said she looks forward to continuing to meet residents to learn more about how the library can better serve their needs. She also hopes to build on the momentum Hayes brought to the library.

“This library is more than just a place to check out books,” she said. “It’s an important part of the community.”

Hayes is pleased that Albertson was appointed by Town Manager Beverly Brown to be her successor.

“Lois brings strong academic credentials to the job and she has a very service-oriented personality,” Hayes said.

“Because of her experience as a volunteer, she already knows most of the operations of the library and she also knows the collection very well.”

Hayes, who became interim library director in June following the unexpected departure of longtime library director Mari Suarez, will go back to working part time at the library this month.

“I had been working part time and I really enjoyed it,” said Hayes, 67, adding that she is looking forward to having more personal time.

Hayes was a library director before coming to Highland Beach and is credited with helping to stabilize the library operations after Suarez left.

“I can never thank her enough for volunteering to become interim director during that time,” said Brown.

During her six months at the helm, Hayes introduced several new programs — including an adult coloring club — and led the effort to automate cataloging, saving about 15 hours of staff time each week.

“I had a wonderful team to work with,” she said. “I really enjoyed my time as interim director.”

New Highland Beach Library Director Lois Albertson (left) with Suzi Hayes, who is stepping down as the director of the library but will stay part time, working 20 hours a week. Tim Stepens / The Coastal Star

For more information call town hall at 278-4548.
**Business Spotlight**

Beachcomber Art gallery: A glittering potpourri of shell-covered art

By April W. Klimley

Anyone strolling into the Beachcomber Art gallery in Delray Beach is in for a surprise. There’s no standard “shell” art. Instead, the floor, walls and surfaces are filled with exotic, sometimes whimsical, objects embellished with shells, glass and other seashore finds.

The range of variety is breathtaking — with pieces that would enhance any home decor from midcentury modern to traditional.

“Almost everyone on the shore has one of my chandeliers,” she says. No wonder she did not need to do much advertising when she moved her shop from Boynton Beach to Delray Beach last year.

Brookes is that unusual combination of good businesswoman, artist, wife and mother. She studied fine art, sculpture and mosaic art while raising two daughters, Desserae and Dana, with her husband of 40 years, Ed Brookes. Simultaneously, she ran a chain of beauty salons and worked in flower arranging.

Fourteen years ago she and Ed moved to Ocean Ridge. There, she put together some mosaic-decorated flowerpots with an Art Deco flair that her friends fell in love with. It wasn’t too long afterward that she opened a small studio in Boynton Beach to sell these and other decorative items.

Now in her new Delray location, Brookes has plenty of space to display and sell a much wider range of one-of-a-kind objects, from a sculpture-size mermaid mannequin to flying fish and oversized chandeliers. Some of her smallest items like votive candle holders, $10 apiece, are among her best sellers. Brookes uses shells from the Philippines to adorn her objects and a fast-drying glue, not glue gun, to hold the decorations in place.

As for planning each piece, she doesn’t. “I’m a scavenger,” she says. “I never know what I’m going to make until I see it.”

But on the business side, she certainly thinks ahead. A while ago she covered a funeral urn box with a shell arrangement for a friend.

So now Brookes plans to launch a website in 2016 called www.beachurn.com. If that sounds ahead of its time, maybe it is. But Brookes has great instincts. Her other business plans worked out. So it would not be surprising if this one does, too.

Beachcomber Art is at 900 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 808-7502 or www.beachcomberart.com.

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MLS #: ARX-10105663

*Adjacent to 1920 S Ocean Blvd

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**Listing Price: $6,995,000**

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Mamaroneck, FL 33462

Bedrooms: 5 • Full Baths: 6 • Partial Baths: 2

Living Square Feet: 7,905

Waterfrontage: 101 ft

MLS #: ARX-10096862

*January 2016 Completion

**East Intracoastal View**

**Listing Price: $2,195,000**

1 Spinnaker Road

Mamaroneck, FL 33462

Bedrooms: 3 • Full Baths: 3 • Partial Baths: 1

Living Square Feet: 3,214

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FAU research faculty, MBA program score high marks

Staff members from Bank of America visited Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches in December, dropping off toys and handmade holiday cards for the students at the agency’s Project Grow afterschool program. They also presented the agency’s CEO, Matthew Constantine, with a $2,200 donation. The agency is in its 31st year and has helped more than 42,000 families attain self-sufficiency. Photo provided

A strolling Ms. Champagne added another layer of sparkle to Raymond Lee Jewelers’ VIP holiday party, where staff, customers and guests started the evening off with a tall celebratory glass of bubbly. Prize baskets valued at more than $1,500 were raffled, raising funds for Charity Champions, a charity dedicated to the well-being of animals.

Raymond Lee Jewelers’ Boca Raton location is at 22191 Powerful Road, 912B.

The sale of the Bank of America Tower, a 109,553 square-foot office building at 150 E. Palmetto Park Road, closed Dec. 15. Senior managing director Herman Rodriguez, director Ike Ojala and associate director Jorge Portela of Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, L.P. represented the seller, Clarion Partners, in the sale of the property to Denver-based Dividend Capital Diversified Property Fund Inc. The building sold for $53.75 million, free of debt. The Bank of America Tower is 87 percent leased to tenants including Bank of America, Zen Offices, Vertech Holdings and Charles Schwab & Company. A full-service Bank of America bank branch occupies the retail component of the space. Besito Boca soon will occupy the restaurant space.

The Delray Beach firm Marc Julien Homes is in the midst of its first relocation and rehabilitation project, a 1926 mission-style 1,200-square-foot house where the 1926 cottage was completed. Marc Julien Homes will build a new two-story house in the midst of its first relocation and rehabilitation project, a 1926 mission-style 1,200-square-foot house where the 1926 cottage stood.

Michaela Kennedy has joined Silver International Realty in Delray Beach as a

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Business Spotlight

Research faculty at Florida Atlantic University ranked 19th in the world for their intellectual contributions to the real estate industry through their publications in top peer-reviewed journals, according to the Journal of Real Estate Literature.

Also, the university’s MBA program ranked fifth in the United States in terms of a student’s return on investment, with one of the nation’s highest average salary-to-debt ratios after a student gets a master’s degree, according to rankings published by SoFi, a San Francisco-based marketplace lender. Students who earn their MBA at FAU have an average salary of $104,820 and an average debt of $45,573, just behind Stanford University, which ranked No. 4. New York Institute of Technology topped the list.

As part of YEA!, the Boca Chamber’s Golden Bell Education Foundation’s Young Entrepreneurs Academy program, its 24 students will hear Boca Raton CEOs talk about their businesses, how they contribute to the real world for their intellectual success is their duty, obligation to the 10X Rule principles for success, which are bestseller The 10X Rule by the New York Times bestselling author of the 10X Rule, trained Braman Motorcars employees on the principles for success, which are outlined in his book. According to the 10X Rule, to achieve extreme success, team members must embrace the idea that success is their duty, obligation and responsibility.

Braman Motorcars has served the county for more than 30 years as an authorized Rolls-Royce, Bentley, BMW, Porsche and MINI dealer. Braman Rolls-Royce Palm Beach was named the 2015 national and global Dealer of the Year by Rolls-Royce.

George Gann, chief conservation strategist for the Institute for Regional Conservation in Delray Beach, recently traveled to Manchester, England, to lecture on the conservation and restoration of rare plants in Everglades National Park. The venue was the sixth World Conference on Ecological Restoration, hosted by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

“We believe that our institute’s long history of working with regionally rare species in South Florida, together with expanded work in the Yucatan, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas, can shed light on what is actually happening on the ground at the global level,” Gann said.

Also, in December, the Institute launched a new website featuring the native and introduced plants of Puerto Rico, which provides rapid access to information on 3,200 species of plants on the island.

After learning of public requests for additional information on 3,500 species of plants on the island. The venue was the sixth World Conference on Ecological Restoration, hosted by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

A donation of $20 to Feeding South Florida can provide a meal for 124 children and their families. Through a local network of approximately 350 nonprofit partner agencies, Feeding South Florida distributes almost 40 million pounds of food annually, serving 785,040 individuals in need of food assistance, including 280,630 children and 150,000 older adults, throughout Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

To donate or for information, visit www.feedingsouthflorida.org or call 954-518-1818.

Awet Sium now is general manager for Kimpton’s Tidelands Ocean Resort & Spa, Palm Beach. Most recently, he served as resort manager for the Four Seasons in St. Kitts & Nevis.

Mehmet Bahlitayar has taken the position of Renaissance Boca Raton Hotel’s general manager. Previously, as director of operations at The Westin Tysons Corner Hotel, Virginia, he brought that property to the “Best in Class” in the last eight years for guest satisfaction.

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real estate agent. Kennedy, who has a background in financial services and business development, was awarded the certified international property specialist designation by the National Association of Realtors in November 2014. Also, owner Christel Silver was awarded the performance management network designation by the Women’s Council of Realtors.

Jackson Singh, one of South Florida’s newest real estate law firms, is a female-owned Boca Raton business led by two minority women, Racelle Jackson and Nalini Singh. Specializing in foreclosure litigation, their firm focuses on real estate litigation and transactions. Jackson is a broker and former chair, vice chair and fellow of the American Bar Association’s commercial real estate purchase and sale committee. She was managing principal of Jabez Legal in Delray Beach and an attorney at Aldridge Pite. Singh is a former Aldridge Pite colleague. Their new office is at 2385 NW Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Boca Raton.

In October, Lang Realty raised $8,910 to benefit the American Cancer Society as part of its annual “In the Pink” campaign in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. More than half of the donations were raised through a percentage of each closing that month, and more than $5,000 was raised through pledges made for employees participating in the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walks in Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Port St. Lucie.

The Boca Chamber will host its 10th annual Diamond Award Luncheon on Feb. 19 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 S. Camino Real, Boca Raton. At this luncheon, the chamber will recognize a persönlichkeit who contributes to the vibrancy of the community. Call 395-4433, Ext. 233 or visit www.bocachamber.com.

From 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 21, The Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce’s Business Awards Gala, “A Winter Wonderland,” will honor 21 members for their outstanding accomplishments in 2015 and crown honorary chairs Calvin & Jeanette Ceardle. Following the cocktail reception at Benvenuto Restaurant, the gala will be dinner, an awards ceremony, live auction and dancing. Tickets are $100. Benvenuto Restaurant is at 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Call 732-9501.
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Beachside Estate – Classic estate home on 3/4 acre lot boasts over 6,500 SF of elegant living space. Hardwood floors, fireplaces, gourmet chef’s kitchen, 50 foot pool and 100 feet of deeded beach. $3,400,000

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NEW LISTING

Ocean Ridge – Magnificent custom built 4BR/4.5den home. Nestled between the Intracoastal and dedicated beach access on a large 17,000 SF lot. Spacious covered outdoor living. $2,425,000

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Wishing everyone a very Healthy and Happy New Year!
Health & Harmony

Yoga nidra
Inner peace

By Lona O’Connor

Of all the types of yoga, only one is associated with lying on the floor under a cozy blanket in a quiet room listening to a soft voice and music: yoga nidra.

“I figured this was one kind of yoga that I could do,” joked Betti Adams of Delray Beach. Adams first tried yoga nidra about a year ago at a session led by Kim Hough.

Yoga teachers often say that the hardest pose is to lie still doing absolutely nothing. This is the sole responsibility of a yoga nidra participant, to receive relaxation instructions from the teacher, who then invokes positive images during a session.

Simple practice relaxes body, eases mind

Yoaga nidra
Inner peace

Yoga for kids
It can be a helpful quiet time. Page H22

Before the lights go down at Yoga Sol, everyone in the room is asked to decide on one personal statement, called a sankalpa, that he or she will repeat silently at the beginning and the end of the session.

The sankalpa is brief, positive and stated in the present tense, such as “I am love” or “I create happiness in others.” It is meant to set the emotional tone for the yoga nidra session — and possibly for the future.

See YOGA on page H4
GULF STREAM OCEANFRONT MASTERPIECE: This resort-style estate showcases the spectacular ocean vistas while offering an inviting elegance. $17,995M WEB# 3491470

BRAND NEW OCEANFRONT ESTATE: Showpiece estate by Mark Timothy, Inc. will feature an open-floor plan boasting stunning ocean vistas from every vantage point. $17,95M WEB# 3488017

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GULF STREAM BEACHSIDE ESTATE: This beach area estate is nestled off A1A just three homes from the ocean. Professionally decorated and offered furnished. $4,495M WEB# 3503281

DIRECT OCEANFRONT DELRAY BEACH ESTATE SECTION: This gated & private estate offers 100‘ of direct ocean frontage and over 400‘ of depth with stunning ocean vistas. $11,95M WEB# 3505232

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN EAST DELRAY BEACH: Brand new residence by Seaside Builders. Features custom and designer finishes and offers stunning direct water views. $6,975M WEB# 3374938

DELRAY BEACH OCEANFRONT: Amazing oceanfront home located just blocks north of Atlantic Avenue. With unobstructed ocean views and a deep corner lot providing privacy. $4,395M WEB# 3433981

POINT MANALAPAN BERMUDA STYLE: Spacious and sophisticated estate on oversized lot. Five bedrooms, chef’s kitchen, pool, loggia and more. $3,995M WEB# 3592505

VISTA DEL MAR IN EAST DELRAY BEACH: Fantastic corner lot located only blocks from Atlantic Avenue. & six homes from the ocean in East Delray Beach. Endless possibilities. $1,795M WEB# 3471869

HIGHLAND BEACH WATERFRONT ESTATE WITH OCEAN ACCESS: This waterfront estate is tucked off A1A on Bel Lido Isle and features 115 feet of direct waterfrontage with dock. $2,795M WEB# 3512201

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Almost immediately, a few light snores can be heard. “Afterward, people say, ‘Oh, I don’t remember a thing!’” Hough said. However, the relaxation — and sometimes revelations — happen awake or asleep or in between.

Besides relaxing the body, yoga nidra can allow the practitioner to open up emotionally.

“Through the practice of yoga nidra we are restructuring and reforming our whole personality from within,” said Hough.

During the session, the leader takes clients through eight stages of deepening relaxation.

“In that space, you are able to manifest the sanka, the key part of the practice. You can get out of your own way,” Hough noted.

Hough, who also teaches yoga and meditation, participated in her first yoga nidra session about 10 years ago.

Unlike a New Year’s resolution, which often focuses on correcting specific bad habits, the sanka “should honor the deeper meaning of our life,” Hough said.

Some people experience a relaxing hour, nothing more. Practitioners say that an hour of yoga nidra is equivalent to four hours of deep sleep.

Others have profound experiences, during or after the session. One woman said she recovered from writer’s block during a session.

Patty Flynn, of Boynton Beach, called her session with yoga teacher Julie Murphy “totally different” from other forms of meditation she practices. “I was able to see myself from outside. At one time I was laughing, smiling ear to ear, another time there were tears rolling down my face.”

Betti Adams did a yoga nidra session after a too-busy day and four hours of sleep. Later that evening, she visited her mother, who was recovering from surgery, in pain, and also not sleeping well.

“In spite of all that, we had our best visit ever,” said Adams. “We reminisced and shared feelings. And the next morning she told me she had her best night’s sleep since the surgery and amazingly, no pain. She was in a great mood and was puzzled about how suddenly the change had taken place.”

Those who lead a yoga nidra session can also reap its benefits.

Murphy, who has a melodious South African accent, always thought her voice was too deep. When her yoga students asked her to record a yoga nidra CD, she resisted. “I thought, what if it’s a disaster? I had all that crazy self-doubt. Then I thought, what if I just do it anyway?”

During her period of self-doubt, a dear friend was dying of emphysema. She practiced yoga nidra with him.

“His anxiety and panic dissolved within a few minutes,” Murphy said. “Yoga nidra made him feel more at ease than he’d been in years.”

The friend died as Murphy was beginning to record Calm, her CD, which she dedicated to him.

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Pioneer in ovarian cancer research still takes forward view

By Lona O’Connor

Robert Knapp’s medical career spans more than five crucial decades of women’s reproductive health. As a young medical resident back in the 1950s, Knapp was an early advocate for safe, legal abortions. The majority of his career has been spent as a researcher into the diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer.

Now, at 88, he is retired, but still teaching — between walks along A1A and weightlifting at a gym near his home in Manalapan. And he is looking forward to the possibility that a diagnostic tool he co-discovered will prove to aid early diagnosis for ovarian cancer, which usually is far advanced when discovered.

On Jan. 25, he will attend a fundraising luncheon for PBC H.O.W. (Hearing the Ovarian Cancer Whisper, the organization he founded). PBC H.O.W. offers a three-year, $50,000-per-year research fellowship to gynecologists. It also offers the Robert C. Knapp Medical Student Award and sponsors an “angel fund” to defray expenses for families of ovarian cancer patients.

“Let’s face it, when you realize that one in 70 women will get ovarian cancer, certainly one of those students will be the doctor taking care of them,” said Knapp.

In 2015, 14,000 of the 21,000 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer died, according to the American Cancer Society, a higher mortality rate than for either cervical or uterine cancer.

Early in his career, in his research rooms, Knapp treated many women who later died from the effects of illegal abortions, often performed at home or under unsafe conditions.

The death rate from infection was “appalling,” he said. “I was terribly upset that these women died.” After treating those cases, he joined the board of Planned Parenthood.

He has spent much of his distinguished medical, teaching and research career at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

In the early 1960s, he began working on a way to detect ovarian cancer. He wanted to know why patients who seemed to be in stage 1 cancer died even after their ovaries were removed.

In the 1970s, he and another collaborator, Daniel Friedman, also discovered how ovarian cancer spreads to the lymph nodes.

Then Knapp, the expert on ovarian cancer, joined forces with Robert Bast, an immunological specialist, at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

If You Go
Sherry Lansing, former chairwoman and CEO of Paramount Pictures, is the guest speaker at the Time is of the Essence luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Jan. 25 at Mar-a-Lago Club Palm Beach, 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. Pamela Fierri, former editor of Town & Country magazine, is the moderator. For more information, e-mail Jennifer@howflorida.org.

“...when I became an assistant professor at the DFIC, Bob and I set up our laboratories next to one another and pooled our resources to collaborate on immunotherapy in mice and in women with ovarian cancer,” wrote Bast in an email.

In their studies of ovarian cancer in mice, Knapp and Bast used cancer cells from one of Knapp’s patients. A sign of past times and an indication of his focus on doctor-patient relationships, Knapp made regular Thursday night house calls to his cancer patients.

“Bast sat there with the patience of a saint,” said Knapp of his younger colleague.

Bast tested cancer antigens (CA) one after another, until, his 125th try — CA 125 — provided the basis of a test for signs of ovarian cancer.

Besides the CA 125 test, the two doctors worked on using immunotherapy to form antibodies that would contain the cancer. Bast, now a professor at the University of Texas and researcher at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, is also on the medical advisory board of PBC H.O.W. Bast called their years working together “a wonderful collaboration.”

“Bob has been an exceptional mentor for many young physicians and scholars over the years who have made significant contributions to our understanding of ovarian cancer and to the care of women with this disease,” said Bast.

The CA 125 test is used as a follow-up tool, to see whether chemotherapy has been effective. A rising level of CA 125 is considered highly significant in such cases, said Knapp.

In the next few weeks, Knapp hopes to read the results of CA 125 tests expected to be published in the Lancet, the prominent British medical journal.

The study in Britain looked at 200,000 post-menopausal women, who are at greater risk than younger women of contracting ovarian cancer. It should show whether using CA 125 would work as a way of detecting ovarian cancer in the earlier, more treatable stages.

Knapp teaches a session on ovarian cancer at the Weill medical school of Cornell University and another seminar on how patients and doctors interact. He is the author and co-author of numerous publications on obstetric cancers.
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1/8 - Pilates Wellness Classes with Rassika Sabine Bourgi at Society of The Four Arts Health & Spa Garden, 515 Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Bring mat, check in at Society Education Building. Every 9:10 am through 5/27. $15/session. Reservations: 805-8562; fourarts.org

1/8 - Body Sculpting for Everyone at Veterans Park, 460 NE 35th St, Delray Beach. Adults only. F 6:30-7:30 pm. $30/session, $150/month. Intermediate (Healthful) 7:45-8:45 pm. $30/residents, $55/non-residents. 993-9297; reapea.com

1/8 - Adult Ballroom Dance Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Crawford Blvd. Instructors: Lee Fox. Singles and couples welcome. Every F through 2/25. Beginner (Quickstep) 6:30-7:30 pm. Intermediate (Healthful) 7:45-8:45 pm. $50/residents, $85/non-residents. 993-9297; reapea.com

1/9 - Aqua Zumba Classes at Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Sat 11:45 am through 5/28. 55 walk-in. 742-6645; boynton-beach.org

JANUARY 10-16

Tuesday - 1/12 - Ageless Grace Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 915 Crawford Blvd. Exercises for the brain, joint mobility, spinal flexibility, balance done with music, in a chair, barefoot. All fitness levels welcome. Every T&Th through 2/17. 11 am noon; 2 week $30/ residents, $50/non-residents. 1 week $25/ residents, $45/non-residents. 993-7807, boca-raton.ca

Wednesday - 1/13 - Journey to Fitness at Boynton Beach Art Center, 125 SE 2nd Ave. Held at rotating outdoor parks in the city. Ages 14+. Every W 9:30-10:30 am & Sat 8:30-9:30 am through 2/25. $50/resident, $85/non-resident. 742-6221, boynton-beach.org

Thursday - 1/14 - Palm Beach Friends Annual Medical Forum at Atrium, 1700 S Serene Blvd, Lake Worth. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. 11:30 am. $100. 515-1527, bascom-palmer.org

Friday - 1/15 - For Women Only at Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave. Women only. $5/resident, $7/non-resident. Every F through 2/19. 55 walk-in. 742-6645; boynton-beach.org


JANUARY 17-23

Thursday - 1/21 - Tai Chi at Green Cay Nature Center Community Room, 12000 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Adults. 2 pm. Held again 1/28. $45/all sessions, $35/Friends of Green Cay members, $15/session. 55 walk-ins session. 966-7000; pbcgov.com/parks/nature

Friday - 1/22 - Integrate Vision through Transcendental Meditation at Transcendental Meditation of Boca Raton/Delray Beach, 660 Linton Blvd #202. Speaker: Stuart Rothenberg, MD. 6:30 pm. Free, Reservations: bocaraton@tm.org

Saturday - 1/23-31 - What Women Want Lifestyle & Wellness EXPO at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 250 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Beauty & wellness products, clothing & accessories, home & interior design products & services, transportation, travel, health, more. Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun 11 am-4 pm. $10/person. 941-921-0518; bocawwwexpo.com

JANUARY 24-30

Thursday - 1/28 - Evidence Based Wellness through Transcendental Meditation at Transcendental Meditation of Boca Raton / Delray Beach, 660 Linton Blvd #202. Speaker: Stuart Rothenberg, MD. 6:30 pm. Free, Reservations: bocaraton@tm.org

Saturday - 2/6 - Joy on the Journey with Charlene Wilkinson at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd Ave. Gentle yoga followed by yoga nidra. Bring mat, pillow, blanket. Lunch included. 9:30 am-3:30 pm. 55 Register/registration-by: 271-3764, unityofdelraybeach.org

JANUARY 31- FEB. 6


Wednesday - 2/3 - Fact or Fiction: Debunking the Myth of Mental Illness at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. 483-5300; faulkcenterforcounseling.org

Thursday - 2/4 - Johns Hopkins Medicine’s “A Woman’s Journey” at Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Orangebough Blvd, West Palm Beach. Learn about new and compelling issues affecting women’s health at a conference and luncheon with faculty members. 9 am-2 pm. 501-780-8000; hopkinsmedicine.org/ onewomansjourney/palm_beach.

2/4 - Tai Chi at Green Cay Nature Center Community Room, 12000 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Adults. 2 pm. Held again 2/11. $45/all sessions, $35/Friends of Green Cay members, $15/session. 55 walk-ins session. 966-7000; pbcgov.com/parks/nature

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Sharing hopes and dreams for the New Year

We asked people at local churches and synagogues to tell us their hopes and dreams, plans and wishes, for 2016. Here they are:

“My hopes, plans, dreams or desires for 2016 are that we learn to love each other more; 2015 was a year of needless cruelty, hatred and killings.” — Jay Blotcher, publicist for Congregation Bet Kulan

“My hopes: Peace in Syria. This war is at the root of cruelty, hatred and killings.” — The Rev. Jay Blotcher, publicist for Congregation Bet Kulan

“My hopes for 2016 are for more food-insecure residents of our county to find the help they need and move out of poverty.” — The Rev. Juanita Bryant, director of engagement, CROS Ministries

“My potential improvements might be to go to bed earlier and wake up earlier and return fully to morning person status; bring thoughts of the business home with me less, possibly much less; and learn to pray better.” — Sandy Jack, a member of Advent Lutheran

“My goal for 2016 is to start a blog that will inspire or mentor other women to achieve their dreams, and that there is no limit when you want to succeed. (I’m a single mom, and I completed my bachelor’s degree at Palm Beach Atlantic University this fall — at age 48!)” — As a Christ follower, my wish is to help those people around me, by listening without judging, encouraging them, and reminding them there is hope. We all have the ability to do wonderful things, and to make this world more peaceful, just by respecting and loving each other.” — Claudia Rosada, administrative assistant, CROS Ministries.

Join Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at joinfontaine@outlook.com.
JANUARY 3-9

Sunday - 1/3 - Life Teen at St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 571 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Comprehensive youth ministry program; dinner included. Every Sun 6:45-8:30 pm. Free. 276-6892 x330; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 1/5 - Torah & Tea at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 120 NE 1st Ave, Boca Raton. Women’s Torah series brings tradition of classical Jewish learning in weekly classes. 9-10 am every Fri. 417-7797; chabadbocabeaches.com

JANUARY 10-16

Tuesday - 1/12 - Catholic Grandparents Meeting at Ascension Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. All welcome. Second T 10-11:30 am. Free. 289-2640; diocesepb.org

Wednesday - 1/13 - The White Stone Ceremony at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd Ave. Reflection and expression of spirit. 7 pm. Free/love offering. 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Friday - 1/15 - Parents of St. Gregory’s at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Potluck dinner, topic discussion (targeted to young parents with children ages 2-13), group feedback, childcare available. Third F 6-8 pm. Free. 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

JANUARY 24-30

Tuesday - 1/26 - In-Depth Bible Study at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church Kellaghan Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. The Bible Timeline presented by Jeff Cavins. Every other T 7-9 pm. $40/color-coded timeline chart & study kit (financial assistance available). 573-6256; stvincentferrer.com
Charity, multiplied

Parishioners turn a Boca church’s $8,000 into $30,000 in donations to others in need

By Janis Fontaine

In November, the leadership at Advent Lutheran Church in Boca Raton came up with a clever way to shake things up among its congregation.

One Sunday morning, church members and visitors arrived to find a wall of brightly colored cardboard preschool bricks stacked in the sanctuary. During the service, members were invited up to choose a brick. Inside, they found money — cash! — in amounts varying from $20 to $100.

“The pastors told the congregation that $8,000 in benevolence dollars were being handed out to them to do with as they were led by God,” Pastor Andrew Hagen said. “The only rule was that they had to use the money to ‘break down a wall’ that was preventing someone from experiencing the abundant life Jesus came to bring us. They could keep the money if they needed it. They could donate the money to their favorite cause, inside or outside the church. Or they could find a way to build it into more money.”

It wasn’t the first time this had happened, but it was the first time at Advent.

“A lot of churches do this,” Hagen said. “We had a pretty good year and our theme for the year was ‘A Church Without Walls.’ We wanted to really get people involved with making the decisions about where the money should go.”

What they did was jump-start an explosion of random acts of kindness.

People immediately began talking about it, Hagen said. “It was like, ‘We’re all in this together.’”

It built a bond among the church members.

Over the next month, the church continued buzzing with people talking about how and when and where to use their dollars. There was a lot of discussion about what “wall-breaking” meant. Families sat down together and debated the best way to use the money.

People behaved very differently toward that free $20 bill than they did with an identical bill out of their wallet, Hagen said. “It was like it was sacred money, and they had to take great care to give it back.”

Some people made decisions quickly, in most cases matching the funds with their own and donating the money to known church charities, including Lutheran World Relief, the Village of Hope in Haiti, and Lutheran Church of South Sudan for its “$40 for 40 Seminarians Campaign.”

Others returned the money to the church, often with an additional donation of their own, because they trusted the pastors to make the best use of the money.

Some people used the money to help people in their own community, while some helped people continents away.

“It’s impossible to assess the total impact of this program,” Hagen said. “But we believe that the $8,000 was multiplied to over $30,000 in donations to this point.”

And some plans haven’t yet come to fruition. That number still could grow.

Parishioners share stories of how they used the money

Here are some of the stories about how the money was used, in ways both large and small. The donors want to remain anonymous:

• I started a “Go-Fund-Me” website with my $20 and to date have raised $1,000 for the Village of Hope in Haiti.

• We quadrupled the $20 Advent gift we received in our brick and purchased a large gift basket which was delivered to the city of Delray Police Department with the note reading “Blue Lives Matter, you have our support and prayers.”

• We received $20. We are adding our own money and sponsoring and cooking a pancake and sausage breakfast for our “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.”

• I am using my brick money as seed money to make ‘care bags’ for the homeless: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, water bottles, cookies, toothbrushes, etc.

• I doubled my $20 brick money and sent it to Project HOPE for a special appeal which multiplied it 105 times, providing $9,450 in medical supplies.

• The $20 that was in my brick was matched with an extra $20 I had this past month. To date, I have been able to grow the original $20 into $160, with a promise of another $40 to add it to my photo sales. This might not seem like much, but to someone on Social Security, I think it’s a lot.

• I deliver meals for Boca Helping Hands on Saturdays.

I took the $50 bill I received in my brick and turned it into five $10 bills. I put $10 in five envelopes and gave them to five of the families I deliver meals to. I explained where the money came from and prayed with each family.

• We added $20 to the $20 and used that $40 to buy $79.80 worth of food at Publix (with buy-one-get-one and coupons) to donate to the food drive at my son’s elementary school.

• We used the money from our second brick to provide dinner to our local firehouse, Squad 54. I wish you could have been there to see how surprised and grateful they were. They had been out on calls all day and were wondering what they were going to do for dinner when we showed up. God is always in the right place at the right time! The owner of Davito’s was so impressed about our “Church Without Walls” campaign that he donated salad and rolls to go along with the meatballs and ziti.

• Wonderful Patty works shampooing clients at a modest hair salon and has for many years. She lives paycheck to paycheck and yet always has a beautiful, warm smile for clients, never complaining. If she is having a bad day, you would never know. She always thanks God for what she has and for her large family. Patty had tears in her eyes when I hugged her and gave her our “ Tear Down the Walls” money.

• We gave 4½ times our initial money to a single mom with a little girl who had surgery. She will be out of work for four weeks and does not get that much sick and vacation time so this will help with some of those days she won’t get paid for.

• We multiplied the amount received to make it a total of $140. We then put $20 in seven envelopes with the following note: “We were given a gift and we decided to share it with others. Please accept this $20 as a gift to you. May it make you smile and brighten your day. If this has brought you joy, please share these feelings with others!”

Then we went to Publix in Delray and (after clearing this with the assistant manager of the store) we walked around the store handing out the envelopes to people. Everyone was surprised. Of course, we were the ones who gained the most from this experience.

— Janis Fontaine
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Paws Up for Pets

Rescued dogs join the jet set on their way to new homes

Hunter, Dickens, Missy and Zenna headline the latest list of dogs rescued from kill shelters in South Florida and who now enjoy loving homes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

They owe their second chance for quality lives to a Boca Raton resident named Melanie Malanowski, who literally is reaching new heights when it comes to transforming shelter dogs into welcomed members of families.

That’s because instead of driving dogs to new homes, she flies them there.

Her day job is operations manager at Jet Lease Capital, a West Palm Beach-based aviation company that deals with the lending and financing of aircraft—from turboprops to large cabin aircraft.

This complements her other job: spearheading a nonprofit group called Ruff Tales Rescue that is committed to saving animal lives. Since 2014, Malanowski and a dedicated corps of volunteers have been plucking animals from overcrowded shelters in South Florida, putting them in foster homes temporarily, and then after receiving health clearances from veterinarians, flying these lucky dogs to New England, where they spend a brief time adjusting after their flights before landing in homes.

“Many New England states have strict spay and neuter laws, so they do not have the overpopulation problems that we have in animal shelters in South Florida,” says Malanowski. “A lot of the dogs I pull from a shelter here are about to be euthanized. We have been fortunate to place puppies and seniors up to 14 years old in new homes in New England.”

Malanowski was inspired to create Ruff Tales Rescue while volunteering to direct dog play groups at the West Palm Beach Animal Shelter.

“In the play groups, you get the chance to really know these dogs and get a good read on them, which helps a lot in knowing how to place them in the right homes,” she says. “For example, I pulled one brindle-colored pit bull named Pepper from the shelter. She was a superstar in the play group and I’m happy to report that she has been adopted in New England and she is doing awesome.”

Tapping into her connections in the airline industry, Malanowski worked out an arrangement with Ameriflight, a cargo airline company. It turns out that an Ameriflight plane full of animals are healthy enough to fly, local foster volunteers bring them in for complete medical examinations by veterinarians and then take them into their homes for about 10 days.

“Before those shelter animals board, they must be parasite-free and have no health issues,” Malanowski says. “And even if we have an approved adopter in New England, the dog does not go directly to the adopted person. They stay with a foster team member there for a couple of days to adjust after the flight and must be examined and issued another health certificate by an New England veterinarian. We want to make sure shelter animals from South Florida are not bringing any diseases into New England.”

The adoption fee of $375 covers the animal’s spay/neuter surgery, de-worming, necessary vaccinations, microchipping for identification, the flight and, per laws in New England states, a mandatory 48-hour quarantine period and health certificate.

Fundraising events like the Yappy Hour event held last month in West Palm Beach are enabling Malanowski and her team of volunteers to meet the Ruff Tales Rescue motto: “Changing lives four paws at a time.”

When she isn’t saving the lives of shelter animals on directing operations at Jet Lease Capital, Malanowski revels in hanging out with her rescued dogs: three young pit bull mixes answering to the names of Ty, Dante and Lucy, plus Daisy, a boxer with maternal instincts who serves as “momma dog” to the other three.

To me, Malanowski gives flying the friendly skies.”

Arden Moore, founder of Four-leggedLife.com, is an animal behavior consultant, author, professional speaker and master certified pet first aid instructor.
1395 S. ATLANTIC DR – Hypoluxo Island, a tropical paradise. Split plan, 3 1/2 bath, pool, newer kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Very light and bright. Open floor plan, great view close to beach and all shopping/restaurants! **$769,000**

**PENTHOUSE PALM BEACH** – You can see forever from this Penthouse delight. Fabulous panoramic ocean views. Watch the sailboats and paragliders go by. Wrap balcony provides you with Intracoastal views as well. Covered parking. Must see. Clariidges. **$569,000**

**BUENA VIDA WELLINGTON** – Beautiful lakefront with pool, new kitchen and bathroom, formal living and dining rooms, great storage, pool deck and great Intracoastal views. **$179,000-199,000**

**TROPICANA** – Beautiful studio totally remodeled unit. Facing to Ocean, Peak view to Ocean and Intracoastal. Low monthly maintenance. Intracoastal pool! **$119,000**. Also, **$129,000** with view of Intracoastal. Need updating. **$70,000**

**CHATEAU ROYAL** – 1/1.5, great ocean and Intracoastal views from this penthouse. Garage parking, extra storage, great private balcony and area. Don’t pass this unit up! **$175,000-199,000**

**CLARIDGES 306** – Beach living at a great price! 500sf 2/2 with southern views of the ocean. Covered parking. Updated kitchen w/glass tile countertops, palm trees in DR & Kitchen. Carpet in BR & L/S. **$311,000**

**CLARIDGES 609** – Views galore from this 2 bed/ 2 bath with large huge lanai. 2 assigned parking spaces! Intracoastal. **$375,000**

**YACHT CLUB** – Very private waterfront style 2 story 2 bedroom 2 1/2 bath, master upstairs, w/d to pool. Own your own dock and over looking the River and Wide Intracoastal with a separate hot tub, pool, BBQ and nice yard. **$399,000**

**MAYFAIR LAKE** – Rarely available, very sunny 1016sf 1/1 DOWNTOWN LAKE WORTH. **$1,875,000**

**LAKE WORTH NORTH STREET** – Adorable cottage, 2 1/2 bath in main house, half bath in one car garage, hardwood floors, nice kitchen with room for table, move in ready, new a/c and electric panel, short stroll to downtown Lake Worth! **$140,000**

**ALSO AVAILABLE** – half-acre, cul-de-sac lot in Point Manalapan with plans for up to 6,000sf! Free membership to La Coquille Club and use of amenities of Point Manalapan. **$3,250,000**

**LAKE WORTH NORTH STREET** – Adorable cottage, 2 1/2 bath in main house, half bath in one car garage, hardwood floors, nice kitchen with room for table, move in ready, new a/c and electric panel, short stroll to downtown Lake Worth! **$140,000**

**SOUTHGATE** – This light and bright 2/2 unit is completely new. New floor, dishwasher and stove. New over the the guest bathroom. Southgate has the best and prettiest gardens on A1A. Price to sell. **$249,000**

**AMBISSADOR** – Southeast ocean views from this 2/2. Impact eider doors across entire back side. Tile floors except for master bedroom which has carpeting. Second bedroom is opened up with overlooking account door to close off when needed. Tennis court. **$1055,000**

**LAKE WORTH DIRECT INTRACOASTAL** – Rare 65x192 lot with large entire home on either side. Call today for more info and building plans or build your own plan! Hurry, this one won’t last! **$959,000**

**CLERANCE 400** – Beautiful lakefront 3892/2564 sf waterfront home & family room kitchen, master bed & living room all have panoramic-water views. Pool/screened porch, high top college & granite countertops. Own this and add your personal colors and touch to this great home. **$430,000**

**OLYMPIA WELLINGTON** – Beautiful lakefront home located on the Ocean. Second and both. 2 car garage, newer a/c and appliances. Very light and bright. Open floor plan, great for entertaining or shared storage, 2 car garage, nice floor plan with living areas downstairs and up, perfect for entertaining or shared family rooms. Asking **$1,835,000**

**3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS** – 3 custom aluminum dock, seawall, and boat lift on this 104’ direct intracoastal lot with **$119,000** monthly maintenance. Intracoastal pool! **$9,000**

**4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS** – 435 s.f. Gorgeous Intracoastal home located on a quiet cul-de-sac, with a sandy beach, screened in pool and spectacular roof views of the Intracoastal. Recent upgrades include tile roof, seawall, and a hardwood white oak natural home generator. Convenient to everywhere you want to be in the Palm Beaches. **$505,000**

**4 LAKESIDE PALMS** – 4-3 s.f. Glorious Intracoastal home nestled in a quiet cul-de-sac, with a sandy beach, screened in pool and spectacular roof views of the Intracoastal. Recent upgrades include tile roof, seawall, and a hardwood white oak natural home generator. Convenient to everywhere you want to be in the Palm Beaches. **$505,000**

**Coral Ridge** – Rarely available, very sunny 1016sf 1/1 DOWNTOWN LAKE WORTH. **$1,875,000**

**SOUTHGATE** – This light and bright 2/2 unit is completely new. New floor, dishwasher and stove. New over the the guest bathroom. Southgate has the best and prettiest gardens on A1A. Price to sell. **$249,000**

**CLARENDON SOUTH PALM BEACH** – Rare opportunity to buy beachfront bungalow, 3891/2650 sf, on 1/2 black, bottom floor, small enclosed of 5 homes, lots of storage, 2 car garage, nice floor plan with living areas downstairs and up, perfect for entertaining or shared family rooms. Asking **$1,835,000**

**LAKE WORTH NORTH STREET** – 21/2, Great 2nd floor end unit. Lots of extra windows, bright unit. Move in ready. Very private Florida room, lanai, AC, laundry and storage. Tropically landscaped. **$625,000**

**YACHT CLUB** – Very private waterfront style 2 story 2 bedroom 2 1/2 bath, master upstairs, w/d to pool. Own your own dock and over looking the River and Wide Intracoastal with a separate hot tub, pool, BBQ and nice yard. **$399,000**

**SOUTHGATE** – This light and bright 2/2 unit is completely new. New floor, dishwasher and stove. New over the the guest bathroom. Southgate has the best and prettiest gardens on A1A. Price to sell. **$249,000**
Secret Gardens

Church’s garden a source of bounty, joy for Delray Beach

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

It’s early on a rainy weekday but that doesn’t keep Rob Sparro from inspecting the currant bush and tomato vines thriving in his well-tended plot at the Cason Community Garden in Delray Beach. He hands over to share his bean vines to remove the water that is weighing them down. As he does, you can see the delicate white butterflies that will soon be beans ready for harvest.

Elsewhere in his bountiful garden, purple blossoms turn into white eggplants, some of which hang from stems like Christmas tree ornaments.

“There’s good unity and a fellowship in working here and putting things in the ground,” says Sparro, who used to be in the landscaping business.

Nearby, Abbey Weiss untangles her tomato vines and looks for a ripe fruit so she can have a taste. She, like me, is a transplanted New Jersey girl who knows a good tomato. As she hands me a small yellow orb, she invites me to enjoy this “mouthful of sunshine.”

Sweet and juicy it truly is.

“Gardening is a way to connect with the community and the earth,” says Weiss. “It’s satisfying to grow the food that you can eat and give to others.”

Since the garden’s inception, participants have been donating at least 10 percent of their harvest to Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach, which feeds the poor. Over the years the gardeners have contributed more than two tons of produce. From the neatly mulched footpath to the well-defined beds tended by dedicated members, to the bountiful crops, this is a model community garden. But getting here has been a journey.

It started in 2007 when Cason United Methodist Church was struggling to bring people to its ministry. “We were in a big decline and brainstorming about how to reinvigorate our church that was on the edge of being closed,” says Candy Evans, who has been coming to Cason United since 1993 — when she was a new mom of triplets and the women of the church rallied to help her.

Today she is here with her 1-year-old granddaughter, Lilly Evans, who gleefully fills her stroller with much gleaned from the paths.

It was Evans who got to thinking about the five acres sitting next to the church. “For 40 years nothing had been done with them,” she says. And that’s when she had her “light bulb moment.”

Evans, with her friend Lori Robbins, got the garden off the ground by rounding up donations of compost, weed cloth and a sign. It was Evans who brought a house from home. In 2008, they opened the garden to 20 members who first planted vegetables in the designated 2,500 square feet.

“The rest is history,” says Evans. Since then the garden has doubled to include 40 gardeners and 5,000 square feet of land.

“Everyone is welcome,” says Evans.

The garden members range from children who are being home schooled, all the way up to seniors such as Mable McDonough, 88, who has been with the church since 1948. She had never gardened before she played in the dirt here at the community garden.

“The garden is not only a real source of joy for our church community, but anyone can get their hands dirty in our plots,” she says. She shares her plot with the Rev. C. Alexis Talbott.

Michael Lorne, owner of Lorne and Sons Funeral Home in Delray Beach and a master gardener, has been involved since the beginning.

Each gardener is supplied with a planting bed filled with rich, dark compost and a spigot for water. To be sure new participants get off on the right foot, Lorne uses his gardening skills to provide a one-on-one introductory session.

“This garden is a great way for us to connect with the earth, our spirituality and our community,” says Evans.

Delray Beach Children’s Garden, the first of its kind in Palm Beach County, opens Jan. 3 in downtown Delray Beach. A year in the making, the garden, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit project, was planted by children as well as civic leaders, landscape designers and horticulturalists. The grand opening, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., is free.

The garden is at 137 SW 2nd Avenue in Delray Beach. For more information, call Shelly Zacks at 561-716-8342.

Candy Evans waters her plot at Cason Community Garden. She and a friend got the garden started in 2008 with 20 gardeners and 2,500 square feet; now there are 40 participants and 5,000 square feet of thriving vegetable gardens.

Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

For more information, contact Candy Evans; or Lori Robbins, 271-2010, lonatrip3@gmail.com; or Lorraine Churchill, 374-2541, onatrip3@gmail.com, or Lori Robbins, 271-2010, LoriRobbins@comcast.net.

The Coastal Star

January 2016

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January 10-16

Tuesday - 1/5 - Boca Raton Garden Club General Meeting. Continuous at 7:30 p.m. Art Exhibit Hall, 531 NW 3rd Ave, Elizabeth Kusuk presents Damsel in Defense. 1 pm. Free. 395-9075, bocaortangardenclub.org

Saturday - 1/9 - Farm Your Backyard: Vegetables Gardening at Mounts Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall. 531 NW Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Speaker: Anthony Fromm. 9 a.m.-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Sunday - 1/10 - Bonsai Day Intensive at Mounts Botanical Gardens. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Workshop, speaker and sea urchin biscuit baking. 1 pm. Free. 395-9070, bocaratongardens.org

Tuesday - 1/5 - Boca Raton Garden Club General Meeting at BOC Clubhouse, 4095 NW 9th Ave, 3rd floor, Berea, Speaker: Dr. William Stopka. 9 am-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Wednesday - 1/27 - 90th Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Sunday- 1/3 - The Art of Bonsai: Introduction. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Speaker: Arthur Kerstein. 9 am-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Wednesday - 1/6 - How to Grow Orchids in Your Yard presented by Bill Murray at Delray Beach Orchid Society at Veterans Park Recreation Center, 800 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Speaker: David Dohlin. 9:15-noon. $30/members; $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Tuesday - 1/12 - Boca Raton Garden Club General Meeting at BOC Clubhouse, 4095 NW 9th Ave, Speaker: Daphne Bilodeau. 9:15-noon. $30/members; $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Sunday - 1/3 - The Art of Bonsai: Introductory session. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $91/non-members. Advance registration required. 498-4213; workshops.org

Thursday - 1/14 - Drip Irrigation: Efficiency by Design at Mounts Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall, 531 NW Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Speaker: David Dohlin. 9:15-noon. $30/members; $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Tuesday - 1/5 - Boca Raton Garden Club General Meeting at BOC Clubhouse, 4095 NW 9th Ave, Speaker: Candace Evans. 9 a.m.-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

Friday - 1/8 - Boca Raton Garden Club General Meeting at BOC Clubhouse, 4095 NW 9th Ave, Speaker: Candace Evans. 9 a.m.-noon. $30/members, $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

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Thursday - 1/14 - Orchid Restoration Project in the Florida Keys. 1 pm. $30/members; $35/non-members. 233-1757; mounts.org

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Sunday - 1/3 - The Art of Bonsai: Introductory session. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $91/non-members. Advance registration required. 498-4213; work...
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Where generations have enjoyed the privacy of living in one of South Florida's premier gated communities. A hidden gem with homes situated on large lots connecting nature's beauty with elegance and grace in everyday life. Located just 25 minutes south of Worth Avenue.

ESTATE HOME  Graciously situated on over two acres and nestled down a stately drive of magnificent oak trees, this beautiful 3BR/4.1BA with guest house estate home offers spectacular views. Offered at $2,595,000

AN ARCHITECTURAL GEM  Magnificent estate home 4BR/5.2BA, 8,240 total sq. ft, resort style pool, reflection pond, complete guest wing on almost 2 acres of manicured lawn. Offered at $2,395,000

TROPICAL ELEGANCE ABOUNDS  3BR/3BA main house with 2BR/2BA Guest villa and pool, sited on .85 acre with magnificent golf course views. Offered at $1,549,000

OLD WORLD SOPHISTICATION  Gracious and elegant 4BR/4.1BA home on .73 acres with stunning views of golf course, lushly landscaped pool/spa, totally updated. Offered at $1,495,000

CONTEMPORARY ESTATE HOME  Dramatic light filled contemporary 4BR/4.1BA estate home on .84 acres, with glorious views of golf course and pond. Offered at $1,295,000

ESTATE HOME SITES  also available starting at $534,000 for 1 acre lots and $875,000 for 1.46 acre lots.
Shopping Hot Spots

Five not-to-miss places in Plaza del Mar

Story and photos by Mary Thurwachter

Plaza del Mar, at the southwest corner of East Ocean Avenue and South Ocean Boulevard in Manalapan, is music to the ears of islanders who really don’t want to cross the bridge to shop. Visitors will find an assortment of restaurants, boutiques and other businesses that can help them book their next vacation, purchase a home, have their nails done, find casual clothing, buy one-of-a-kind art or jewelry or even catch a play or film at The Palm Beaches Theatre.

Parking is free and there’s no long walk to hunt for your car. Many of the shops and restaurants are Fido-friendly, so you don’t have to leave a pampered pooch whimpering at home. Here are five not-to-miss spots at Plaza del Mar:

1. Evelyn & Arthur

There are several lovely clothing shops in the Plaza, but the one that has been around for the longest is Evelyn & Arthur (above), a family-owned business in the plaza for 30 years. With nine locations across Florida, the store offers casual, often colorful clothes designed for women who want a stylish fit, but don’t want to look like their teenage daughters. A section of the store is devoted to unique cards and gifts.

2. Sheila Payne Gallery

Sheila Payne’s works are called “off the wall” and “outlandish,” and she’s fine with that. The former stocks and bonds trader has no formal art background and admits she didn’t even know she was an artist until she tried it a few years ago. Payne (right) makes jewelry and three-dimensional pieces with ordinary materials, including chains, keys, shards of mirrors and seashells. Buy something here and you have a conversation starter. Or just visit her gallery and Sheila will tell you the stories behind each piece. You won’t be bored.

3. The restaurants

John G’s, a casual, family-owned restaurant (below), has been a local hot spot for breakfast and lunch since it opened in 1973. Seating is available inside and out, and the fried fish is scrumptious. If you go for breakfast, try the almond-encrusted French toast.

The little pizza, pasta and wine restaurant called Manalapan Pizza and its Basil Bar take full advantage of the courtyard setting as they serve Italian fare all day. At night, music adds to the allure.

The Coastal Star

January 2016

The COASTAL STAR

January 2016

561-347-8383 or jyswam@comcast.net

PERSO

HIGH-SCHOOL}

NEW ASSIGNMENT

I am Judy Yusem, formerly the owner with my husband, Hank, of Yusem Homes. Together we built parts of Boca West, Harbor Point and Broken Sound. My background is extensive and varied. It includes the intricacies of the construction business, complete planning and preparation for world travel (including wardrobe selection and efficient packing), social calendar organization and event arrangement as well as personal shopping.

My significant traits to offer you, as an Employer, are that I am highly organized, passionate, creative and focused. I am looking for my next important adventure.

I would most enjoy a position with a busy couple or an active female professional helping to keep things on schedule in south Florida or a second location as needed. Time for me can be extremely maneuverable and flexible.

Resume, references and notables available upon request.

Contact me at

January 2016

This is the second in a series of five shopping areas The Coastal Star will feature this season. Next up: East Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, followed by Mizner Park and Royal Palm Place in Boca Raton.
Live in Seagate Style.

When you live in a Seagate community, you can experience all that the Seagate lifestyle has to offer, with membership opportunities at The Seagate Beach Club, the recently renovated Seagate Country Club, and the brand new Seagate Yacht Club.

Luxury Homes at The Seagate Country Club
Open floor plans, meticulously planned features, and golf course and lake views make this stylish collection of Delray Beach homes as comfortable as they are enjoyable.

3200 South Ocean
Located on the Intracoastal in Highland Beach, these luxury residences feature unparalleled amenities, breathtaking views, and a private boardwalk to the ocean.

150 Oceanside
Located in Delray Beach, just minutes from downtown and the ocean, these residences feature floor-to-ceiling windows, sweeping floor plans, and jaw-dropping contemporary kitchens.

The Residences at The Seagate Yacht Club
Spacious townhomes in Delray Beach, featuring rooftop terraces, private elevators, and pools in every home, as well as a 44-slip marina on the Intracoastal for yachts up to 120 feet.

Seagate Residences
Elegant condominiums with beautifully landscaped exteriors and tastefully detailed interiors. Situated on A1A, directly across from the historic Seagate Beach Club in Delray Beach.

600 Seasage
This 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom home is located in east Delray Beach’s most prestigious neighborhood, within walking distance of the Seagate Beach Club and the Atlantic Ocean.

Contact Seagate Realty at 561-202-1237, or visit SeagateRealtyGroup.com

Oral representations cannot be relied upon as correctly stating the representations of the developer. For correct representations, reference should be made to the contract and the documents required by section 718.553, Florida statutes, to be furnished by a developer to a buyer or lessee. All dimensions, features, and square footage are approximate and subject to change without notice. Renderings are artist’s concept. 01/16.
On the Water

Input being sought on ways to protect Florida’s precious reefs

S
pearfishing with scuba gear could become a thing of the past in the waters of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. Coral reef education could become mandatory in South Florida schools. Anglers who pass an online exam covering the Coral Reef Protection Act and basic boating laws could pay less for their fishing licenses.

There are just a few examples of the dozens of recommended management actions that have been proposed through the Our Florida Reefs community planning process to protect the reef tract that stretches from Miami to Stuart.

The public is invited to comment on management options to protect the reefs during two meetings set for Jan. 29 at the Delray Beach Public Library. Meeting times are noon to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the library, 100 S. Atlantic Ave.

The Delray Beach reef meetings are part of a series of community workshops being held in the four-county area through Feb. 18 to gather feedback from boaters, divers, anglers and others on a variety of suggested reef protection measures.

Other proposals being considered to protect the reefs would include:
- Designate the reef tract off Miami, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties as a “particularly sensitive sea area” to reduce impacts from tugboat operations.
- Create coral reef “gardens” that could be closely monitored to promote the recovery of coral reefs, particularly those damaged by hurricanes, restoration and recruitment of corals and fish.
- Nominate the four-county area to be designated as a national marine sanctuary similar to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in Monroe County.

A porkfish swims through elkhorn coral, a threatened species, on a reef off Pompano Beach. South Florida coral reefs face threats from pollution, anchor damage, high water temperatures and other factors. The public is invited to comment on proposals to protect the region’s reefs during two meetings Jan. 29 in Delray Beach.

Photo provided by Ana N. Zangroniz

To learn more about these proposals, visit the “Florida Reefs planning process” page on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission’s website at www.floridawildlife.org and click the “Lead a Workshop” tab.

NOMINATE

Designate

Four-tract

Tract

\( \text{2010} \)

\( \text{N.} \)

\( \text{Tip of the month} \)

More than 200 people voted online and in person to choose the name “Morty” for the stunted manatee mascot at the Waterstone Resort & Marina in Boca Raton.

Sailfish angler Tara Eddings was fishing off Boca Raton during the Operation Sailfish tournament in mid-December when something much larger than a sailfish hit her live poggy-eye, dangled from a fishing kite in 350 feet of water.

After a two-hour fight with Capt. Ray Shoher aboard the 39-foot Contender Miss Britt (during which the crew hooked two more sailfish), Eddings boated a 104.6-pound yellowfin tuna, caught on 20-pound-test line rigged with 40-pound-test leader.

Her tuna was the heaviest fish ever weighed in any of the Quest for the Crest sailfish release tournaments organized by Deerfield Beach-based Blue Water Movements.

Delray Beach Historical Society angles for fish tales

The Delray Beach Historical Society is asking Palm Beach County residents to share fishing stories, photographs and memorabilia for a fishing history exhibit planned for the spring.

The exhibit is expected to include fishing photos, mounted fish and fishing tales from throughout South Florida but will focus on southern Palm Beach County.

To participate, contact historical society archivist Janet DeVries or Michelle Quigley at 274-9578 or email: DelrayBeach@sbcglobal.net.

Manatee dubbed “Morty” at Waterstone Resort

More than 200 people voted in person and online to choose the name “Morty” for the stunted manatee mascot at the Waterstone Resort & Marina in Boca Raton.

The name selection was celebrated Dec. 20 with a manatee-naming party at the resort featuring a buffet lunch for kids, manatee cookie decorating and appearances by Santa and Morty.

The resort plans to offer a special package next year in which 10 percent of the lodging fee will go to the Save the Manatee Club and guests will receive a stuffed manatee when they check in.

Guests see real manatees from the porch of the waterfront resort near Boca Raton Inlet, spokeswoman Allie Weinstein said.

Coming events


Jan. 9: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary in Boca Raton. Class will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the headquarters building at Spanish River Park, 3939 N. Ocean Blvd. Fee: 85. Register at door. Bring lunch. 391-3600 or www.cgauxboca.org.


Jan. 26: Brett Fitzgerald, director of the Snook & Gamefish Foundation, speaks to the Boynton Beach Fishing Club, 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse by the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 2010 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Fee: 40. Call Sandy Mersides, 734-2244.

Tip of the month

South Florida boaters who take their vessels on the ocean and have a satellite beacon such as an EPIRB or a PLB in case of emergency probably know that the beacon must be registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

But they might not realize that beacon registrations must be updated every two years. If the boat or phone number associated with the beacon registration changes, the registration also must be updated with NOAA.

Updating a satellite beacon registration is simple: Go to www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov and use the beacon’s 15-digit ID number to update or confirm the information.

If an emergency beacon is sold, the seller should notify NOAA so the new owner can register it.

Owners who have questions about registering or updating their emergency beacons can call NOAA at 888-212-7283 or email Beacon.Registration@noaa.gov.

Willy Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at 561-456-9578 or bellouwh.net.
JANUARY 2
Saturday 1/2 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at lower parking lot 9:15 am. Free. jefflarsen12@gmail.com
1/2 - Boardwalk Tours at Green Cay Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm. $5/adult, free children 18 & under. Members $4. Reservations: payment required: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
1/2 - Outdoor Marine Aquaria Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 10 am. Free. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
1/9 - Seining the Lagoon at Gumbo Limbo. Hand-held dip nets and large seine nets allow participants to catch and release a variety of fish, shrimp, crabs and marine life. Wear clothes that can get wet and dirty. No flip-flops or sandals. Old sandals are fine. Ages 10 to adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. $5/adult, $3/student. 7:15 am to 10:30 am. 806-7000; pbcgov.com/nature.
1/9 - Mangrove Paddle from the Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Hand-held dip nets and large seine nets allow participants to catch and release a variety of fish, shrimp, crabs and marine life. Wear clothes that can get wet. Prerequisite: Must be proficient at paddling and maneuvering a canoe in open-water and surf conditions. Must be capable of getting into and out of a canoe from a dock and dry or muddy land on your own or with assistance from a company, be capable of getting into and out of a canoe from a dock and dry or muddy land on your own or with assistance from a company, be physically able to get back into a canoe from the water in case of tipping. Ages 7-adult, an adult must participate with each child under 18. $9/adult, children free at Waterway. 10 am. Reservations: payment required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
1/16 - The Night Stalkers at Green Cay Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Night-time boardwalk tour looking at nature from the point of view of its nocturnal residents. All ages. 6 pm. $5/person. Reservations required: 544-7086; pbcgov.com/birdwatcher
Thursday 1/18 - The Python Challenge Training at Daggerwing Nature Center, 13855 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Focuses on protecting the Everglades ecosystem by activating people to remove Burmese pythons from natural habitats. Training educates participants to identify, report, safely and humanely capture. Learn to correctly distinguish pythons from native snakes. 10:30 am. $30/person. Reservations required: 629-8700; pythontat.com
1/30 - The Python Challenge: Training at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-10:30 am. 369-5501; seaangels.org
JANUARY 3-9
Tuesday 1/5 - Audubon Society of the Everglades at Five Joys Environmental Education Center, 6301 Samuelle Blvd, West Palm Beach. Entry is 5-7 pm. auduboneverglades.org
1/5 - 1/6 - A Walk On The Ashby Trail at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided walk along 1/4 mile natural trail winds through the butterfly garden, coastal hammock, mangroves to a sandy beach with the Intracoastal. All ages, children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat. 1/2-12/31 each Sat 10-12:30 am. Free. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
Wednesday 1/6 - Eco-Watch: Africanized Honey Bees at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Presented by Ron Rice, part of the Lecture Series. Light refreshments, opportunity to talk with the speaker follow. Ages 14 & up, children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7-8:30 pm. $5/suggested donation.
JANUARY 10-16
JANUARY 17-23
Wednesday 1/20 - Eco-Watch: Sea Turtles and Light Pollution at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Light refreshments, opportunity to talk with the speaker follow. Ages 14 & up, children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7-8:30 pm. $5/suggested donation.
JANUARY 24-30
Thursday 1/26 - Boynton Beach Fishing Club at Harvey L. Oyn, 9 Park, 2016 N Federal Hwy. Join other fishermen to discuss hot topics and new trends in the trade. Every Fri 4:45-7:00 pm. Free. 703-5508; boytonbeach.org
Thursday 1/26 - Eco-Watch: Backyard Sea Angelfish at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-10:30 am. 369-5501; seaangels.org
JANUARY 31-FEB. 5
Tuesday 2/2 - Audubon Society of the Everglades at Five Joys Environmental Education Center, 6301 Samuelle Blvd, West Palm Beach. Every Thu 7:00 pm. auduboneverglades.org
Tuesday 2/2 - Eco-Watch: Backyard Habitat & Native Plants at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Light refreshments, opportunity to talk with the speaker follow. Ages 14 & up, children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7:60 pm. $5/suggested donation.
Reservations accepted but not required: 544-8615, gumbolimbo.org

Franklin M. Boyar, DMD
welcomes
Lauren K. O’Hagan, DMD
to the practice
We’ve been in Delray Beach for 40 years and now look forward to move on more!

Outdoors Calendar
Note: Events are current as of 12/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

Photo provided by Endless Imagery

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Photo provided by Endless Imagery
**Direct Oceanfront Estate** – $4,995,000
5 BR, 4 BA (two half baths) pool home with 6,980 sq. ft. under air offering panoramic ocean views from the living and dining rooms, kitchen and master bedroom suite. Exquisitely designed and elegantly appointed. Huge game room, theatre, gourmet kitchen and 3 balconies on the second floor.
Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

**Lake Ida Smart Home** – $1,595,000
4 BR, 4½ BA courtyard pool home on an oversized lot, 3,448 sq. ft. of living area, 10’ ceilings, custom millwork, impact windows & doors, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, ensuite bedrooms. Great outdoor space with covered loggia, summer kitchen and heated pool. Close to downtown.
Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

**Bermuda High West** – $940,000
A rare opportunity to own a 3 BR, 3 BA to level townhome with an attached carport in Delray Beach. Abundant natural light, spacious updated kitchen with granite, huge top floor master suite with luxurious bath. 2,200 sq. ft. under air.
Diana Byrne, 561-707-8561

**Beach Area Cottage** – $1,199,000
Just 1 block to the beach! Charming 3/3 two story cottage with a 1 car garage. This open floor plan features ceramic tile and wood floors, kitchen with breakfast bar and Florida room with wood beamed ceilings.
Cheran Marek, 561-870-8855

**Direct Oceanfront** – $1,550,000
A rare opportunity to own a 3 BR, 3 BA tri-level townhome with an attached carport in Delray Beach. Abundant natural light, spacious updated kitchen with granite, huge top floor master suite with luxurious bath. 2,200 sq. ft. under air.
Diana Byrne, 561-707-8561

**Place Au Soleil Waterfront** – $1,529,000
Completely renovated 4 BR, plus den, 2 ½ BA pool home with 80’ frontage on a deep water canal just 3 lots off the Intracoastal waterway. Very desirable southern exposure. 2,721 sq. ft. under air with impact glass windows and doors.
Diana Byrne, 561-707-8561

**Delray Harbor Club** – $599,000
Fantastic 2 BR, 2 BA penthouse with 2 balconies overlooking the marina and the Intracoastal. Light & bright 2 BR, 2½ BA two story townhome with a private courtyard and dock that can accommodate a 28’ boat with a 9000 lb. lift. End unit with 2 balconies, plus impact glass.
Vicky Hiering, 561-445-5990

**Bar Harbour** – $540,000
Beautifully upgraded 2 BR, 2½ BA corner unit with hurricane impact windows and balcony ocean breezes. This split bedroom features wood floors and a laundry room in the unit. Walk to the beach and Atlantic Avenue.
Jeff Johnson, 561-376-4328

**La Pensee** – South Palm Beach $595,000
Enjoy spectacular direct ocean views from this 3 BR, 3 ½ BA condominium on the 4th floor with a large balcony offering a northeastern exposure. Ensuite bedrooms, custom mirrors, garage parking and oceanfront pool.
Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

**Highland Beach Club** – $595,000
Completely renovated 2 BR, 2 BA on the 9th floor offering outstanding Ocean and Intracoastal views. Interior features include Saturnia marble floors, two master suites, upgraded bathrooms, washer & dryer, plus an open kitchen with granite.
Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

**Direct Intracoastal** – $624,900
Palm Trail Place with deeded dock in Delray Beach. Light & bright 2 BR, 2½ BA two story townhome with a private courtyard and dock that can accommodate a 28’ boat with a 9000 lb. lift. End unit with 2 balconies, plus impact glass.
Vicky Hiering, 561-445-5990

**Highland Beach Club** – $595,000
Completely renovated 2 BR, 2 BA on the 9th floor offering outstanding Ocean and Intracoastal views. Interior features include Saturnia marble floors, two master suites, upgraded bathrooms, washer & dryer, plus an open kitchen with granite.
Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

**Bar Harbour** – $540,000
Beautifully upgraded 2 BR, 2½ BA corner unit with hurricane impact windows and balcony ocean breezes. This split bedroom features wood floors and a laundry room in the unit. Walk to the beach and Atlantic Avenue.
Jeff Johnson, 561-376-4328

**NEW PRICE**

**NEW LISTING**
Barr Terrace – $525,000
This 2 BR, 2 BA condominium on the 9th floor and the quiet side of the building features a large open balcony overlooking the Intracoastal and offers a view of the ocean. Ideally situated in the heart of downtown.
Jeff Johnson, 561-376-4328

Martel Arms – $245,000
2 BR, 2 BA townhome with a courtyard, east of Federal Highway in Delray Beach. Spacious family room and dining area. Close to downtown and the beach. Pet friendly.
Vicky Hiering, 561-445-5990

Southwinds At Crosswinds – $149,000
2 BR, 2 BA third floor condo, spacious covered porch. Split bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, laundry room. Furniture negotiable. This Delray Beach community is centrally located with a clubhouse, pool, hot tub and tennis courts.
Linda Welch, 561-951-6433

Southwinds At Crosswinds – $149,000
2 BR, 2 BA third floor condo, spacious covered porch. Split bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, laundry room. Furniture negotiable. This Delray Beach community is centrally located with a clubhouse, pool, hot tub and tennis courts.
Linda Welch, 561-951-6433

Seagate of Gulfstream – $159,900
Immaculate 2 BR, 2 BA end unit on the second floor. An open updated kitchen with custom cabinets, granite countertops and built-in bar with wine cooler. This SS+ community offers a clubhouse and 2 pools on the Intracoastal.
Jeff Johnson, 561-376-4328

Lavers Delray Racquet Club – $209,000
Beautifully updated 2/2 split condo on the 4th floor with a screen enclosed balcony overlooking the tennis courts. Large bedrooms with updated baths, tile floors throughout, spacious eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar, plus separate laundry room.
Kathy Baffer, 561-714-0348

NEW LISTING

Marina Village – $385,000
This northwestern corner 3 BR, 2 BA condominium on the 11th floor features a wrap-around balcony and offers preserve, Intracoastal and Ocean views. Impact glass doors and windows, plus ceramic tile floors throughout.
Cherin Marek, 561-302-1552

NEW LISTING

Palm Trail – $349,900
Rarely available 2 BR, 2 BA second floor end unit is close to the beach and downtown. Ceramic tile floors and plantation shutters throughout, brand new A/C, compressor, refrigerator and washer/dryer.
Vicky Hiering, 561-445-5990

NEW LISTING

Renaissance Commons – $249,000
3 BR, plus den, 3 ½ BA tri-level townhome with a 2 car garage, ceramic tile floors, high ceilings with tray details, high hat lighting, open kitchen with granite countertops and full size washer/dryer. Clubhouse, pool and exercise room.
Kim Muller, 561-665-1847  Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

NEW LISTING

Direct Intracoastal – $295,000
Completely renovated 2 BR, 2 BA ground floor end unit offering amazing Intracoastal views at Seagate of Gulfstream in Boynton Beach. Marble floors, open kitchen with granite and stainless, plus impact glass throughout.
Kim Muller, 561-665-1847  Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200

NEW LISTING

East Wind Beach Club – From $290,000
Very desirable location right across the street from the beach and one block to Atlantic Avenue. All units are 1/1 with a porch. 3 first floor units and 1 second floor unit are currently available. Rentals through on-site manager.
Elizabeth Rurey, 561-302-1552

NEW LISTING

Lavers Delray Racquet Club – $209,000
Beautifully updated 2/2 split condo on the 4th floor with a screen enclosed balcony overlooking the tennis courts. Large bedrooms with updated baths, tile floors throughout, spacious eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar, plus separate laundry room.
Kathy Baffer, 561-714-0348

NEW LISTING

Quail Run – Boynton Beach
3 BR, 2 ½ BA, 1 car garage. Corner unit with split bedrooms, screen enclosed porch and vaulted ceilings. $269,000
Lakefront 2 BR, 2 BA ground floor coach home with a 1 car garage. Community pool, hot tub and tennis courts. $209,000
Linda Welch, 561-951-6433

NEW LISTING

Town & Country Estates – $124,900
Beautifully decorated 2 BR, 2 BA corner unit on the second floor with a spacious screen enclosed porch. Ceramic tile floors throughout, full size washer & dryer, large master suite with walk-in closet, new A/C and water heater. Pet friendly.
Cindy Bray, 561-329-7968

NEW LISTING

Southwinds At Crosswinds – $149,000
2 BR, 2 BA third floor condo, spacious covered porch. Split bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, laundry room. Furniture negotiable. This Delray Beach community is centrally located with a clubhouse, pool, hot tub and tennis courts.
Linda Welch, 561-951-6433

NEW LISTING
Tots & Teens

They’re not selfies: Poses that are good for body and mind

By Janis Fontaine

Today, yoga is so mainstream, you’ll find yoga classes in hospitals, schools and even rehab. It’s noninvasive, low-impact, and can be done to (some degree, at least) by everyone, regardless of fitness level. Experts prescribe yoga for ailments ranging from high blood pressure to carpal tunnel syndrome to headaches. There’s even yoga for flat feet.

Now parents — kids, too — are turning their attention to yoga as a means of handling school stress, anxiety, depression, ADD and ADHD, issues with self-esteem, and the physical manifestations of those conditions, like insomnia and stomach problems.

When kids start a class with Jo Boccassini, who teaches at Yoga Sol in Delray Beach, they think yoga’s focus is on the body and the ability to perfectly mimic the teacher’s body shapes. But as they learn the poses, their minds also become engaged and they like the way yoga feels, Boccassini said.

“They’re really starting to like is the quietness. Deliberate stillness. I’m starting to like is the quietness. The way yoga feels, Boccassini said. Boccassini has been teaching kids in Jo Boccassini’s class do a pose called rope sirsasana. For some kids, the stranger and more challenging the pose, the better. Photos provided

isn’t working, she tries something else. And always, she remembers, it has to be about having fun (but with structure). “I want the kids to feel supported by the Earth and safe in my class,” Boccassini said. A few years ago, some people wanted to come in and observe the kids in class, so she spoke to the kids about it. “The next day the kids 2016 will be held April 2 in Fort Lauderdale, and will fund the fourth teen trip to Costa Rica.

YogaFest four years ago in Fort Lauderdale to raise money for their teen program. They were committed to offering free yoga to local kids, teaching them yoga. When the kids left, they gave away most of their possessions to the friends they made. Headphones, clothing, jewelry all meant more to them in the hands of someone else.

YogaFest 2016 will be held April 2 in Fort Lauderdale, and will fund the fourth teen trip to Costa Rica. The kids planted trees, and picked up garbage, and they made friends with the local kids, teaching them yoga. When the kids left, they gave away most of their possessions to the friends they made. Headphones, clothing, jewelry all meant more to them in the hands of someone else.

YogaFest four years ago in Fort Lauderdale to raise money for their teen program. They were committed to offering more to these kids. They wanted to broaden their horizons, to show them the world outside South Florida, with a community service trip to Costa Rica. The kids planted trees, and picked up garbage, and they made friends with the local kids, teaching them yoga. When the kids left, they gave away most of their possessions to the friends they made. Headphones, clothing, jewelry all meant more to them in the hands of someone else.

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TOTS & TEENS CALENDAR

January 2
Saturday 1/2 - War of Words Academy & City Surf Weekend Camp at Delray Beach Municipal Beach, Ocean Boulevard. Ages 5-15. $20 per 2.5 hr. $17.50 per 2 hr. $15 per class. $560/residents. 243-7152; mydelraybeach.com

2/5 - Triangle of People Dance Team at Pump Realty, 222 NW 2nd Ave. Free. 2/26-3/23: $42. 742-6070; dance@pump-realty.com

2/5 - Adrenaline Rush Athletics at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Explore a popular athletics school near touch. Children attend independently. Ages 4-6. Every 1st and 3rd Sun. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 393-7993; barley@lbrc.org

January 3-9
Sunday 1/3 - Grand Opening Celebration of Delray Beach Children’s Garden at 137th Ave. M/W/F 10 am. Free. Registration: 742-6380; deltabeach.org

1/4 - Pro-Wrap Hop & Tumble at Rutherford Community Center, 300 S. Military Tr. Racial self confidence, motor skills, coordination, dance rhythm. Fees: Adult & kids classes. 9am-12 & 12:30-3pm. $28/$20. 742-6575; boynton-beach.org

1/4 - Fencing/Epee Class at Rutherford Community Center, 300 S. Military Tr. $30/residents. $40/non-residents. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.com

1/4 - Kangaroo Kids Programs at Rutherford Community Center, 300 S. Military Tr. $100/residents, $125/non-residents. 243-7353; kangarookids.com

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825 W Oyster Lane – Brand new 5BR/5.5BA Intracoastal home with fabulous water views, the finest of finishes & state-of-the-art kitchen. Large yard & summer kitchen for entertaining. Deep water dock with quick ocean access. $4,995,000

1370 Lands End Road – Newly constructed Point Manalapan home on 7 acres with 310’ of fabulous Intracoastal views. 10,000 SF, two master suites, dockage just minutes from the Ocean. Gratis Beach Club membership. $9,995,000

961 Lands End Road – This newly constructed 5BR/7.5BA waterfront pool home sits on the wide Intracoastal of Hypoluxo Island. Finest of details throughout with every imaginable amenity Dockage and Ocean access included. $4,995,000

500 S Ocean Blvd – Beautiful Oceanside 3BR/2.5BA Villa located on the first floor in Manalapan offers amazing Ocean views and resort gratis beach club membership. $5,000,000

Note: Events are current as of 12/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

January 2016

Tots & Teens Calendar

Willow Theatre, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Rated G

Tail waggers Dog Circus 1/2 - Story Time 10 am. Free. Registration: 278-5455; myboca.us

1/2 - Bookworm Storytime at Highland Beach Library, N 31st Ocean Blvd. Songs and craft project. Ages 3 & up. Every Sat 10 am. Free. Registration: 278-5455; highlandbeachlibrary.org


1/3 - Imagination Playground Open Session at Raton Children’s Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Free. Sat 11:30 am through 2:30 pm. Free. 968-4011; sugarsandpark.org

1/4 - Tot Tumbling/Gymnastics at Willow Theatre, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Ages 1 & 2. 2 pm. $35. 512-16 & under: 347-3904; willowtheatre.org
Tourism and entertainment, schools and venue programs provide exercise, teach how to gracefully play. 

1/11 - FSA Test Prep at the Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 NW 2nd Ave. Designed to help you study for the Florida Standards Assessment. $30; Florida Standards Assessment.

1/11 - Happy Sunshine Yoga: Kids & Teens at Sugar Sand Park, 300 NW 2nd Ave. Served. Grades 1-3-5 through 1/28. $25, $30 residents; 300 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6 at 3:30 pm. $25, $30 residents; 300 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6 at 3:30 pm. $25, $30 residents; 300 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6 at 3:30 pm. $25, $30 residents; 300 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6 at 3:30 pm. $25, $30 residents; 300 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6 at 3:30 pm.
7:30 pm. Free. 393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Tween Book Jam at Boca Raton Public Library, residents. 367-7035; myboca.us
1/13 - Skill Drill Basketball Program
$60/non-residents. 393-7807; myboca.us
a yoga mat. Every W through 2/3. Ages 5-7:
music, storytelling, art; conveys lessons in
1/13 - Yoga Kids Class
City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Let your
1/14 - Fingerpaint 101
at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Monthly challenge
1/12 - First Step Sports
at Veterans Park, 802 NE 28th Ave, Boca Raton. Beginner's program
1/12 - Archery Class
at Intracoastal Library, 508 S Seacrest Blvd. Monthly challenge
1/11 - Children's Ballet Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 158 Crawford Road. Standard ballet attire, learn different variations for a musical ballet at the end of each session. Attire black leotard and ballet slippers. Ages 5-9. Every Th 3-4 pm through 3/17. $120/resident, $150/non-resident. 393-7877, myboca.us
Saturday - 1/7 - Play Ball
Boca Raton. Ages 5-6 ($with parent); every W Ages 7-9. 4-5 pm. $25/1 session. 393-7968, myboca.us
Network with other professionals. Adults.
1/31 - PowerPoint Presentation: Network with other professionals. Adults.
1/30 - Brady Rymer and the Little Band that Could
Each month, The Coastal Star features a house for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our houses.

Set off by stone cladding, side-lights and glass panels, the double-door entry leads into the foyer with honed French vanilla marble floor.

Located in the 24-hour guard gated The Sanctuary, the home features a window-walled great room flowing to the waterfront pool terrace.

East Boca Raton beauty

This brand-new deep-water estate in The Sanctuary is sited on 94 feet of south facing waterfront with views reaching The Sanctuary’s nature preserve. Its distinctive Regency-inspired design in a single-story presentation includes a slate parer motor court leading to a three-bay garage alongside a beautifully landscaped entrance. The deep-water location allows for yacht dockage on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Fine finishes and comfortable proportions are hallmarks of this 6,549-square-foot residence, which includes three bedrooms, 3½ baths, home automation systems, impact-glass windows and a generator. Two of the bedroom suites are privately placed in separate wings, while the master overlooks the waterfront pool.

MLS #RX-10044768. $5,950,000. Call D’Angelo/Ligouri 866-281-6279. Premier Estate Properties, 800 East Palmetto Park Road Boca Raton.

ABOVE: The pool terrace has an outdoor lounge area with a canvas-covered pergola.

LEFT: The gourmet kitchen features high-end appliances.
Villas of Ocean Crest – This beautiful town home is the largest in this charming Oceanside enclave and just yards away from your beach. Enjoy a private garden entrance, 2 on-site guest suites add to this fabulous lifestyle. All pets welcome! $1,299,000

Sun, Surf and the Ave. – Welcome home to the elegant yet casual lifestyle that is Delray Beach! Located directly across from the beach with private access and only blocks from trendy Atlantic Avenue. This romantic Mediterranean estate boasts over 10,000 total SF, separate guest house, expansive theater room, temperature controlled wine cellar, outdoor loggias, elevator and exquisite architectural details throughout. $7,250,000

Delray Ocean Access – Terrific 3BR/2.5BA home with deep water canal and desirable Southern exposure. Expansive open floor plan, wood flooring, custom kitchen, crown moldings & impact glass. Only 3 lots off the Intracoastal & minutes to downtown Delray. $649,000

Mariner Village – Fantastic gated waterfront townhome with 90’ of dockage right behind your home! Open kitchen, large master suite overlooking the water and secondary master suite. Great East location. Never metal roofs. Pets welcome. $449,000

Terri Berman
561-445-2929
theresaberman@aol.com

Laura Gallagher
561-441-6111
lauramgallagher@aol.com

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Linda Lake

Linda Lake
561-702-4898
lakeny1@bellsouth.net

The Grove at Lake Ida – Newly constructed home in Lake Ida neighborhood. Featuring front porch, private pool, detailed craftsmanship and fine appointments. Five minutes to pristine Ocean and vibrant downtown Delray. $1,250,000

Ocean Ridge Waterway – Gracious luxury estate home located on 100 ft of protected dockage. This home features a tremendous gourmet kitchen. Master suite overlooks waterfront. Luxurious pool and entertainment area. Easy beach access. $2,100,000

Palm Trail Neighborhood – Fabulous new modern transitional style home. 2 en-suite master bedrooms and detached guest suite with private entrance. Seller credits pool installation. Very close to Ocean, Intracoastal and downtown Delray. $1,595,000

Osceola Park – Opportunity to build your dream home! 100 x 100 property located close to Ocean, Intracoastal and vibrant downtown Delray Beach shops and restaurants. Single family residential zoning. $995,000

Living Legend in Delray – 1937 cottage is one of a kind in the beach area! Lovingly restored over the years. Spacious rooms, ageless details, lush tropical garden and oversized pool. 3BR/3.5BA-deren/study. One block to beach and Atlantic Avenue. $2,450,000

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
& SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00
Wanna Laugh with the Library? Sure you do.

Organizers in their 10th year of planning this fun fundraiser have had a few giggles of their own along the way

By Emily J. Minor

Have you heard the one about the comedian who went missing five minutes before he was supposed to take the stage?
He was standing at the back of the room, hiding in plain sight.
“We were running around like maniacs trying to find him,” says Bonnie Stelzer, director of community relations at the Delray Beach Public Library.
“It was bad,” says Becky Walsh, who has co-chaired the Delray Beach Public Library’s Laugh with the Library event for the last 10 years.
“I think one of the gals even went in the men’s room trying to find him,” Stelzer remembers.
And then Stelzer looked over, and there he was, that adorably zany Sebastian Maniscalco, standing next to her along the rear wall.
“It’s almost like he was in a trance,” Stelzer said. “These guys are really in the zone before they take the stage.”

See LAUGH on AT 8
South Palm Beach County's Family Major Gifts Event is an event that celebrates the federation's top donors. It is time to 6 p.m. Cover charge is $135. Call 852-6084 or visit www.jewishboca.org.

JANUARY 2016

Sunday - 1/17 - American Friends of The Hebrew University's 2016 Palm Beach Scopus Award Gala at Kravis Center, 1001 North County Road, West Palm Beach. Immerse yourself in television, during an event benefiting Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and letters. 6 p.m. 500-7360 or kravis.org/gala.

Friday - 1/22 - Rotory Club of Boca Raton’s OPAL Gala Under the Palms Gala at Delray Beach Marriott, 1005 S Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Support an organization that provides medical and dental care to the working poor. 6:30 p.m. 616-1222 or ctrfam.org.

Saturday - 1/23 - Tri-County Animal Rescue’s Dinner Dance at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr., Boca Raton. Support an organization that helps to improve the lives of animals. 7-11 p.m. 655-4320 or kravis.org/gala.

Thursday - 2/11 - The American Ireland Fund’s International Red Cross Ball at The Breakers, One South County Road, Palm Beach. For more than 70 years, the committee has dedicated itself to supporting the American Red Cross. 7-11 p.m. 340-4508 or theirelandfunds.org.

Friday - 2/19 - Boca Chamber’s DIAMOND Gala and Auction at Boca Raton Resort & Club, 20550 Boca Resort Blvd., Boca Raton. Enjoy cocktails and dinner at this Western-themed dinner with entertainment by Tony Award-winning solo artist Pat Lalli and receive an elegant dance dress. 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. 575-3277 or 90496.com.

Friday - 2/25-2/26 - The Polo Club of Boca Raton’s Cowboy Boots, & Rhinestones Gala at The Breakers, One South County Road, Palm Beach. For more than 70 years, the committee has dedicated itself to supporting the American Red Cross. 7:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m. 347-8321 or artboca@artboca.org.
Dress down, hoe down at Caribbean Cowboy Ball

By Amy Woods

Tommy Bahama shirts will meet Stetson western hats, and tropical sundresses will meet leather boots at the 23rd annual Caribbean Cowboy Ball on Jan. 30.

Tropical flair and rugged accessories always set a festively fun tone for the George Snow Scholarship Fund’s signature charity event — a fan favorite.

“People are in jeans and cowboy boots and cowboy hats,” said Debi Feiler, the fund’s vice president of program services. “There’s line dancing, an open bar, our live auction. It’s a party, for sure.”

Close to 550 guests are expected to fill two tents set up at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton for an evening of dinner, entertainment and fundraising to help financially needy students attend college. This year’s goal is $125,000.

Money primarily is generated through the live auction, which boasts elaborate — and expensive — items such as an airboat ride to the Everglades for six with a gourmet meal at a secluded ranch.

“You see nothing but birds and sawgrass,” Feiler said of the experience, titled “Camp Deliverance” after the Burt Reynolds movie. “There are several things that are exclusive to the cowboy ball that you’re just never going to find anywhere else.”

Andy Scott is a longtime supporter of the fund and has been named honorary chairman of the event with girlfriend Robin Trompeter, honorary chairwoman.

“Robin and I have been regular contributors,” Scott said. “It’s the right thing to do. I really like the fact that, during the course of four years, they’re really staying in touch with these kids — and on a weekly basis. It’s not like they give them a check and say, ’See you later.’”

In addition to the scholarship, the nonprofit offers several support programs aimed at ensuring academic success.

The Monday Morning Motivational Message is weekly communication consisting of inspirational stories and quotes. The College Supply Program is a gift bag of products scholars receive to use throughout their college careers.

The Summer Jobs Program is designed to help young adults enter the workplace.

“A lot of these kids, they don’t have that foundation at home,” Scott said. “You couldn’t ask for a more worthy cause.”

Bethesda Hospital Foundation

In partnership with Florida Atlantic University’s Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Graduate Medical Education Program at Bethesda Health can shape the future of medical care in Palm Beach County by creating opportunities for promising young medical residents to train here — and stay here to serve our community.

“The future of medicine in this area is in our hands,” says W. Howard Ellingsworth, Chair of the Bethesda Hospital Foundation Board, which is involved in a multi-million-dollar campaign to build a state-of-the-art Center for Medical Education. Talented young resident physicians and healthcare professionals looking to advance will be drawn to the Center, a comprehensive teaching facility with endowed faculty designed to rival any other teaching hospital in the country. “This is an opportunity without limits to impact the lives of our families, friends and neighbors by bringing the best physicians and care to our community.”

Bethesda Hospital Foundation

2815 S. Seacrest Boulevard | Boynton Beach, FL 33435 | 561.737.7733 ext 84445 | BethesdaHospitalFoundation.org
Celebrations

Celebration by the Sea
Delray Beach Club – Oct. 10

For the 22nd time, Hospice by the Sea Foundation and Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation held their signature event — a Hawaiian-themed gala with tropical everything. The evening raised awareness of the full spectrum of grief support services offered by foundations that support end-of-life care. ABOVE: Fern and Bill Martin are flanked by professional hula dancers. Photo provided

Leadership gifts event
St. Andrews Country Club, Boca Raton – Dec. 2

An evening of celebration and keynote presentation by Ehud Barak, former Israeli prime minister, entertained nearly 150 donors to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County who gathered for an elegant cocktail reception and dinner. ABOVE: Barbara Schwartz and Barbara Werner. Photo provided

Thanks for Giving breakfast
Babione-Kraeer Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Boca Raton – Nov. 18

Soroptimist International of Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach had its annual Thanksgiving buffet, catered by Boca Helping Hands, to honor 2015 Women of Distinction nominees, as well as the chairs, sponsors and volunteers who contributed to its success. ABOVE: (l-r) Cynthia Cummings, Elke Schmidt, Ximena Bustame and Judith Hinsch. Photo provided

Community Impact Awards
Broken Sound Club, Boca Raton – Nov. 5

Boca Raton Deputy Mayor Robert Weinroth served as honorary chairman of a special reception recognizing community mental-health advocates, including individuals and businesses that support Faulk Center for Counseling’s mission of providing free and low-cost services to the public. LEFT: (l-r) Honorees Barbara Schmidt, Debra Ainbinder, Kim Nutter and Lois Weisman. Photo provided

A Princely Affair
Boca Raton Resort & Club – Nov. 1

Boca Ballet Theatre’s fundraising luncheon welcomed more than 450 guests, the largest audience in event history, raising awareness and community support for the nonprofit. The festivities began with a mimosa social hour, raffle and silent auction, followed by dance performances. ABOVE: Executive Director Dan Guin, Honorary Chairwoman Aubrey Heathcott, Andrea Doyle, Event Chairs Jim and Susan Fedele, Co-Artistic Director Jane Tyree, Forrest Heathcott, mistress of ceremonies Cindy Surman and Honorary Chairwoman Chris Heathcott. Photo provided by Silvia Pangaro

Holiday Trunk Show
The Seagate Hotel & Spa, Delray Beach – Dec. 1-3

Naoma Donnelley Haggin Boys & Girls Club celebrated its 13th-annual fundraising event, which generated about $85,000 to support programming for more than 400 local children. TOP LEFT: (l-r) Co-Chairwomen Kari Shipley and Susan Mullin, with committee member Hopie Kelly. BOTTOM LEFT: (l-r) Greg Reynolds, Tom Stanley and committee member Beau Delafield. Photos provided
The Kravis Center’s Education Committee welcomed Robert Avossa, Palm Beach County’s new superintendent of schools, during a meeting attended by more than 20 of its members. Avossa shared his experiences in Fulton County, Ga., and his thoughts about Palm Beach County’s educational needs.

**Welcome meeting**
Kravis Center, West Palm Beach – Oct. 30

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**Grand opening**
Sunflower Creative Arts, Delray Beach – Nov. 14

Parents, students and city officials attended the celebratory welcoming of the learning facility’s new campus. During the event, families planted sunflower seeds, made clay ‘peace seeds’ and contributed to community artwork. The day ended in the nature playground with a sing-along. ABOVE: (l-r) Lela Ahles, 4, dances while Clarence Jackson, 12, Joe Snider and Sunflower Creative Arts founder Susan Caruso play. Photo provided

**Golf Classic**
Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club, Boca Raton – Oct. 23

A total of 84 golfers and volunteers rose with the morning sun and headed to a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course for a round of 18 holes to benefit the George Snow Scholarship Fund. Participants were greeted with a lavish breakfast and quality gift bag. ABOVE: (l-r) Mike Arts with Co-Chairmen Doug Fash and Steve King. Photo provided

**Wine and Lite Bites**
Delray Beach Club – Nov. 3

More than 175 women gathered for Impact 100 Palm Beach County’s annual membership event. Prospective and current members of the charity, which awards high-impact grants to local nonprofits, enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres as they listened to success stories of past grant recipients. RIGHT: Karen Rogers and Susan Brockway. BELOW: (l-r) Janice Florin, Dr. Nicole Edeiken, Sharon DaBrusco and Laura Stoltz. Photos provided

**Luncheon meeting**
City Fish Market, Boca Raton – Dec. 9

California-based international political commentator Saied Shemirani served as guest speaker at the Gold Coast Tiger Bay Club, discussing the topic ‘From Monarchy to Mullahs: The State of Terror’ and the idea of establishing a parliamentary system by overthrowing the Islamic government in Iran. ABOVE: (l-r) David Goldstein, Robert Alrod and Shemirani. Photo provided

**Angel Tree Dinner for the Homeless**
Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church and Outreach Center, Lake Worth – Dec. 11

Saint Joseph’s Episcopal School eighth-graders, along with their parents and faculty and staff members, served a Christmas meal for nearly 50 underprivileged families. In addition to collecting and cooking the food, the school donated new work shoes for men in need. There were gifts, as well, for the children. ABOVE: (l-r) Kate Lowry, Ryan Flynn, Susan and Jeff Beebe and Lynne Jones, school chaplain. Photo provided

**Alice & Pete Dye Golf and Bridge Invitational**
St. Andrews Club, Delray Beach – Nov. 18

Seventy-two golfers swung into action to raise funds for Wayside House, a Delray Beach addiction-treatment center for women that has operated for more than four decades. While the golfers were busy on the course, 60 bridge players faced off in the clubhouse. ABOVE: (l-r) participants George McClory, Tod Ortlop, Jay Wheatley and Perry O’Neal. Photo provided

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Yannis Hryssomallis. It’s Greek to most folk. Better to just call him Yanni. Though some call his music new age gimmicky, he’s a global superstar and has sold millions of records. He’s played at the Taj Mahal, in Beijing’s Forbidden City and at the Acropolis in Greece, the country of his birth.

Yanni first appeared in South Florida in the late 1990s as the boyfriend of Dynasty star Linda Evans. He accompanied her to Chris Evert’s Celebrity Tennis Classic then returned to play for the big-ticket patrons at the black tie gala.

He obviously liked the neighborhood. In 1998, after he and Evans parted, he bought a modest little oceanfront bungalow in Manalapan for $5.7 million. Still, two decades passed after the Evert gig before he played any public concerts, drawing raves at the Kravis Center in 2012 and 2013. Yanni obviously learned some investment tricks from his bankster father. Today the house is valued at $10 million to $15 million. He’s worth an estimated $40 million.

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New age musician Yanni and his daughter, Krystal Ann. Photo provided

Palm Beach, and chances are you might spot in the wings the newest woman in his life. She’s tall and dark, with a smile as wide as the Grand Canyon, possibly a camera in hand.

Any resemblance is purely hereditary.

A year and a half ago during an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Yanni introduced the world to Krystal Ann, his daughter. She is in her mid-30s and manages his social media. But that’s all we know. (It’s purely coincidence that Yanni’s “Dynamo character was “Krystle.”)

Krystal Ann was born in the early ’80s, years before Yanni and Evans met. Speculation abounds that she is from Minnesota and is the product of a relationship that began while Yanni was earning his degree in psychology at the University of Minnesota. But that remains off the record.

Some people visit, making a big splash as they come through the front door. But when the opportunities arise for others, they are more content — and more effective — quietly working their way around.

That’s Leon Charney.

On Dec. 21 he was given a front-door welcome at Florida Atlantic University, honored with an honorary doctorate in humane letters for his lifetime of work in the pursuit of peace.

Leon who?

Charney, C-h-a-r-n-e-y. His résumé, hmm, let’s see. At 20, the son of a sewing supply salesman became a cantor to pay his way through law school. He became an entertainment lawyer. Represented Sammy Davis Jr. Then hit the mother lode representing oil interests.

But Charney’s interests went far beyond hit records and energy. He was a supporter of Israel. He was an adviser to U.S. Sen.-Vance Hartke. He worked with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir to free 1,000 Soviet Jews and help them migrate to Israel.

His connections to Met, Israeli Defense Minister Elzer Weizmann and Israeli President Anwar Sadat caught the attention of President Jimmy Carter.

Charney’s back channel work was directly responsible for the Camp David accords.

Charney later credited Charney as the treaty’s “unsung hero.”

On the day Carter lost reelection in 1980, Charney bought his first building in New York. His $1.75 million — currently No. 1.741 although once 386 — his holdings include three skyscrapers in Times Square. He has written five books, and hosts The Charney Report, a nationally syndicated TV program airing show called The Low.

Last fall, The Leon Charney Resolution Center opened in Israel, dedicated to the history and the future of negotiations, peace and learning.

And, oh yeah, he has a condo just south of Boca Inlet.

FAU super success stories:

Way back in 1968, Edith Stern received a degree in mathematics from Florida Atlantic University. She landed a job with IBM and over the course of her career, has been more than 125 patents, managed an IBM team pioneering remote health care monitoring for the elderly and served as a member of the Academy Technology Council. Stern was and remains the university’s youngest graduate (she was 15).

Last year, Kate Bush, a Hollywood resident, took her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a week later her high school diploma from FAU’s University School, one of many young students who are enrolled in FAU’s joint studies program. Bush, 16, is not the first in her family. Two sisters, ages 17 and 18 and a cousin, 17, have followed the same route.

A teacher at Don Estridge Middle School in Boca taught Denise Kutnick how to create Web pages and encouraged her to study computer science. She, too, entered the joint studies program at FAU, and in December received her degree in computer science. But Kutnick won’t have time to sit on her laurels: Two summers ago she landed a summer internship with Intel in Colorado as a component design engineer. So instead of going to Disney World, Kutnick, 17, is headed back to Colorado and a full-time job with Intel.

With the likes of these kids, this nation’s future is bright, regardless of what some may say.

As the owl flies, the beach is 2 1/2 miles due east of FAU Stadium. So after a week of sub-freezing lows in Toledo and Philly, and South Florida planning the high 70s, a little rain wasn’t going to spoil the the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl on Dec. 22. On game day fans packed the pre-game festivities on the stadium’s perimeter: live bands — both rocking and marching; automotive displays; public service organizations; vendors; team colors flowing, and mingling.

Intermittent showers may have flushed the excitement out of the stands in the first half, but the teams picked up the pace in the second with Toledo dominating in the eventual 32-17 upset. Though attendance was down from last year thanks to the weather, bowl officials were pleased with the turnout of 25,908.

Perhaps Toledo had an inspirational advantage. After all, on the road they usually don’t bunk at the likes of the Boca Raton Resort & Club. One observer said players just dropped their bags and gaped when the bus first pulled up to the entrance.

No one could have been more delighted than John Tolbert, a veteran hotelier who first came to the resort in 1994 as a vice president for sales and marketing. He jumped to the Ritz-Carlton for two years before returning in 2004 for two years as president of sales and marketing for new owner Blackstone/LXR.

Now, after a decade in other ventures and just chilling out, he’s back, and “this is it,” he said. “I’m here for good.”

Other familiar faces in the President’s Suite included original FAU football coach Howard Schnellenberger, Trustees chairman Anthony Barbar, developer Jim Batarmanis and wife Marta, Boca Mayor Susan Haynie and former Mayor Susan Wheelchel. Though a Harvardian, former Boca Raton and Palm Beach County Mayor Steve Abrams was pulling for Temple. He’s from Philadelphia.

“My father taught there for many years,” he beamed, “and my grandmother studied pharmacy there in the 1920s when women weren’t supposed to do that kind of work.”

FAU President John Kelly planned to catch another bowl game Dec. 31 — the Orange Bowl between Clemson and Oklahoma.

“I had thought that Carolyn and I might just be able to sit back and watch the game at home,” Kelly said of his wife. “But then my brother called and asked if I could get some tickets. He went to Clemson, too.”

Kelly didn’t really need
much convincing. The Clemson grad was born nearby and then traveled 28 years as an administrator and ultimately vice president. But Carolyn will not show up at home with toddler Stella. Beside, she earned her undergraduate degree from arch rival University of South Carolina before going to grad school at Clemson. “I’m still an Owl,” former FAU president Mary Jane Saunders fired him. He reportedly wasn’t raising enough money. A year later, Saunders thought she had a $6-million deal for stadium naming rights, but before he headed to San Francisco for his 50th, he’ll stop in West Palm Beach for Fotofusion. (Walter Iooss Jr. will be part of Fotofusion at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre. Photo provided)

Among hundreds of assignments, Walter Iooss Jr. has photographed every Super Bowl for Sports Illustrated — but before he leads to San Francisco for his 50th, he’ll stop in West Palm Beach for Fotofusion.

Iooss, who captured “The Catch” by Dwight Clark and a lifetime of Christie Brinkley in swimsuits, will receive his award at a Jan. 20 dinner and on Jan. 21 give a lecture and attend a reception for the opening of his exhibition.

Fotofusion also offers a variety of paid and free events, including seminars, photo shoots with master photographers, exhibitions, book signings, portfolio reviews and evening “Fuse and Schmooze” parties. (www.fotofusion.org)

Dough, starring Jonathan Pryce, opens the Donald M. Pfemph Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival on Jan. 20 at the Kravis Center. Before Raise the Roof closes the festival three weeks later at the Duncan Theatre in Lake Worth, 30 films celebrating the world of Jewish experience will be shown at Cinemark theaters in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach. Frank Theatres Cinebowl & Grill in Delray Beach and Cobb Theatres at Downtown at the Gardens in Palm Beach Gardens.

Of special note is Look at Us Now, a documentary directed by Emmy-winner Gayle Kirschenbaum that explores the relationship between her and her testy mother. Mildred Kirschenbaum, a resident of Boca Pointe. Both will attend the screenings (Palm Beach Gardens, Jan. 25; Delray, Feb. 6; Boca Raton, Feb. 7). For tickets and information, go to www.jpibf.org.

With the Tedeschi Trucks Band headlining for the fourth year at the Sunshine Music Festival at Mizner Park, Jan. 17, this year’s lineup will be hard to top. In addition to the bluesy-jazzy-funky-soulful sounds of Susan Tedeschi and husband Derek Trucks, the bill includes Indigo Girls, Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, Karl Dennis’ Tiny Universe and two of the top instrumentalists anywhere, dobro specialist Jerry Douglas and guitarist Jorma Kaukonen of Jefferson Airplane fame. (livetnation.com)

A little farther west on the edge of the Everglades, a Southern Jam is coming to Sunset Cove Amphitheatre in West Boca on Jan. 30. The bill: Kris Kristofferson, Lucinda Williams, John Hiatt and Shawn Colvin.

During the show, Music Jam Productions will raffle off two guitars signed by the performers to benefit Hope From Harrison and The Wounded Warrior Project. (www.musicjamproductions.com)

Worth Avenue may have the reputation, but when it comes to fashion, Atlantic Avenue can hold its own. That’s what the Third Annual Delray Beach Fashion Week is all about. The bash opens Jan. 16 on the runway in front of The Colony Hotel with: The Fashion Show on the Avenue and concludes 35 events later on Jan. 23 with the Surf & Swim Show at Worth Park.

Sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority, the week will offer in-store and runway events, all of which are free and open to the public. Special VIP seating and after-event parties are available for a charge. And, of course, the Vanity Cinnette Stiletto Race returns at 6 p.m. Jan. 22 with high-heeled entrants sprinting, strutting and sashaying their way to the finish line. Proceeds from premium tickets support Achievement Centers for Children & Families.

After a four-month renovation that cost nearly $2 million, Oceans 234 offers diners a clear view of the white sands of Deerfield Beach and the newly redone pier jutting out into the blue-green waters of the Atlantic.

Unobstructed water views are just part of what’s new. Repurposed space makes the views accessible to more people dining indoors and at the spacious bar, where the crafted cocktails and wine list have been given an upgrade.

There’s also a new menu created by chef Victor Franco. While keeping old favorites like fried calamari, Franco has added imaginative items featuring international flavors. Now you can enjoy anything from local fresh fish and sushi, to beef, burgers and pork belly bahn mi.

Ask the chef as well owner Danielle Rosse their favorite dish and they agree it is the grilled 7-ounce skirt steak. Here it’s served with mashed sweet potatoes, roasted garlic and a tangy lime reduction as well as roasted corn with asparagus.

Walter Josh Rock favors French toast spread with Nutella and peanut butter then doped with banana before being fried. It comes with syrup kicked up with cayenne that leaves a slow burn you extinguish with the garnish of fresh banana slices.

“We do things differently around here,” Rock says. Oceans 234, 234 N. Oceans Blvd., Deerfield Beach; 954-428-2359; oceans234.com; Gluten-free items are marked and compiled on a separate menu.

Chef and managing partner Angelo Ronando of Paradiso Ristorante, Lake Worth, has purchased Renzo’s of Boca. “We invite all of the wonderful patrons back to rediscover Renzo’s of Boca — joining us on another 25-year culinary journey, exploring and experiencing traditional Italian dishes,” Ronando said.

He’s offering Italian fare with a new perspective, as well as dishes unique to Renzo’s. The restaurant, at 5599 N. Federal Highway, is open daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and for dinner 5:30 to 10 p.m. Live entertainment is offered at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For reservations, call 994-3495.

Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley and Christine Davis contributed to this report.

Contact Thom Smith at thomsmith@ymail.com.

If you’re in an accident, knowing what to do and who to call really helps! Contact us to request a free copy of “WHAT TO DO IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT.” We’re here when you need us.

Craig D. Earnhart
Tour Local Delray Beach Injury Attorney
561.265.2220
info@delrayinjuryattorney.com
DelsunyInjuryAttorney.com

Dining

Shrimp and grits (and jalapeños, too!)

The Plate: Shrimp & Grits
The Place: Benny’s on the Beach, Lake Worth Pier, 10 S. Ocean Blvd., Lake Worth; 561.382.3001 or www.bennysonthebeach.com
The Plate: The Skinny: As Benny’s, they call the shrimp and grits the chef’s favorite. We won’t disagree because the dish is one of our favorites. The creamy gravy supports a ring of roasted shrimp, cooked perfectly until tender. Together with a ring of pickled jalapeños, offers a bit of subtle tang. And crumbled bacon and hot sauce make it sing on your palate.

Scott Simmons/The Coastal Star
Laugh with the Library

What: Dinner, drinks and a great night of comedy
When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5
Where: Delray Beach Marriott, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach
Headliner: Comedian Bobby Collins (and two of his guest comedians)
Tickets: $200
Money from this event enhances library programs for children and teens. Last year’s proceeds ($85,000) went toward the $500,000 capital improvement of the children’s wing, which is opening soon.
For information about Laugh with the Library, visit www.delraylibrary.org, or call the library at 266-0194.

Of course, this business of raising money for a good cause is serious stuff, to be sure — especially this time of year, and in these parts.

“Ours is a pretty simple affair, and that’s why everybody loves it,” Walsh says. Since Laugh with the Library started a decade ago, the event has helped to raise nearly $1 million. “It’s not that stressful anymore (to plan),” says Walsh. (Except for the year they changed the invitation format from a horizontal envelope to a vertical one, and all the invites started bouncing back, “delivered” to the return address, which was the library.)

But the beauty of this event, say organizers, is its simplicity. Entertained by comedians and other oddballs of entertainment, library supporters can relax, wear something casual, even drink a Budweiser. Just remember, there’s always something peculiar (i.e. funny, i.e. worrisome) going on behind the scenes.

Like the year Dennis Regan showed up really sick with the flu. The planning committee went bonkers with worry. “We were like, how is he going to be able to perform?” Walsh remembers. “He didn’t even want to talk to anyone. He looked terrible.”

And then, there he went, right on cue. “When he got out there, he was funny and as chipper as can be,” Stelzer said. That also might have been the year they filmed library director Alan Kornblau getting a pie in the face. (“It was mostly whipped cream,” Stelzer notes.)

“Just remember, there’s always something peculiar (i.e. funny, i.e. worrisome) going on behind the scenes. Like the year Dennis Regan showed up really sick with the flu. The planning committee went bonkers with worry. “We were like, how is he going to be able to perform?” Walsh remembers. “He didn’t even want to talk to anyone. He looked terrible.”

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The hilarious ladies on the Laugh committee thought the gag might add a little zing to that year’s otherwise dry promotional video. So as Kornblau was giving a tour of the library, out came the pie. “We actually had to do it twice, because the first time it didn’t hit him squarely in the face,” Stelzer recalls.

“We all get a tremendous kick out of it.”

Badda bing. Badda bang.
The secret art of Dr. Seuss is on the loose!

William Dryer, director of the Art of Dr. Seuss Collection, stands in front of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, where the display has been shown.  

William Dryer, director and curator of The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection.

Geisel was born in 1904 and died in 1991.

"He was a workaholic and worked all day long and into the evening on his commercial projects," Dryer says.

"To relax at night, he'd paint. His 'midnight paintings,' as he called them, were his efforts to realize his ambitions as a fine artist," Dryer adds.

"Ted created a body of artwork that he rarely or ever showed to the public."

It wasn't until shortly before his death that he realized he couldn't hide these works and asked his wife, Audrey Geisel, to share them with his fans.  

Audrey Geisel released The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss, a coffee-table book of her husband's paintings, in 1995.  

In 1997 she gave permission to The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection, to share them with his fans.

Also on display are bronze sculptures of his well-known characters, previously displayed at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and The Preuss School at the University of California, San Diego, among others.

"This was the world's first glimpse at the secret he was keeping," says Dryer.  "It was quite surprising. People were not aware he painted fully developed works — in oil on canvas, watercolors or mixed media."

"These works leave a legacy showing that Ted Geisel was a tremendous artist."

See: SEUSS on page AT10

Interview: Andrew Kato, moving the Maltz forward

Andrew Kato has been named chief executive of the Maltz Jupiter Theatre.  

By Hap Erstein  
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

Back in the 1980s, a young, eager theater intern named Andrew Kato worked as a waiter at the Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre in Jupiter.  

Today, at 51, he runs the multimillion-dollar regional theater on that site, having in November been named producing artistic director and chief executive of the Maltz Jupiter Theatre.

With that promotion comes a 10-year contract to oversee the fundraising and construction of a bold $25 million expansion of the not-for-profit playhouse complex.  

Recently, Kato sat down with the ArtsPaper to discuss the future of the Maltz Jupiter — the largest regional theater company in the state of Florida — and his role in it.

Q: From a very young age, you knew that you wanted a life in the theater, didn’t you?

See: KATO on page AT11
SEUSS Continued from page 9

overshadowed by his impact on children’s literature,” Dryer says.

During his lifetime Geisel didn’t want to be judged on his art, Dryer says: “It was meaningful and important to him, his own private domain that he didn’t have to put up for judgment.”

In this era, illustrators, including Norman Rockwell, were not regarded as fine artists, Dryer says. It wasn’t until 20 years after his death that his works were considered more than commercial. Ted was smart to wait,” says Dryer. “If these works were judged during an earlier era, he wouldn’t have been given his due as a fine artist.”

“The work stretches beyond preconceived notions of who he was as an artist,” he says. “They are beautifully crafted and go beyond illustration into the realm of fine art. The works stand on their own and can be evaluated by museums and art critics.”

Valerie Jackson, owner of the Ann Jackson Gallery, has represented Geisel’s works since they first became available. She says most people are shocked to learn of his private paintings and never realized that he was the illustrator of his own books.

“I love to see their faces light up when they discover these new works,” Jackson says. “They are curious and in awe and eager to learn more.”

Geisel’s influences included Pablo Picasso, MC Escher, Jackson Pollock, and the Surrealist painters.

“His work opens conversations and brings back memories of a more innocent time,” Jackson says. Many of these paintings depict Geisel’s rich, adult and even maudlin sense of humor.

Cat from the Wrong Side of Tracks, one of Dr. Seuss’s “alter ego” paintings, shows a cat, now in his eighth life, smoking a cigarette and playing pool. The La Jolla Bird Woman Series, a series of 11 paintings including My Petunia Can Lick Your Geranium, Sunbathing Bird, The Martini Bird, Oh, I’d Love to Go to the Party but I’m Absolutely Dead, is a sly social commentary on his Southern California socialite neighbors.

What all these paintings have in common is their “Seussian sensibility,” a recognizedly Seussian style, at once kooky, quirky and comical — many using cats or birds as stand-ins for people.

Some of Dryer’s favorite pieces in the collection are Geisel’s sculptures in his Unorthodox Taxidermy series, with figures such as The Carbonic Walrus, The Two-Horned Drouberhannis, and the Goo-Goo-Eyed Tasmanian Wolghast, which he made with real horns, beaks and animal antlers.

In conjunction with the exhibit, local performers from the Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s Youth Touring Company will perform excerpts from their production of Seussical on Saturdays and Sundays at no charge to the public.

Produced and directed by Andrew Kato, the Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s producing artistic director and chief executive, the performances feature choreography by Broadway veteran Brian Andrews, scenic design by Paul Tate dePoo III, Seuss-inspired costumes by Jenna Hoefert, sound design by Marty Mets and properties design by Casey Blanton and Elizabeth Zevin.

“The thing that makes this exhibit unique is that this is an environmental experience,” Kato says. “It’s twofold. The art exhibit is housed on our set, and the area becomes enlivened with a live performance.”

“We’re not only exhibiting Dr. Seuss’s artwork; we’re helping to bring his world to life,” Kato says.
A: Even as a kid I knew I wanted to be a producer and have followed that dream all the way through. Given my skill set, this has been certainly better for me than working on Broadway was. Because I’m able to fully utilize my skills here in a way that I wasn’t in New York.

Q: Ten years ago, you were hired as the Maltz’s producing director, to shore up a dysfunctional theater.

A: Right. My job in my very first season here was to improve the overall functionality of the organization. When I arrived, the notion of production meetings didn’t exist. I think that promotion was a way of acknowledging a 10-year commitment that they’re making to me, in that we have some big dreams that we want to accomplish. I think that they felt that it would be helpful to have someone in place for those 10 years to meet those goals.

So I felt it was time to continue the dream, moving forward with the goal of becoming a great regional theater in our country.

Q: Undone, the Maltz has become known for producing large-scale, challenging musicals like Les Miserables and Billy Elliot. Do you expect to keep tackling such mammoth projects?

A: Everything that we do here is strategic. The notion of doing large-scale Broadway musicals and doing them well, re-envisioning them, is part of the plan and will continue to be so.

But it is not about size for its own sake. I think it’s about serving a piece well. In Billy Elliot, we’re working on a show that focuses on the truth. We decided that all the embellishments that were on the show would be removed. The large Maggie Thatcher puppet and all of that has gone away, because they probably wouldn’t have had the resources to do that in their little mining town. So the storytelling has become a little more truthful and intimate.

I feel our financial resources are almost held against us in a pejorative way. When this theater was first formed, we put this place together with Scotch tape and paper clips. It’s really on the heels of some occasions where we could launch pre-Broadway shows. What we have that they don’t, or maybe not as strong as us, is the endowment. We fully funded that two years early.

Q: What are the goals of the $25 million expansion program you are launching?

A: First, expansion of the Conservatory of the Performing Arts. We’ve simply run out of room there. We feel like we could serve more of our community if we had more space. We want to double the size of the Conservatory.

The second objective, with my connections to Broadway, is to have facilities backstage where we could launch pre-Broadway and national tours.

What patrons see is that the seating is comfortable, the lobby is beautiful, but backstage is completely underserved. If we’re hoping for more national-level exposure, we’ve got to be better in terms of how the actors rehearse. We’re bringing actors down here from New York or Chicago with a promise of sunshine and then we put them in a room that used to be the kitchen of the Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre. And the dressing rooms are literally crammed.

And then finally, we would like to have a second space here of 199 seats.

Q: Would it run at the same time as the mainstage?

A: No, our deal, which has been passed by the town and the commissioners, is that we don’t run them at the same time. We don’t have the parking and also we’re not going to have the staff for that, to run two theaters at the same time.

We would use it for plays like Zero Hour, which we ran in the shoulder season (of 2010), with an audience that looked meager in our theater. It would have looked great in a 199-seat house. And for developing new work. We’ve done a little bit of that all the way through, but I’d like to have the room to do a lot more.

Q: Is there a regional theater anywhere that you are modeling the expanded Maltz in the country — Cleveland Playhouse, with 3,700 subscribers.

In the last two years, through earned ticket revenue, we were able to pay down $100,000 of debt to this organization. That’s responsible shepherding of a not-for-profit.

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Q: Is there a regional theater anywhere that you are modeling the expanded Maltz?
Two exhibits: Charleston’s golden age; echoes of the Holocaust

Here is a look at two art exhibits departing this month. For the full articles, visit palmbeachartspaper.com: History Becomes Memory (Boca Raton Museum of Art, through Jan. 10)

History Becomes Memory is a five-in-one exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Holocaust. The featured artists take on the subjects of war, intolerance, and freedom through watercolors, glass, photography and video. Each exhibits in a separate space under a different title.

The highly personal watercolors by Samuel Rothbort serve as the introduction leading to four specially commissioned installations by five artists. On display are more than 50 pieces derived from his childhood memories of a small shtetl, with an optimistic twist added to them. Most possess a muddy quality, which speaks to the humble living conditions, but there aren’t any tears. Instead, Rothbort gives us children in Playing a Game in the Ditch with Potatoes and adults in Jews Swimming on a Friday by the Watermill.

The haunting liturgical music heard from Rothbort’s space is part of what makes Veil of Memory, Prologue: The Last Supper deliciously creepy. The installation is the vision of Terry Berkowitz, who imagined the Jews having a last meal prior to being forced to leave 1492 Spain or embrace Catholicism. A dark table extending almost 50 feet is set with benches in the shape of a cross. Candles, glasses and empty bowls have been carefully arranged for those about to be expelled. We are invited to sit and listen to the competing sounds in the room: the low murmur of people, ocean waves and the voice reading fragments from the Edict of Expulsion in Castilian Spanish.

A narrow opening leads us to a series of images incorporating projections as well. In The Neighborhood Next Door/The Writing on the Wall, by Shimon Attie, a modern Berlin gets reunited with its original residents. Those who occupied many of its buildings and walked its streets now appear projected onto what used to be a hat shop or a Hebrew reading room. Notice how many of the blue-tint photographs capture a light shining from the right.

The show closes with Israeli-born Izhar Patkin’s poetic veils narrating the founding of modern Israel in 1948. The setting of this historic/fictitious scenery drawn with ink on tan paper is the skyline between the modern city of Tel Aviv and Jaffa, an old Arab port city. The ghosts of Jewish and Arab refugees linger on the beach as if unaware their time has passed.

— Gretel Sarmiento

An Eye for Opulence (Society of the Four Arts, through Jan. 10)

An Eye for Opulence: Charleston through the Lens of the Rivers Collection consists of more than 200 mahogany furniture pieces, silver objects and fine art representing the South Carolina city’s enviable prosperity during the Colonial and Federal periods. A selection of this nature and magnitude had never been shown outside the city until now, said Brandy Culp, curator at the Historic Charleston Foundation.

The pieces, once the pride of the city’s white residents, appear chronologically and in such a way that paintings hang next to armchairs, and those next to engraved silver goods. This makes the show’s volume hardly felt and the sequence of appearance less predictable.

One of the highlights is the Secretary With Linen Press, attributed to Jacob Sass. The heavy mahogany piece boosts a full serpentine façade, small storage drawers, pigeon holes for letters and even a hidden compartment that Culp is more than happy to unveil.

The inclusion of a handmade basket in this sea of shiny elements seems odd at first. It is one way of admitting the role slavery played in this colony’s success story. Baskets like this one sport weaving techniques known to slaves using the natural resources found. They exemplify the marriage of a culture born into and a culture forced into.

In addition to the unique opportunity An Eye for Opulence presents, there is one additional treat housed in the north gallery. There, contemporary works by sculptor Grainger McKay, silversmith Kaminer Haislip, and artists Douglas Bailey and Jonathan Green project an optimistic message.

— Gretel Sarmiento
Boynton blues bassist Mark Telesca living the dream

By Bill Meredith

If you tried to gauge which musical performers were the busiest in South Florida, thoughts might toward to a pop singer, a country guitarist, or maybe a freelancing rock drummer.

But a blues artist? Well, maybe if they played guitar and sang. How about a bass player? Not very likely. And a blues bass player? You’re dreaming.

Yet Mark Telesca (www.marktelesca.com) is living the dream, in part, because he’s all of those things in one.

The 54-year-old Brooklyn native threw all his cards on the table in 2014, eschewing his day job as a singer/songwriter from music biz folks to change his Blues Dragon band’s moniker to the self-titled Mark Telesca Band for its 2015 release Hearty Breathing, and even taking up the guitar to perform solo when his own guitar, Allen Gibbs, needed a recent break.

"Robert took six months or so off to recuperate from an injury, but he’s back now," Telesca says of his frequent band mates (except for a surfing accident years ago) and领土一步 Partners). "He had a surfing accident years ago where he face-planted, and though he walked away and seemed fine afterward, those things can catch up to us as we get older."

Telesca’s tattooed Telesca speaks from a couch in the upstairs music den of the two-story house he shares with wife Karen, an accomplished visual artist, in Boynton Beach. With his ink, goatee and Clark Kent glasses, he looks the part of the local blues Superman amid amplifiers, speakers, and vintage basses and guitars mounted on the east wall.

An acoustic upright bass takes up the southwest corner. Yet the darkened room also hints at the recent past of a serious day job he had for nearly 30 years.

"I was a full-time musician until I started working for funeral homes," Telesca says. "I even opened my own for awhile. I'm Italian, but I ended up working mostly at Jewish homes. One was the Star of David home in Fort Lauderdale, and I even worked for the Neptune Society afterward."

Telesca makes his third competitive trip to Memphis, Tenn., to participate in the annual International Blues Challenge on Jan. 26-31 as a semifinalist in the main axes.

In 2011, he advanced to the IBC.
The History Boys (Palm Beach Dramaworks, through Jan. 10) Set in a boys’ school in northern England, The History Boys is about eight keenly smart and sharply-aclever seniors, the students of a memorable, though unconventional teacher named Hector (the sublime Colin McCrath). Hector believes in education for its own sake, but the school’s headmaster (Rob Donoho) wants success as the target audience is the director’s and another projection design were a curious choice to projected on the backdrop. These simple abstract images were more reminiscent of Impressionist pastels and were a curious choice to pair with one of Bach’s most esoteric musical works. The costumes, which were long, pleated crinoline, unisex skirts and discarded), were quite beautiful but they also were an interesting pairing with the work. After five rather conventional sections with evocative names like “Wild Horses” and section with inverted flowers (which the leaves the cabin from this point on, save for a flashlight. There is not a trustworthy or redeemable soul in the bunch, and as they exhaust page after page of winkingly clever Tarantinian dialogue, with its rich and constantly reversible — almost paradoxical — language. The History Boys is a very Dramaworks play, the sort of word-heavy material that many other South Florida theaters shy away from. That the company does such a winning job with it is further proof of the exceptional, ever-challenging troupe in our midst. — Hap Erstein

The Hateful Eight (Opened Dec. 25) Quentin Tarantino’s The Hateful Eight begins with a lengthy overture and is then divided into six chapters, each functioning like a movement in a composition; a 12-minute intermission divides the experience neatly in half. All of which suggests Tarantino is thinking sympathetically with his eighth feature; but if that’s the case, his song remains the same. Mostly, it’s a movie about movies. This self-reflexivity arguably is the overriding concern in Tarantino’s work — only this time the movieness is so hermetically distilled that its constant in Tarantino’s work — arguably is the overriding concern in Tarantino’s work — only this time the movieness is so hermetically distilled that its constantly reference to his own, but the vehicle stops at the only hotel along the way: a rustic cabin with a Mexican caretaker curiously presiding over the property and a party of oddballs already establishing residence by the fire: Oswaldo Mobray (Tim Roth), a dandy British hangman; Joe Gage (Michael Madsen), a laconic cowboy writing his memoirs; and Sanford Smithers (Bruce Dern), a Confederate general who never leaves his armchair. Tarantino, likewise, never leaves the cabin from this point on, save for a flashlight. There is not a trustworthy or redeemable soul in the bunch, and as they exhaust page after page of winkingly clever Tarantinian dialogue, with its rich and constantly reversing — almost paradoxical — language. The History Boys is a very Dramaworks play, the sort of word-heavy material that many other South Florida theaters shy away from. That the company does such a winning job with it is further proof of the exceptional, ever-challenging troupe in our midst. — Hap Erstein

Samuel L. Jackson is one of Quentin Tarantino’s The Hateful Eight. Photo provided

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Direct from Its 15 Month Off-Broadway Engagement!

FEB. 4 - MARCH 28, 2016

“Delicious! DISTINCTLY ORIGINAL AND POWERFULLY POIGNANT. “Great Comedy!” — The New York Times

“YOU’LL LAUGH YOUR TUCHAS OFF!” — THE HUFFINGTON POST

“AN Absolute Must-See. IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING THAT YOU TRULY LOVE, IT GIVES YOUR LIFE MEANING.” — Palm Beach Arts Paper

“You Can’t Miss! IT’S A HIT SHOW!” — THE PALM BEACH POST

Palm Beach Opera Waterfront concert (Dec. 12, Meyer Amphitheater, West Palm Beach) The third free opera concert at the waterfront given by Palm Beach Opera was an artistic and commercial success. But who were the artists? Getting off to a good start with the national anthem and Bernstein’s Candide overture, conductor Greg Ritcheay then introduced the No. 6 in G, BWV 1019. metabolism. Metropolitan Opera baritone Michael Chioldi and the next singer, Robert Watson, but forgot to name the other four singing Young Artists on the program. The 4,000-plus attendees at the Meyer Amphitheatre roared their approval many times. Gracing the stage with his handsome presence, Chioldi opened the singing with “Si puo, si puo” from Leoncavallo’s opera Pagliacci. He has a lovely tone and sang with absolute conviction.

Don Pasquale, Mimi’s battle of the sexes, brought an exciting duet from soprano Jessica Fishenfeld and bass-baritone Andrew Bogard. Next came the amazing Bridgette Gall, a fellow last year, now an opera star.

The Hateful Eight is set in a Wyoming Mizzoni’s battle of the sexes, brought an exciting duet from soprano Jessica Fishenfeld and bass-baritone Andrew Bogard. Next came the amazing Bridgette Gall, a fellow last year, now an opera star.

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Rioult Dance Theatre NY (Dec. 3, Rinker Playhouse) Proficient in what they do, Rioul Dance presented a well-balanced program of works choreographed by artistic director Pascal Rioult. In Views of the Fleeting World, the first and the most traditional work of the evening, one could see Rioul’s strong choreographic ties to his mentor, Martha Graham. It is a solid work that had some quality. The nine performers did a good job of not looking cramped while dancing on the small stage of the Rinker. Behind them, the woodblock prints of the 19th-century Japanese master Hiroshige were projected on the backdrop. These simple abstract images were more reminiscent of Impressionist pastels and were a curious choice to pair with one of Bach’s most esoteric musical works. The costumes, which were long, pleated skirts that looked like bright red inverted flowers (which the dancers intermittently donned and discarded) were quite beautiful but they also were an interesting pairing with the work. After five rather conventional sections with evocative names like “Wild Horses” and "Summer Wind,” the sixth stood out from the rest. “In Moonlight,” a total contrast to the other sections, a couple (Sophia Elizabeth Murley and Ben Flynn) danced sensually on their backs with arms reaching upward to sky in an intimate setting. City, which used another Bach composition (the Violin Sonata No. 6 in G, BWV 1019) and another projection design by Brian Clifford Beasley, had a more contemporary feel to it. Some scenes with Mayor, the satisfying union. — Tara Mitton Catao

For tickets: 1-844-HIT-SHOW (Toll Free: 1-844-448-7469) Groups: 1-888-264-1788 • MySonTheWaiter.com

The Palm Beaches is located at 250 South Ocean Blvd, Manalapan, FL (E. Ocean Ave & A1A, former Florida Stage/Plaza Theatre)

Palm Beach Arts Paper Reviews

Here are excerpts from recent Palm Beach arts reviews. See palmbeachartsreview.com for full reviews.

The History Boys (Palm Beach Dramaworks, through Jan. 10) Brings in pragmatic Irwin (Cliff O’Dowh) to coach the class in bringing in pragmatic Irwin (Cliff O’Dowh) to coach the class in

Newtown's Hilarious Comedy Hit!

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“You’ll Laugh Your Tuchas Off!” — The Huntington Post

“An Absolute Must-See. If You Can Find Something That You Truly Love, It Gives Your Life Meaning.” — Palm Beach Arts Paper

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This month brings two favorite cultural festivals to the area — the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, now in its 12th year, and the Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival, now in its 26th year. Each brings its own perspective and interpretation to different but similar art forms: contemporary poets and their oeuvre and contemporary filmmakers and their vision.

‘Diverse’ films in lineup

“We have an amazing and varied selection of films this year,” says film festival Director Ellen Wedner. “It’s not what you’d imagine when you think of a Jewish film festival.

“We have international films from the Netherlands, Russia, Germany and France, spiritual films, traditional films and Israeli films,” she says. “We have a selection of diverse films, with something for everyone.

“We’re all over the place this year,” she adds.

John Goldschmidt’s Dough, starring Jonathan Pryce, about a young Muslim refugee from Darfur who spikes the Friday evening challah with marijuana, opens the festival on Jan. 15 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

Closing night, Feb. 11, is at the Duncan Theatre at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth with the documentary Raise the Roof, about two non-Jewish artists who set out to rebuild Gwozdziec, an 18th-century synagogue in Poland that was destroyed by the Nazis.

The two artists, Laura and Rick Brown, are scheduled to be in attendance.

And, the festival hits home with Look at Us Now, Mother, the Palm Beach premiere of Gayle Kirschenbaum’s examination of mother daughter relations, with both the filmmaker and her mother, Mildred, a resident of Boca Raton, in attendance.

The voice of the laureate

In describing this year’s Poetry Festival, Jan. 18-23 at Delray Beach’s Old School Square, festival director Susan Williamson references a Walt Whitman poem, I Dream’d in a Dream, which touts a “City of Friends” where nothing is greater “than the quality of robust love — it led the rest.”

Returning poets include festival favorites Thomas Lux, Carol Frost and Laure-Anne Bosselaar.

And attending for the first time is former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass, who kicks off the festival Jan. 7 with a haiku workshop at the Morkiami Museum and Japanese Gardens along with Miami poet Yaddyra Peralta.

IF YOU GO

The Palm Beach Poetry Festival

Highlights: High-school poetry contest awards, 5 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Crest Theatre; live interview (4 p.m. Jan. 19) and gala reading (9 p.m. Jan. 20) with Robert Hass; spoken word performance, 9 p.m. Jan. 23.

Info: 868-2063 or palmbeachpoetryfestival.org

The Jewish Film Festival

Venues: Cinemark 14, 1151 Congress Ave., Boynton Beach; Cinemark Palace 20, 3200 Airport Road, Boca Raton; Cobb Theatre, 1701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., Palm Beach Gardens; Frank Cinebowl, 1475 Lyons Road, Delray Beach.

Info: 877-318-0071 or pbjff.org. (Tickets go on sale Jan. 4).

Other favorite events are back, including afternoon craft workshops, performance poetry with Dominique Christina and Mark Kelly Smith, founder of the poetry slam, and “Birds of a Feather” open readings with poet Blaise Allen at the Green Cay Nature Center.

“We’re really excited for the festival this year,” says Williamson. “It’s a special opportunity to experience poetry in a way you never have before with America’s best poets, bar none.”

Festivals

Poetry and Jewish film festivals celebrate vision and creativity

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Art Exhibits


Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Open through Jan. 19. Japanese-American artist rediscovered as a homeless man in New York City. 181, 113 seniors, 19 children and college students. 10 am-5 pm Fri, 1-5 pm Sat; 9-5:30 pm Sun; 1-5 pm Mon-Thurs. 365-7033 or www.morikami.org.

Norton Museum: Through Mar. 20. Twenty: Stretched realities, photos by Mary Ellen Mark chronicling the life of ten prophets. Also, Rose Winter, Through Photographs by Lavern, the Seasons of Life, photographing the Black Panther. 213 students, 15 men 32-15; 10 am-10 pm Fri, 10 am-9 pm Sat, 11 am-5 pm Sun. 581-2020 or nortonart.org.


Riverbend Museum and Center of Visual alerted. In the 1950s, 300 visitors a year. 746-3639 or danescottgallery.com.

South Florida Symphony: New season opens with performance by Yo-Yo Ma featuring work by Beethoven, and Brahms’s Fourth Symphony in the new Amaretto Hall at the Benjamin School in Palm Beach. Tickets: $70 (includes post-concert cocktail reception). 653-2057; palmbeachsymphony.org.

ChamberFest: The main vocal ensemble program called "Soundscapes" features Paul Salamunovich, Mihoko Fujimura, and vocalist makes his annual South Florida concert visit. 8 pm, Kravis Center. $35 and up. 843-2800 or kravis.org.

Regional: 7 pm, Kravis Center. $35 and up. kravis.org.

Theatre: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016. "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde is part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning director and choreographer. 7 pm, Kravis Center. $35 and up. 843-2800 or kravis.org.

Seventh in the series is the 7:30 pm, Kravis Center. $20. 665-2377; artsgarage.org.

Anonymous: The pianist presents his original and new music; through Feb. 14. 2 pm, Adolph Coors Pavilion, Amarnick-Goldstein Room, Fort Lauderdale. $25, $20 and $15. 954-564-7840 or Ftlauderdaleconventioncenter.com.

Korngold: The young foursome plays music by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Schumann, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky. 8 pm, Palm Beach. Tickets: $70 (includes post-concert champagne reception). 653-2057 or palmbeachsymphony.org.

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Joss: The rising young British singer-songwriter delivers an evening of Latin jazz. 8 pm, Arts Garage, Fort Lauderdale. $25 and up. 954-796-0510 or artsGarage.org.
Delray native shares ‘Village by the Sea’

By Steve Pike

New directions and construction mask some of it now, but there was a time — not that long ago — when Delray Beach truly was a — not that long ago — when construction masked some of the early pioneers who transformed the area. Sandy Simon knows all about that. Simon, whose grandfather immigrated to Delray Beach from Lebanon in 1912, probably knows more about Delray Beach past (and present) than any other long-time resident — and it shows in his new book, Delray Beach: The Renaissance of a Village by the Sea.

The book is filled with pictures, stories and names that date back as far as 1894 when David Swinton and William Linton arrived from Michigan on land they purchased sight unseen. That 160-acre tract of land — a quarter of a section — was the foundation for Delray Beach. The price? Five dollars per acre.

Simon, who was reared in Delray Beach and developed Atlantic Plaza and several luxury neighborhoods in Delray Beach, takes readers on a journey — through words and pictures — that includes the city’s founding, the Great Depression when Delray Beach billed itself as “Ocean City,” the important roles of African-Americans in the city, and the recognition of women who make major contributions to the city. The book is not the duo’s first foray into Palm Beach County history. The pair collaborated on The Deweys and the South Florida Frontier in 2012.

Their latest collaboration, published this past November, is about “people who are the fabric of our life,” said DeVries, whose previous books include Sport Fishing in Palm Beach County and Delray Beach (Postcard History: Fla.). In Legendary Local, DeVries and Pedersen weave together an informative 127-page book complete with pictures and narrative that details the lives and legacies of not only people with the names of Mizner, Eccleston and Kravis, but of those whose stories and contributions deserve telling.

That’s really where DeVries and Pedersen shine — telling readers about people such as Marion E. Gruber, who in 1896 founded the Gruber Hardware and Furniture Store; Augusta Savage, an African-American woman who sculpted the famed Lift Every Voice and Sing statue for the 1939 World’s Fair; Voda Adkins, the “Dixie Witch” who was once a concert pianist; Lena M.T. Clarke, the city’s first postmistress who was later tried for murder in Orlando and found not guilty by reason of insanity; and Grace Morrison, who learned to fly in 1932 and was the first president of the Palm Beach County Airport Commission that was instrumental in building the West Palm Beach airport.

“You don’t want to tell a story that everyone knows,” Pedersen said. “You want to find those individuals who people maybe didn’t know and tell those stories.”

Devries and Pedersen tell those stories well.

The authors will appear at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Boynton Woman’s Club, 1010 S. Federal Highway. They also are booked at the Society of Four Arts in Palm Beach and Palm Beach State College Lake Worth in March and April.

The book is available for $29.99 at Hand’s Office & Art Supply Store in Delray Beach and through Simon’s website (www.sandySimon.com). He will be presenting the book on Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Delray Beach Public Library.

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**January 2016**

**The COASTAL STAR**

The community calendar will relocate to SE 4th Avenue on January 30 due to Garlic Festival.
1/10 - Artists in the Park presented by Delray Beach Art League at Van Der Zee Park, 802 NE 2nd Ave. 10 am-5 pm. Free admission. 243-7922 x16; delraylibrary.org

1/10 - Music at the Bungalows of Rockaway Beach at Rockaway Beach, 150 Crawford Blvd. 12:30 pm. $25. 805-8562; fourarts.org


1/10 - Meet the Author: When God’s Lawful Woman by Caroline Goodwin at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Noon-1 pm. Free admission. 243-7922.
trucks, cash bar. Bring lawn chairs, blankets; 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Gourmet food at The Pavilion at Old School Square, telescope to align. Ages 8+. Under 18 must be permitted until 5 pm. 11 am-11 pm. $49.99-

1/15 - The Great Baritones: From Lawrence Bartok

Saturday - 1/17 - Live! At the Norton - Andrew Sords:

1/18 - Memory as We Age/Aging Memory

January 17-23

1/17 - Back to the Roots: The Life of a Natural Gardener

1/17 - Multiple Audience-Targeted Tours for Kids, Ages 8+

1/15 - Big Truck & Tractor Rally

1/14 - Peter Yarrow in Concert

1/14 - The Three Violin Sonatas by Bela Bartok

1/14 - The Art of Paper Pasting: Manipulating the

1/17 - How to Create Better Paintings with Hugh O'Neill of Society of the Four Arts. 1:30-4:30 pm through 1/23. $135.00. Registration deadline 1/11.

1/15 - The Three Violin Sonatas by Bela Bartok

1/15 - Roberta DeMuro, Entertainer par excellence

1/15 - Way Out of the Doll's House: The Life and

1/17 - Sunshine Music Festival 2016 at Norton Museum Park, 6500 N/Okeechobee Blvd, Palm Beach. Heinrich Hoffmann's dial-up fax machine that allowed the nation's first online newspaper was

1/17 - 20th St Palm Beach Poetry Festival at 501 Plaza Real, 501 Plaza Real, Palm Beach. Presented by the Swing Club, 2200 Highland Ave. Full breakfast buffet begins at 7:30 am. $20.00. No reservations. Call 655-7227 or fourarts.org

1/17 - American Friends of The Hebrew University: Annual Luncheon honoring Dr. Ernest B. Teicher, 100 N County Rd, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm. $70.00. For reservations call 521-1199, ext. 4511 or ext. 4411 at 393-7807, morikami.org

1/18 - Love is Good

1/18 - Back to the Roots: The Life and Wit of Nora Ephron

1/18 - Documentary Film: The Cats of San Francisco's Marina District

1/21 - Master Class with Margarita Shchemenok at Lynn University American

1/17 - Roberta DeMuro, Entertainer par excellence

1/17 - Story Central: Performance Series - Akbar Ahmed

1/18 - Back to the Roots: The Life and Wit of Nora Ephron

1/19 - Memory as We Age/Aging Memory

1/19 - Underground Library: Murial Spark - The Narrative Voice at Boca Raton Public Library 901 N Mockingbird Lane, Boca Raton. 4-5 pm. Registration required 521-1199 ext. 4092,

1/18 - The Cats of San Francisco's Marina District

1/17 - 16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Municipal Heritage at the Delray Museum at Old School, 2006/207 South St, Boca Raton. 10 am-3 pm. 750-8624, sp sadnessandpark.org

1/18 - Back to the Roots: The Life and Wit of Nora Ephron

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1/19 - Under the Press at the Norton Art Center, 3111 Congress Ave, Boynton Beach. Players perform with a pen on a comic strip, art, comics, you name it: one man/woman or walk start/ walk 15-20 minutes. Registration deadline 1/11.

1/17 - Live At The Norton - Andrew Sords: Art of the Violin at Norton Museum Art, 6511/A 10th Street, West Palm Beach. 2 pm, doors open, free admission. rainydayafternoontours@norton.org

1/19 - Writers' Launch, part of the Writers' Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership, $45; individual members; $50; non-members; $65. 393-7807, morikami.org

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1/19 - Art of the Violin
The Cottages of Lake Worth Home Tour
Throughout Lake Worth, Jan. 24

Lake Worth has the largest concentration of cottages anywhere. Many of them are painted in whimsical pastels and shaded with the profusion of nautical decoration, lighting, doors, hardware, glass doorknobs and mirtose locks. The Cottages of Lake Worth Home Tour: Living in Large Small Places will take place 1-6 p.m. Jan. 24. The walking or driving tour takes participants to dozens of cottages north and south of downtown Lake Worth. Not appropriate for pets or children. Trolley service is available. Tickets are $30 in advance or $35 at the door; 330-1819 or www.cottagesoflakeworth.com.

Wednesday, 1-27 - Intermediate Bridge (Convention): at Boca Raton Community Center. 1:30-4 p.m. 851 N. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 392-1770. info@bocaratonbridge.com


Sunday, 1-25 - makes 400th Birthday: Concert: Flute & Rameau: at South Florida Science Center and Planetarium: 807 Ocean Drive, Riviera Beach. 7:30 pm. $29.75 (regular), $24.50 (student). 832-7469; sfsciencecenter.org

Saturday, 1-25 - The Romantic of Chopin: Presented by Symphonic Threads: 717 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. 7:30 pm. $40-$55. 848-6651; symphonicthreads.org

Wednesday, 1-25 - The Love Lives of Dolphins: at the Kravis Center Persson Auditorium: 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. 6 pm. Free. 268-6651; kravis.org

Tuesday, 1-26 - My Story, My Song: A Workshop in Creativity and Collaboration through Storytelling: at Norton Museum of Art, 1451 S. Olive Ave, West Palm Beach. T/W/F/Sat/Sun 10 am-5 pm; Mon 10 am-5 pm. $35. 655-7226; fourarts.org

Tuesday, 1-26 - William Hagen: at Boca Raton Community Center, 1320 Blvd. Blvd., Boca Raton. 2-3:30 pm. Class continues 2/3, 10 & 24. $50/week. 392-1770.
JAN. 21 – FEB. 8
• 347-3900; willowtheatre.org
Sand Park, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Rated 2/2-3 – Che Malambo at Kravis Center Rinker 7469; kravis.org
Dance All Night Tour
2/1 – Dancing with the Stars: Live!
Journey Into Night
300 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. Co-Atlantic University DeSantis Family Chapel, at Palm Beach 297-6124; fauevents.com
Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. $10.
2/1 – Town of South Palm Beach 60th required: 805-8562; fourarts.org
Giuliana Castellani Koch, PhD
Institute. First of four-part series. 2-3:30 pm
at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic
2/2 – Politics, Culture, and Contemporary
and Elizabeth Von Trapp
3577 Oceanside Rd. 7 pm doors open, 7:30 pm
Music Series at South Palm Beach Town Hall,
3300 S Ocean Blvd. 7 pm doors open, 7:30 pm
The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2pm. $15.
the Delray Beach Art League at Old School
300 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. 8 pm.
2/4 - Exhibition Opening: Jay Catches
at Patch Reef
2/5 - All About Friends
at Morikami
2/6 - A Taste For The Arts Wine Tasting
at Crest Theatre
Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6:30 pm. $25. 243-7922; oldschoolsquare.org
2/6 - 2016 Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition
at Center Stage Performing Arts, 7200 W Camino Real #330, Boca Raton.
2/6-8 - 2016 Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition
Guillermo Figueroa. Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 4 pm.
2/6-7 - Lynn Philharmonia Orchestra No. 4 at Lynn University World Performing Arts Center, 300 N Military Tr, Boca Raton. Conductor Guillermo Figueroa. Sat 3 pm; Sun 4 pm.
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