



Boca Raton

An old house no more

La Vieille Maison falls to bulldozer, but delicious memories remain

By Tim Pallesen

The 1927 house fondly remembered as Boca Raton's favorite French restaurant has been demolished.

La Vieille Maison defined Old World charm in fine dining for 31 years. But the old house

deteriorated after the restaurant closed in 2006, prompting city officials to condemn it last month.

"It was an unsafe structure and had to be taken down," Assistant City Manager Mike Woika said. "It had been neglected too long."

A groundswell of La Vieille Maison's former patrons didn't want to see the bulldozer.

"It's a crime," said Marvin Kaplan, a patron for three decades. "Nobody should have destroyed it."

See **MAISON** on page 6



The Giles House, home for 31 years to the restaurant La Vieille Maison, deteriorated as it sat vacant. Photo courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society



Junior League of Boca Raton past presidents and other members gather around a sand castle on the beach. Photos courtesy of the Junior League of Boca Raton

40... and growing

Boca Junior League chapter marks four decades

By Ron Hayes

In 1971, a group of 26 young women declared themselves The Junior Service League of Boca Raton and decided the 46-year-old city had been around long enough to deserve a historical society.

Today, that historical society is only the first in countless community projects the organization has nurtured, and the 700 women of the Junior League of Boca Raton are celebrating their own four decades of history.

Jeanne Baur was a charter member and the league's third president.

"We were all Junior League members from all over the country," she recalled

recently, "and when we moved down here we saw a need. We were a growing town in 1971. IBM was here and we saw the need for all kinds of volunteer projects."

Next came the challenge of restoring the 1912 Singing Pines house, now the Boca Raton Children's Museum.

In those early days, the Junior Service League supported puppet shows and consignment shops, the Morikami Museum and Planned Parenthood, the Children's Home Society — and on and on.

"Our biggest problem was

See **LEAGUE** on page 14



In 1984, the Boca Raton Junior League dropped 'Service' from its name, but not from its core mission. At left: a 1975 clipping of club news from *The Boca Raton News*.

See **7-ELEVEN** on page 10

Boca Raton

Council approves 7-Eleven

Area to get facelift on developer's dime

By Margie Plunkett

The highly contested redevelopment of a property at 800-899 E. Palmetto Park Road — including an addition for a 7-Eleven convenience store — will allow area revitalization on the developer's dime rather than the taxpayers'. So say City Council members who voted in November to allow the project to move forward.

"Our job is based on the law and on what is best for the entire community," said Mayor Susan Wheelchel before the vote that upheld a Planning and Zoning Board approval of the site plan for the property owned by James Batmasian.

The council vote followed the hearing of an appeal of the site plan by some neighbors of the property, who voiced numerous concerns including that a convenience store was incompatible with the neighborhood and would cause a variety of disruptions.

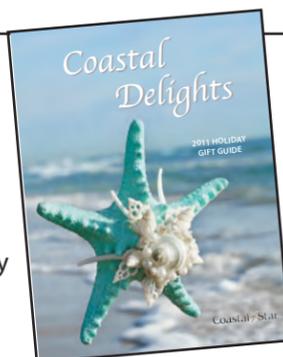
By the time the Nov. 22 meeting was over, two of three named appellants had dropped out (Peter Baronoff and Don Nadick) after conditions were proposed to address their concerns; two council members had recused themselves

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Home in coastal Boca Raton mixes elegance, convenience. **Page 27**



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We have scoured the coast for holiday treasures. **Special Section Inside**



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Joan Wolf of Boca Raton is one of the few female commodores in the country. **Page 13**

The Coastal Star

Publisher Jerry Lower publisher@thecoastalstar.com	Founding Partners Carolyn & Price Patton	The Coastal Star is a monthly newspaper serving Boca Raton and Highland Beach
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Advertising Manager Chris Bellard sales@thecoastalstar.com		

Coastal Star



In addition to the natural areas, Elisabeth Hoffman is proud of the community gardens in Pearl City. Photo by Jerry Lower

Editorial

Let us hear from you as we swing into a new year

Can it really be December already? Those of us who live here year round may be stunned to realize that summer is over and the holidays are just around the corner, but the tourists know it's time to leave the gloom of November behind and hit the beach. And it's great to see so many smiling, returning snowbirds. Welcome back!

While you were gone this summer, the staff of *The Coastal Star* continued to report on our coastal community in words and photos. In doing so, several staff members garnered awards from The Florida Press Club in its 60th Annual Excellence in Journalism contest. Please join me in congratulating the accomplished writers and photographers who help us produce an impressive, award-winning newspaper each month:

- First Place, Feature Photography: Tim Stepien (timstepien@earthlink.net)
 - First Place, Light Feature Writing: Ron Hayes (ronnieron50@bellsouth.net)
 - First Place, Minority Reporting: C.B. Hanif (cbhanif@gmail.com)
 - Second Place, Government News Writing: Steve Plunkett (plunk99@msn.com)
 - Second Place, Light Feature Writing: Emily J. Minor (emilyjminor@aol.com)
 - Second Place, Portrait/Personality Photography: Tim Stepien
 - Third Place, General News Writing: Tim O'Meilla (timomeilia@gmail.com)
- Feel free to drop them a note and let them know how much you appreciate their contributions to your local

newspaper.

Congratulations are also in order for Interfaith21 columnist C.B. Hanif, who has recently been appointed managing editor of the *South Florida Times* newspaper. C.B. has been writing about religion for our paper since the beginning, and promises to continue as an occasional contributor to *The Coastal Star*.

In his absence, Tim Pallesen will pick up the monthly religion column. Tim is a career journalist with deep South Florida ties and is enthusiastic about exploring our local spiritual community — and brings some unique insight as the son of a Lutheran minister. Please welcome Tim and send information about your place of worship to: tcpallesen@aol.com.

And since there's no denying the proximity of the holidays, our consummate shopper Scott Simmons has been all over the area finding special, coastal gift suggestions. This year, he's compiled all of his finds into a special Holiday Gift Guide. I think you'll find this guide essential to exploring (and enjoying) our local businesses this holiday season. If you have suggestions for next year's guide, feel free to let Scott know. He loves to shop! (scottsfia@gmail.com)

So, from all of us at *The Coastal Star* and the *Palm Beach ArtsPaper*, we hope you have safe and happy holidays. Our next edition comes out on Jan. 7, so we'll see you in 2012!



— Mary Kate Leming, executive editor@thecoastalstar.com

Preserving and enjoying the outdoors is in her nature

By Steve Plunkett

Elisabeth Hoffman is a Florida master naturalist, drives a Honda Civic hybrid, volunteers in Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's butterfly garden and is one of the prime movers in a plan to restore Rutherford Park's mangroves and canoe trails.

The longtime city resident also labors in the Pearl City Community Garden and attends numerous meetings of the City Council and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District to voice her approval, or lack of it, on plans for the future.

"It's a passion for me. I'm really all about community and building community," Hoffman says.

But her calendar is slightly less packed this fall following her recent resignation as chairman of the city's Environmental Advisory Board after 22 near-continuous years on the panel.

"Only credit me with 14 years," she says of the certificate she received, explaining that she neglected to apply for reappointment after seven years, then was returned to the board when her replacement was a no-show for three months.

"I am just leaving the board, not my areas of caring concern, my foothold in the city or any of my other volunteer service," she wrote in her resignation letter.

Hoffman said she's proudest of her Environmental Advisory

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Board efforts to fine a builder for unauthorized construction near the Yamato Scrub, which the county and city purchased in 1994 and 1997, as well as guarding the beaches through the board's review of projects on or near the coastal construction control line.

She worked to persuade voters to approve referendums in 1990 and 1999 to buy environmentally sensitive properties. And she helped craft ordinances to further protect the purchases.

Hoffman also spent nine years as a citizen member of the county's Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee.

She left college early to care for an ailing mother, and then worked a succession of college library jobs at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia and Princeton, where she met her future husband.

The library work had a lasting effect. "I don't use a Kindle because I want to read books and turn pages," Hoffman says.

In 1969, the newlyweds moved to Boca Raton, where they would have three daughters and a son. Later she and her husband, a mathematics professor at Florida Atlantic University, divorced with her keeping

their house on Northwest Fifth Avenue.

"One of the first things I did when I got here was get involved in buying [land for] Spanish River Park," Hoffman recalls.

She has three gardens at her home, one "sort of a U-pick" for neighbors in the front yard and one for butterflies at the side.

Hoffman traces her affinity for the outdoors to a childhood in New Jersey woodlands near the Delaware Water Gap.

"Our house was like right at the edge of the glacier front rim," she says. "My dad worked in New York City and knocked himself out weekends gardening and being out in the woods. And that's what took for me."

She held a variety of office manager and newspaper jobs over the years, as well as positions at the Nature Conservancy and with Otto Bettmann of Bettmann Archives fame. In 1988 she earned a degree in English at FAU.

Last month she completed a special master naturalist course on biodiversity at Rookery Bay in Collier County, complete with field trips to a panther preserve, Estero and the Pepper Ranch Preserve in Immokalee.

Even more recently she rescued a capsized canoe at Gumbo Limbo to turn into a planter at the Pearl City garden.

"It's down there in all its orange glory," she says. ★

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Around Town

Evert continues to score with tennis classic

With a lot of community support and a little help from tennis and show-biz friends, **Chris Evert** raised another \$800,000 with her **Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic** at the Delray Beach Tennis Center and the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Since its inaugural in 1988, the event has raised \$20 million, all of which has gone to charities in South Florida.

Tennis stars **John** and **Peter McEnroe** and **Murphy Jensen** and film/TV stars **Christian Slater** (*Breaking In*), the recently slimmed comedian **Jon Lovitz**, *Burn Notice*'s **Jeffrey Donovan** and *Today*'s **Hoda Kotb** added luster to the weekend. Proceeds go to Ounce of Prevention, which assists pregnant and parenting women who are trying to overcome substance-abuse problems.

Evert's ex-, champion fisherman and former Olympic skier **Andy Mill**, can now add another line to his shingle: award-winning author. Mill received two gold



Chris Evert (above) taunts *Burn Notice* star Jeffrey Donovan (far left) after lobbing a ball at him during last month's Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity

Tennis Classic at the Delray Beach Tennis Center. Donovan told Evert not to hit the 'money-maker.' Francine Voit (near left), a student at Loggers' Run Middle School, returns a shot during the classic. **Photos by Jerry Lower**

medals from **The Benjamin Franklin Awards**, one of the more prestigious accolades in independent publishing. His book, *A Passion for Tarpon*, was named best recreation/sports title and best regional title, the

first book about fishing ever to be so honored.

"This important new book, besides being visually stunning and a fascinating read, is an excellent resource to educate anglers and policymakers on a

global scale; we hope helping to guide legislation and sound management supporting their conservation for future generations," said Dr. **Jerry Ault**, University of Miami marine biology and fisheries professor and founding member/scientific advisor of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust.

Mill, on the other hand, is amazed that he was able to bring it off. "It's insane; I'm not an author, I'm a skier," he said, noting that helping to write scripts for the fishing show he hosted on the Outdoor Life Network was nothing like writing a book.

See **AROUND TOWN** on page 5



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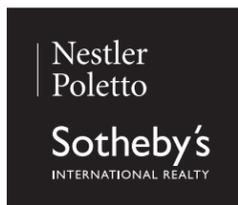


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AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 4

"I needed something to pull me out of the hole I was in after my divorce and this publisher asked me to do this book," said Mill, just back in Boca home after summering in Aspen. "It took me five years. Debra and this book pulled me out of that hole."

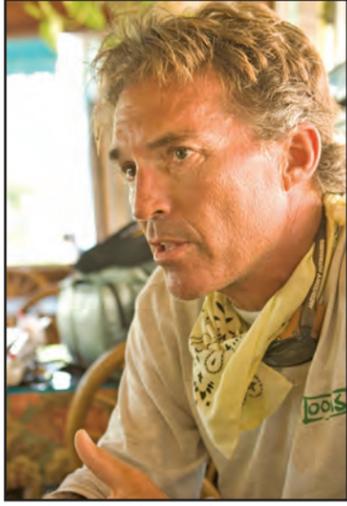
Debra is the former **Debra Harvick**, whom he met two years ago in Aspen, asked her to marry on their third date and finally tied the knot a year ago in Aspen.

"She's my best friend," Mill said. "We ride our bikes on A1A and when we go bow-hunting for elk in Colorado, she's right there alongside me."

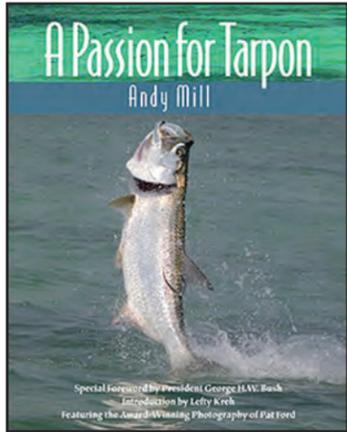
Once again, the great pigout, officially known as **Best of Boca & Beyond** was a huge success. Guests didn't seem to mind the wait as they lined up at stations in the courtyard at **Boca Center** for tantalizing tidbits from several dozen local restaurants. Proceeds from the 12th annual event, sponsored by *Boca Raton* magazine, went to **Hospice of Palm Beach County**.

One of the highlights was provided by a restaurant that wouldn't open for another week. Servers for **Brio**, which commands a sprawling 8,400-square-foot space formerly occupied by two restaurants, were hard-pressed to meet demand for the Milk Chocolate Caramel Cake dolcino. You'll find it in the dictionary under "decadent" — chocolate cake, layered with milk chocolate ganache, caramel, rich chocolate frosting and vanilla whipped cream. At a decadent \$2.95, I'll just order three and skip dinner.

TV news. It ain't what it used to be. This is the age of gushy recitation, gratuitous



Andy Mill (above) has won two gold medals from The Franklin Awards for his book, *A Passion for Tarpon*. Photos provided



cleavage, breathy and fawning interviews; reporters who don't know the difference between a crash and a forced landing; weather girls who don't know a typhoon from a hurricane; sanctimonious sportscasters given to pontificating instead of reporting.

Jim Sackett did know the difference. At 66, he also knew it was time to go. Sackett signed off his last newscast at **WPTV-Channel 5**, at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 23, and no doubt the managements at the area's other two network stations gave thanks. For 33 years, he helped WPTV-Channel 5 dominate the market like no other station in the nation. For those who follow, we hope they learned a few

things: his sense of place, his knowledge of the community and, most importantly, that ultimately, it's about the story, not the storyteller.

For love or ...? One-time Delray Beach businessman and two-time failed political candidate **Nick Loeb** says he won't run for the U.S. Senate. Loeb had been interested in the seat held by Democrat **Bill Nelson**.

The son of a Reagan-appointed ambassador, Loeb lost a Delray Beach commission race in 2007 and abandoned a Florida Senate race in 2009 after his wife filed for divorce. He then popped up in California, where he became friends with *Modern Family* star **Sofia Vergara**, who offered aid and comfort after he was banged up in a car crash.

Loeb had said last summer that he would decide about another campaign after the Emmy awards in September. On Nov. 17, shortly after Fox News reported Loeb would run — with the blessing of Vergara — he held a brief news conference in Miami Beach. With Vergara at his side, he announced he would *not* run. "I'm still very hurt from last year's accident," he explained.

Maybe the pain is caused by bad odds. Republican hopefuls include local **Adam Hasner**, the former state House majority leader, former U.S. Senate appointee **George LeMieux** and most recently U.S. Rep. **Connie Mack** from Cape Coral. Mack has name recognition: Old-timers think he's his father (the former senator) and old-old-timers think he had something to do with baseball.

South County residents who remember Prezzo, rejoice! "It's like the son of Prezzo," restaurant mogul **Dennis Max** said of his next project. He plans to open **Assaggio**

del Forno — that's Italian for "Taste of the Oven" — in early January in the space once occupied by **Bistro Zenith** in Regency Court at the corner of Jog and Yamato.

Prezzo was a popular Italian bistro that Max and then partner **Burt Rapoport** opened nearly two decades ago on Glades Road just east of the turnpike. Assaggio del Forno expands some of its concepts and introduces some new ones.

"We'll have an Italian wood-burning oven to make artisanal pizzas," Max said. "But the menu will cover all of Italy, not just the south, and it will be mainly small plates and smaller plates. You can sort of graze through. We encourage people to get a few things and share them."

In **Mizner Park**, **Max's Grille** is enjoying its best year ever, and **Max's Harvest**, which opened in Delray's Pineapple Grove in June, has exceeded expectations, said Max, who has added live music with "Jazz off the Avenue" every Friday featuring saxophonist **Will Bridges**.

In mid-December, Max plans to open another Italian restaurant in Deerfield Beach. In the South Federal Highway space formerly occupied by **Marcello's, Frank & Dino's** will offer a culinary salute to **Frank Sinatra** and **Dean Martin**.

"It's where the Rat Pack eats," Max says. "We're paying homage to that whole era — drinking, partying, a convivial atmosphere and good food. Italian-American classics — we'll serve those dishes in their glory, surrounded by pictures of all those stars, with live music on the weekend."

A movie extra with extra motive. **Jamie Telchin**, president of development for **LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels**, which owns the **Boca Raton Resort & Club, The Beach**

Club, would love nothing more than to sell the remaining 12 units in the adjacent **One Thousand Ocean**, just north of the Boca Inlet. So why not put it in a movie?

After a few phone calls and faster than a hopped-up BMW, the deal was cut to use the complex as the high-rise star of *Parker*, starring **Jennifer Lopez** and **Jason Statham** and directed by **Taylor Hackford** (*An Officer and a Gentleman, Ray*).

Filming occurred in late September, but only recently were details about the secret location revealed. The story is set in Palm Beach, and some exterior shots were filmed on South Ocean Boulevard, Worth and Peruvian avenues and the bridges across Lake Worth. But Hackford's request to shoot at **Mar-a-Lago** was nixed because Palm Beach doesn't allow commercial filming in residential areas. So instead of **Donald Trump's** grand old lady, moviegoers will see Telchin's baby when the film opens next fall.

Lopez plays a real estate agent who becomes involved with Statham, a thief planning a heist at a Palm Beach auction. (It has elements of several Palm Beach capers. A \$4 million safe-deposit box robbery at the **Palm Beach Towers** condo in 1976 was never solved.)

Telchin's wife, **Jessica**, and sales associates **Maria Scarola** and **Kimberly Gambino** also served as "extras." During a break, Telchin gave Statham a tour of the 8,770-square-foot penthouse.

Price: about \$15 million. Who knows? Everyone's a prospect!

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Contact him at thomsmith@ymail.com.



Along the Coast

Two island resorts sparkle with Forbes 5-star ratings

By Mary Thurwachter

When Forbes Travel Guide (formerly Mobil Travel Guide) revealed its 54th listing of five-star hotels last month, Florida had two winners and both are here on A1A.

One is the Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach, which is actually in Manalapan. The other is the Four Seasons Resort in Palm Beach. Each won five stars last year.

"The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach along with our Eau Spa represents a unique philosophy of barefoot elegance, which provides guests with a glamorous and memorable vacation experience," said Michael King, general manager of the Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach. "The hotel continues to thrive as the benchmark hotel for the brand and is elevating the Palm Beach vacation experience."

"This accomplishment is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our world-class ladies and gentlemen, who take a tremendous amount of pride in being the best in the industry, consequently creating Ritz-Carlton guests for life."



The Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach

Colin Clark, general manager of Four Seasons, said it was "an incredible honor for the resort to again receive both the Forbes Five Star Award and the Five Diamond Award from AAA. Both awards honor our team members for the work they do daily to create an exceptionally personalized and memorable experience for each and every guest."

Forbes put The Breakers on the four-star list this year. But top honors keep coming for this Italian Renaissance-style beauty. Last month, Fodor's gave The Breakers one of its first-ever worldwide

Top Hotel Awards.

"It's more than an opulent hotel," Fodor's editors wrote. "It's a modern resort packed with amenities. ... It cossets guests in the Palm Beach mystique."

"We are delighted to be recognized by Fodor's as one of the world's legendary hotels, said Ann Margo Peart, public relations manager for The Breakers. "With the extraordinary commitment of our owners, who are descendants of Henry Flagler, we're fortunate to be able to continually invest \$20 million into the resort every year."



The Four Seasons Palm Beach

The Breakers was founded in 1896 by Flagler, who set the standard for modern American resorts of his day. Today, this completely renewed resort offers a variety of modern amenities, and has earned numerous accolades for its commitment to the environment, community and its employees.

Forbes named two Palm Beach restaurants to its four-star list: Café Boulud and the Restaurant (at the Four Seasons).

Spas at The Breakers and The Boca Raton Resort & Club received four-star ratings from Forbes. ★

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ABOVE: A fountain stands amid the wreckage as the former La Vieille Maison is razed. **Photo by Skip Sheffield**
LEFT: The building in happier times, as the Giles House. **Courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society**

MAISON

Continued from page 1

The city's Historic Preservation Board asked the City Council last month to designate the house as historic. But city building inspectors determined it would be impossible to restore.

"Everybody wanted to save it," Boca Raton Historical Society executive director Mary Csar said. "Many people had ties to the restaurant because they had dined there.

"But it was just in such bad shape," Csar said.

The demolition (completed early in November) leaves former patrons such as Kaplan and his wife Carol-Lee with only memories of the restaurant where they always went for special occasions such as their children's birthdays and engagements.

"We'd go there for every event that we could call a special event — and we stretched it a bit," Kaplan said.

La Vieille Maison was known as the grand dame in fine dining. Nothing matched its ambiance. Waiters in tuxedos gave menus with prices only to gentlemen. Ladies never saw them. The gentlemen were required to wear jackets. Classical music played in the background, blending with the glow of candlelight.

The menu featured such delicacies as caviar with buckwheat blini and foie gras with lingonberry preserves.

The filet mignon was dressed with béarnaise or bordelaise. The escargot, lobster bisque, steak tartare and sweetbreads matched the culinary delights offered by the finest French restaurants in Paris.

Owner Leonce Picot hired only career waiters and captains, who remembered the wine choices of patrons and how they preferred to have their food cooked. They were polished professionals who knew how to prepare and serve crepes Suzette tableside.

"Each waiter would each speak three or four languages," patron Kathy Assaf recalled. "We would phone ahead and say what language we wanted

spoken at the table."

That was convenient for her husband, Ron Assaf, the Sensormatic founder who did business in 100 countries. La Vieille Maison was the perfect restaurant to entertain foreign executives when they came to Boca Raton.

"We could have our food cooked in special ways," Kathy Assaf said. "They would accommodate us in any way."

The two-story restaurant shaded by massive live oaks had several private dining rooms in addition to the main dining room on the first floor.

Some rooms were the perfect size for business groups and large family occasions. Other more intimate rooms in the old house were a favorite spot for marriage proposals.

The Kaplans always requested the Goldfish Room, where the table overlooked a koi pond.

"It was probably the best French restaurant within 50 miles," Kaplan said. "When it closed, I didn't want to go to another French restaurant. It was that good. I wanted to savor the memories."

The 2006 closing came after Picot received several offers to buy his property at 770 E. Palmetto Park Road. A historic designation for the house would have prevented its demolition.

"I used to think it would be nice to have that designation. But boy, I'm glad I didn't do it — I'd never be able to sell it," Picot was quoted as saying five years ago. He received \$2.6 million for the property.

The 1927 house was built by Thomas Giles, an engineer for architect Addison Mizner, in the same Mediterranean Revival style that Mizner had chosen for the distinctive homes that he built in Old Floresta two years before.

The Giles family lived in the house for 25 years until it became the Por La Mar Apartments in 1953 and later a real estate office before Picot's purchase.

The current property owner, TJC Land Trust, hasn't requested city permission as yet to construct a new building at the site, Woika said. ★

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Boca Raton



Rendering provided

Apartment complex being built on old Levitz site

Construction for a \$62 million, 384-unit rental apartment and townhouse complex called Broadstone at North Boca Village has begun next to the Caldwell Theatre in the old Levitz Plaza.

Permits and plans for the 17-acre site at 7801 N. Federal Highway were approved by the Boca Raton City Council during the summer, and a

groundbreaking ceremony was held early in November.

Alliance Residential is in charge of construction and will build one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and 30 townhouses. Rents are anticipated to range from \$1,100 to \$2,400, depending on size.

Broadstone at North Boca Village will be a gated

community with a clubhouse, gym, business center, cyber café, putting green, gazebo, children's play area and a wine cellar.

Construction is expected to be complete in March 2013.

As part of the project, Caldwell Theatre, just north of the complex, will gain 100 parking places.

— Staff report

Ornament a tribute to Pearl City



The new Boca Raton Garden Club ornament highlights the city's Pearl City neighborhood.

The Boca Raton Garden Club released its 18th annual holiday ornament, a commemoration of the Pearl City section of the city.

The Garden Club's 24-karat-gold-plated 2011 ornament depicts the Tree of Knowledge, a huge banyan on Northeast 12th Street that was a gathering place in the black community started in 1915.

The Boca Raton subdivision, designated a historic district in 2002, is along the Florida East Coast Railway tracks north of downtown.

The ornament, which sells for \$16, was presented to City Council Nov. 22 and sales started at the tree-lighting ceremony Nov. 25.

See www.bocaratongardenclub.org for more information.

— Margie Plunkett

Boardwalk work price up, but still under budget

Refurbishing Red Reef Park's three-decade-old boardwalk wound up costing \$129,600 more for additional support beams and other timber, plus \$23,758 to make a beach ramp accessible to the disabled.

Engineers examining the dune crossovers to prepare the bid could not see the covered support timber,

Buddy Parks, the city's deputy recreation services director, said in a letter to the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District.

"As the old boardwalk was demolished, extensive wear and rot were discovered," Parks said.

The new ramp for the disabled is on the crossover east of Red Reef's entry

gatehouse, with the access point just north of the "rock pile," Parks said.

He noted that even with the changes, the project came in \$388,000 under budget.

Boca Raton operates and maintains Red Reef Park; the Beach and Park District reimburses the city.

— Steve Plunkett

Local Voices

Keep safety in mind for holidays

Here are 10 holiday safety tips from the Boca Raton Police Department:

1. Minimize the amount of cash and the number of debit or credit cards you carry.

2. Keep gift cards close and secure. They are easily redeemable and difficult to recover once they are stolen.

3. If you are shopping with small children, have a plan in place if you are separated. Teach them to get help from a store clerk or a police officer.

4. Stay alert and avoid talking on your cell phone while walking through parking lots.

5. Do not overload yourself with packages and do not leave your purchases unattended, not even for a moment.

6. Do not make multiple trips out to your car while shopping; purchases can be easily stolen from a locked trunk.

7. Go immediately home after large purchases, such as televisions, computers, and jewelry. Criminals have been known to follow their victims to another destination and break into their car.

8. When shopping online, ensure your computer is equipped with updated security software, you are shopping on secured websites and you are only using reputable company sites.

9. After the holidays, do not advertise gifts. Destroy the boxes and place them in an opaque bag or trash can.

10. If you see something suspicious, call the police immediately.

Crime and Safety Tips are provided by members of the Boca Raton Police Services Department's Crime Prevention Unit. For information, see www.BocaPolice.com or call 347-3938.

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Boca Raton

Park research nets extra money for consultant

By Steve Plunkett

The consultant designing a park at Ocean Strand will earn an extra \$16,000 to review when other beachfront parks are open, what demands they meet and how many people use them, then compare those numbers to national standards.

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District approved the additional expense at its Nov. 21 meeting. Curtis + Rogers Design Studio Inc.'s contract already guaranteed the consultant a little more than \$80,000 to develop a master plan for Ocean Strand, including an inventory of what nearby parks offer but not the specific days and hours.

"There may be things we don't want to do," District Chairman Dennis Frisch said. "We're trying not to duplicate

services."

Curtis + Rogers will compare the numbers it gathers to National Recreation and Parks Association standards for acres of parkland per unit of population and specific recreational activities and/or facilities per unit of population.

The menu of park amenities in Boca Raton keeps changing. Since Curtis + Rogers started work in March, the city has received letters of interest on developing its Wildflower property next to Silver Palm Park and the county has developed a plan to restore mangroves and canoe trails at Lake Wyman.

The county won competitive grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District, which wants sea grass beds included in the project to mitigate against sea grass it might damage while

dredging the Intracoastal Waterway.

"The county's still waiting to obtain all its permits," County Commissioner Steven Abrams said in late November.

Boca Raton asked Abrams to find another way to fund the project besides asking the city or the Beach and Park District to come up with \$419,000 as a local share, but Abrams said no other money is available.

"In years past, the commission had discretionary funds and there were other fund sources that don't exist anymore," he said.

Meanwhile, the city has drafted an amendment to its comprehensive plan to label the 15-acre Ocean Strand site between Spanish River and Red Reef parks recreational instead of residential.

Beach and Park District attorney Art Koski said the city will apply for the

land-use change by itself rather than include the district as a partner.

The city and the beach district are also waiting for the 4th District Court of Appeal to set a date for oral arguments in a citizens' lawsuit seeking a special election banning private clubs on public land on the barrier island. The appellate court should render a decision a month or two after the hearing, Koski said.

Ocean Strand was discussed at Beach and Park District and city meetings after a 2009 Florida-Penn Cos. proposal for a members-only cabana club there to augment a luxury hotel planned for downtown. Neighbors were shocked to learn Boca Raton's comprehensive plan labels the parcel residential.

The beach and park district bought the Ocean Strand property in 1994 for \$11.9 million, but never developed it. ★

Architects reveal plan for library

Spacious interior views of the planned 42,000-square-foot library at the old Causeway Lumber property showed off an area with 25-foot ceilings, circulation desk and even a self-checkout desk.

Ian Nestler of architect PGAL presented some of the newer views in an update at the ninth public workshop on the proposal.

The interior renderings, not yet complete, showed a theme replicated from Gumbo Limbo featuring symbols of bubbles and turtles.

Before the library presentation at the Nov. 8 meeting, Friends of the Library presented its \$250,000 donation to the project. The money will help expand the size of the on-site bookstore.

— Margie Plunkett



Hundreds of people ranging from WWII, Korean, Viet Nam and Gulf Coast vets to students from Boca Raton Community High School band and the Jr ROTC, and marching and choral groups took part in a Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony on Nov. 11th at the Boca Raton Cemetery. **LEFT:** Isable Gelb, wearing her husband David's cap, is offered well wishes by other veterans.

Photo by Jerry Lower

Highland Beach

Commission sets interviews for town attorney

By Steve Plunkett

Four lawyers — all representing other municipalities — want to be the town's next attorney.

Highland Beach commissioners will interview the candidates Dec. 8 for the successor to Tom Sloney, who resigned effective Dec. 31 after Commissioner Dennis Sheridan said he wanted to find out how much other firms would charge to represent the town.

Sloney, who has been Highland Beach's attorney since 1973, is given a monthly retainer of \$9,000 plus costs. His firm, Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs LLP, did not bid to continue the contract.

The lawyers who want the job are:

- Tom Baird, town attorney for Jupiter and code enforcement prosecutor for Lake Park.

Baird, who earned his law degree from Nova Southeastern University in Davie in 1984, represented Highland Beach in its successful lawsuit to delay the county from building Milani Park until 2020.

Baird's colleague, John "Skip" Randolph, is town attorney for Gulf Stream, Palm Beach and Jupiter Island, which their firm's bid notes are "much like Highland Beach, in that each of these communities enjoy both oceanfront and Intracoastal waterway properties with high real estate values."

Baird wants \$195 an hour to represent the town.

- Brad Biggs, town attorney

for South Palm Beach, Golf and Royal Palm Beach and assistant town attorney for Lantana.

Biggs' firm notes it successfully defended South Palm Beach against an appeal by a bicyclist who was cited for riding more than two abreast. "The regulation of bicycle riders along State Road A1A continues to be an issue of utmost importance to many seaside communities," the firm's bid notes.

Biggs, with a degree from Nova's law school in 1998, seeks \$165 an hour for general representation of Highland Beach.

Among his firm's colleagues: Manalapan Town Attorney Trela White and Lantana Town Attorney Max Lohman.

- Ken Spillias, town attorney for Ocean Ridge and

onetime Palm Beach County commissioner.

Spillias, who has a degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, also represented the Ballantrae condominium in its successful quest to be annexed into Gulf Stream.

He would charge \$260 an hour or set up a retainer system like the one he has with Ocean Ridge, which pays him \$6,000 a month.

- Glen Torcivia, town attorney for Sewall's Point in Martin County, Palm Springs and Belle Glade.

Torcivia, who got a law degree from Union University in Albany, N.Y., in 1979, started his law firm after a five-year stint as an assistant Palm Beach County attorney.

He wants \$195 an hour if selected.

The firms seem willing to lower their fees if necessary to land Highland Beach's business.

"The firm is eager to represent the town and would not allow the hourly rate to preclude its representation should its standard rate be of issue," Baird's proposal says.

Spillias says his firm knows local governments face declining tax revenues.

"To that end, the firm expresses its willingness to freely negotiate its rates in the event the town selects us," his bid says.

"The position of town attorney is one that demands a high level of integrity and trust and since any firm selected serves at the pleasure of the Town Commission, we believe that a letter of engagement is sufficient," he wrote. ★

Along the Coast

Gift disclosures roll in, under new ethics rules

By Steve Plunkett

Will Palm Beach County's renewed emphasis on ethics become the Grinch who stole Christmas gifts from municipal employees?

The Commission on Ethics was set to discuss gift-giving guidelines for town workers and other government employees at its Nov. 30 meeting. A proposed opinion said a holiday gift of cash from someone besides a vendor or lobbyist "is not prohibited provided it is not given in exchange for the past, present or future performance of an official act of a legal duty."

"We're new and this is the first year," said Alan Johnson, the commission's executive director. "They've never squarely looked at holiday giving where it's one to one."

Some cases are easy to determine, Johnson said.

"Employee-to-employee is a no-brainer as long as there's no quid pro quo," he said. Fruit baskets to a town hall shouldn't be questioned, he said.

What the commission decides will be posted on its website, www.palmbeachcountyethics.com, which also has collected its first round of gift forms from municipal employees and

officials. Nine individuals from Boca Raton to South Palm Beach submitted forms, far fewer than the 43 just from the town of Palm Beach Police Department.

Persons filing the form are asked to describe "each gift, the value of which you believe to exceed \$100, accepted by you in the calendar year."

Forms from the southern coastal communities included:

- Delray Beach City Commissioner Adam Frankel, \$150 for an entry to the 2011 Habitat Golf Classic from Paradise Bank, \$300 worth of Miami Heat tickets from contractor Charles Mishner, \$250 for a ticket to the CJ Foundation Gala from developer Cito Beguristain, \$175 worth of gala tickets from the Sandoway House, \$3,550 worth of tickets to the Delray International Tennis Championship from the event, a \$150 ticket to the 4 Kids Gala from Paradise Bank, \$150 worth of golf at the Habitat for Humanity tournament from Paradise Bank and \$2,350 worth of tickets to last year's Chris Evert Tennis Classic from Chris Evert Charities;

- Delray Beach City Commissioner Tom Carney, \$325 for tickets to this year's Evert Classic.

- Delray Beach City Manager David Harden, \$1,233 for tickets to the International Tennis Championship;

- Boynton Beach then-Assistant City Manager Lori Ann LaVerriere, \$250 for two tickets to a Chamber of Commerce dinner dance from accountant Donald Porges;

- Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi, \$1,620 worth of tickets to Miami Dolphins football games from resident James McAndrew;

- Ocean Ridge police Sgt. Robert McAllister, \$805 worth of tickets to a Dolphins game from McAndrew.

- Manalapan Police Chief Clay Walker, \$200 in gift cards from resident Peter Blum.

No one in Boca Raton, Highland Beach, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes or South Palm Beach disclosed a gift.

Ocean Ridge's town attorney is researching whether the town should give its employees a year-end bonus.

In Gulf Stream, Civic Association President Bob Ganger said the town's 17 employees could expect their usual gift. The association collects money from residents who want to give something, then divvies it up.

"No one in town who receives the gifts knows who

gave them," he said.

Ganger called the association's anonymous method of gift-giving "kind of a template" for other communities and one that has been thoroughly reviewed by Town Attorney John Randolph. "We have no record of who

gave; we have no record of how much they gave. It all goes into a pile," Ganger said.

The spirit of the gift is well-meant, he added. "People in the town really do appreciate the service they get from the employees in town," Ganger said. ★



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7-ELEVEN

Continued from page 1

(Constance Scott and Susan Haynie) for possible conflicts of interest; numerous residents came before council both applauding and opposing the plan; and three members of the Batmasian family defended the proposal.

The proposal adds 777 square feet for a possible convenience store at 831 E. Palmetto Park Road to an existing mix of restaurants plus five units that house residents.

The developer is in talks with Southland Corp. about putting in a 7-Eleven, said architect Douglas A. Mumshaw, who showed slides of the upscale prototype 7-Eleven store that he likened to a Fresh Market or Starbucks.

Mumshaw told the crowd that the buildings in the commercial center were developed in the late 1960s and have been worn by time to the "current blighted condition."



A rendering for the proposed 7-Eleven shows 8-foot-wide sidewalks and enlarged window panels. Rendering provided by Mumshaw & Associates

"They have to be revitalized to survive," he said.

The proposal is a "significant upgrade to the street frontage," with enlarged window panels that are "indicative of a modern retail center that will attract national and quality business," Mumshaw said, adding the site has been able to secure Subway as a tenant.

The plan creates a bus transit

area and easements that allow for sidewalks to be widened to 8 feet, he said. As an offer of settlement to the neighbors appealing the site plan approval, the developer would complete a 6-foot masonry wall, with flowering trees with canopies that will touch and grow into a "garden towering over the wall," the architect said. The development would also include security cameras and added lighting aimed away from the neighbors' homes.

While the site plan asks for more space, it didn't ask for a convenience store — nor would it have to, Mumshaw said. "A convenience store can go anywhere in the zone. It doesn't require a public hearing."

The opponents of the redevelopment disputed a parking study that was

presented earlier by staff, claiming that proposed parking was not adequate. They said there wasn't enough of a buffer between residents' homes and the loading zone. And they claimed inadequate notice was given of the Planning and Zoning meeting where the site plan was first presented.

The appellants pointed out the property was nonconforming, because students and others lived in the residential units rather than the required owner-operators of the businesses in the development. A plastic fence separated the businesses from the neighboring homes instead of a required wall.

"The site plan is ill-conceived, ill-advised, poorly planned and violates current city code," said Robert Ockman, the remaining named appellant of the three who initially brought the challenge.

"We, as do all Boca Raton residents, have a right to a quiet and restful night's sleep," Ockman said. Neighbors of the development will be deprived of that by noxious fumes from garbage bins, noise and light shining on their properties, he said.

Neighbors, including Ockman — some wearing "No 7-11" T-shirts — turned out at an October meeting to protest the possibility of the convenience store. At

that meeting, they discussed how the 7-Eleven would cater to people from other areas, and sell alcohol that may be consumed on the beach or where it is not permitted.

"People will come here to our neighborhood to buy beer at 2 a.m. and rolling papers at 4 a.m. at the new 24/7 convenience store," Ockman said at the Nov. 22 meeting.

During the public portion of that meeting, Marta Batmasian told the crowd that she has lived two blocks from the site for nearly 30 years and raised her two sons there.

She described her family's commercial property: "The appearance is horrific; the tenant mix is not the right mix." She added, "Nobody wants to move in."

Of the work the city has done on the west side of the bridge, Batmasian said, "You did an unbelievable job," adding that it's her property on the east side that embarrasses her. She urged council to allow the project to go forward.

James Batmasian also defended the plan to revitalize his development, as did the Batmasians' son, Armen.

The latter Batmasian, who said getting a national tenant was critical, noted the developer is renovating the whole street to attract the 7-Eleven, when they could put a Circle K in the same spot if they wanted. ★

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Along the Coast

New year bringing protection to shark species

Tiger sharks and hammerheads can swim a little easier beginning Jan. 1. That's when the harvest of three species of hammerhead sharks and tiger sharks becomes illegal in Florida waters. The hammerhead species protected include great, scalloped and smooth.

Also prohibited will be the possession, sale and exchange of these top predators — although catch and release in state waters will be allowed and the new law does not limit catching the sharks in adjacent federal waters.

In 2010, concerned citizens, shark researchers and shark anglers sparked this regulation change by expressing to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission a desire to see increased protections of sharks.

Florida waters offer essential habitat for young sharks, which is important for species such as the slow-to-reproduce tiger shark, which takes about 15 years to reach maturity, according to the FWC.

— Staff report

The next edition of The Coastal Star will be distributed on the weekend of Jan. 7, 2012

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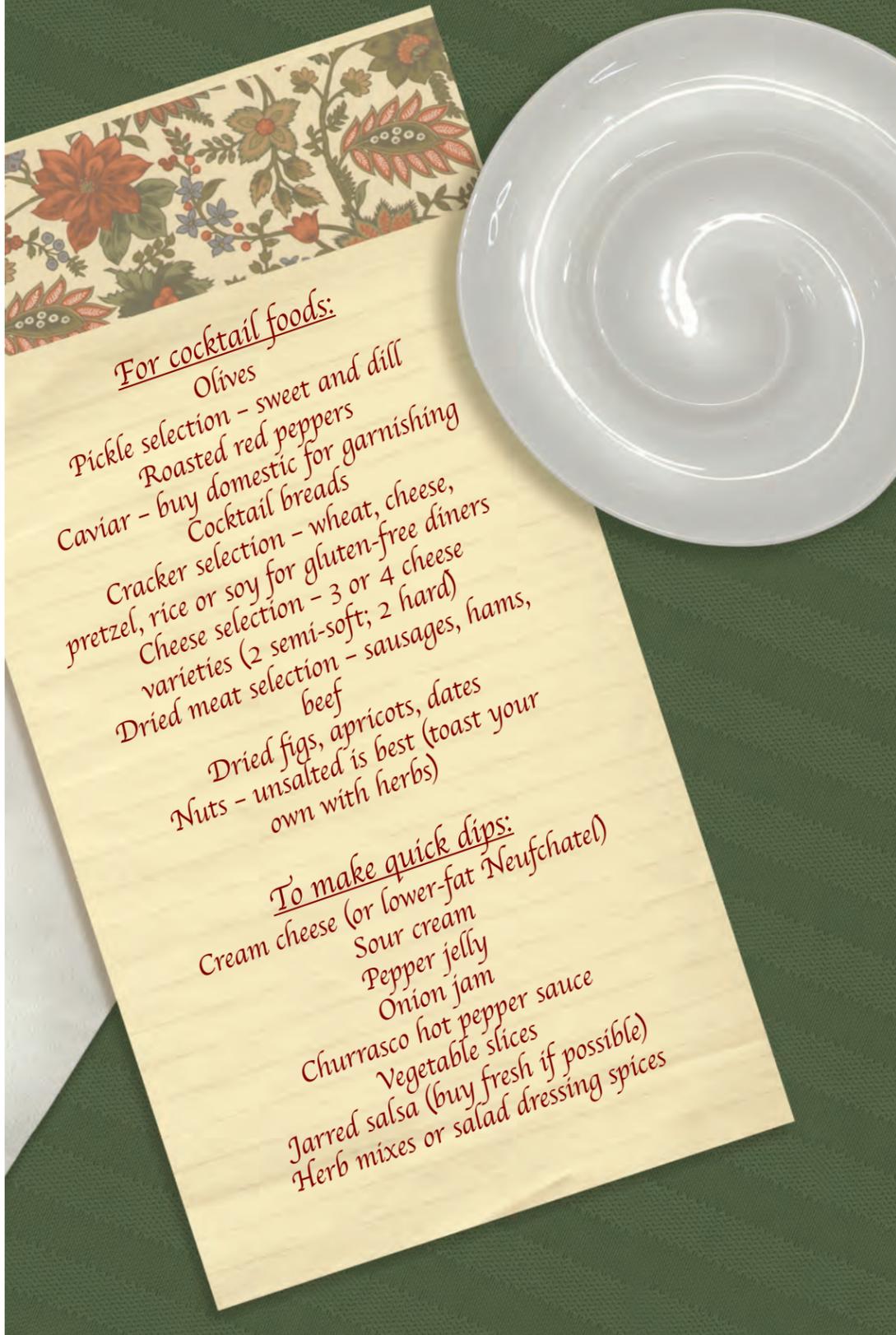
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Holiday Pantry List

By Jan Norris

The holidays are a whirlwind and everybody's seemingly busy; too busy, generally, for dinner parties. Cocktail or wine parties have become the way to entertain large numbers and do it with ease — with the right foods on hand. Set out a dip or two with some olives and cheeses, have great tunes spinning, and you're good to go.

Here's a list to get you prepared as a last-minute host:



For cocktail foods:

- Olives
- Pickle selection - sweet and dill
- Roasted red peppers
- Caviar - buy domestic for garnishing
- Cocktail breads
- Cracker selection - wheat, cheese, pretzel, rice or soy for gluten-free diners
- Cheese selection - 3 or 4 cheese varieties (2 semi-soft; 2 hard)
- Dried meat selection - sausages, hams, beef
- Dried figs, apricots, dates
- Nuts - unsalted is best (toast your own with herbs)

To make quick dips:

- Cream cheese (or lower-fat Neufchâtel)
- Sour cream
- Pepper jelly
- Onion jam
- Churrasco hot pepper sauce
- Vegetable slices
- Jarred salsa (buy fresh if possible)
- Herb mixes or salad dressing spices

For the bar:

- Vodka, Rum, Bourbon, Scotch, Tequila
- 2 red wines (Pinot Noir or Merlot; Beaujolais as a lighter choice)
- 2 white wines (Chardonnay or Pinot Gris; Dry Reisling or Viognier)
- Sparkling wine (A Spanish Cava,
- Italian Prosecco or a domestic sparkling wine suggested)
- Fruit juice mixers: cranberry, apple, citrus juices
- Lime mix
- Sodas — cola, lemon-lime, ginger ale
- Club soda
- Sparkling and still bottled waters
- Bitters

- Liqueurs: orange, raspberry and coffee flavored
- Craft beer selection
- Maraschino
- cherries, olives, salt and coarse sugar for glasses
- Extra ice cubes
- Picks for garnishes

Non-edibles:

- Plastic drink cups
- Cocktail napkins
- Small dishes for nuts, olives and other snacks
- Plastic wine glasses for pool areas
- Paper plates
- Paper napkins



Photo courtesy of FoodNetwork.com

Parmesan cheese crisps

- 1 pound Parmesan cheese, grated fine — about 4 cups
- ½ medium onion, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)

Use a food processor fitted with the steel blade to process cheese: Cut cheese into 1-inch cubes and put into processor; process until no chunks remain and cheese is finely grated. Process onion in a small food chopper or grate on a microplane tool. Mix cheese and onion with a fork in a mixing. Add garlic powder, if using, and combine.

Heat oven to 400 degrees.

On a nonstick baking sheet, mound 1-1/2 tablespoons (approximately) portions of the cheese mixture, leaving 3 inches of space between each mound — they will spread.

Bake for 4 to 6 minutes until cheese melts and bubbles — mixture will color. Remove and let sit 30 seconds; remove with spatula to a plate for flat crisps. For chip-shaped crisps, lift from pan with spatula to a rolling pin or clean wine bottle set on its side (place on a dish towel to prevent rolling). Form a slight curve by pressing the crisp against the pin or bottle.

Repeat with remaining cheese mixture.

Makes approximately 20 crisps; these will hold 1 day in a tin at room temperature.

Recipes from readers

These recipes come from our readers; consider them for your next holiday party.

Walnut Pâté

- one 1-pound bag shelled walnuts
 - 1 garlic clove, peeled
 - 1 cup fennel bulb, roughly chopped
 - Juice of 1 lemon
 - ¼ cup red onion
 - Salt and pepper to taste
- Put all ingredients into the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Process until the mixture is the texture of a thick dip, or spread.
- Serve with raw vegetables, such as carrot wafers, celery, or jicama slices, or crispy bread or crackers for dipping.
- Makes approximately 1-1/2 cups.

- 1 cup roasted red pepper dip, or other flavorful dip
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Scrub potatoes well and pat dry. Slice into 1/4-inch thick rounds. Heat oil in a medium skillet until hot; add a layer of potatoes and fry until golden brown; remove to paper-towel-lined tray to drain. Repeat with remainder of potatoes. Spread each round with a little red pepper dip and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Serve warm.

Makes about 16 servings.

(Righetti writes that a toasted baguette or ciabatta crostini could be used in place of the potato if desired; however, the potato version is gluten-free.)

Garlic Hummus with Sesame

- one 19-ounce can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
 - 2 cloves of garlic, minced
 - 3 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - ½ teaspoon hot sauce
 - 1 tablespoon sesame oil
 - ½ teaspoon ground cumin
 - 2 tablespoons chopped parsley, for finishing
 - Lemon slices for garnish
- Puree chickpeas coarsely in a food processor fitted with a steel blade; add all ingredients except parsley. Puree the mixture, and adjust seasonings to taste. Transfer to bowl, top with chopped parsley. Garnish with lemon slices if desired.



Denise Righetti of Boca Raton suggests shopping for unique dips and spreads at area greenmarkets to use for this dish.

Easy Dinner Party Potatoes

- 2 large Idaho potatoes, sliced ¼-inch thin
- 2 tablespoons oil, for sautéing

(Recipe from Jack and Marge Lanthier, Highland Beach.)

For more recipes from our readers (or to submit your own), check out www.thecoastalstar.ning.com.

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Visitors will have to drive to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden to see orchids like this paphiopedilum. Photo by Jerry Lower

Delray Beach

Orchid Society transplanting leaves much uncertain

By Mary Jane Fine

For Pamela Salomone, the visit was probably a last opportunity, and soon to be a lost opportunity: seeking yet another orchid in the gift shop of the American Orchid Society. It was a mid-November morning, two weeks prior to shutdown, after which the AOS — based in Florida since 1984, in Delray Beach since 2001 — moves lock, stock and orchids to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables.

"I'm gonna miss this location," said Salomone, of Boynton Beach, bending to read the price tag on a deep purple Phalaenopsis with broad, shiny leaves: \$67.50, a bit steeper than she had in mind. "It's been a treasure. I come here every couple of months and pick out an orchid. I usually spend about \$20. I have about 100 or so."

Spending has been a concern for the AOS, too — a major one — and it prompted the uprooting. Declining membership (16,000 in July 2009; 14,000 less than a year later) and dwindling donations foretold a gloomy future.

"The challenges that we have seen so far this fiscal year have been unprecedented as the society finds itself having to operate without reserves or moneys to borrow against," read the minutes of a trustee meeting from April 2010.

Reactions to the move have been both bitter and sweet.

"I usually smile," said a rueful Arlen Lavitt, a gift shop volunteer, making her mouth turn down. "It's a tough time."

"What's great about this [AOS and Fairchild] partnership is that 350,000 people will be able to enjoy these beautiful new plants," said an exuberant Nannette Zapata, Fairchild's chief operating officer, referring to the number of annual visitors to the garden, "and we're expecting attendance to double in the next 10 years."

Plans for transferring the society's 3,500 plants from its 3.5-acre site to its new 83-acre home remained somewhat in flux, Zapata said: maybe multiple back-and-forths by van, maybe one big truck outfitted with hooks for the hanging plants, floor space for those in vessels.

Plans for the society's employees were less certain; no one could, or would, speculate on who might be invited south.

Enid Torgersen, volunteer coordinator for the society in Delray, said she will miss the orchids terribly and will certainly go to Fairchild — "To visit? Sure. And a lot of people have said they'll go down there." But Torgersen isn't planning on working there, which would require a daily three-hour roundtrip drive. She has 500 orchids of her own and runs an orchid business, Home Health Care for Your Orchids.

Like Torgersen, orchid-ophiles who want to visit their favorite blooms can motor down to the Gables. Fans of the society's spectacular botanical garden, though, will have to find another venue. The Visitors Center building and botanical garden and greenhouse were sold to the Sandra C. Slomin Foundation and Family Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, which will use the grounds for its clients "as healing gardens, for stimulating the senses," Zapata said.

The society's staff and volunteers will miss those surroundings, too.

Development manager Susan Wayman called the garden "everybody's favorite lunch spot." But she and Zapata prefer looking ahead. By December of next year, Fairchild Garden's new 12,500-square-foot conservatory will open, to welcome a kaleidoscope of hummingbirds and butterflies and orchids, the ones not already clinging to Garden trees.

"They're such incredible plants," said Zapata, who learned to love orchids because, "I could get them to bloom. People think that when they stop blooming, they've died. But they come back the next year."

Peggy Rosenthal, an Orchid Society volunteer for the past three years, harbors mixed feelings about it all. She understands the need for the transfer, but can't help feeling a bit melancholy.

On that recent November morning, seated behind the Visitors Center front desk, she smiled warmly, then told a departing visitor, "I'd say come back and see us, but ..."

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Joan Wolf

Joan Wolf has always been one to put her best foot forward.

The founder of a ballet company with 40 dancers and a ballet school with 500 students a week, she acquired a keen business sense over the years, while honing her leadership and communication skills. She already had charm and self-discipline.

Her skill set and character traits took her to many interesting places during her career.

"The world of ballet is small," she explains. "So when George Balanchine invited dancers to network with him in New York, I would meet with other major players in the world of classical ballet. With Mary Ellen Cabot and Joan Kennedy, Violette Verdy and I went to China as guests of the government to coach dancers. Later, I was invited to go to Russia with prominent ballet dancers to network for a month with the Bolshoi.

"I also went to Paris, Greece and Israel to network. That's how I became titled 'ambassador.'"

Dancers from New York City Ballet came to perform in her dance company and she knew Mikhail Baryshnikov even before he became a celebrity ("He was a sweet, quiet, charming young man," she said.) And, in the men's classes at her school, she taught ballet to hockey players and members of a football team coached by Bill Parcell.

"My life has been magical," she said.

These days, she has exchanged her leotards and toe shoes for a navy-blue-and-white nautical look, and the title "commodore" has been added to her list of accomplishments.

Soon after moving to the Yacht & Racquet Club of Boca Raton, husband Ken started the Yachtsmen's Club and was one its first commodores. Now, it's Joan's turn. She was elected fleet captain a few years ago, and rose through the ranks to rear commodore and vice commodore to commodore. She is one of two lady commodores in Florida, she believes.

In her new position, she has already set the year's agenda of meetings, social events and boat trips for the Yachtsmen's Club. At her first



Dancer, sailor, traveler and much more: Joan Wolf is one of few female yacht club commodores in the country. Photo by Jerry Lower

event, an opening dinner in November, attendance was larger than expected — a real show of support, she says — and, this coming year, she's committed to contributing not only her business skills, but her creative touch as well.

— Christine Davis

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school?

A. I grew up in Richmond. I'm a fourth-generation Virginian. I attended William and Mary College.

Q. What are some highlights of your life?

A. I was a member of the

Richmond Ballet Company. I started the Joan Wolf Ballet Company and the Joan Wolf Ballet School, where I was the teacher, choreographer, producer and director for 30 years. My students have become professional dancers in major dance companies all over the world. I am an ambassador from the world of ballet and I've coached dancers in Russia, China, Paris, Israel and Greece.

I am married to Ken Weisberg and I have two children, Eric and Elizabeth, and one grandchild, Sarah. I am also an entrepreneur, civic leader, writer and consultant and I am listed in the *Who's*

Who of American Women.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Boca Raton?

A. Ken and I moved to Florida 22 years ago, following good friends who lived at Yacht & Racquet Club of Boca Raton.

Q. What do people not know about you that you wish they would?

A. I support the arts, which is a natural fit considering my background. My husband and I are patrons of the Boca Museum, where I take classes. We are on the boards of the former Boca Symphonic Pops

Orchestra and Dance Library of Israel. We're Keeper of the Gate patrons of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and we volunteer at Boca Hospital.

Along with Ken, who is a Coast Guard auxiliary coxswain, we own a 40-foot Searay vessel, the *She Wolf*. We live at the Yacht & Racquet Club of Boca Raton, which has a marina of its own. I was raised on the water, so becoming involved with boating was natural for me.

I lead 75 vessels housed at Yacht & Racquet Club on excursions to Palm Beach or South to Key West. We also do educational seminars on boating safety and engage speakers about boating in general.

I bicycle and I continue to workout in fitness classes — Zumba, Pilates, etc.

Q. What is your favorite destination and why do you like traveling there?

A. We travel to Alaska where my grandchild lives.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Boca Raton?

A. The weather suits our clothes.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?

A. My life has been filled with classical music and I still enjoy it. I also like to listen to Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow and Carol King, especially her *Tapestry* album.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?

A. My mother was my best inspiration and mentor.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?

A. My mother taught me, "If you look for the good in people you will find it." I try to live by that philosophy. I miss her terribly. She passed away 20 years ago when I was coaching dancers in Beijing.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?

A. My husband, Ken, has a great sense of humor. He still makes me laugh (and cry) after being together 30 years.



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'I'm a member because it's so organized. You become aware of the outreach to our community, and you have a powerful group of women with wonderful resources.'

— Kristin Calder



LEAGUE

Continued from page 1

finding 100 women under 35," Baur says with a laugh. "We had so many restrictions in those days."

In 1984 the group was formally accepted to membership in the national body, and the Junior Service League became the Junior League of Boca Raton. The name had changed, but the commitment to service remains.

Mayor Susan Whelchel had just moved to Boca Raton from Central Florida in the late 1970s. The mother of four children and a former schoolteacher who couldn't find a job, she looked for an organization where she could meet new friends and make a contribution to the community. She found the Junior Service League.

"I think without question it was one of the better things I was able to do," she says today. "It was fulfilling from almost every angle, with opportunities to do things exciting and helpful in the community and at same time to make new friends and have families that got together."

When Whelchel sought to start a community garden, the city partnered with the Junior League, and on Oct. 11, "Pave The Way" debuted, a 1½-acre community garden on Northwest Fourth Street. To date, 48 plots have been sold, with each gardener agreeing to donate 10 percent of the growth to the city's Helping Hands food pantry.

"I believe in partnerships," Whelchel says. "What I always like best about the league is that, even many years ago, it's been a strong believer in partnering with other organizations, and therefore having twice the effort to make something good happen."

In that spirit, its Newman-Craske Grant Library provides help to other nonprofit service organizations in search of grants.

In 2001, the league's



Andrea and Ed Kornblue and Joan and Ken Robertson attend a 1985 Junior League Sock Hop. Images courtesy of the Junior League of Boca Raton



Katharine Dickenson (left) and Jeanne Baur prepare for an event in the 1980s or '90s.

cookbook, *Savoring The Moment: Entertaining Without Reservations* became the first nonprofit publication to win the prestigious James Beard Award. Since then, it has sold 46,000 copies.

"I'm a member because it's so organized," says Kristin Calder, a past president and chair of the league's 40th anniversary task force. "You become aware of the outreach to our community, and you have a powerful group of women with wonderful

resources."

The Boca league supports In The Pines, helping provide low-income housing for migrant workers.

On Nov. 9, a trailer truck delivered 200,000 diapers to the league's headquarters, the Vesgo Community Resource Center on Northwest 13th Street, a donation from Huggies to South Florida's first "diaper bank," founded by the Junior League.

But despite four decades of

service, the Junior League still battles a comically simplistic stereotype. Junior Leaguers, so goes the rap, are pampered young white women who wear white gloves while they "do lunch."

And *The Help* hasn't helped.

In the hit movie version of that blockbuster novel, Bryce Dallas Howard plays Hilly Holbrook, president of the Jackson, Miss., Junior League in 1963, and the most unctuous racist in American literature since Simon Legree.

But stay to the end, and you'll find a credit thanking Jackson's Junior League for its help in filming *The Help*.

Today, the Junior League of Boca Raton's mission statement notes that the group "reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism."

Today, members must be at least 23, but remain active as long as they like. "The biggest misconception is that we're exclusive, only for younger women and ladies of leisure," says Nancy Dockerty, the current president. "But I'm a member because it's immensely rewarding to see what Junior League has accomplished."

Forty years ago, the League's publication, *The Bridge*, was an amateur effort, mimeographed and stapled. Today, *The Bridge* is a glossy, professionally produced quarterly that devotes most of its space to volunteer efforts.

When *The Boca Raton News* reported on the league in 1975, the president was referred to as "Mrs. Dan Burns."

Today, many of the league's members are working or professional women, including charter member Jeanne Baur, who still sells real estate in town. Dockerty is a director in a commercial mortgage company, and Calder is the public relations director for the Bethesda Hospital Foundation.

Rather than shy away from the stereotypes, Junior Leaguers are exploiting them with clever slogan.

"We've traded our white gloves for work gloves," one ad proclaims. And "Let's Do Lunch ... And Make a Difference" touts the League's work feeding needy children.

Today's Junior League isn't even uniquely American anymore.

Founded in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, the Association of Junior Leagues International boasts 155,000 members in 292 Junior Leagues in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

And the Junior League of Boca Raton serves an area from Lake Worth south to Deerfield Beach, including the island communities. President Dockerty lives in Delray Beach and former president Calder in Boynton Beach.

Baur looks back on it all with pride — and amazement.

"The projects are bigger and more expensive," she says, "and the money we raised through different fundraisers — it's mindboggling. It's just been a very meaningful part of my life, knowing that you're helping people and the accomplishment of seeing this grow into what it's become. We early girls are just amazed at what has happened to the Junior League of Boca Raton.

"We are amazed." ★

Junior League Today



Junior League past presidents at a Junior League of Boca Raton president's luncheon in 2008: Seated, from left: Mary Csar (1990), Carole Putman (1989), Dorothy MacDiarmid (2005), Kristin Calder (2007), Kathy Adkins (2006), Lisa Mulhall (1997), Lisa Bariso (2004); Standing, from left: Carole Stalling, Susan Saxton (1991), Constance Scott, Jayne Malfitano (1994), Barbara Hill (1993), Pattie Damron (1992), Katharine Dickenson (1979), Betsy Owen, Sally Schmid, Mary Lavallo (1980), Debbie Abrams (1999), Sue Diener (2000), Elizabeth Pankey-Warren (2001), Cindy Krebsbach (2002) and Michelle Rubin (1998). Photos courtesy of the Junior League of Boca Raton



Members of the Junior League accept the donation of 200,000 diapers donated by Huggies for the league's diaper bank.

ABOVE: Diners gather for the Junior League of Boca Raton's Nov. 10 'Savor the Grove' event in downtown Delray Beach's Pineapple Grove.
 RIGHT: Revelers mingle inside Treasures for Charity during 'Savor the Grove.'
 Photos by Jerry Lower



Past presidents Jeanne Baur (1973), Samantha Vassallo (2000), Joan Moseley (1971) and Kristin Calder (2007) at the 2010 past presidents luncheon.

Health & Harmony



Dried salt covers the floor and walls of the Salt Suite treatment room. Photo provided

A pinch of salt air therapy provides breath of fresh air

What do the words “salt therapy” bring to mind? A handful of salty chips? An exfoliating foot scrub? A salt-rimmed margarita at the end of a trying day?

All valid interpretations. But if you follow health and fitness trends, you might also recognize salt therapy as a nonmedical treatment for easing respiratory and skin conditions — one that’s been practiced for centuries in eastern Europe and is now catching on in the U.S.

Salt therapy, also known as halotherapy, involves breathing air infused with microscopic particles of mineral-rich salt. It’s based on early European observations that people who spent time in salt mines and natural salt caves suffered fewer respiratory problems than the general population. Today, doctors in Europe send patients to natural salt caves — or salt

rooms designed to mimic the caves — for relief from asthma, bronchitis and allergies, as well as skin ailments such as eczema.

South Florida’s first salt therapy spa, the Salt Suite, opens this month at 3100 S. Federal Highway in Delray Beach. Owners Elliot and Jessica Helmer of coastal Delray were kind enough to give me a tour and a trial session. It would be a good test; I was recovering from a head cold that had plugged up my sinuses.

My first question for the Helmers: How is this different from sitting at the beach?

“Salt air at the beach has a lot of moisture, so the salt can only reach your upper airways,” Elliot says. “Our salt room is dry, so the salt penetrates deep into your lungs. Also, we use Dead Sea salt, which has healing minerals in addition to sodium chloride.”

They show me the machine

that grinds the salt to the size of 1 to 5 micrometers and gently blows it into the salt room. “This makes the room three times more sterile than an operating room,” says Jessica. “The dry salt aerosol is pulled across the room and out. Never recycled. It’s a pure, anti-bacterial environment.”

She opens the door. I step into a white salt “sandbox” with salt-coated walls, white leather recliners, dim lights and meditative music. Settling into a recliner, I close my eyes and inhale deeply. The air has no smell or taste.

I sense a mild stinging in the back of my throat, like when a little ocean water gets up your nose. I decide it’s a good thing. I ponder what Elliot told me about cyclists in Canada who visit salt rooms to clear out their lungs the day before a big race. And how insurance companies in Russia cover the cost of salt therapy — unlike U.S. health insurers.

A 45-minute session at the Salt Suite costs \$45 for adults and \$35 for children, who use a smaller, toy-filled salt room. The facility also has a dry-salt-aerosolized yoga room.

“We’re not doctors,” Elliot says. “We’re here to provide an alternative treatment that will give people relief from their symptoms.” Because salt therapy can boost the immune system, the couple hopes their new business will help people save money on costly prescription medications.

Driving home, I realize my sinuses are clear for the first time in a week. I can breathe easily and fully. The dry salt air seems to have nudged my cold away.



Paula Detwiller is a freelance writer and lifelong fitness junkie. Find her at www.pdwrites.com.

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Society Spotlight

The Spirit of Giving Network, Blacktie-South Florida

FAU Living Room Theaters



Barbara Schmidt (left), Schmidt Family Foundation; Lucy Carr, PNC Bank; Boca Raton Mayor Susan Whelchel; Betsi Kassebaum, The Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civic Engagement; Karen Krumholtz, Spirit of Giving Network; and Ginny Fujino, Blacktie-South Florida. The event was Oct. 26.

Florence Fuller Announces \$1 Million Gift for West Center Campus

Florence Fuller Center, Boca Raton



Harold and Mary Ann Perper's recent donation will serve as a lead gift to kick off a Capital Campaign to build a Student Activity Center for FFCDC's west campus in Boca Raton.

Filming of 'Parker'

One Thousand Ocean, Boca Raton



One Thousand Ocean was one of the sites used to film the movie Parker in October. Shown next door at the Boca Raton Resort & Club's Beach Club are (left) Jennifer Lopez, Kim Gambino, Jessica and Jamie Telchin, Maria Scarola, and Jason Statham.

The Boca Raton Historical Society's Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys

Boca Raton Resort & Club



The first Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys Oct.14 began at the Boca Raton Resort & Club with hors d'oeuvres and wine, then guests boarded trolleys bound for fun. Pictured are event chairwomen (left) Lindy Harvey, Dawn Zook, Debbie Abrams and Liz Grace.

Boca Raton Regional Hospital's 8th Annual Go Pink Luncheon

Boca Raton Resort & Club



Phyllis Sandler and Amy Ross were among more than 1,400 attendees turned out for Boca Raton Regional Hospital's 8th Annual Go Pink Luncheon Oct. 28.

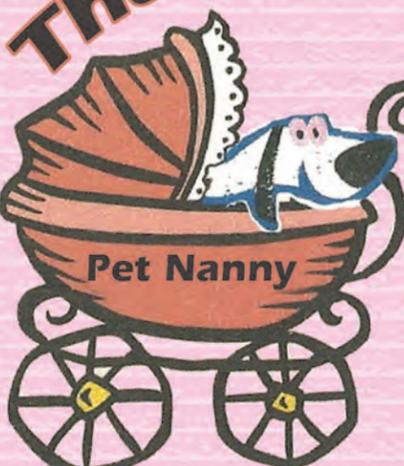
Gulf Stream School Parent Child Golf Tournament

St. Andrew's Club



Gulf Stream School parents, faculty and students joined for a day to walk the St. Andrews Club course and play golf together on Nov. 5. The Fimiani kids (left) Joseph and Vincent with their parents, Cristy and Mike, of Boca Raton, were participants.

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Paws Up for Pets

Early efforts can alleviate holiday stress for you and your pet

For years, Jo Jo Harder wowed the fashion world with her signature clothing line showcased in fine stores throughout the country. Today, her fashion talents have gone to the dogs in a very diva and delightful way.

Meet Harder, the creator of America's Top Dog Model Contest and author of the first style book for dogs, aptly called *Diva Dogs: A Style Guide to Living the Fabulous Life*. She is the go-to gal when it comes to dishing out advice to keep the upcoming holidays sane, safe and sensational for your canine pal.

This Boca Raton resident happily shares her home with Romeo, a fetchingly handsome miniature Italian greyhound who scores invitations to the most coveted canine soirees up and down the Palm Beach coast.

"Romeo is so mellow, eager to please and very smart," describes Harder. "He goes everywhere with me and is very well mannered and charming. And, I must confess, he has quite a wardrobe because he has modeled in a few fashion shows."

If you're looking to score an invite for your dog to any of the popular canine parties this holiday season, heed Harder's advice:

- Hone your doggy manners at home. Enroll your dog in an obedience class with a professional certified trainer who subscribes to positive training techniques. Practice those skills at home. "Proper etiquette starts at home. A true diva dog puts her best paw forward in any social situation," says Harder.

- Shop early. Don't procrastinate in shopping for an outfit for your dog to attend a "top dog" event. "Shop now so you won't add stress to the holiday season by waiting until the last minute," she says.

- Look festive. Choose classic styles in holiday colors for outfits and accessories, but be a bit creative. "Don't settle for red or green and look for dog-sized neckties for males and dog-sized strands of pearls for females," she suggests. "Make sure your dog can move easily in the outfit and that he likes wearing it before you dash out to a party."

- Clean up your act. "Party dogs should arrive groomed, bathed and with their nails trimmed," she says.

"They definitely should not have doggy breath. If you have time, call a few of your friends to bring their dogs and spend the day pampering them at a



Jo Jo Harder sits with her miniature Italian greyhound, Romeo. Photo by Jerry Lower



Diva Dogs - Mark Your Calendar

If you're looking for great upcoming dog events, Jo Jo Harder keeps tabs of them on her America's Top Dog Model site at www.americastopdog.com.

She offers an eco-friendly holiday gift idea with her 2012 America's Top Dog Model contest calendar. This year's theme is "Go Green with Style." The calendar, priced at \$13.99, features fashionable Fidos and offers Diva Dog tips.

Finally, sniff around the site for contest rules on how you can enter your dog in the 2012 dog model contest. Good luck!

doggy spa."

- Give back. True diva dogs do their best to give to those less fortunate canines. Enter a holiday dog walk event or participate in fundraising events to benefit animal shelters and rescue groups.

Whether you are bringing your dog to a holiday party or hosting one at home, let me share a few more ways you can keep the holidays safe and stress-free:

- Maintain your dog's daily walks or play times. A tired dog is a happy dog, and the both of you can benefit from a little exercise that provides a suitable outlet for pent-up energy. If you can't walk your

dog, hire a professional dog walker during the holidays.

- Keep your cherished holiday ornaments, statuettes and family heirlooms out of reach of wagging tails, nosy noses and swiping paws.

- Avoid edible decorations, such as popcorn or candy canes. These items can cause stomach upsets in dogs.

- Opt for battery-operated candles instead of lit candles that can cause burns to pets.
- Replace tinsel on the Christmas tree with nontoxic baby's breath.

- Set up a room in your house where your pets can hang out while you host a holiday party. Provide healthy treats, water, comfortable bedding and a keep-busy toy and turn on the radio or television in that room to offset the party sounds.

Holidays can be anxiety-filled times for your pets. The best way to pamper them during these times of celebrations is to protect them from harm and to give them plenty of calm reassurance and TLC.

Arden Moore, founder of FourLeggedLife.com, is an animal behavior consultant, editor, author, professional speaker and certified pet first aid instructor. She happily shares her home with two dogs, two cats and one overworked vacuum cleaner. Tune in to her Oh Behave! show on



PetLifeRadio.com and learn more by visiting www.fourleggedlife.com.

Coasting Along

Snipping, combing and brushing her way through dozens of dogs and cats

By Tim Norris

Through the picture window, two faces play to the parking lot: the canine, looking straight on at passersby with wide eyes and wet nose, and the human, standing behind with attentive brows and, on eye contact, a break-of-dawn smile.

That doggy in the window, the one with the raggedy tail, is Molly, a chow mix, unfolded now across an elevated grooming table, and the one carefully trimming that tail with deft strokes of a long barber's scissors is Rosangela Santos, known to most as "Rosa."

Her story, of child labor and lost love and painful illness, does not come from a happy children's rhyme. Suffering in her life, though, she says, has been eased by angels, leavened with blessings, always countered by good work.

She is, at the moment, singing, and Molly seems mellow with the music. The window showcases a shifting gallery of pets, their features most often enfolded by hair: poodles and Pomeranians, Yorkies, corgis and shih tzus, terriers and toys, bigger dogs, too. Their groomer provides a steady and sunny presence, and few who view Rosa have any clue what she endured to get here and stay.

On this weekday afternoon, she is enduring the howl and whine of a blower, for after-bath fluffing, and then of a clipped-hair-scarfing shop vac, brandished by assistant Elyel Barreto.

"Imagine listening to that for 45 years," says Rosa, who is now 58, and she shrugs and smiles.

Moments later, in a narrow room to her right that ends in a bathtub, Barreto is introducing a cockapoo named Angel to bathwater and shampoo. Known to many as "Elio" and to some former classmates at John I. Leonard in West Palm and then Boynton Beach High and then Olympic Heights in Boca as "LOL," he was born, as Rosa was, in Brazil. He arrived at her door a few months ago — back from a senior year of high school in Kansas and needing work while he saves for college — as a happy accident, and he serves as her co-groomer, pet-holder, arbiter with technology and also her translator, when needed, from Portuguese to English. (Her other assistant, Felipe Lopes, also from Brazil, is off for the day).

The grooming itself, Rosa says, arrived as a happy accident, too. In Brazil, she trimmed eyebrows and manicured nails in a beauty shop, until a friend suggested she could make 10 times as much making pets. When

her husband left her in 1999 ("I have him 25 years," she says, "and he change me for a young girl"), she migrated to the Boston area, taking work at one point in a New Hampshire paper mill.

When a newfound Brazilian friend asked her just to look after a man's poodle while he was out of town, no haircut, she gave the dog a shampoo and trim anyway, and the friend and then the owner said, "Wow! Beautiful!" She has made her living that way ever since.

Pet grooming might seem both elegant and risky. Most dogs and cats, after all, have soft hair and sharp teeth. It also can look a little tedious. The previous workday, Rosa and Elio foamed and snipped, combed and air-brushed their way through 19 dogs and cats; some days bring even more.

The spirit here, though, seems industrious and gentle. Rosa has a way, Elio says, with animals, including the human kind. Their shared exertions pull shoppers and delivery people to her window to watch.

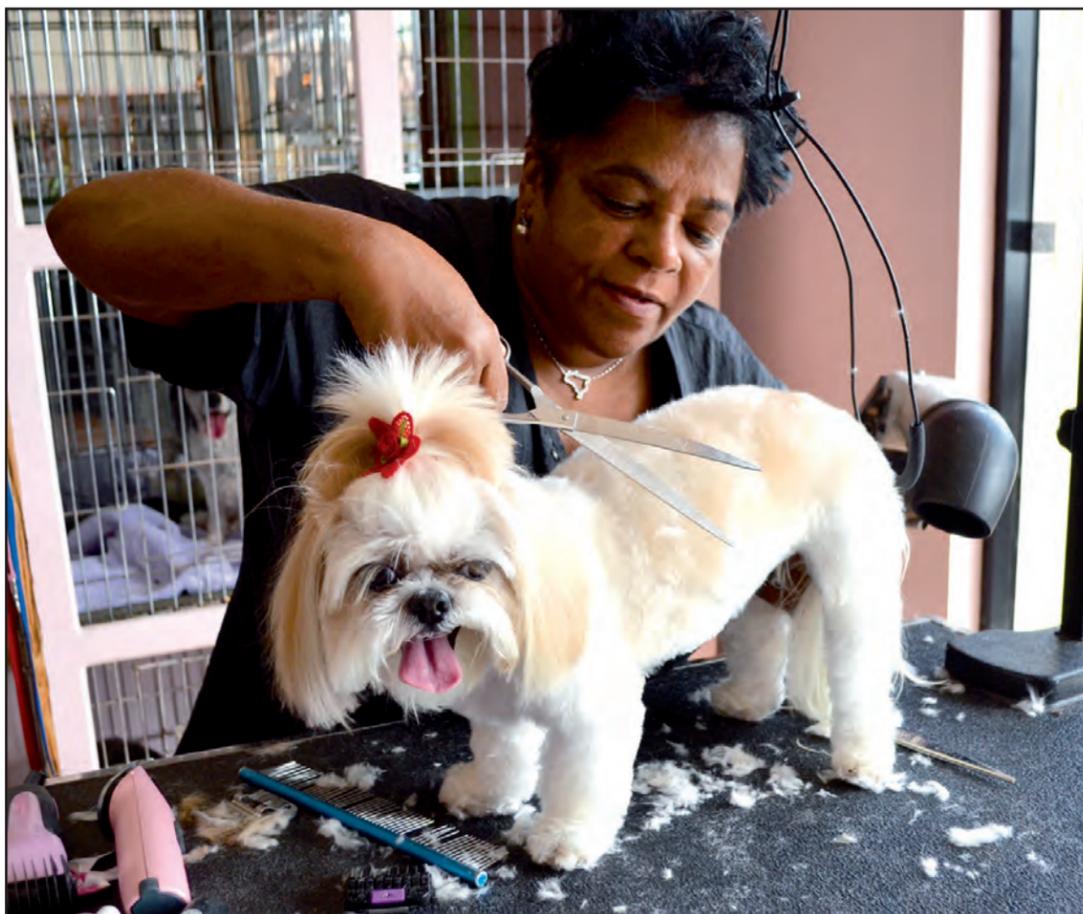
She is also, as of August when she made her last payment, the business's owner. Her shop, Joni's Grooming (still bearing the name of the original owner), stands in a triangular strip mall on Federal Highway in Boca, between the Violin Shop and Dr. Laszlo Poduszlo's Mizner Park Veterinary Clinic. Contrary to expectation, the portion of mall that includes the veterinary practice belongs to HER. They refer customers, she says, to each other.

When Rosa first set foot in Boca in 2006, glad to leave New England winters behind, she had almost nothing. She had answered an ad in *Pet Product News International* and went to work for Club Bow-Wow, not far from her present location.

She had come one day to the Wendy's restaurant just to the north for lunch. "I saw the cages in the shop here," she says, "and I ask about grooming. The woman say no. Then I find a note on my door. The owner has lung cancer, her daughter look after the dogs, wash the dogs, don't groom them. I tell her I try. She had three or four customers a day. I offer to buy, the lawyer says you can lease (to buy), I say I pay \$2,000 a month."

"She bought the place thinking of the money she could make tomorrow," Elio says, "because she didn't have any money at the time." The day Rosa made the final payment, her list of clients had topped 2,000.

Molly gets a final trim under her chin, carried then to a nearby holding cage with



Rosa Santos trims up a shih tzu at her Boca Raton pet salon, Joni's Grooming.

Photo by Jerry Lower

a ready-to-go bandana around her neck, and Rosa lifts a white Persian cat, Mr. Bentley, into the tub and strokes water onto him from a plastic bottle.

Cats notoriously hate dousing, but, even as his furry bouffant shrinks to a cringing oilskin, Mr. Bentley shows a resolute sangfroid, eyes steady amid the drip.

Patience, Rosa suggests, is learned and also earned. At age 6 in her native Brazil, she went to work in a kitchen, then in a

factory, and she did not smile there. She grew up among 13 children, and as the oldest she needed to provide for the rest. "I had to make money," she says.

Wrapped in a towel, then blow-dried, Mr. Bentley stands under her combing, and she goes after matting and knots with a scissors. Persians, she says, easily get tangled. She knows how to free them.

America and its customs and language seemed a knot

for her, too, at first, but she has found that sometimes speaking simply and listening more work best.

Soon a man and then a woman in tailored dress come in from the parking lot to collect their pets, and everyone smiles and wags. Somebody is purring. Maybe, Elio says, it's Rosa. ★

In Coasting Along, our writers stop to reflect on life along the shore.



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Students of Florida Atlantic University's choral and vocal studies program will perform during an inaugural Madrigal Dinner at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. Photo provided

Boca Raton

And a merry olde tyme shall be had by all

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

On Dec. 10, the ladies will sashay in velvet and satin gowns as the lords swagger in black velvet waistcoats and feathered caps.

These are students of Florida Atlantic University's choral and vocal studies program who are participating in the inaugural Madrigal Dinner to benefit their school.

The Renaissance pageantry, festive food and musical entertainment will be offered to the public at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church hall in Boca Raton.

"When I saw the room, I knew it was the perfect place

for this intimate evening," says Patricia Fleitas, who is director of FAU's choral and voice studies. She is co-director of this event and hopes to make it an annual festivity.

The music at the dinner will be performed by 22 students who were invited to participate. They'll be accompanied by a brass quartet.

Madrigal songs, usually written for four or five vocalists, are secular music that was popular in Italy during the 16th century. It was a counterpoint to the music being created for the Catholic Church.

"It can be very sensuous," says Fleitas, who lives in Highland Beach.

The young people, ages 18 to their late 20s, made the commitment to remain on campus after finals in order to participate.

"They've been practicing and will work very hard to be at their best," Fleitas says.

The evening will start

FAU Madrigal Dinner

The evening benefits choral and vocal studies in Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.

When: 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10

Where: St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton.

Cost: \$100 per person; \$1,000 to sponsor a table that seats 10 (those who buy tables will be welcome to participate in the parade of nobility that begins the evening).

Reservations: Call 297-2337 or visit <https://fau.edu/madrigal>

with wine and cheese served outdoors on the church's patio. Then the doors to the Great Hall will open, and trumpets will announce eight noble men and women in Renaissance costumes. After they take their places at the head table and all are seated, there will be a toast and "wassail song." During the meal, minstrels and jesters with their pointed green, yellow and purple hats will entertain.

At meal's end, a flaming pudding carried through the hall is sure to be a highlight — even if it's a bread pudding instead of the traditional figgy creation.

Then the singers will offer a short concert of madrigal and seasonal songs before the final fanfare.

As the jesters bid farewell, the months of planning and practicing will come to an end. Until next year, of course.

"I am very excited. I hope this becomes a holiday tradition," says Fleitas, who hopes next year's attendees will wear period costumes like the students. ★

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InterFaith21

Words of wisdom, chiefly briefly, but not all tweet-ably

To tweet or not to tweet was the question for this essay, following last month's which featured reflections of gratitude, in the form of those text-based Internet posts of up to 140 characters found at Twitter.com.

Once again the response to my call for colleagues' tweets — this time reflecting the winter holiday season — was gratifying.



O'Brien

Among those I am happy to share is a message from Tom O'Brien. He is known for his stellar interfaith

work, not the least of which includes his Hebrew books and New Testament Bible classes that I have taken at Bethesda-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach, and written about on these pages.

"As a non-tweeter," he said in sharing 54 characters, "here goes:

B/C JESUS WZ A BBY, U CAN'T B AFRD OF A LOVG, LIVG GD."

I encourage readers to look at that again, remembering that with Twitter (where I confess I do not do tweet often @CBHanif) the spontaneity is part of the fun.



Hayward

The Rev. Paula Hayward, our secretary and my fellow member of the Delray Beach Interfaith

Clergy Association, also responded to my appeal for seasonal wisdom — this time with two tweetable offerings. First came her beautiful reminder:

"No one else can give the 'gift' that you are."

And in another, she added: "I invite you to affirm and practice the following during this season of Holy Awareness: I intend to radiate peace from the greatness within me."

It's worth mentioning that the latter was three over the 140 characters-and-spaces limit when I plugged it in at Twitter.com, again underscoring the medium's challenges. That does not diminish its value as another fine seasonal comment.

Alas, in this busy season, not enough friends had responded by my deadline to have them ... er, write this column for me. So, I needed to do what writers do: Be creative.

With Muslims this winter having recently celebrated



Mohammed

the hajj, the annual pilgrimage to the holy city Mecca that I was blessed to complete in 2001, it seemed

appropriate to tweet a comment from my favorite imam, W. Deen Mohammed, eulogized as "America's imam" when he passed in 2008:

"We are connected by faith in the same G-d and faith in the Plan for mankind that our Creator gave us when He created us."

For even more variety, I next went to ... First here's the comment, then the source:

"Love's in need of love today. Don't delay, send yours in right away."

And: "Hate's going round, breaking many many hearts. Stop it please, before it's gone too far."

For those who may not recognize them, those lyrics are among the classics from all-American musical icon Stevie Wonder. The first two sentences comfortably allowed room for 77 more characters. Twitter would not have allowed the rest, at 11 characters over. But for the sake of the season, I allowed it here.

The last word is from Roberta Popara, a Dominican



Popara

sister and associate director of Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach:

"Peace-Salaam-Shalom-Paz. In one word, in every language, the holy seasons of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, for Christians, is one of peace."

As Jesus says in the Gospel of John: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give to you."

And: "In the midst of these seasons I call holy, will I truly believe in God's way of peace?"

Individually those came comfortably within the Twitter limit. But ultimately, in a season such as this, who's counting?

C.B. Hanif is a freelance writer and inter-religious affairs consultant. Find him at www.interfaith21.com.



Obituaries

Joseph John Asselta

By Emily J. Minor

HIGHLAND BEACH — Joseph John Asselta, who had notable careers in the military and aviation and space law before retiring to Florida and serving in local government, died Nov. 11. He was 78.

Born April 26, 1933, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Asselta attended St. John's University, earning a bachelor's in business



administration in 1955. Ten years later, he graduated from the university's law school.

Mr. Asselta rose steadily through the ranks at Mendes & Mount, a New York law firm specializing in aerospace litigation.

But it was, perhaps, his military career that provided him with his greatest pride. During his tenure with

the U.S. Navy, Mr. Asselta completed officer training, flight training, nuclear weapons school and military justice school.

Beverly Brown, the town clerk in Highland Beach, where Mr. Asselta served for several years on the commission, said he was a taskmaster who wanted things done right. But he was also empathetic, kind — and proud of his military service, and his family.

"He was very intense, and whatever he did he went at it at 100 percent," she said. "He was very proud of being in the Navy."

Although Mr. Asselta and his wife, Judith, had bought their Highland Beach home several decades ago, the couple had lived full-time in Highland Beach for about 10 years.

Brown said Mr. Asselta served as vice mayor from 2004 to 2006, at which point

he resigned to make an unsuccessful bid for mayor. He was also very involved in St. Lucy Catholic Church.

A public servant until the end, Mr. Asselta had been scheduled to appear before Town Commission at the October meeting, as he was being considered for the Finance Board.

Brown said Mr. Asselta apparently took sick while attending a wedding out of state, and never made the meeting.

He did, however, return to Florida just before his death, she said.

In addition to his wife of 41 years, survivors include sons, Jason and Matthew Asselta, and two grandsons.

Services were held Nov. 16 at St. Lucy, and the family asks that any memorials be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project, or St. Lucy's maintenance fund.

William R. Kaelin Jr.

By Liz Best

BOCA RATON — William Reed Kaelin Jr. of Boca Raton died Nov. 1. He would have turned 73 on Dec. 6.

From 1957 to 1960, Mr. Kaelin served in the U.S.



Marine Corps and was stationed for 22 months in Japan. Mr. Kaelin lived in Larchmont, N.Y., until 1973, when he moved his family to Boca Raton. He was a commercial loan officer with First Bank and Trust in Boca Raton, now known as Bank of America.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rosemary Kaelin of Boca Raton; sons and daughters-in-law, William and Katherine Kaelin of Memphis, Tenn., and Christian and Susan Kaelin of Boca Raton; a daughter and son-in-law, Valerie and Brian Cleary of Cincinnati, Ohio; and nine grandchildren, Katie, Will and Allison Kaelin of Memphis; Erica, Lily and Hallee Kaelin of Boca Raton, and Kevin, Michael and Kaelin Cleary of Cincinnati; along with many loving friends.

Private services were held recently and interment took place at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Mr. Kaelin's memory be made to Hospice by the Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/25. Please check with organizers for any changes. To submit events, please send to thecoastalstarcalendar@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 3

Saturday - 12/3 - Warrior Dash - 5K Race and Festival at Quiet Waters Park, 401 S. Powerline Road, Deerfield Beach. Featuring 12 intense obstacles over 3.1 miles of extreme terrain, followed by an all day festival with live music, food and beer. Participants will jump through fire, crawl through mud pits, climb over vehicles in this intense physical challenge. The first wave of the race will begin at 9 am, followed by waves of 500 racers taking off to battle the course every half hour until the last group at 3 pm. Check-in: 8 am. Race participants: \$60; free/spectators; parking \$10/car. 773-687-4595 or www.warriordash.com.

12/3 - Boca Raton GreenMarket is held each Saturday, through 5/12/12, Royal Palm Place southwest parking lot, intersection of S Federal Highway and S Mizner Boulevard. 8 am-1 pm. Free. 368-6875 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

12/3 - GreenMarket Pompano Beach opens its 9th season at Flagler Ave. and NE First St., Pompano Beach. 8 am-1 pm. Opening day ceremonies will take place at 10:30 am and will feature the traditional "pepper ribbon" cutting by local officials. Runs through 4/28/2012. (954) 782-3015 or www.pompanohistory.com/phc/market.

12/3 - Art Exhibit Opening: National League of American Penwomen at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Continues through 12/28. Hours: M-F 8 am-10 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Sun./Holidays 10 am-5 pm. Free. 347-3900.

12/3 - Breakfast with Santa at the Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Featuring real snow, pancake breakfast, pictures with Santa, train rides, multicultural crafts and sand art: 30-11:30 am. Tickets required: \$10/person, free/infants. 368-6875 or www.cmboca.org.

12/3 - Beach Walk, Beach Talk presented by Dr. Angela Witmer at Sandway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd. Delray Beach. Participants will discover the major players on the beach, investigating plants on the dunes, animals found on the beach and in the water in addition to interactions of the land and sea. 9-10 am. \$5/person includes admission to the nature center after the walk. 274-7263.

12/3 - Zumba Class - Saturdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Zumba fuses Latin rhythms and easy to follow moves that create a dynamic workout system. 9:30-10:30 am. Per class: \$15/resident, \$18.75/non-resident; Per 4 weeks: \$50/residents, \$63/non-resident; Per 8 weeks: \$80/resident, \$100/non-resident. For more specific class information contact instructor Nicole Rosen (954) 471-6425 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

12/3 - Workshop: Seeing Beneath Life's Experiences: Living a Life of Gratitude - Presented as part of the Peaceful Mind/Peaceful World Series at FAU Senate Chambers, Student Union, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Held again 12/6: 6-8:30 pm. \$15. 297-2337 or www.fau.org/peaceful.

12/3 - Drop-In Story time - Music, stories, fun finger plays and action songs stimulate learning at this weekly program at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For children of all ages accompanied by an adult. Held again 12/10, 17, 31 & 1/7. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

12/3 - Judo Class - Saturdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Classes consist of warm-up exercises, instruction, practice and tournament training. For all ages. 10 am-noon. Per month: \$21.50/resident, \$27/non-resident. 393-7807.

12/3 - Fire Station Open House is held at Station #6, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. Fire trucks, live demonstrations, citizen commendations and conversations with representatives from health and safety organizations. 10 am-1 pm. Free. 243-7456.

12/3 - Ice Age Florida Exhibit at the

Sandway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Go back in time to see some of Florida's prehistoric inhabitants. Exhibit runs through 1/15/12. T-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun. Noon-4 pm. \$4/ages 3 and up. 274-7263.

12/3 - Exhibit: Robot Carnival at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Robotics is a type of engineering science and technology that is relevant to every aspect of our daily lives. Visitors who enter the Robot Carnival learn about the process of engineering - the design process, building, testing and modifying. The exhibition promotes engineering as a problem-solving process and encourages youth to consider a career in engineering. Features 12 exhibit stations with interactive voice recorded instructions. Stations allow for multi-person interaction with a variety of robot designs. Exhibit runs through 1/16/12. M-F: 9 am-6 pm, Weekends/holidays: 10 am-5 pm. \$5 suggested donation. 347-3912.

12/3 - Art Exhibit at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Aesthetic Explorations and Eyes Of My Soul: Photographs by Nathan Selikoff and Russell Levine. Exhibit runs through 12/29. M-Th: 10 am-8 pm, F: 10 am-4 pm, Sat.: 9 am-1 pm. Free. 278-7579.

12/3 - Tweens & Teens at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Events/activities for children ages 12 and up. Held most Saturdays. 11 am. Free. Please register one week in advance for each program. 278-5455.

12/3 - Science Stories at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Hear your favorite science inspired stories. For ages 5 and up. Held weekly on Saturday. 11:30 am. Free. 347-3912 or www.scienceexplorium.org.

12/3 - Art-E-Ology: John Marin - Seascapes for grades 3-5 is presented at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Once a month, children will learn about a master artist on exhibit at the museum and have the opportunity to create a masterpiece in the style of the selected artist. Reservations required. 1-2:30 pm. \$5/child; free/members. 392-2500 Ext. 106 or www.bocamuseum.org.

12/3 - Southern Handcraft Society Boca Raton Chapter Annual Arts and Craft Show is held at Patch Reef Park, Community Center, 2000 Yamato Road. Juried show of local artists and crafters with handcrafted holiday gifts and home decor. Final day. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 738-0001 or 274-4717.

12/3 - The Prince of Egypt at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd., Ste. 73, Boca Raton. Held Saturdays through 1/14. 2 pm. \$14/adults, \$10/children. 394-2626.

12/3-4 - Science Demonstrations at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Science inspired stories. For ages 5 and up. Held weekly on Sat. & Sun. 3:30 pm. Free. 347-3912.

12/3 - Dances We Dance Celebrating the Holidays at University Theater on the FAU Boca Raton Campus, 777 Glades Road. Features students in dance classes and dance clubs performing dances created by faculty, students and guest choreographers. 7 pm. \$10. 877-311-7469 or www.fauvents.com.

12/3 - Moonlight Serenade at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 120 NE 1st Ave., Boca Raton. Featuring live music, food and cold drinks. Held again 1/7. 7:30 pm. Free. 417-7797 or www.chabadbocabeaches.com.

12/3 - Carla is Simply Streisand Then and Now at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at the University Center on FAU's Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. 8 pm. \$35-\$55. 877-311-7469 or www.fauvents.com.

12/3-4 - Yoga Workout at the Beach - Held every Saturday and Sunday at Red Reef Park West, 1221 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Registration can be done at the Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., or on-site before a class begins. Classes are held on the grass overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. Cash will not be accepted on-site. 10-11 am. \$15/residents, \$19/non-residents per class, or 60 day membership (unlimited classes) for \$65/residents, \$81.25/non-

Municipal Meetings

12/6 & 1/3 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday of each month at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

12/13 - Boca Raton - Usually second & fourth Tuesday of each month at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

residents. 393-7807.

12/3-4 - Lynn University's Philharmonia Orchestra No. 3 - Featuring winners of the annual Conservatory Concerto Competition under the direction of Albert-George Schram at the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Sat. 7:30 pm; Sun. 4 pm. Tickets \$35-\$50. 237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/tickets.

DECEMBER 4-10

Sunday - 12/4 - Harvey Katz Memorial Golf Classic Drive for the Cure is presented by Papanicolaou Corps: Greater Boca Raton Chapter at The Polo Club, 5400 Champion Blvd., Boca Raton. Proceeds fund cancer research at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. 9 am. \$100-\$250. RSVP: 912-1007 or 654-8151.

12/4 - Kabbalah & Coffee at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 120 NE 1st Ave., Boca Raton. Includes weekly Living Torah Video Presentation. The class can be viewed by logging on to http://torahcafe.com/chassidic-heritage-series.pho. Viewers encouraged to purchase Full Devotion at www.kehotonline.com. Held every Sunday morning. 10-11:30 am. Free. 417-7797.

12/4 - Downtown Open Market at Monument Piazza, Royal Palm Place, 308 S. Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Held once a month on Sundays through May. Features food, art galleries, jewelers and a variety of boutiques. 10 am-4 pm. Free. www.downtownopenmarket.com.

12/4 - Bright & Smart Robotics Workshop at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 6-14. Teaches basic engineering skills and facilitates the development of higher cognitive skills through computer programming, robot assembly and teamwork. Three session available, divided by age: ages 6-8, 11am-12:30 pm; ages 9-11, 12:45-2:15 pm; ages 12-14, 2:30-4 pm. Price per class: \$11.50/residents, \$14.50/non-residents. 347-3900.

12/4 - Dance: Suites of the Nutcracker at The Willow Theatre, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Under the direction of Ballet Master Vladimer Issaev, this company brings to life a holiday classic. 1 & 3:30 pm. \$15/adults, \$12/children 12 and under. 347-3948 or www.willowtheatre.org.

12/4 - Holiday Concert is presented as part of the ARTful Adventure Sunday series at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. This family program features art workshops or live performances by talented actors, musicians or dancers. The program focuses on creative family fun and includes an interactive opportunity for all ages to learn, create and enjoy the arts. 2-3:30 pm. Free program with paid museum admission. \$8/adults; \$6/seniors; \$4/students with ID; free/museum members and children 12 and under. 392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

12/4 - A Motown Christmas featuring the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Choir is held at the First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach, "The Pink Church", 2331 NE 26th Ave., Pompano Beach. Join the Motown band Kaleidoscope and praise band Jericho Rising along with the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Choir and the heartwarming voices of local school children for a wonder-filled evening of dancing and holiday harmonies. Doors open 6 pm; concert at 7 pm. \$10 goodwill offering at the door. 954-941-2308 or www.amotownchristmas.com.

12/4 - Handel's Messiah at FAU's Boca Raton campus, University Theatre, 777 Glades, Road. Presentation features FAU students past and present. 7 pm. \$10 donation. 297-3853.

12/4 - Palm Beach Pops: The Music of Burt Bacharach, Cole Porter & More performs at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at the

University Center on FAU's Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. 8 pm. \$29-69. 877-311-7469.

Monday -12/5 - Second Annual Toys for Tots Drive at the Allen West for Congress Headquarters, Fifth Avenue Shops, 2108 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. The Allen West for Congress Campaign, in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps, will be collecting new, unwrapped toys. M-F, 10 am-4 pm. 877-906-2010.

12/5 - Cooking for the Season Luncheon presented by the Boca/Deerfield Christian Women's Connection at the Deer Creek Golf Club, 2801 Deer Creek Country Club Blvd., Deerfield Beach. Guest speaker is Carolyn McCort - "Can an e-mail get you an e-male?", with program presentation by Pampered Chef with Lynda Chiriboga. Open to all ladies. 11:30 am. \$21. Reservations required. 954-427-8434

12/5 - Mah-Jongg at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Intermediate and advanced. Held every Monday. 12:30-1:30 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

12/5 - Chair Massage at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. John Sampson, Licensed Therapist, offers 10-minute sessions. Held every Monday. 1 pm. \$10/session. 278-5455.

12/5 - Auditions for Snow White at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 S.E. Mizner Blvd., Ste. 73, Boca Raton. No appointment needed. 3:30-6:30 pm. Free. 394-2626 or www.ShowtimeBoca.com.

12/5 - Yoga Sunset at the Beach - Held every Monday at Spanish River Park, 3001 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton. Registration at the Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., or on-site before a class begins. Classes are held next to Lifeguard stand number 18. Cash will not be accepted on-site. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$15/residents, \$19/non-residents per class, or 60 day membership (unlimited classes) for \$65/residents, \$81.25/non-residents. 393-7807 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

12/5 - Meditation Mondays at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Meditate to enhance overall health and well-being. 7 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

12/5 - South Florida Playwrights Festival - Presented by the Lynn Drama Program at the Schmidt Family Studio, Wold Performing Arts Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Following the performance, audience members are invited to discuss the material with the cast and playwrights. 7:30-9:30 pm. \$10. 237-9000.

Tuesday -12/6 - Beginners Yoga at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Participants should bring own yoga mat. Held every Tuesday. 10:15 am. \$10. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

12/6 - Baby Fry Storytime for ages 1-3 at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held every Tuesday. 11 am. Free. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

12/6 - Small Fry Storytime for ages 3 and up at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Features songs and a craft project. Held every Tuesday. 4 pm. Free. 278-5455.

12/6 - Fabulous Furs & Dazzling Diamonds at Neiman Marcus at Town Center, 5860 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Presented by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County Women's Philanthropy group. A very special event for Northern Lions of Judah who winter here, and potential Lions who reside in South Palm Beach County. 4:30-6 pm. \$18. 852-3142 or e-mail kariz@bocafed.org.

12/6 - Orchestra Concert at Pine Crest School, 2700 St. Andrews Blvd., Boca Raton. Featuring orchestra students grades 4-8. 7 pm. Free. 852-2800.

12/6-7 - Guided Hammock Walk - Go on a guided walk of a quarter-mile boardwalk at Gumbo Limbo nature Center, 1801 N.

Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Open to all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. Held every T & W through 12/28. 10-11 am. Free. 338-1473 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

Wednesday - 12/7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day **12/7 - Lunch and Learn** is presented by the Brandeis National Committee - Boca Raton Chapter at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road and Seasons 52 Restaurant, 2300 NW Executive Center Dr., Boca Raton. Guided tour of the Jaffe Book Art Collection followed by lunch. 10:30 am. \$36. 496-4050.

12/7 - Scrabble at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Organized by Ruth Flynn & Pat Schrade. Held every Wednesday. 12:30-4 pm. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

12/7 - Boca Raton GreenMarket is held each Wednesday at Glades Plaza, Glades Road at 19th St. 4-7 pm. Free. 368-6875 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

12/7 - Family and Friends at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Education Center Classroom B (building to the right of the Emergency Department), 800 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. This class teaches the basics of infant, child and adult CPR, relief of choking, and child and infant one person CPR, as well as the use of the Automated External Defibrillator. This course is held every Wednesday. 6-8:30 pm. \$20 per class. Register at 955-4468 or www.brrh.com.

12/7 - Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival Opening Night begins with *Music of Remembrance: The Boys of Terezin* at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Cohen Pavilion, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. The festival runs 12/7-18, featuring 35 films, documentaries and shorts from seven countries at a variety of local theaters throughout the county. 7 pm. \$10/adults, \$5/children 16 and under (recommended age 10 and up.) Free parking. 740-9000 Ext. 224 or www.pbjiff.org.

Thursday - 12/8 - Drop-In Story time - Music, stories, fun finger plays and action songs stimulate learning at this weekly program at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For children of all ages accompanied by an adult. Held again 12/15, 22, 29 & 1/5. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

12/8 - Who Am I? - How to Be You Amidst Social Pressure - Presented as part of the Lunch 'n Learn Series by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. Noon-1 pm. \$55/singles; \$100/couples (book is included). Lunch is available for purchase. 361-3939.

12/8 - Just for 6-8's: Reading Adventure at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Crafts and reading adventures for kids 6-8 years old. Registration required. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

12/8 - Ellenville's Moonlit Farmer's Market is held each Thursday at Ellenville Garden Center, 220 NE 11th St., Boca Raton. Food, wine, kids activities, music, local farmers and artisans, fresh produce and more. 4-8 pm. Free. 245-7347.

12/8 - La Paloma Folkloric Dancers - Presented by the Friends of the Highland Beach Library at the Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. 6 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org

12/8 - Tao Lin Recital at the Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall in the de Hoernle International Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Solo recital featuring music by Brahms, Debussy, Ravel and Rachmaninoff. 7:30 pm. \$20. 237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/tickets.

12/8 - 2012 Bocaire Season Opening Celebration and Cocktail Reception at the Bocaire Country Club, 4989 Bocaire Blvd., Boca Raton. Featuring guest speaker Retired Colonel Miri Eisin, who served in the Israeli Intelligence Community and retired from active duty in 2004. The season opening event to benefit the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. 6:30-10 pm. \$36. RSVP: 852-3169 or www.jewishboca.org/bocaire.

12/8 - Jewish Family Service Annual Gala and Auction: "Havana Nights" at St. Andrews Country Club, 17557 Claridge Oval W., Boca Raton. 6:30-10:30 pm. \$500. 852-5044 or www.ruthralesjfs.org.

Friday - 12/9 - Movie Time at the

Free Family Holiday Events

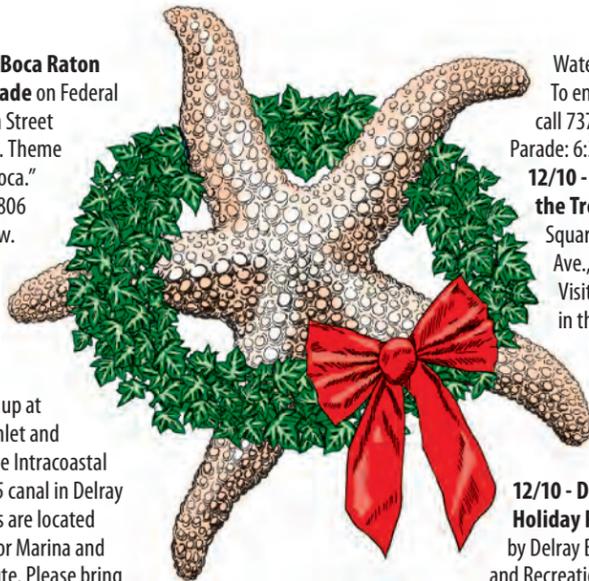
12/3 - Holiday Open House at Town Hall is held at the Boca Raton Historical Society, 71 N. Federal Hwy. A variety of gifts, Boca Raton trivets, tiles and magnets and two new commemorative ornaments. 10 am-2 pm. 395-6766 or www.bocahistory.org.

12/3 - Boynton Beach Holiday Extravaganza and Annual Holiday Parade is held at the Ocean Avenue Amphitheatre, E. Ocean Avenue between Seacrest Boulevard & NE 1st Street. New, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots welcome in front of the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Events include: 5 pm Parade - north on Federal Highway (form SE 12th Street to Ocean Avenue); 6:30 pm - Tree Lighting Ceremony on Ocean Avenue between Seacrest Boulevard & SE 1st Street and 7 pm - free concert featuring Brass Transit, a "Chicago" Tribute Band. Food and beverages available, no pets allowed. Free. 742-6237.

12/3 - Lake Worth Holiday Stroll is presented by the Downtown Cultural Alliance along Lake and Lucerne Avenues in downtown. Merchants vie for best decorated holiday windows. 5-9pm. From 6-10 pm the Community Redevelopment Agency presents Holly-Days, Lake Worth with petting zoo, letters to Santa and tree lighting ceremony with "I Love Lucy" theme. Free. 215-205-9441.

12/7 - 41st Annual Boca Raton Holiday Street Parade on Federal Highway from SE 8th Street north to Mizner Park. Theme is "Having a Ball in Boca." 7:30 pm. Free. 393-7806 selection 2 or www.myboca.us.

12/9 - Boynton & Delray Beach's Annual Boat Parade - Brightly-decorated boats line up at the Boynton Beach Inlet and travel south along the Intracoastal Waterway to the C-15 canal in Delray Beach. Viewing areas are located at the Boynton Harbor Marina and along the parade route. Please bring new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Parking available at First Financial Plaza, NE corner of Ocean Avenue & Federal Highway. Food and drink vendors available. No pets allowed. Pre-party starts at 5:30 pm, featuring live music, pictures with Santa and more, at the Boynton Harbor Marina by Two Georges



Tots.

"Celebrating the Centennial." Parade begins on Atlantic Avenue at Venetian Drive and heads west to the Courthouse. 6 pm. Free. 243-7277.

12/10 - Santa's Wonderland Workshop and Light Up the Night Parade is held at the Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. Family event sponsored by

Waterfront Grille. To enter your boat, call 737-3256 Ext. 219. Parade: 6:30 pm. 742-6246.

12/10 - Kids Day at the Tree at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Visit Santa and play in the snow at the Famous 100-Foot Christmas Tree. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 279-1380 Ext. 17.

12/10 - Delray Beach Holiday Parade presented by Delray Beach Parks and Recreation. Theme is

Kiwanis Club and the Greater Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce. Noon-6 pm. Bike giveaway in afternoon, parade with local high school bands and floats is held from 6-8 pm. Free. 493-2550.

12/17 - Tuba Christmas at Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Holiday music performed by tubas and euphoniums. Outdoor event, bring chairs or blankets. 5 pm. Free. 297-3853.

12/17 - Sounds of the Season at the Lake Worth Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave. Local choirs perform holiday music, plus local high school and community bands. 5-9 pm. Free. 493-2550 or www.lakeworthcra.org.

12/17 - 35th Annual Boca Raton Holiday Boat Parade along the Intracoastal Waterway beginning at the C-15 Canal (Boca Raton/Delray Beach border). Bleacher viewing at Silver Palm Park & Red Reef Park. 6:30 pm. Free. 393-7806 selection 2.

12/20 - Menorah Lighting at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave. Time: sundown. Free. 279-1380 Ext. 17.

12/23&24 - Christmas Eve Concert by Journey Church at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. No coolers, chairs, pets, umbrellas, outside food or beverages or backpacks. 4:30-7 pm. Free. 393-79847 or www.myboca.us.

Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Come and enjoy a new movie every week. Held every Friday. 1 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

12/9 - Concert: Kansas and Ambrosia - Presented at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Kansas and Ambrosia perform with special guests: The Paul D'Adamo Band, featuring members of Elton John, Genesis and the Phil Collins Bands. Gates open 5 pm; concert 6 pm. \$25-\$125. 393-7827.

12/9 - Night Explorers - Owls, stars, bugs, things that go bump, and some that glow are seen at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Hike with creatures of the night along the boardwalk, see the tanks under a different light, and peek at the night sky courtesy of the Palm Beach County Astronomical Society. For ages 7-adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-9 pm. \$7/ members, \$10/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

12/9 - Wee Dream Ball is presented by Florence Fuller Child Development Centers at the Woodfield Country Club, 3650 Club Place, Boca Raton. An ultimate 70s birthday party celebrating FFCDC's 40th year. 7-11 pm. \$250. 391-7274.

12/9 - Concert: Nothing But Klezmer at Lynn University, Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall in the de Hoernle International Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Paul Green and his band Klezmer East will perform both classics and new pieces from the Klezmer repertoire. 7:30-9:30 pm. \$25. 237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/tickets.

12/9-11 - Ruthless! The Musical at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd., Ste. 73, Boca Raton. Held again 12/16-18. F & Sat.: 8 pm; Sun.: 2 pm. \$22/adults, \$18/seniors & students. 394-2626 or www.ShowtimeBoca.com.

Saturday - 12/10 - Concert: Preparatory School of Music Recital at Lynn University, Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall in the de Hoernle International Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. A recital featuring students of all ages and levels from the preparatory program. 10 am. Free. 237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/tickets.

12/10 - Glider Competition - Presented as part of the Monthly Family Challenges Series at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Ages 5+ with parent/guardian. Each month the CSE will be hosting a friendly competition where families can put their skills to the test and work as a team to build, create, test and change up their weekend fun. How high can you fly? Construct a glider and test its ability to fly through a set of obstacles. 10:30 am-noon. \$15/adult-child pair, \$5/ each additional person. 347-3912.

12/10 - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG) - Presented as part of Tween Movie Mania at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For age 9-12. Free pizza and drinks. Noon-2 pm. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

12/10 - Cultural Feast: An Indian Tapestry of Story & Dance - Presented in cooperation with FAU School of Communication & Multimedia Studies

at The Willow Theatre, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Lunch will feature Naan bread, Chicken Tikka Masala, Aloo Gobhi, Kashmiri Pillaw and Gulab Jamun. Listen to the folktales and true stories from India that Arianna Ross learned and experienced firsthand in the subcontinent. Lunch: 12:30 pm; performance: 2 pm. \$25/person (the meal will NOT be spicy). 347-3948.

12/10-11 - Auditions for Rapunzel at Sol Children Theatre, 3333 N. Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Auditions are by appointment only. Looking for actors aged 10 and older for a cast of 5. Performances run 3/16-4/1. 12/10: 2-4 pm; 12/11: 10am-noon. To schedule an audition, call 447-8829.

DECEMBER 11-17

Sunday - 12/11 - Weekend Movie Madness: Yogi Bear at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Tr., Boca Raton. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am. \$1/ includes popcorn and a beverage. Tickets: 347-3948 or www.sugarsandpark.org.

12/11 - 9th Annual Gingerbread

Holiday Concert by the Lynn Philharmonia is performed at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, 501 E. Camino Real. Seasonal classics benefit the conservatory's scholarship fund. 3 pm. \$35. 237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/tickets.

12/11 - A Tribute to Our Armed Forces with Daniel Rodriguez and Marla Kavanaugh is held at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, FAU, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. In memory of the 10 year anniversary of 9/11 and the 70 year anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. 8 pm. \$35-55. 278-7677.

Monday - 12/12 - Early Afternoon Explorers: Chilly Chemistry at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Ages 6-9: 1-2 pm; ages 10-12: 2-3 pm. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3912.

12/12 - Public Universities as Stewards of Place: President Mary Jane Saunders at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at

FAU Lifelong Learning Society.. Annual membership: \$35. 2-3:30 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171 or www.fau.edu/lfs.

12/12 - Introduction to Palm Weaving at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Twist and fold palm fronds into animal shapes, such as a fish, grasshopper, or deer. Ages 7-14 with an adult. 3-4:30 pm. \$9/members, \$14/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

12/12 - Bright & Smart Robotics Workshop at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 6-14. Three session available, divided by age: ages 6-8, 3:30-5 pm; ages 9-11, 5:15-6:45 pm; ages 12-14, 7-8:30 pm. Price per class: \$11.50/residents, \$14.50/non-residents. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/12 - Four Play: Anne Louise and Edward Turgeon - A showcase of music originally written for four hands at one piano held at FAU Barry and

The Best 'Dinner & Show' South of Manhattan.

APPEARING IN DECEMBER

Steve Ross Nov. 30 - Dec. 3

The Four Freshmen Dec. 7-10

Nicole Henry Dec. 14 - 17

Aaron Weinstein Dec. 20 - 24

Mary Wilson Dec. 31 - Jan. 7

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Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 7:30-9:30 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171

Tuesday - 12/13 - The Jews in Britain: Act British, Think Yiddish by Virginia W. Newmyer

at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 10 am-noon. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171.

12/13 - A.D. New Orleans After the Deluge by Josh Neufeld is presented as part of Teen Book Club at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 13-17. Receive a free copy of the book at the time of required registration. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 393-7968.

12/13 - Concert: Comedian Lee Stanley and The John Branzer Big Band at the Spanish River Performing Arts Center, 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Featuring trumpet virtuoso John Branzer and his 17 piece big band. 7:30-10 pm. \$18/members; \$26/non-members. 499-9976 or www.swingandjazzpreservationsociety.org.

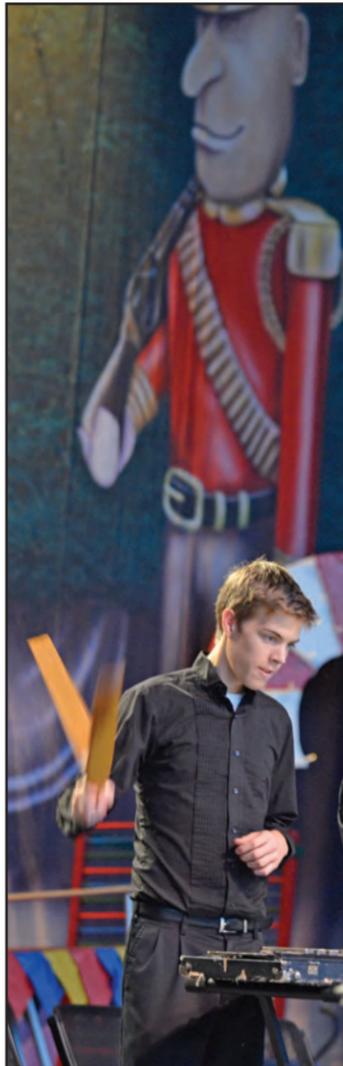
12/13-15 - After School Science Series: Chills and Thrills at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Experiment with "cool" science and the stuff that makes winter so much fun - SNOW! Tues.: Ages 5-6 (with parent); Wed.: Ages 7-9; Thurs.: Ages 10-12. 4-5 pm. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3912 or www.scienceexplorium.org.

Wednesday - 12/14 - President John F. Kennedy: Enduring Eloquence After 50 Years by David Zarefsky at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Membership: \$35. 10 am-noon. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171 or www.fau.edu/lls.

12/14 - Canoeing The Mangroves - Enjoy a naturalist guided tour from the boardwalk at Rutherford Park, 600 NE 24th St., Boca Raton. Following the tour, paddle through the mangrove trails and back along the shoreline of the Intracoastal. Experience is necessary. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty. Sun protection, water and bug spray are recommended. Ages 7-adult, an adult must participate with each child. Held again 10:30 am-12:30 pm 12/27. 11:15 am-1:15 pm. \$15/member, \$22/non-member. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

12/14 - Praying with Lior: The Jewish Film Club at Chabad of East Boca Raton,

Holiday Tree Lighting Mizner Park, Boca Raton



120 NE 1st Ave., Boca Raton. 4 pm. Free admission, includes popcorn and soda. 417-7797 or www.chabadbocabeaches.com.

12/14 - J'Accuse: The Dreyfus Affair and Anti-Semitism in France in the 19th Century by Claudia Dunlea at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 4-6 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171.

Thursday, 12/15 - Israeli-Arab Conflict: Geographic Considerations by Ralph Nurnberger at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 10 am-noon. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171 or www.fau.edu/lls.

12/15 - Motivation 101: How to Get Things Moving When Novelty Fades - Presented as part of the Lunch 'n Learn



ABOVE: What better way for Floridian Children to ring in the holiday season than with a spirited snowball fight. Aca McGowen takes aim at some family members from a "artificial" snow pile at Mizner Park.

LEFT: Boca Raton Community High School percussionist Zack Rosson adds a slap stick sound effect to the holiday song "Sleigh Ride". **Photos by Jerry Lower**

Series by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. Noon-1 pm. \$55/singles; \$100/couples (book is included). Lunch available. 361-3939.

12/15 - Treasures from the Butler Institute: Curator's Highlight Tour at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Senior Curator Wendy Blazier presents an informative gallery tour, discussing 200 years of great artworks, from the nineteenth-century masterpieces depicting the American wilderness and romantic paintings of the Gilded Age, to post-War paintings by Joan Mitchell, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Jackson Pollock. 2:30 pm. Free with paid museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free/children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500.

12/15 - Abraham Lincoln and the Crisis of Federalism During the American Civil War by Stephen Engle at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 4-6 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171.

12/15 - Craft Time: Gingerbread door hanger for ages 3 and up at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. Please register one week in advance for each program. 4 pm. Free. 278-5455.

12/15 - Craft Crew: Gift Wrapping Extravaganza - Kids ages 9-14 can

unleash their creativity at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 N.W. Boca Raton Blvd. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 393-7968.

12/15 - Thursday Movie Classics: The Big Sleep at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 6:30 pm. \$1 admission includes popcorn and a beverage. Ticket box office: 347-3948.

12/15 - Chorus Concert at Pine Crest School, 2700 St. Andrews Blvd., Boca Raton. Featuring the "Cool Cats" Chorus, Concert Choir and Middle School Chorus presenting an evening exploring the history of African-American music. 7 pm. Free. 852-2800 or www.pinecrest.edu.

12/15 - The Songs of the '60s: Rod MacDonald and the Humdingers at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This concert is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 7:30-9:30 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171 or www.fau.edu/lls.

Friday - 12/16 - Tot Time at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 2-5. Children will enjoy crafts, snacks, and indoor play stations. Drop in any time during the program. 10 am-noon. \$5/child. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/16 - The Coming War? Arab Revolutions, Arab Rulers, The United States and The Rise of Persian Power by Robert G. Rabil at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades

Road, Boca Raton. Presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU. Membership: \$35. 10 am-noon. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171.

12/16 - Boca Express Train Museum Tour at the FEC Railway Station, Count de Hoernle Pavilion, 747 S. Dixie Hwy. Enjoy a guided tour of two 1947 Seaboard Air Line streamliners. Both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the dining and lounge rail cars have been restored to their original splendor and deliver a nostalgic look at the glamorous days of train travel. Held the 1st & 3rd Friday of every month through 4/2012. 1-4 pm. \$5/adults, \$2/children 6-12 years, Free/children under 6 years and Boca Raton Historical Society members. 395-6766 ext. 101 or www.bocahistory.org.

12/16 - The Three Shayna Maidels: Roberta Peters, Beverly Sills and Rise Stevens by Giuseppe Albanese at FAU Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. This is presented as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at FAU Lifelong Learning Society. Annual membership: \$35. 1-3 pm. Members: \$25/advance, \$30/advance non-member; Door/non-member: \$35. 297-3171 or www.fau.edu/lls.

12/16 - Eyes to the Skies with the professional-grade 16-inch Meade LX Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This informal event is held in the parking lot (weather

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permitting). All children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Telescope will be out for at least one hour after the scheduled start time.. 6 pm. Free. 347-3912 or www.scienceexplorium.org.

12/16 - T.G.I. Shabbat at Chabad of East Boca, 120 NE 1st Ave., Boca Raton. Monthly Friday night Shabbat dinner replete with Challah, gefilte fish, chicken soup and all the other traditional foods. Special guest speaker Professor Lawrence Schiffman speaking on The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. 6:45 pm. \$25/adults, \$12/children ages 3-12. 417-7797.

Saturday -12/17 - Ornaments Naturally - Create ornaments and decorations with holiday themes using shells, sea beans, pine cones and unusual natural materials at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Materials provided. Ages 7-adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. 10 am-noon. \$12/members, \$18/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

12/17 - Meet The Artist Reception: National League of American Penwomen at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Exhibit continues through 12/28. 11 am. Free. 347-3900.

12/17 - Art Film - Maltisse: Voyages (1987) at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Held again 12/18 & 21. 2-3:15 pm. Free with paid Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free for children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500.

12/17 - Klezmer East Hanukkah Concert at FAU's Boca Raton campus, University Theatre, 777 Glades Road. This popular ensemble is back by audience demand. Enjoy favorites and exciting new works in this festive introduction to the holiday. 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10. 800-564-9539 or www.fauvents.com.

12/17-18 - Sounds of the Season - Presented by The Women of Note at The Willow Theatre, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Enjoy the harmonies of this award-winning a cappella chorus as they delight with a mix of seasonal favorites and dynamic repertoire songs. Features special guests Bling! Quartet. Sat.: 7 pm; Sun.: 2 pm. \$15. 347-3948.

DECEMBER 18-24

Monday - 12/19-29 - Holiday Fun-Tacular at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Fun programs during Palm Beach County schools Winter Break. Puppet Shows, Magic Shows, Winter Stories, Character Breakfast, Gingerbread House Workshop and more. Some programs require advance registration. Prices and times vary. 347-3900 or www.sugarsandpark.org.

Tuesday - 12/20 - Chanukah Begins 12/20 - FAU Astronomical Observatory - Public viewing day observations at FAU's Boca Raton Campus, Science & Engineering Building, #43, 4th floor, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Viewings will be held on the 1st Friday and 3rd Tuesday of each month. 7 pm. Free. 297-STAR.

Thursday - 12/22 - What is Beautiful?: The Spiritual Science of Intrinsic Attraction - Presented as part of the Lunch 'n Learn Series by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. Noon-1 pm. \$55/singles; \$100/couples (book is included). Lunch is available for purchase. 361-3939.

Friday - 12/23 - Funtacular 2011: Kids Day In, Parents Day Out at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Parents, drop off your kids and take some time for yourself. Kids will enjoy Explorium activities, pizza and games. 9:30 am-12:30 pm. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3900.

12/23 - Sand Casting at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Collect shells on the beach in Red Reef Park and make a mold in the sand. Fill in your sand shape with plaster, making a sandy shell-covered wall hanging. Meet at Gumbo Limbo. Ages 7-14 with an adult. 2-3:30 pm. \$7/members, \$10/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542.

12/23 - Playground Playdate at Sugar

Sandoway House
5K Blue Water Run, Delray Beach



More than 100 participants, took part in in the Sandoway House Nature Center's first Blue Water Run on Nov. 12 that included a 5K race for humans and 1 K pet fun run.

LEFT: Jackie and Jason Reeves, of Boca Raton and Rachel Kinsler sporting the turtle outfit race down A1A.

ABOVE: Judi Leonarcuyk gets a lick from her yellow lab Chelea after the race.

Photos by Jerry Lower

Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Get info about upcoming programs and enjoy free kid's activities. 1 pm. Free. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/23 - Wetlands Walk - Wakodahatchee is a man-made wetland which has become a favorite for birders and photographers at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Bring your binoculars for this 3/4 mile guided boardwalk tour to learn more about Florida's wetland ecosystems. Ages 7-adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3-5 pm. Free. Reservations required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

DEC. 25-JAN. 31

Sunday - 12/25 - Christmas Day
Monday - 12/26 - Kwanzaa Begins
12/26-30 - Kids in Action Activities

Camp at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Activities include: sports games, aerobics, team games, hip hop, ZumbAtomic gymnastics, and arts & crafts. All campers must bring drinks, snacks and brown bag lunches. All fees must be paid in full at time of registration. M-F, 8 am-5:30 pm. \$150/residents; \$187.50/non-residents. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/26 - Funtacular 2011 - Movie: The Little Mermaid at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. An adult must accompany children 12 and under. 11 am. \$1 includes movie, popcorn and a drink. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

Tuesday - 12/27 - Toying Around Workshop for ages 6-9 at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Students will create a stop motion, animated film using their toys and the latest digital equipment from Apple. Participants will learn how to import, edit and 'comicfy' their digital photos to create their own animated comic book. All fees must be paid in full at time of registration. Held again 1/3/12. 9 am-4 pm. \$60/residents; \$75/non-residents. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/27 - Children's Winter Fair at Patch Reef Park, 2000 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Games, arts and crafts, exhibits, food, community services groups, sweet treats.

10 am-3 pm. Free entrance to event, \$15 ride all day bracelet or \$3/ride. 367-7035.

12/27 - Fall of Giants by Ken Follett is presented as part of the Book Club discussion by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Held 4th Tuesday of each month. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

12/27 - Boca Beachcombing - Meet for an introductory talk about seashells and the animals the make them at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, then caravan over to Red Reef Park, 1400 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton, to walk the beach in search of ocean treasures. Open to all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-5 pm. \$5/members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

Wednesday - 12/28 - Reel Film Experience Workshop for ages 9-14 at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Director's Cut Reel Film Experience will put participants live on location in the director's chair. Students will write script, scout shot locations, learn multi angle filming

techniques, act, edit using Final Cut Pro X, and add voices, sound effects, music, and titles. All participants will receive a DVD of their work. Held again 1/4/12. 9 am-4 pm. \$60/residents; \$75/non-residents. 347-3900.

12/28 - Habitat Hunt - Hike around the property and learn about the different habitats at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton.

For ages 7-11, adults must sign-in children, but do not have to stay. 10:30 am-noon. \$9/members, \$14/non-members - per child. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

12/28 - Funtacular 2011: Make Your Own Gingerbread House at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This fun family activity uses graham crackers and lots of chewy, gooey and colorful candy to decorate. An adult must accompany children 8 & under. Registration required in person by parent/legal guardian by two days prior. Ages 4-10. 11 am. \$10/resident, \$12.50/non-resident. 347-3900 or www.sugarsandpark.org.

12/28 - Seining the Lagoon - Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd.,

Boca Raton. Explore the grasses and flats of the Intracoastal 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. Old Sneakers or watershoes only. Ages 10 to adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-5 pm. \$5/members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 338-1542.

Thursday - 12/29 - Claymation at 24 Frames Per Second Workshop for ages 9-14 at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Tr., Boca Raton. Students will create a concept, write a script, create characters, clay objects, and design backgrounds and sets. Using the latest digital equipment from Apple, students will learn multi angle stop motion filming techniques; add voices, sound effects, music, and titles. All fees must be paid in full at time of registration. Held again 1/5/12. 9 am-4 pm. \$60/residents; \$75/non-residents. 347-3900.

12/29 - Funtacular 2011: Twister Tales at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This

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Ocean Ridge. This amazing property was listed, contracted and sold in 90 days! Beautiful oceanfront home with 121 feet of beachfront, guest house, 2 pools and a breathtaking panoramic ocean view.



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Highland Beach. Stunning waterfront home sold on wide bay with direct access to I.C.W.

**DIRECT INTRACOASTAL**

Delray Beach. Just listed direct intracoastal waterway pool home, over 5000 SF, gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrooms plus a media room, gas fireplace, all hurricane impact, solid concrete construction and dock. \$2.75M

**135 FEET IN BOCA BAY COLONY**

Boca Raton. Fantastic Boca Bay Colony deep water pool home with amazing waterfront lot, 135' of newer capped and battered pile seawall with 16K lb boat lift. Room for multiple yachts. \$1.099M

**OCEAN VIEWS, DELRAY BEACH CLUB**

Delray Beach. Updated 2 BR plus den, Great ocean, ICW and city views Galore. Over 1700 square feet of living space, garage parking, deeded beach access. \$299,999



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TROPIC ISLE

Delray Beach. Charming waterfront pool home on deepwater with 20K lb lift, split floor plan. A dream home.

**BEL MARRA**

Boca Raton. Completely updated waterfront pool home 1 lot from the point with 85' of newer capped and battered seawall. New impact windows and doors, new kitchen, floors and master bathroom. \$899K

**PORTA BELLA I.C.W. VIEWS.**

Boca Raton. Stunning 2 BR condo overlooking the ICW updated "To the nines". Custom cabinetry, amazing kitchen with top of the line appliances, this condo is move in! Reduced to \$365K

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interactive show uses balloon twisted characters to tell the story. Kids get to wear balloon costumes and help tell the tale. 10 am. \$4/adults, \$2/children 12 and under. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

12/29 - Funtacular 2011: Juggle Mania at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Interactive show with lots of audience participation. 11:30 am. \$4/adults, \$2/children 12 and under. 347-3900.

12/29 - Sold or Sent? - A Biblical Tale of Narrative Therapy - Presented as part of the Lunch 'n Learn Series by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B. Noon-1 pm. \$55/singles; \$100/couples (book included). Lunch available for purchase. 361-3939.

Friday - 12/30 - Funtacular 2011: Crafts, Cartoons & Cookies for ages 4-10 at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Assorted craft stations, cartoons and refreshments. 10am-noon. \$5. 347-3900.

12/30 - Creature Feature at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Learn about some of the fun and crazy creatures that live in our ocean, at the beach, and in the lagoon. Sea stars, squishy squids, and prickly sea urchins are just a few of the creatures you will investigate. Make a fun snack that looks like the animal and take home a crafted creature to share with your family and friends. For ages 7-11, adults must sign-in children, but do not have to stay. 10:30 am-noon. \$9/members, \$14/non-members - per child. Reservations: 338-1542.

Saturday - 12/31 - New Year's Eve 12/31 - Art Exhibit: Members 29th Annual Juried Showcase - Palm Beach Watercolor Society show at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Exhibit continues through 1/25. Hours: M-F 8 am-10 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Sun./Holidays 10 am-5 pm. Free. 347-3900.

12/31 - First Night 2012 New Year's Eve Celebration is held at various locations in downtown Delray Beach. Bring the entire family to enjoy visual and performing arts in non-alcoholic venues. 4pm-midnight. \$10/advance button, \$11/night of event. 279-1380, Ext. 17 or www.downtowndelraybeach.com.

12/31 - Neil Zirconia: The Ultimate Faux Diamond at The Pavilion Grille, 301 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Buffet menu: 7-8:30 pm; dessert station: 10 pm; champagne toast, bagel buffet: midnight. Full show and dinner: \$90; dessert and last set: \$35. Prices are per person plus tax and 18 percent gratuity. Reservations: 912-0000 or www.paviliongrille.com.

JANUARY 1-7

Monday - 1/2-6 - Winter Break Blast! for grades 1st-5th at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Beat the heat with 'cool' experiments including ice crystals, liquid nitrogen, polymer-snow and more. Don't forget your hat and mittens because we'll end our week by piling into a winter wonderland with 16 tons of real snow at Piles of Smiles: Sugar Sand Park's Winter Celebration. Participants will be split into groups for grades 1-2 and 3-5. M-F, 9 am-1 pm. Week: \$105/residents; \$131.25/non-residents. One-day: \$25/residents; \$31.25/non-residents. Registration: 347-3912.

1/2 - Funtacular 2011: Ceramic Painting at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Children use color creatively on two plaster projects to paint, decorate and take home. 11 am. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3900.

Tuesday - 1/3 - Funtacular 2011 - Puppet Show: The Frog Prince for ages 4-10 at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. To break the spell cast by Wanda the Witch, a frog must be kissed by a beautiful princess to turn him back into a prince. Suitable for ages PreK-2nd grade. 10 & 11:30 am. \$4/adults, \$2/children 12 & under. 347-3900.

1/3 - Exploring Improv and the Art of Comedy Sketch Class at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 17+. This eight-class course runs through 3/6. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/

non-resident. 347-3900.

Wednesday - 1/4 - Funtacular 2011 - Workshop: Juggling for Kids at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This workshop will teach kids the basics of juggling. 11 am. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3900.

1/4 - Embrace Your Past: The Dynamics of Spiritual Time Travel - Presented as part of the Lunch 'n Learn Series by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. Noon-1 pm. \$55/singles; \$100/couples (book is included). Lunch is available for purchase. 361-3939.

1/4 - Meet Me at the Museum: Arty Party at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Features a tour of current exhibitions, live music, light refreshments, wine and socializing. Held the first Wednesday of every month. 5:30-8 pm. Museum members: \$10/advance, \$15/at the door; non-members: \$15/advance, \$20/at the door. 392-2500.

Thursday - 1/5 - Funtacular 2011: Book N Cookin' at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Read A Mountain of Mittens, create your own set of mittens, and play winter games and create a snowball cupcake. Ages 5-6: 10 am; ages 7-10: 11:30 am. \$10/residents; \$12.50/non-residents. 347-3900.

1/5 - A Tribute to Artists of the Holocaust: Seven Decades Later, a Survivor Remembered at FAU's Boca Raton campus, University Theatre, 777 Glades, Road. Performance of works by Hungarian composer Samuel Blasz by Birgit Fioravante, soprano, and Heather Coltman, piano; selected works by Wladyslaw Szpilman (The Pianist) by Duo Turgeon, and the premier of a new work by FAU composer Stuart Glazer, performed by the Arden Duo. 2 pm. Tickets: \$10. 800-564-9539 or www.faevents.com.

1/5 - Green Lantern (PG-13) is presented as part of Ten Movie Club at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 13-17. 6-8 pm. Free and includes free pizza & soda. 393-7968.

Friday - 1/6 - Funtacular 2011 - Piles of Smiles: Winter Celebration at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This winter event features face painting, cupcake decorating, activities, arts & crafts, photos, and bounce house. Plus, kids will get ten minutes to play in real snow. Snow and activities are for kids only, ages 5-10. Advance registration recommended. 10 am-2 pm. \$10/advance; \$15/day of event. 347-3900.

Saturday - 1/7 - Meet the Artist Reception: Palm Beach Watercolor Society - Art Exhibit at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Exhibit continues through 1/25. 1-3 pm. Free. 347-3900.

1/7 - Lecture & Book Signing: Into the Heart of Life by Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo - Presented as part of the Peaceful Mind/Peaceful World Series at FAU's University Theatre, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo is one of only a handful of western women to be ordained as a Tibetan Buddhist Nun. She is recognized as a powerful proponent of the universal need of individuals to find their voices so that all human beings can "realize their full potential." In one of her rare visits to the United States, Tenzin Palmo offers down to earth, practical advice on cultivating a peaceful mind amidst the chaos and stress of everyday life. 4 pm. \$15. 800-564-9539 or www.faevents.com.

1/7 - The Bronx Wanderers at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at the University Center on FAU's Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. 8 pm. \$35-\$55. 877-311-7469.

1/7-8 - The Commedia Aladdin at Sol Children Theatre, 3333 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. \$12/under age 8, \$8/age 8 and up - includes refreshments. Sat.: 2 & 7 pm.; Sun.: 2 pm. 447-8829.

1/7-8 - Explorium: Make & Take at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Stop by to hear some of our favorite science inspired stories. Held every Sat. & Sun., 11:30 am & 3 pm. \$3/cash only. 347-3912.

House of the Month

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home 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 very special homes.



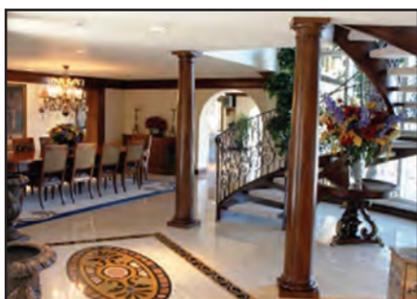
This house has more than 300 feet of Intracoastal Waterway frontage in Boca Raton. It is minutes from beaches and the Boca Raton Resort & Club.



This 11,000-square-foot home is set amid a tropical oasis on two lots. Outdoor spaces include a pool and spa.

Boca home has plenty of rooms with a view

The "Orchid Estate" is a stunning waterfront point estate on the east side of the Intracoastal in Boca Raton. Built in the "Monterey" tradition, the home sits on two expansive lots and advantageously boasts panoramic water views



The entrance has inlaid marble floors and a curving iron staircase.

to the north, west and south. Outside there is a multi-level deck with infinity edge Whirlpool spa, pool and bar for the most formal to the most casual entertaining. The substantial dockage can accommodate up to a 200-foot vessel or multiple vessels in a deep water "no wake" zone. The home is gated and surrounded by a wall elegantly incorporated into the lush and impeccably maintained landscaping.

Inside there are six bedrooms, seven full and two half-baths. This exceptional home was recently renovated and features top drawer designer finishes and furnishings. A Creston smart home system combines a complete house audio-visual program with security, lighting and climate control programs to oversee the necessary mechanics of this large estate. Two adjacent lots are also available for purchase.

Offered for \$9,950,000. Contact Senada Adzem, Sales Associate, for an opportunity to view. The Corcoran Group. 917-913-6680. Senada.Adzem@cocoran.com



LEFT: The kitchen offers custom cabinets, granite countertops and Intracoastal views. ABOVE: The living room boasts vaulted ceilings and a fireplace.



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