

The Coastal Star

February 7, 2009

Free

Volume 2 • Issue 2

Delivered free each month to the residents of Hypoluxo Island, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and Coastal Delray Beach

Putting the pedal to the mettle

After almost two years of construction, State Road A1A in Manalapan officially opened on Jan. 26. With the last barricades gone, drivers and bicyclists now have a smooth ride between Highland Beach and South Palm Beach. Cars seem to be enjoying the ride: Manalapan Police report

an increase in speeding on the newly opened road. But how about bicyclists? We asked the toughest journalist we know — Rochelle E.B. Gilken — to give it a try.

Gilken braved the traffic, and reports, “I should point out now, to avoid too much attention, I did not die.”

Read her report on page 14



Rochelle E.B. Gilken is dwarfed by A1A traffic. Photo by Tim Stepien



Curtain rises on new arts guide

Inside: The *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* debuts as a seasonal supplement that covers a range of cultural events. Above, Florida Atlantic University graduate student Susan Cato and Donte Bonner star in *The Bridegroom of Blowing Rock* through March 8 at Florida Stage, 262 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Photo by Jerry Lower

Humbled McCarty faces prison term

By Thomas R. Collins

After years of taking on her fellow Palm Beach County commissioners, calling her own shots, blazing her own trail, Mary McCarty was the picture of obedience.

More than punctual to her first court appearance on federal corruption charges — she got there two hours and 10 minutes early, perhaps to avoid clicking

cameras and microphone-thrusting reporters — McCarty sat in the front row of the courtroom. Then she was told the row was reserved, and the former commissioner retreated to the back row.

McCarty, who had won respect from many leaders of the coastal towns for her help in their times of need, has become another drumbeat in the cadence

See **MCCARTY** on page 9



Mary McCarty, former county commissioner for District 4, expects to plead guilty to honest services fraud.

Local leaders recall ex-commissioner's support

By Ron Hayes

Talk to the mayors, managers and civic activists who run the coastal communities once represented by Mary McCarty and you'll hear a common theme. Gratitude.

Whatever her failings or felonies, they say, the former District 4 commissioner was a loyal supporter of local government, and a generous

friend to the cities in her district.

“I think District 4 cities to a one will tell you she was always the commissioner who stood up and was a strong advocate for them,” says Lantana Town Manager Michael Bornstein. “She was the one who was least apt to support countywide rules that affected home rule, and the cities always appreciated that.”

Beginning in 1998, when

See **LOCAL** on page 8



Obituaries

Long time Briny Breezes pals are remembered. Page 31



Chocolate

For Valentine's Day, try homemade truffles. Page 22

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Know your candidates:

March elections in Ocean Ridge and Manalapan. Pages 6, 7



House of the Month

Explore a one-of-a-kind estate on Hypoluxo Island. Page 34

The Coastal Star

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The Coastal Star is a monthly newspaper serving the communities of Hypoluxo Island, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and Coastal Delray Beach.

Send letters, opinions and news tips to news@thecoastalstar.com

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Coastal Stars



Gulf Stream residents Ann Bennett and Barbara Murphy are organizers of the Heart of Women Luncheon, which benefits AVDA. Photo by Jerry Lower

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In working to encourage violence-free relationships and promote social change that can help end domestic abuse, Barbara Murphy and Ann Bennett have given extraordinary amounts of their time and talent to Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse Inc.

Most recently, the Gulf Stream residents have worked together to create AVDA's newest event — the Heart of A Woman Luncheon. This event celebrates the strength and courage of women, with proceeds going to support victims of domestic abuse and their children.

It is the efforts of volunteers like Barbara and Ann that help AVDA keep fundraising costs at a minimum, for the maximum

2ND ANNUAL HEART OF WOMEN LUNCHEON — Best-selling author Gail Sheehy will speak Feb. 12 at the Royal Palm Yacht Club, 2425 Maya Palm Drive West in Boca Raton. The luncheon was created to involve the community in supporting women who are rebuilding their lives and the lives of their children following domestic abuse. AVDA is a nonprofit organization that has been providing support to survivors of domestic violence for the past 20 years. The event begins with a reception and silent auction at 11 a.m., with the luncheon at noon. \$100 tables of 10 are available. Call 265-3797 or visit www.avdaonline.org.

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benefit for those in need. AVDA's independent fiscal audit showed that 88.7 percent of all money raised goes directly to program services. AVDA spends only 11.3 percent on administration and fundraising, combined. *Barbara Murphy and Ann Bennett were nominated as Coastal Stars for their AVDA work by Pamela A. O'Brien, executive director of Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse Inc.*

Editorial

The ArtsPaper debut

When I first moved to the area, there was no Kravis Center, no SunFest, no Florida Stage. Coming from a college town, I was shocked. Where did you hear live music, see a play or visit a gallery?

The closest thing I found was a smoky, A/C-challenged jazz bar tucked into a corner off Atlantic Avenue called Erny's. The summer jazz series brought world-class talent to Delray Beach and the lack of Freon-cooled, smoke-free air didn't mean a damn thing. This was art, and this was live.

Now, visiting friends marvel at the cultural events scattered throughout our area. During "season," it's hard to choose between live performances ranging from opera to ballet to country music shows. Surely this quantity and variety of cultural and artistic offerings in South Florida has been attractive to businesses (biotech or otherwise) recruiting the best and brightest to our area.

But how long can it last? The arts and artists are losing because of investment scams' impact on philanthropy and the overall market malaise, audiences are being more selective about where they spend entertainment dollars, and local media are slashing arts coverage as they attempt to

redefine themselves in a quickly evolving media market.

This last cutback may be more important than you think. Arts criticism is far from perfect, but it is the only counter-balance the reader/listener has to paid publicity. And whether you agree or disagree with the reviewer, he or she can set the community buzzing with arguments for each side.

In times of economic insecurity and depression, history has proven that people turn to the arts in greater numbers. But when the critics are no longer there to discover new art, who will call attention to it?

Part of our mission at *The Coastal Star* is to support local artists by giving them media exposure — which, we hope, increases opportunities to exhibit and perform their work. Our aim is to help integrate a wide range of arts into our local community.

This is why we are proud to act as midwives at the birth of the *Palm Beach ArtsPaper*. You'll find this excellent arts publication inserted into *The Coastal Star* for the remainder of the "season."

Our hope is you will embrace this new publication in its pursuit of art appreciation and will grow to depend on it as your source for news and advertising about arts happenings. Online, you will find the *ArtsPaper* updated daily at www.pbartspaper.com and waiting for your comments!

We are all in this together. Please welcome and support our friends at the *Palm Beach ArtsPaper*.

Mary Kate Leming, Editor

PALM BEACH ARTSPAPER

Norton show pairs O'Keefe, Adams

By Kate Davis

General O'Keefe and East Adams were drafted into the exhibition for the Palm Beach ArtsPaper. The exhibition is the first of its kind in the area, featuring the work of two of the most influential American artists of the 20th century. The exhibition is held at the Norton Museum of Art, 400 South Olive Avenue, Palm Beach, Florida. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Palm Beach ArtsPaper and the Norton Museum of Art.

West Coast

The Palm Beach ArtsPaper is a monthly publication that provides information about the arts and culture in the Palm Beach area. The publication is available for free to all residents of the Palm Beach area. The publication is also available for purchase for \$5.00 per copy. The publication is published by the Palm Beach ArtsPaper, Inc. The publication is published at 5108 North Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, Florida 33435. The publication is published at 561-337-1553.

INSIDE

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Local voices

Finding new ways to fight homelessness

By Rita Clark

The state of Florida is in the midst of a crisis in its ability to provide adequate shelter and affordable housing for the homeless. According to the state Department of Children and Families' most recent report, there are 85,907 people homeless on any given day; yet only about 9,000 emergency shelter beds and 13,000 transitional shelter beds are available to provide lodging to the entire homeless population.

Homelessness is not a situation affecting only individuals. Estimates for 2009 report the number of homeless families may reach the highest point since "modern" homelessness began more than 25 years ago, with 23 percent of all homeless people members of families with children.

This crisis is truly reflected here in our own community, where the gap between the number of affordable housing units and the number of people needing them is currently the largest on record.

Palm Beach County continues to be without sufficient resources to aid the homeless, even though there are plenty of vacant buildings.

How you can help

- Educate your elected officials** about the issue, let them know that their constituents care about what happens to the homeless.
- Respond with a kind word** when you are approached by or see a homeless person.
- Carry fast food gift cards** to give to homeless people who may be hungry.
- Educate your children and your family** to respect the dignity of all human beings.
- Get your faith group involved** with the Homeless Coalition.
- Employ people at a wage** they can afford to live on.
- Attend Coalition** events and fund-raisers.
- Donate reading glasses, new socks and underwear** to the Coalition.
- Recognize birthdays, holidays and special events** by making a donation to the Coalition.
- Invite the Story Tellers Speaker's Bureau** to speak.
- Become a board member** of the Coalition.
- Volunteer your time, expertise and talents** to the Coalition.
- Share these ideas** with others.

The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County is facing extreme difficulties in meeting the needs of our community's growing homeless population.

As the current economic crisis continues to deepen, we are bracing to meet the rising demand of those seeking assistance. To do so, we are asking everyone to consider how he or she can be a part of the solution

to help the homeless in our community.

It is paramount that we keep homelessness as a top priority and remember that the homeless are our neighbors — and, perhaps, could be any one of us.

Rita Clark is the executive director of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc. On the Web at www.homelesscoalitionpbc.org



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Letters to the editor

Bicycle 'pack' riders need to stick to their lanes

You've seen them riding along State Road A1A — long lines of bicycle riders who take over the road with little regard for motorists. Some "renegade" bicyclists or pack riders run red lights, yell profanities at motorists, and refuse to move over into a single file in the bike lane when motorists try to pass. Unfortunately, the vast majority of law-abiding bicyclists have been tainted by this bad behavior of a few. As I've said in the past, "Taking the road when there's a designated 5-foot bicycle lane is like declaring war." It's a practice that must stop for the safety of all.

Specifically, SAFE is disappointed that not all bicyclists are using the newly built bicycle lanes on A1A in Delray Beach. SAFE fought long and hard for building those bike lanes and will not now stand idly by and let a few inconsiderate bicycle riders ruin it for the vast majority of law-abiding bicyclists. Frustrated drivers rightly reason: "Why spend taxpayers' money on building bicycle lanes, if bicyclists refuse to use them?"

A big source of the problem is that few bicyclists, motorists and even traffic law enforcement officials, understand the current state bicycle law. An even bigger problem is that state bicycle laws were written before — and have not been revised since — bicycle lanes became the standard for safe bicycle travel.

SAFE has long advocated the need for bicycle lanes so that bicyclists would have their own travel lane, separated from motorists. It's safer for both. SAFE believes that a change in the state bicycle law should be made requiring bicyclists to stay in a bike lane except when there are obstacles in the bicycle lane, while passing another bicyclist, or when making a left turn.

What do you think?

Jim Smith
SAFE Chairman

Safety As Floridians Expect is a group initially formed to have bike lanes installed on A1A in Delray Beach. It has since broadened its mission to support traffic safety legislation.

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Only Delray commissioners can make bond decisions

Recent articles had former Delray City Commissioner Jon Levinson stating that he and others on the commission made it clear to City Manager David Harden that they wanted a fair and open process to select bond underwriters. I'm not aware of any documentation that supports his claim, and in fact, just the opposite is well documented.

Minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2007, show that Mr. Levinson himself made the motion to approve the \$50 million bond issues as a negotiated, not competitive, sale. This is classic, pointing the finger at someone else while he was the one who made the motion.

City Manager David Harden is as honest as the day is long, and most Delray residents know this. They appreciate 18 years of dedicated service and trust him.

Mr. Levinson, for some reasons he never made clear, opposed the City Manager for years. Many believe he wants to be the kingmaker of the City Commission, as evidenced by fielding his own slate of candidates for the

March city elections.

City staff does not decide on bond issues, and only the voting commissioners make that decision. Staff can only recommend. It appears that Mr. Levinson is suggesting that he followed the staff recommendation like a lamb. Commissioners receive information days before a meeting and question staff on issues of concern before the meeting. In fact, no staff in their right mind makes recommendations they believe are not supported or even encouraged by their commissioners.

I have not seen it stated that Kevin or Mary McCarty have violated any laws in regard to his doing bond business in Delray Beach.

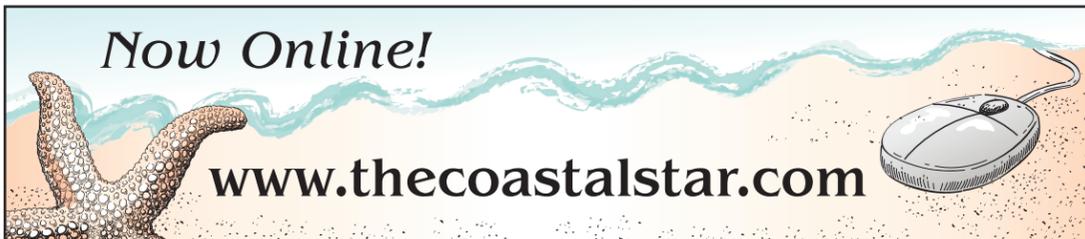
It seems to me that he had a perfect right to do business here. While I have not always agreed with her on every issue, I have to say that Commissioner McCarty had always taken excellent care of all of her constituents and the cities in her district and she will be sorely missed by many. I wish her and her family well.

Carolyn Zimmerman
Delray Beach

Publisher's note: The opinions expressed in the various letters to the editor belong solely to the author of each letter and should not be presumed to state the opinion or point of view of The Coastal Star or its publisher.

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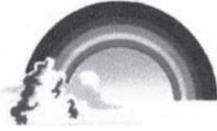
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Manalapan

Four running for three seats: so far

Things may change by February 10 deadline

By C. B. Hanif

In the March 3 election for the Manalapan Town Commission, the only suspense is in Seat 5. That could change before the qualifying period ends at noon on Feb. 10.

William Bernstein has qualified to challenge Seat 5 Commissioner Thomas Coffman. The incumbent had stated his intent to seek another two-year term on the seven-member board, but there was the slightest touch of drama until he filed with just a week to go.

Seat 5 could be the only contested seat, however. With a week to go, only incumbents had qualified for, and thus could automatically be re-elected to, the other three seats up for a vote.

Seat 1 Commissioner Kelly Gottlieb, also vice mayor, was first elected

in 2002 and has been re-elected since. The Seat 1 commissioner may reside anywhere in the town.

Seat 3 Commissioner Marilyn Hedberg was appointed in 2008, after serving since 2004 on the town's architectural commission. She also was active in planning Manalafest, the town's annual block party, including serving as the 2006 chairwoman. The Seat 3 commissioner must reside on the ocean.

Seat 7 Commissioner and Mayor William Gerrard was on the architectural board and chair before being appointed to the Town Commission in 2004 and being elected since. The Seat 7 commissioner may reside anywhere in the town.

For Seat 5, Bernstein, an attorney who serves on the Zoning Board, is challenging Coffman, an

ophthalmologist seeking his fourth term and who also served on zoning. The Seat 5 commissioner must reside on the Point.

Coffman cited the "lowered taxes in the four previous years except last year, when they remained the same," to show that his priority is "helping keep taxes as low as possible by carefully watching expenses." He said the new well being drilled should result in the town water treatment plant's being "a fully certified reverse osmosis facility within six months."

In a sign of their differences, Bernstein said the plant "has not been operated as effectively as it should have been, and we need to pay more attention to that." The remaining week of qualifying could be quiet, depending on with whom residents agree. ✧

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In Court

Delray priest pleads; trial set for another

By Tim O'Meilia

The long-running saga of two priests accused of looting St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church of hundreds of thousands of dollars is nearing a climax.

The Rev. John Skehan, 81, who guided the Delray Beach parish for nearly four decades, pleaded guilty Jan. 21 to grand theft of more than \$100,000 in church money. The priest who succeeded him as pastor, the Rev. Francis Guinan, 66, will go to trial on a similar charge. Prosecutors said the two spent parish money on girlfriends, trips to the Bahamas and Las Vegas, real estate ventures and homes. Skehan has a second home in Ireland and Guinan had a gambling habit, investigators said.

No plea deal was attached to Skehan's admission to Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath. A plea agreement that would have allowed Skehan to return to his native Ireland with no prison time was rejected by a previous judge.

Although Skehan was charged with theft of more than \$370,000 between 2001 and 2005, his plea did not specify the amount of the money stolen.

After the hearing, Skehan sprinted down the 11th floor courthouse hallway to a stairwell to avoid cameras and reporters.

"From the beginning he has been remorseful," said Skehan's attorney, Scott Richardson. "From Day 1 he has admitted responsibility."

Under state sentencing guidelines, Skehan faces 21 months in prison but judges can deviate from those. Richardson said he would bring witnesses to the March 20 sentencing to testify about Skehan's good works during his 40-year tenure in the parish.

Guinan, who succeeded Skehan as pastor of St. Vincent when the older priest retired in 2003, will go to trial Feb. 18. He is accused of embezzling more than \$488,000, but the priest's lawyer said it was \$309,000.

Guinan's attorney, Richard Barlow, said forensic

accountants can show that at least \$134,000 can be accounted for and is in church accounts.

"The public might be very surprised as to what priests are actually paid," Barlow said. He also said that lax accounting makes tracking the money difficult.

Alexis Wallenstein, a spokeswoman for the diocese, said neither Bishop Gerald Barbarito nor any church official would have a statement until the cases against Skehan and Guinan are concluded. Barbarito has cooperated with investigators and has established mandatory audits for each parish every two years.

Mary Anne Lantz, a parishioner at St. Vincent, attended the hearing and was disappointed in Skehan's plea. She preferred a trial.

"You always get disappointed with people you hold above reproach," she said, but still supports her parish. "I don't think anything done in the church is in vain, now or forever." ✧



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Ocean Ridge

Three vie for two seats in Ocean Ridge



Nancy L. Hogan

PERSONAL: 61; married; two children; business degree from the College of Saint

Rose; masters in public administration from the State University of New York. **PROFESSIONAL:** Real estate broker. **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** Elected to commission in 2005, lost re-election bid last year; served in political campaigns of former Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary McCarty and last year's U.S. presidential campaign of Mitt Romney. **POSITION ON ISSUES:** Claims lack of transparency and efficiency in government spending, lack of communication from Town Hall; favors more bidding for professional services; would poll residents regarding no-see-um spraying on their street. **QUOTE:** "What I bring to the table is an understanding of the efficiencies in the running of government, particularly from a fiscal perspective."



Kenneth M. Kaleel

PERSONAL: 48; married; two children; business degree from Ohio State University;

law degree from University of Miami. **PROFESSIONAL:** Attorney. **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** Ocean Ridge commissioner since 1996, currently mayor; has served on town's Board of Adjustments and on Planning & Zoning Board; current president of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. **POSITION ON ISSUES:** To continue managing the town in fiscally responsible fashion and create a better community for families and neighbors; favors no-see-um spraying if that's what the residents want; rights of property owners take precedence over convenience for inlet boaters. **QUOTE:** "I am very protective of this town and its sovereign rights."



Geogh Pugh

PERSONAL: 45; married; two children; graduate of Atlantic High School.

PROFESSIONAL: Owner of swimming pool construction and servicing company in Lake Worth. **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** Seeking third term; has served on town's Board of Adjustments; represents town on the Boynton Beach Inlet Committee. **POSITION ON ISSUES:** Wants to continue to "make the town a little better every year"; Boynton Inlet widening unfeasible; Briny Breezes should be able to redevelop as it wants within reason and the laws that apply; supports no-see-um spraying as a "quality of life issue"; wish list includes town's own water treatment plant and supplying the town with natural gas through a pipeline from Boynton Beach so as to be less reliant on FPL. **QUOTE:** "Take care of your town and your town will take care of you."

Ocean Ridge challenger offers divergent view

By C.B. Hanif

In the Feb. 10 municipal election, the biggest determinant likely will be whether residents are happy with the town's direction. Voters get to pick two candidates from among three: current Commissioners Kenneth Kaleel and Geogh Pugh and former Commissioner Nancy Hogan. The top two vote-getters earn three-year terms on the five-member board, for which there are no term limits. Mayor Kaleel wants "to continue moving forward in a fiscally responsible fashion, and we have shown we can do that." Pugh's priority is "maintaining the infrastructure of our town and ensuring the financial stability to do so." They point to the new Town

Hall and drainage projects as evidence of Ocean Ridge's stability and viability. In contrast, Hogan criticizes what she calls "the lack of even a reasonable accounting system," plus the debt for the drainage system and "the Town Hall that in the community is known as the Alamo." The mostly residential town's revenue is insufficient, she said. "We really have to look at overtime in the Police Department" for cuts. There's agreed opposition to the proposed inlet widening that Boynton Beach is seeking. Pugh said a recent study did not address the almost foot-higher spring tide that would flood the town, nor the substantial outgoing Intracoastal water and silt that "would mean an environmental nightmare for the unbelievably beautiful reef

off of Ocean Ridge." There's similar agreement that no-see-um spraying was effective and a victim of budget cuts. All say that redevelopment will happen in Briny Breezes but want it in within a reasonable scale. "Not on our watch" was the collective response to the thought of Ocean Ridge one day being annexed by Boynton Beach. There are residents who question Hogan's decision to force, by her candidacy, an expensive election; who found her disruptive in her previous tenure and note that, in her re-election bid last year, she polled last among four candidates with just 82 of the 508 votes cast. The question is whether residents think the commission is in tune, or needs a different voice.

• Election controversy: At the Feb. 2 Commission meeting, candidate Nancy Hogan blasted the board for allowing copies of *The Ocean Ridge Reporter's* election issue in Town Hall, which features front-page photos and profiles of incumbents Kenneth Kaleel and Geoffrey Pugh, but only a very

brief mention of her candidacy. "This has been an abuse for a long, long time, this paper," Hogan, a former commissioner, told the board. "There is a very strong feeling in town that people are treated unequally." After the meeting, Kaleel denied any conspiracy.

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LOCAL:

Continued from page 1

county commissioners were given \$1 million a year in gas tax revenue to distribute at their discretion, subject to their colleagues' approval, McCarty was generous to Lantana.

The town received \$40,000 to renovate its Bicentennial Pavilion, and another \$50,000 in 2003 to construct a parking area and driveway for the nature preserve on East Ocean Ave.

In 2002, she passed along about \$400,000 to help the town bury its electrical lines east of the Intracoastal Waterway.

"We ran into such snags with FPL that we just couldn't do it," Bornstein recalls. "We ended up using some of that money for beautification. We put in streetlights, sidewalks and plantings."

An unused balance of about \$300,000 was returned, according to county records.

In 2005, McCarty joined County Commissioner Warren Newell and Mayor Ken Kaleel in supporting the Ocean Ridge Natural Area, a 12-acre preserve with a boat basin and 1,300-foot nature trail that opened in December 2006.

The \$4 million project was primarily paid for by the state Department of



Then-County Commissioner Mary McCarty gives other officials a tour of the Ocean Ridge Natural Area in 2006. File photo by Bob Shanley/courtesy The Palm Beach Post

Environmental Protection and the Florida Inland Navigation District, with McCarty adding \$250,000 from her discretionary fund.

The commissioner also had pledged \$100,000 toward a proposed boardwalk to be built behind the new Town Hall, but that action had not been acted on when she resigned.

"We've had our share of disagreements," Kaleel says, "but I don't think you're going to find any mayor in her district that she wasn't supportive of."

In Manalapan, the town

library already had a popular lecture series under way, but for each of the past four years, McCarty has found about \$10,000 to support it.

"Other than that, we've had no county funding," says Town Manager Greg Dunham. "Our water upgrades were done with state funds, but Commissioner McCarty always had regular meetings with the mayors and managers. She kept an open line with all of us."

Even tiny Briny Breezes found a friend in McCarty until they split over a proposed sale of the town to developers.

In 2004, McCarty led the successful fight to ban dogs from Pelican Beach, a 600-foot stretch of county land just south of the mobile

home community. The area had become so popular with canines and their owners that it earned the nickname Dog Beach.

"She was very instrumental in getting Dog Beach closed," says Briny Mayor Roger Bennett. "For anyone else, it was a piddly issue, but for us it was a big issue, and she arranged to have it brought before the County Commission."

McCarty was even a regular on the town's closed-circuit TV station until 2006, when Ocean Land Developers, a Boca Raton firm, offered \$510 million to buy the park and turn it into a resort. Surrounding communities opposed the sale, arguing it would create a high-rise city on the narrow barrier

island. McCarty sided with opponents.

"She was very opposed to the sale," says Bennett, "so we never tried to lobby her. We knew we'd be butting our heads against the wall."

To fight the plan, residents of Gulf Stream formed the ad hoc Florida Coalition for Preservation and named civic association president Robert Ganger its director.

"Early on, she asked to attend one of our meetings," Ganger remembers. "We didn't know if she was for or against it, but she gave us quite a balanced, unrehearsed talk."

He praises her for listening to both sides and keeping both opponents and proponents informed.

"I felt she was treating us fairly and had the interests of the broader community in mind," Ganger says.

The deal fell apart in 2007, but last year McCarty assigned \$850 in discretionary money to have No Parking signs installed along Briny Breezes Boulevard, where beachgoers had been parking illegally.

In addition to heading Gulf Stream's opposition to the Briny Breezes sale, Ganger is also president of the Delray Beach Historical Society. In 2002, McCarty was instrumental in transferring \$200,000 in bond money from the stumbling Cartoon Museum in Boca Raton to help finance the relocation and renovation of the historic Hunt House from Federal Highway to the Delray Beach Historical Society grounds on Swinton Avenue.

"And that project (the historical society property) was not in her district," Ganger adds. "It's in Addie Greene's district, but I don't think she was nitpicking. She just felt it was right for the whole community. I felt then she was a straight-shooter."

But that was then. Now McCarty has resigned, accused of illegally benefitting from her office.

"I don't think she's a bad person," says Ganger. "I just think she made some dumb mistakes." ✧

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MCCARTY:

Continued from page 1

of corruption, following on the forced resignations and imprisonment of County Commissioners Tony Masilotti and Warren Newell and West Palm Beach City Commissioners Ray Liberti and Jim Exline. Now McCarty faces a possible five years in federal prison for allegedly steering bond business to her husband's companies and accepting free lodging from a developer.

The next court appearance for McCarty, who pleaded not guilty, hasn't been scheduled. Her husband has pleaded guilty and will be sentenced in late March. In the meantime, the couple is no longer living in their coastal Delray Beach house and have moved out of the city. The judge also allowed them to stay at their house in Maine before sentencing.

The charges have left coastal town officials who looked to her for leadership trying to reconcile the McCarty they knew during her 18 years as commissioner with the McCarty portrayed by federal prosecutors.

"There's no question that when it came time to try to solve an issue that affected a particular community she was actively involved; so from that perspective she deserves a lot of credit," Ocean Ridge Mayor Ken Kaleel said. "But that was her job, that's what she was supposed to do. As a government official, it is betrayal. Because when you have respect for somebody and they breach that trust, if you will, sure it's a betrayal."

McCarty, the federal charging documents say, plotted to award bond deals that financially enriched her and her husband, Kevin McCarty, who represented the firms, including Raymond James and Bear Stearns. Over and over again, she cast votes on those deals, —which, in the end, totaled hundreds of millions in bond money —but disclosed the conflict only occasionally.

Once, she left a meeting on purpose to avoid having to disclose a conflict, the documents say.

She also helped engineer bond deals for firms represented by her husband in Delray Beach, the documents say.

And she accepted gifts from developers to whom she voted to award development deals; the gifts, according to the documents, included free hotel stays in Key West and in Delray Beach at the Marriott, owned by Ocean Properties.

The dissonance brought on by the sight of a once-powerful leader standing before a federal magistrate and seeking mercy is striking, if familiar by now. But McCarty's history of bombast helped accentuate the effect. She has practically fallen over herself to fall in line.

After each of eight questions by U.S. Magistrate Ann E. Vitunac about whether she understood the ins and outs of her case and the charges, she repeated the refrain, "Yes, Your Honor."

Asked whether she had any assets outside the United States, she answered, "No." Then, seconds later, she added, "Your Honor."

At one point, Vitunac called her "McCarthy" — as did the guards downstairs — before correcting the name.

When she left the courthouse, McCarty pointed the finger at herself.

"This is a course that I set out and I have no one else to blame," she said.

The new McCarty emerged even before the Jan. 16 court hearing. Five days after resigning from office, she sent an extraordinary letter to her former constituents through the local media.

"For the past week or two, it's as if I have been at my own funeral, and I have to say, it's not exactly the stuff of dreams. To be honest, my legacy isn't either."

"It's taken me a while, but I get it. I'm a hypocrite."

"By accepting free hotel rooms, rooms in hotels that many of my constituents could never afford to visit,

I hurt people. By voting on bond issues that benefited my husband's employers, I hurt people. By violating my oath of office and failing to provide the honest services due each and every County resident, I hurt people.

"Here I sit, in the corner, observing my own funeral, sickened by the fact that I should have gotten it a lot sooner."

The drama may not be over. In their filings with the court before sentencing, prosecutors sometimes trot out additional details of a defendant's acts.

And, it remains to be seen which public officials and other supporters choose to write letters asking the courts for leniency.

Mayor Bill Koch of Gulf Stream was "shocked" when he heard about McCarty's resignation. "I'm deeply saddened with something like this because her service to the south county was exceptional, I thought," he said.

Even now, he gives her the benefit of the doubt, saying she most likely didn't realize, at the time, that she was doing wrong. "I don't think there was probably any real intent," he said.

Kaleel takes a tougher line. Credit for doing good as a county commissioner — coming up with money for county roads or hurricane recovery — only goes so far, he said. She never belonged on a "high pedestal."

"It wasn't her money, it was taxpayers' money," he said. But it's hard not to feel for her, at least to a degree, he said.

"You do have a personal attachment that grows with people, so from a personal standpoint, I feel sorry for her," he said. "And for her family, there's no question."

He said he has a sense that the apology letter isn't just for show, not just a naked grab for mercy.

"I think she realized she blew it," Kaleel said. "And I also believe that she is feeling a great deal of remorse over what she did, not only for the deceit on the taxpayers but for breaching her own personal trust or faith."

Read McCarty's entire letter at www.thecoastalstar.com

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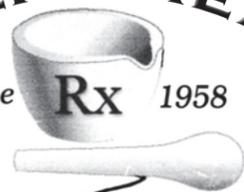


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Along the Coast

Delray Beach investigating its bond underwriting process

Delray Beach commissioners, at a Jan. 27 special meeting, tapped Orlando attorney Usher L. Brown to review the city's bond underwriting process.

At their Feb. 2 meeting, the commission voted 4-0, with Mackenson Bernard absent, to confirm the hire.

The review will go back

10 years and is expected to be completed before the new commission is seated on March 26.

The contract will cost a maximum of \$56,000.

The investigation is a result of allegations by the federal government that former County Commissioner Mary McCarty influenced

city officials to steer bond underwriting work to her husband, Kevin McCarty, in 2002, 2003 and 2007, without stating they would benefit financially from the work.

According to federal charging documents, Delray Beach commissioners steered tens of millions of dollars in bond work to companies

Kevin McCarty was working for, and his wife lobbied city officials to choose his companies.

In the aftermath of the charges, City Commissioners Woodie McDuffie and Gary Eliopolous considered firing or suspending City Manager David Harden, but did not move forward with a

decision.

Brown, who works for the firm of Brown, Garganese, Weiss & D'Agresta, was one of nine people considered for the investigation by labor attorney Leonard Carson.

- Hector Florin

Settlement reached on project

The developer of an ocean front Delray Beach boutique hotel and a neighboring property have reached a settlement to allow the project to move forward, City Manager David Harden confirmed in early February.

Legal battles mired Vista Del Mar's plan to build a 70-room hotel and 50-space parking garage at 64 S.

Ocean Blvd., just south of Atlantic Avenue, with Ocean Properties, the owner of Boston's On The Beach next door, appealing a city advisory board's decision.

Representatives for Ocean Properties and Vista Del Mar did not return phone messages on Feb. 3 seeking comment on the settlement.

- Hector Florin

35 request appointment to McCarty's vacant seat

The number of people seeking to fill disgraced County Commissioner Mary McCarty's seat has climbed to 35 as of press time.

Applicants include Lantana Mayor David Stewart; Pamela Goodman, a Gulf Stream resident and president of the Palm Beach County League of Women Voters; Boca Raton Councilwoman Susan Haynie; Boynton Beach Vice Mayor Jose Rodriguez; and former Boca Raton Mayors Steven Abrams and Emil Danciu.

About one-third of the applicants currently live in the district McCarty

represented, which covers most of southeastern Palm Beach County.

Other applicants include former county commissioners, school board employees and regular citizens living from west Boca to Tequesta.

There is no deadline to submit an application, and Gov. Charlie Crist has not set a date to make the appointment, according to a spokeswoman in his office.

The person who fills the seat will serve until the Nov. 2010 election.

- Hector Florin

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Boynton Beach rezones shopping mall across from Place Au Soleil

With hopes fading for a new development at the vacant strip mall at the northwest corner of Gulfstream Boulevard and Federal Highway, Boynton Beach commissioners have made the property strictly commercial again.

Plans for 166 residences and 19,000 square feet of

commercial space, known as Heritage Club, have tanked and property owners Thirty Six Hundred Holdings LLC say the land has a better shot with the new land use and zoning.

"We have received more interest from people for a commercial use," said James Knight of the Knight Group

Real Estate & Development Co., a partner in Thirty Six Hundred.

"It certainly wasn't in our pro-forma or plan to be sitting for this long... We don't have anything imminent that's a definite done deal."

- Thomas R. Collins

Boynton library to close for final renovations

The Boynton Beach City Library will be closed from Feb. 16 to March 6

to complete the transfer of materials and furnishings. The building will reopen

with a pre-grand opening gala fund-raiser to benefit the children and teen programs on March 6. The library will reopen March 7.

While the building is closed:

- The northeast doors of the library building will stay open for access to the Program Room and scheduled events will continue as planned.

- Through Feb. 14, library users can borrow up to 30 books with a limit of three books per subject. Return dates for books borrowed on, or after, Feb. 2 will be extended through March 16.

- Saturday, Feb. 7, is the last day DVDs, videos and music CDs will be available for loan. All of these recordings must be returned to the library on or before Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. to avoid late fees.

- While the building is closed, a book drop will be available for return of borrowed items.

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Gulf Stream

Buried power lines attract support

By Hector Florin

The fight for underground utilities along some coastal towns continues, but it lacks momentum due in large part to the faltering financial markets.

Gulf Stream and Ocean Ridge commissioners last month voted to extend support with a group of about 60 Florida municipalities seeking to move power lines underground. Both towns have contributed a few thousand dollars each as part of efforts to negotiate the project's cost with Florida Power & Light.

Gulf Stream officials twice addressed the topic at its Jan. 9 meeting; the second time in a spontaneous burst after a new town resident was quizzical about experiencing three power outages in four days.

Town Manager William Thrasher acknowledged the "strength in numbers" in having cities unite to look into the possibility.

"We would love to have underground power lines," Vice Mayor Joan Orthwein said. The Town Commission could soon vote on contributing another \$1,000 to \$1,500 into a fund created to study the issue.

A key sticking point so far during talks of a cost arrangement: FPL's 25 percent "rebate," a number that cities think should be higher because they say maintenance costs will drop significantly with underground lines.

"In general we believe their participation should be about 50 percent," Ocean Ridge Town Manager Ken Schenck wrote in a memo to commissioners ahead of the town's Jan. 5 meeting.

Burying utility lines in Ocean Ridge would cost in the millions, but no estimate has been made, Schenck said.

Manalapan is also looking into burying power lines in town.

The town of Palm Beach has discussed the idea since 2003, but following the 2004-05 hurricane seasons, other coastal towns joined forces. Even with a 25 percent

commitment from FPL, work on Palm Beach would run to around \$70 million, Deputy Town Manager Tom Bradford said. But it's tough to push forward in such a dour economy, which has also hit public funding.

"Times right now for cities are tough financially," Bradford said.

Also at the Jan. 9 meeting:

- Golf cart issue: Continued discussion on golf cart safety issues. Commissioners wondered how to regulate residents who drive their golf carts while letting their pets, particularly dogs, off the leash. With four of five commissioners present, the board postponed deciding whether an ordinance should be drafted to regulate this and other golf cart issues, and what sort of enforcement would be needed.

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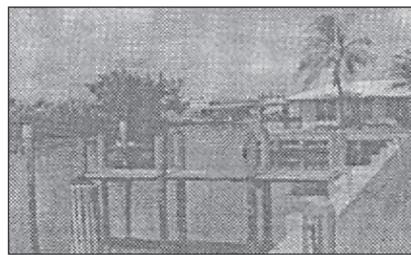
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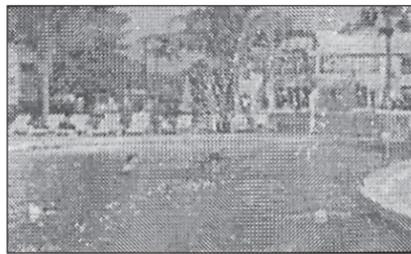
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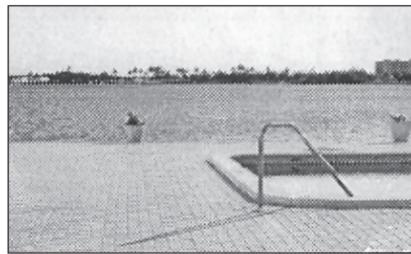
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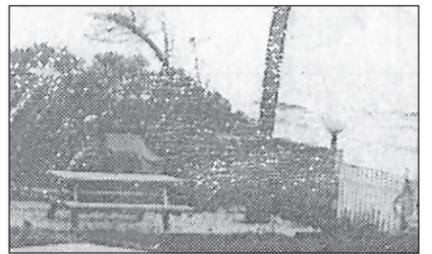
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Briny Breezes

Quick sewer pipe repair also may be lasting one

By Hector Florin

A busted sewer pipe that led Briny Breezes officials to warn residents to limit their water usage is still being closely monitored, though the pipe is believed to be in good shape and won't need to be replaced.

The 6-inch force main, operated by Boynton Beach and hooked up to Briny's wastewater system, was

clamped and repaired hours after the leak was called in around 1:45 p.m., Jan. 22. Someone near the sewage lift station at St. Andrews Country Club noticed a leak and reported it to Boynton Beach. The lift station was shut down within minutes and reopened that evening.

According to Boynton Beach officials, a boat anchor or other object could have pierced the pipe.

News of the leak arrived moments before the monthly Briny Breezes Town Council meeting began. Mayor Roger Bennett announced the town would temporarily close the sewer system and sent a notice to town residents via the town's cable channel. Bennett asked residents to conserve toilet flushing, showering and use of water.

Septic trucks arrived in town that day to alleviate

the problem, which was fixed overnight. Waste was transported to the Boynton Beach treatment plant.

"Somehow they made a temporary repair that's serviceable," Bennett said.

A group of Gulf Stream homes that are hooked up to the same pipe also were affected, Town Clerk Rita Taylor said.

Weekly tests of the county's beaches were conducted

on Jan. 20, and the next day's results showed a "suspicious" amount of fecal coliform, Health Department spokesman Tim O'Connor said. About 6,300 gallons of sewage leaked into the Intracoastal Waterway, said Wayne M. Segal, Boynton Beach's public affairs director. The leak caused the Palm Beach County Health Department to issue No Swimming warnings at Ocean Inlet Park, Boynton Beach's Oceanside Park and Gulfstream Park the afternoon of Jan. 22.

After conducting additional tests on Jan. 24, the beaches reopened the following day, O'Connor said. So far it's not believed that the 25-year-old pipe will need to be replaced.

"The clamp that they used to repair the pipe can actually be a permanent repair," Segal, the Boynton Beach spokesman, said in an e-mail. After studying a video, the city Utilities Department "concluded that the pipe seems to be fairly competent and exhibits little corrosion on the exterior surface," he added.

Also discussed at the Jan. 22 meeting:

- 2008 Election: Upon the advice of Town Attorney Jerry Skrandel, Town Clerk and Alderman Kathy Bray announced that she cannot run for both positions in the March election. Bray was appointed alderman last year and earned the dual role in October when Alderman Nancy Boczon stepped down as town clerk and Deputy Clerk Janice Moore departed. Bray said she did not know which of the two seats she will run for on March 10.

- Red light cameras: Sgt. Michael Kelley, head of the Boynton Beach Police Department Traffic Unit, gave a presentation on red light cameras. Kelley said he spoke with vendors and studied ordinances passed by other municipalities to monitor drivers who run red lights. He offered general support for adding cameras as a public safety benefit and the Town Council also expressed interest in looking into adding cameras, which would monitor the town's traffic light at Cordova Avenue and North Ocean Boulevard.

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Ocean Ridge

'No-see-ums' return as budget cuts end spraying

Not all residents saw value in the \$62,000 annual contract

By Hector Florin

On New Year's Eve, while hosting family and out-of-town guests at his Ocean Ridge home, Robert Happ came up with a last-minute resolution: Ask the town to again do something about those pesky bugs, the "no-see-ums."

The town had sprayed regularly for the bugs for three years, but stopped the \$62,000-a-year contract in September, one of several programs cut from this year's budget. The money to do the job departed, but the nasty biting midges never did.

"They are back in droves," Happ told town commissioners on Jan. 5, asking if the town would again consider the weekly sprays.

Aside from the characteristic that draws their famed nickname, these coastal insects love picking on human skin, irritating

a forearm or a knee, often resulting in a few days of manic scratching. They can cause allergic reactions and, in rare cases, spread disease to other animals.

In the larger scheme, however, a University of Florida entomologist says a peaceful, no-see-um-less living is no easy feat.

Associate professor Roxanne Connelly says any successful attempt at diminishing no-see-um populations would require targeting the larvae, a difficult and ultimately costly effort that no government has ever tried. Not only that, but there is no product created to eliminate larvae.

"It's a continuous cycle," said Connelly, who is based at the Florida Medical Entomology Lab, a UF extension in Vero Beach. "Even when you spray, you're only going to get the adults that fly around that night."

And it's a fact of life

when living on the coast, in mangroves and salt marshes and moist sand and mud. Several companies do produce patio mesh screening they say limit exposure. Repellents containing DEET, or diethyl-meta-toluamide, also help.

"But in the long run it is something you're not going to be able to stop as long as you live on the coast of Florida," Connelly said. No-see-ums also become resistant to insecticides over time, she added. Happ said he's been told by private companies the spraying is not environmentally harmful, certainly no worse than the mosquito spraying of nearly 500,000 acres of Palm Beach County's western communities that now goes on about six times a year.

Clarke Mosquito Control, contracted to do the spraying for the town, focused on mangroves near homes and along neighboring streets,

including Inlet Cay Drive, Coconut Lane, Hudson and Ocean avenues, Anna Street and Harbour Drive.

Happ presented a petition of about 60 signatures of residents asking for the spraying to resume. In April 2007, a similar-sized group asked the town to stop the spraying "and find a safe alternative."

Whether spraying resurfaces or not, any solution will likely mean the no-see-um's survival anyway. "People want to live on the water, and the insects do, too," Connelly said.

In other Ocean Ridge news:

• FEMA grant: The town is awaiting word whether it will receive \$379,000 in federal grant money for hurricane-

hardening work performed on the new Town Hall. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently visited the new facility, which had its grand opening on Dec. 5.

Town Manager Ken Schenck said he is optimistic the town will receive the funds but is not sure when it will happen.

• Inlet Cay seawall repairs: Commissioners unanimously agreed to postpone a decision to repair the seawall southwest of the Inlet Cay Bridge, citing concerns over the project's costs provided by a company upon inspection. Commissioners hope they can get a cheaper price than the \$17,500 quoted by Bridge Design Associates for design, permitting and surveying.

Holiday bonuses challenged

By Hector Florin

Holiday bonuses awarded to town employees in December are now under review, after commissioners learned at their Feb. 2 meeting that the \$500 stocking stuffers skirted state law.

Town Attorney Ken Spillias acknowledged the bonuses did not comply with two state statutes: One that prohibits giving extra compensation unless outlined in a city ordinance, and another that limits bonuses "to reward outstanding employees whose performance exceeds standards," as the statute reads.

Spillias told commissioners he thought he had at least drafted an ordinance in 2004 after a review of private contributions that went

through the town's Public Safety Department Support Group helped pay for employee bonuses. But he admitted at the Feb. 2 meeting, "I dropped the ball."

"It would be appropriate and strongly suggested that we prepare an ordinance," he said.

That will take time, as the town will have to outline a process that will make employees eligible for performance-based bonuses. Commissioners asked Spillias to review policies in other municipalities and to begin drafting an ordinance.

Commissioner Terry Brown was the lone opponent to the \$500 December bonus, and he reiterated that bonuses, "which I think are a good thing," should be based on an employee's accomplishments.

One option Spillias mentioned was to add, for example, \$500 to each employee's salary going forward, then simply handing out that \$500 come holiday time. "You wouldn't call it a bonus," he said. Including that money in the town's budget would be permitted.

"What the law says you can't do is give payment for past performance" without establishing criteria and an ordinance, Spillias added.

In a memo to commissioners, Spillias said he hoped to draft an ordinance and hold the first of two commission votes in March, but Mayor Ken Kaleel said he expects plenty of discussion when crafting the ordinance.

"We're going to have plenty to talk about, that's for sure," Kaleel said.

Obituary

Amy V. Schenck

Amy V. Schenck, who was involved in community projects in the Glades with the Xi Beta Tau sorority and married to Ocean Ridge Town Manager Ken Schenck, died on Jan. 30 after a long illness. She was 74.

Ms. Schenck was born in Philadelphia and moved to Pahokee in 1990, where her husband worked as city manager. They continued to live there until her passing.

While in Palm Beach County, Ms. Schenck worked

at Canal Point Elementary School's main office and at the Western County Mental Health in Belle Glade. She was also a part of the Sherbrooke Baptist Church congregation in suburban Lake Worth.

"She was just so helpful to everybody and everybody loved her," said Ken Schenck, who was married to Amy for 25 years.

Ocean Ridge commissioners offered prayers at the outset of the

Feb. 2 town meeting.

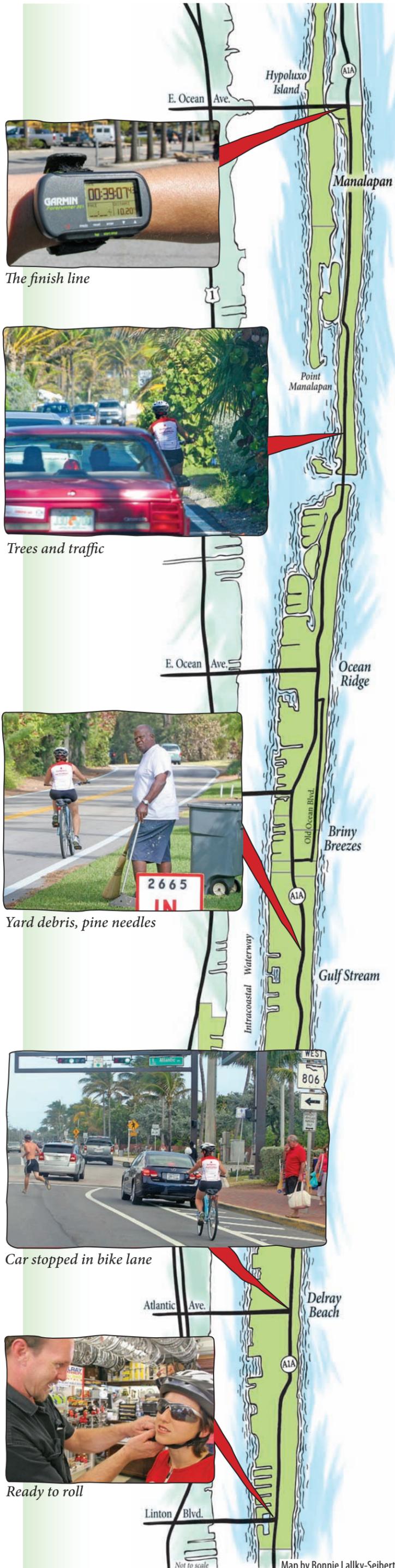
Aside from her husband, Ms. Schenck is survived by three sons and one daughter. She is also survived by a stepson, one brother and one sister, seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

Services were held in Royal Palm Beach and she was interred in Dayton Beach on Feb. 4.

MORE OBITUARIES, page 31

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Riding the white line in Gulf Stream. Photos by Tim Stepien

Biking A1A: a scenic and scary ride

By Rochelle E.B. Gilken

I swam in alligator-infested lakes. I went rock climbing without a harness. I fought until I was bloody in a boxing ring.

But I was never more nervous about my mortality than I was while preparing to embark on this journey: a death-defying bike ride from Linton Boulevard and A1A to the Ritz Carlton in Manalapan.

It may not sound frightening, but I calculated the odds.

Even a Smart Car, hitting the scales at 1,600 pounds, outweighs me and my bike by the equivalent of six Mike Tysons.

And there's a little more room in a boxing ring to avoid getting hit than there is between a hedge and a hatchback negotiating a two-lane curve at 35 miles per hour.

My challenge was to join the other daredevils with pink baskets, silver hair or spandex shorts who take this route on a daily basis.

The risk-takers.

I rented a baby blue bike at Richwagen's in Delray Beach, where I was politely informed, "We only had one person hit by a car in the last year. And it was fine. We fixed the bike."

He never said what happened to the renter. But considering that's one car accident for a shop that rents out five to ten bikes a day, I thought my chances of survival were getting better.

And I should point out now, to avoid too much tension, I did not die.

Didn't even get a scratch. But after all the talk about bike lanes and the signs about sharing the road, it still seems like there isn't enough

room to ride safely on a routine basis.

The first mile and a half through Delray Beach was great. There was a wide,

shadow over the road that made it difficult to see me from a car.

To add to the trauma, I don't like sharing.

And yet I had to share the road with the only thing wider than my backside: a Ford F-150.

This foe is 5,500 pounds. And even though I thought it wouldn't matter if I were outweighed by 1,000 pounds or 5,000, it does.

The monster vehicles rumbling by made my knuckles turn white gripping the handlebars. That's not very relaxing.

If bikers are going to continue using

this route, I suggest the following vehicles be banned from it: GMC Yukon, Ford Expedition, Ford F-150 and golf carts.

Eventually, the last mile was another pleasant ride with a wide lane and few close calls. The Manalapan Town Hall was a welcome sight.

I pulled into the Ritz at 10.2 miles, according to my little Garmin GPS watch.

In the end, the following things could've killed me:

- A woman balancing her beach chair and gear as she tried to cross at Ocean Inlet Park.

- A construction hose stretched across the street at mile 9.

- A sprinkler. (I closed my eyes as it spritzed me.)

- Mulch.

I was done in less than 40 minutes. I'm no speed demon, but I survived.



Rochelle E.B. Gilken

marked bike lane.

But soon that gave way to people opening doors from parking spots and others double-parked to load up their beach gear.

And soon that turned into miles of unmarked lanes, some no wider than a white stripe. From Delray to Ocean Ridge, there were times when I could not ride anywhere but in the driving lane. Luckily, my backside is big enough to give drivers a warning from a good 500 yards away.

Passing Gulfstream Park there was a narrow, unmarked lane.

During a one-mile stretch in Ocean Ridge, I counted the cars that passed me. This was a low-traffic area with virtually no room for a bike. In less than four minutes, six cars crossed the double yellow line to get around me.

That's not a lot. But each one of those drivers had to veer into an oncoming lane of traffic to make room for my balancing act on a sliver of land the size of a snake.

And that gave way to a canopy of trees in Manalapan that, while beautiful, cast a

Rochelle E.B. Gilken is a journalist and amateur boxer living in West Palm Beach. She is a former contestant on American Gladiators.



Manalapan

Town debates whether docks can grow to 100 feet long

By Hector Florin

Will longer docks on the north end of Manalapan create eyesores and bring bigger boats to town? That's a question being mulled as the town considers allowing dock lengths to extend, in some cases, to 100 feet, depending on the size of the property.

Town commissioners debated the code change on Jan. 27, but decided to postpone any decision for one year. Commissioner Robert Evans led the charge to study the effects before making any changes, questioning whether allowing longer docks will alter the town's pristine charm.

"I think our model should be more Gulf Stream and Hobe Sound than I do our larger cities," Evans said. "We are Old Florida — quiet, tasteful. I don't think huge docks further that model."

The change is being considered for the R1-C district north of 1020 S. Ocean Blvd. because this part of the Intracoastal Waterway is wider. As proposed, the code change would allow dock terminuses to extend 6 inches for each foot of property line, although they cannot surpass 100 feet.

Zoning laws in the district now allow a maximum of 50-foot dock terminus length, but can reach up to 75 feet if the property line is greater than 300 feet.

Evans said residents south of the line would wonder why they wouldn't be allowed to build a longer dock. Town resident Terry Taylor is seeking a variance to expand his dock length. His attorney, Ron Kolins, told commissioners that not everyone will seek to build the maximum size and questioned whether they would look unsightly. "Docks are low to the water," he said.

Commissioners voted 4-1 on the one-year postponement, with Tom Coffman dissenting and Peter Blum and Tom Thornton absent. It's still a bit of a mystery why the 50-foot terminus rule was set about a decade ago. While Taylor is seeking the variance, one commissioner said it is a rare circumstance.

"This is the first time that anyone's questioned the size of docks," said Vice Mayor Kelly Gottlieb, a commissioner since July 2002.

The Town Commission also addressed the following

at its Jan. 27 meeting:

- **A1A reopening:** Announced the opening of State Road A1A through the town, with construction officially completed on Jan. 26. Lane-striping work was scheduled early in the morning on Feb. 1, Mayor Tom Gerrard said. Meanwhile, Gerrard and Police Chief Clay Walker said more cars have been seen speeding on the road. "Traffic enforcement will intensify to bring driving behavior within safe limits," Walker wrote in a report.

- **Iguana appearances:** Will consider a plan at the Feb. 24 commission meeting to remove iguanas from the town. Commissioner Tom Coffman said he saw two of the creatures near his home about six months ago, and now believes there are four. "It's probably a good time to get rid of the four," he said.

- **Well construction:** Approved an \$811,000 contract with All Webb's Enterprises Inc. to construct a deep-water well. The town piggy-backed on a 2006 contract between the Jupiter-based company and the Seacoast Utility Authority. Under contract terms, the work would be done in 210 days.

- **Ritz Carlton deadline extension:** Approved a request by the hotel to extend completion and compliance of its expansion until March 31. Also approved increasing the number of hotel rooms from 309 to 311.

- **Decorative street lights:** In response to some

residents who said the decorative street lights on A1A can emit too much light, the commission will consider next month whether to switch from the current acorn-style lights to others that shield some of the light and point it down.



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Hypoluxo Island

Hoping to skirt legal risk, Lantana skews seawall

By Hector Florin

Upset over the possibility that a state agency could force the halt of the beach seawall's construction, Lantana Town Council members rushed a vote last month to build an unbuilt portion of the wall 13 feet farther away from the water than previously planned.

During the town's Jan. 26 meeting, Town Manager Mike Bornstein told the council that comments made by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission about the wall's placement could lead to a legal battle, delays and costs surpassing the current \$1.5 million price tag.

While town officials said the state's Department of Environmental Protection seemed fine with the wall's design, the Fish and Wildlife Commission worried the wall was being built too close to the shoreline and could have an impact on sea turtle nesting.

"My concerns when I visited the site yesterday were that the siting extends too far seaward into the nesting habitat, in areas that would be used for nesting by sea turtles," wrote Robin Trindell in a Jan. 15 e-mail. "I hope it is possible to site the seawall farther landward."

Council members blasted the commission for their comments, saying it was holding the town hostage for necessary work that benefits beachgoers, buildings and businesses and is not believed to have ever posed a threat to sea turtles.

"We have done everything. We have tried to do everything right," Vice Mayor Elizabeth Tennyson said. "I love turtles. But I don't think we're robbing turtles of habitat by building the seawall there. We're creating this seawall to protect the public's beach."

Even Town Attorney R. Max Lohman blasted the commission's decision,



Seawall construction along the beach may help to preserve The Dune Deck cafe (striped roof) and the rest of the Lanatana beach park. Photo by Jerry Lower

calling it "garbage" while acknowledging that "it's a tough, tough position" it put the town in.

Days after the Jan. 26 meeting, an S-shaped curve had moved the wall back, Bornstein said. While the 640-foot wall's construction starts 24 feet away from buildings threatened by erosion, it is being moved closer in.

The decision to move the wall in another 13 feet in came after Bornstein talked to DEP officials. The hope is it is a satisfactory distance to appease the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

About 100 feet remained to complete the wall's construction by the end of January; other work associated with the wall is expected to be completed in March.

Council members rushed to make plans to build the seawall late last year, seeking an emergency declaration after storms washed away a chunk of the beach and threatened The Dune Deck Cafe and other buildings. The declaration allowed the town to start the project while concurrently seeking state permits.

Construction started the second week of January, while at the same time, the county began — and completed — dune restoration on the beach.

Though Tennyson was worried about changing plans suddenly without studying

the effects, she joined others to support the new plan in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Lynn Moorhouse opposed. He also expressed concerns about changing plans so quickly.

The council had reservations about a potential legal battle. Still, they would be reluctant to have any other obstacles thrown into the seawall's way.

"This is the line in the sand," Mayor David Stewart said. "They will not come back and ask for anything more."

The Town Council also addressed the following at its Jan. 12 and Jan. 26 meetings:

- Ethics pledge: While announcing all town employees have signed an ethics pledge, Stewart suggested that vendors doing business with the town also sign it, and council members agreed. Over the two January meetings, Stewart asked the town's external auditors, janitorial company and seawall builders to sign the pledge.

- Independence Day fireworks: Approved a maximum \$35,000 contract with Zambelli Fireworks for the town's Fourth of July celebration next to Bicentennial Park. One resident opposed the idea because of the town's financial crunch, but council members defended the event as uplifting and a way for residents to get together.



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Menus with a heart

Four settings, from ocean to Eden, for Valentine's Day

By Jan Norris

French and Italian — the languages of romance — are also the languages of romantic food. All the restaurants are tweaking their menus on Feb. 14 to include a few tricks from these cuisines, so expect French Champagne, oysters, pastas, fancy pastries and plenty of chocolates.

Locally, we picked four romantic dinners to choose from — all offering some woo-worthy feature.

First is a newcomer to the scene, the Culinary Café in Delray Beach. Chef/owner Dominick Laudia brings his talents, and a pastry chef, from his former job at the Boca Rio Country Club to the cozy boîte.

Recipes
Chocolates that can't be beet.
Page 20

With only 12 tables and a small bar in a room with taupe walls and dark woods, the Café has an intimate feel despite the open room. Laudia will serve his full menu, which includes a spicy Asian tuna

tartare, a jumbo shrimp cocktail and smoked salmon appetizers; charcoal-grilled filet mignon, rack of lamb, braised short ribs, a crispy duck breast and twin jumbo crab cakes. Entrees range from \$14 to \$30; beer and wine are served.

A special Valentine's five-course dinner also is offered at two seatings — 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. The special dinner includes an appetizer "tasting" plus Champagne, a soup, a salad and a choice from four entrees, plus a chocolate truffle "heart" cake for dessert. The special meal is \$55 plus tax and tip and other beverages.

If it's a sea view with open-air tables that delight, consider Caffè Luna Rosa. The Delray Beach oceanside Italian boasts a full bar, and open-to-seaview seating from the dining room and sidewalk.

The chef is planning a few specials, including the seafood-laden pasta, Caccuico di mare, but, as he puts it, "All our food is romantic!"

"Chef Ernesto's family recipe" is used for one of the house specialties — veal and beef meatballs cooked with a San Marzano tomato sauce. Veal scallopini in marsala sauce, a pan-roasted fresh Atlantic salmon with brown butter sauce over a crispy polenta cake and served with broccoli di rabe, or the house-made creste di gallo alla vodka — the "rooster's crest"-shaped pasta served with a pink vodka-tomato sauce with seared pancetta and fresh basil are typical of other choices. A special dessert may be on the list. No timed seatings here, but reservations are suggested.

In Lake Worth, La Bonne Bouche, a French charmer that has a burgeoning lunch crowd, will have a

four-course candlelit dinner special perfect for a tête-à-tête.

The charm of a French café is that it appears effortless to achieve romance in one — tiny candles glowing on the starched linen-topped tables, a French chanteuse warbling softly through speakers, a lushly landscaped patio with a fountain for soft water sounds — a best bet if stars are out and the weather's nice.

Start by nibbling on the teeny, imported Nicoise olives brought gratis to the tables. Chef/owner Eric Regnier, from Nice, insists these are the most flavorful. French onion soup follows, served with a brioche, a classic egg-dough bread — all baked goods are made on site. A choice of escargot or a salad is next, with a choice of fish or fillet for an entrée. The dessert is the classic opera cake — almond cake soaked in espresso, with a bittersweet chocolate ganache and espresso buttercream fillings. It's unctuous and rich beyond belief — definitely romantic. Plenty of French Champagne will be on hand as well. Three-course menu is choice of onion soup or a moussaline of asparagus; choice of gâteau de saumon or filet mignon Rossini; and for dessert, l'opera cake.

This is another small space — 14 tables indoors and 12 on the patio; reservations are a must.

If nature and lush gardens with twinkling lights remind you of a private tropical island, make reservations for the Sundry House — the top outdoor dining experience in our area. This sublime piece of paradise is one of the top dining attractions in Delray Beach.

The exotic landscaping, full of edible and flowering plants and trees, is softly lit at night, and with a meandering stream throughout (manmade, but it works), it's a transporting setting for those with amour on their minds.

A four-course dinner is planned for Feb. 14 — with multiple choices throughout. Start with oysters three ways, or a pair of soups — tomato basil and porcini mushroom veloute. Move to a salad of jumbo shrimp on a citrus salad, or lolla rossa salad with candied walnuts and roasted garlic. For an entrée, choose from several dishes, including a tomato-goat cheese ravioli with asparagus coulis and caramelized cauliflower, or Chardonnay-poached halibut with creamed spinach, and a brioche crostini, or lobster ravioli with black truffle pasta, morel cream sauce and buttered lobster tail meat.

Best for last: desserts are chocolate-covered strawberry mousse with a vanilla crème fraîche; chocolate cake, or Bailey's crème brûlée with caramelized bananas and dulce de leche cream with plantain chips.

Dinner seatings are from 6 to 10 p.m.



Start off a romantic meal with tiny Nicoise olives, hearty French onion soup and classic Bouche, literally 'The Good Mouth,' in downtown Lake Worth. **Photo by Tim Stepien**



Culinary Cafe, with 12 tables and a bar, provides an intimate setting for you and your sweetie. The chef plans a special five-course dinner at two seatings. **Photo provided**

If you go

Culinary Cafe
1832 S. Federal Highway
Delray Beach (South)
Highway and
Full menu \$55, plus tax
and tip. Valentine's D
6:30 and 8:30

La Bonne Bouche
516 Lucerne
333-0840 Sp
is \$45, plus tax
and tip. Serving from
required.

Sundry House
106 S. Swinton
(877) 439-96
menu is \$75,
alcohol. Serv
reservations

Caffe Luna Rosa
34 S. Ocean
(561) 274-94
menu and b
served from
Reservations
8898, ext 12



Classic brioche at La Bonne Patisserie

Caffe Luna Rosa
 1001 Federal Highway, Delray Beach
 Southwest corner of Federal Highway and Linton (561) 266-8976
 Special five-course menu for Valentine's Day. Tax, tip and alcohol. Two day dinner seatings: 5-10 p.m.

La Bonne Patisserie
 1001 Ave., Lake Worth (561) 266-8976
 Special four-course meal for Valentine's Day. Tax, tip and alcohol. Dinner 6-8 pm. Reservations required.

Crown Wine and Spirits
 1001 Ave., Delray Beach (561) 266-8976
 Special four-course menu for Valentine's Day. Tax, tip and alcohol. Dinner 6-10 pm. Reservations required.

Woolbright Road
 1001 Blvd., Delray Beach (561) 266-8976
 Special four-course menu for Valentine's Day. Tax, tip and alcohol. Dinner 6-10 pm. Reservations required; call 561-274-XXXX



You'll eat like family at Caffe Luna Rosa (above), which faces the ocean in coastal Delray Beach — some of the recipes come from the chef's family. Expect specials on the menu for Valentine's Day. Pictured: Caccuico di mare. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

Enjoy a four-course menu that includes oysters, soups, lobster ravioli with black truffle and more in the gardens of the Sundy House, near downtown Delray Beach. The lush landscaping will whet appetites for food and romance. **Photo provided**

Perfect pairings by the bottle

By Bob Leone

Anyone can make reservations at fancy restaurants, but to really impress your significant other on Valentine's Day, take the time to find a secluded piece of beach



or make the arrangements for the babysitter without being asked. Then stop by your favorite wine and food shops and put together your own very personal repast.

Here are food and wine pairings you can use to create a memorable "Lovers Day."

If you are lucky enough to find that lonely stretch of beach, pack a chilled container of pre-made Bellinis (Prosecco and peach nectar), or a chilled Rose

Champagne like the fabulous Billecart-Salmon Rose (\$80). Add some smoked salmon sandwiches with dark bread and fresh dill dressing and a few fancy cookies to finish. You've now created a quiet, personal moment for two.

Or keep it really simple and have your romantic dinner at home: Fix your loved one's favorite meal, or call a caterer and let them do all the food work for you. Then all it takes is finding the perfect wine to complement your meal.

Speaking for myself, nothing beats a dry-aged, prime cut New York Strip done to medium-rare, accompanied by a robust California Cab like Caymus (\$70), Darioush (\$90) or a new favorite, 2480 Cab (\$100).

If steak is not your thing, try a steamed lobster dinner accompanied by a lush Chardonnay like Mer Soleil (\$35) or

Beringer Private Reserve (\$30). Or maybe Lobster Thermador — a rich decadent dish you could pair with Montrachet la Guiche (\$300), a wine of equal decadence.

To bring your evening to a close, pair a slice of Italian cheesecake paired with a bottle of Chateau d'Yquem (\$200+) — the greatest dessert wine in the world.

Of course none of these wine suggestions is cheap, but making your significant other happy can be priceless.

Until the next time: Drink and eat well — if not often. Ciao, Amici.

Bob Leone is the "wine guy" at Crown Wine and Spirits at Woolbright Road, where he has been wine director for almost 16 years. He is a Certified Specialist in Wine (CSW). He also is a member of the Sommelier Society of America.

Other spots for a perfect get-away, pages 18-19

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Romantic weekend: Where will you get away?

Here's a thought: Get away from it all for a romantic weekend — right here, where others pay major money to come in the wintertime. You'll save on travel costs and can use the extra cash for a dinner or shopping splurge instead.

Our suggestions include the historic and recently renovated Colony Hotel and Cabana Club in Delray Beach, the stately Breakers in Palm Beach, with concierge treatment that will make you want to move in permanently, and the Old Florida oceanside charmer, Wright-by-the-Sea in Delray Beach.

— Jan Norris



The Colony Hotel, in downtown Delray Beach, has freshly refurbished rooms. It's close to beaches, shopping and fine dining. **Photo provided**

The Colony Hotel and Cabana Club

Opt for a corner Queen or King room in this historic 1926 hotel, though any of the 70 rooms or two-bedroom suites would be ideal. All are individually decorated and recently renovated, all featuring tropical touches. Skylights illuminate the lobby, filled with vintage wicker furniture.

Only two miles and a bike-ride away is the Cabana Club on the ocean, which sports a saltwater pool, lushly landscaped gardens and a "serenity circle" for meditation or just getting lost in the quiet.

Situated on Atlantic Avenue, there are plenty

of opportunities for guests to stroll and browse a plethora of shops, many offering Florida gifts and art. Dining choices range from quick pizza slices, Thai, a steakhouse, and several sandwich shops. The Green Owl — a classic mid-century diner nearby, sits across from Mercer-Wetzel, a landmark department store.

The friendly staff can help you make dinner plans in advance (do this the day you make reservations) and set up other activities in the area.

Eco-friendly guests will be happy to know the hotel was certified a Florida Green Lodge in 2006 and practices conservation daily.

If you go

The Colony Hotel and Cabana Club

525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
 (561) 276-4123; www.thecolonyhotel.com/florida/
Rates: Two-night stay minimum for Valentine's Day weekend; \$259 per night, king room.

Wright-by-the-Sea

1901 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach
 (561) 278-3355; www.wbts.com
Rates: From \$255 for a studio, to \$495 for a 1,000-square-foot suite.

The Breakers

1 S. County Road, Palm Beach
 (561) 655-6611; www.thebreakers.com
Rates: \$630-\$690 for king rooms; up to a \$200 credit toward amenities is available on its Web site.

Note: All prices quoted are for base rates, without taxes and special charges.

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The Breakers

The luxury of luxury — it's all about service at this unique Italian Renaissance resort.

You get it with the lowest-end rooms at this grand seaside hotel with more history than most others in South Florida.

For romance, you just can't beat it.

The works of art, grand lobby and loggias — all the public spaces speak to romanticism. With its spas and now, the completely renovated beachfront, regroomed landscaping and natural habitats — all work to complete a honeymoon-like experience for couples.

The staff mantra, "Friendliness with respect" is a welcome, less-formal approach than the stiffness and formality that can make guests uncomfortable.

There's no end to activities available through the concierges who can book dinners, plays, eco-tours and other events if you choose.

On site, there's a relaxation pool overlooking the ocean, with two whirlpools, an oceanfront spa where you can get a couples massage, and the star attraction, private bungalows that sport their own "bungalow concierge."

The Breakers is an all-in-one shopping event, too. A new jewelry boutique called Mix features one-of-a-kind jewelry, while clothing, gourmet food and wine and accessories are available at others on the property.

There's plenty to do recreation-wise on the grounds — golf, croquet, basketball and more.

It boasts a number of fine restaurants to choose from — L'escalier would have the most romantic tables for Valentine's Day.

Choose from 540 rooms and suites

It's pricey, but for romance, or just to be able to say you've stayed where royalty and notables have stayed — this is "The One."



The Breakers, in Palm Beach, offers a variety of venues for eating, sleeping and shopping. Don't miss out on one of the hotel's private bungalows, which have their own 'bungalow concierge.' **Photo provided**



Wright-by-the-Sea combines old-Florida charm with beachside appeal, and that heated pool can't be beat. **Photo provided**

Wright-by-the-Sea

We are enchanted by Old Florida, and the epitome of beachfront hotels from the '50s is at Wright-by-the-Sea in Delray Beach. We even love their web site, which posts the weather right up front.

Each one of the 28 suites here has an ocean view — not even The Breakers can boast this. The cozy rooms and studio apartments are individually decorated with a beachy-cottage theme, and have comfy appointments like lounge-worthy chairs with ottomans and efficient kitchenettes. We favor the studio apartments for coziness, but a luxury suite with two baths and separate living room is available.

There's a cute little palm-shaded heated pool overlooking the dunes and private cabanas for sun worshipping or keeping the sand from ruffling your book pages.

De rigueur is the shuffleboard court — no '50s hotel or motel in Florida was without them — croquet, basketball and Ping Pong tables for recreation.

For wooing, we'd take a bottle of wine, a couple of glasses and a blanket, and sit on the ocean observation deck to watch the shore.

It's near everything in downtown Delray, but with its little kitchen, you wouldn't have to leave the grounds. ✨

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The Delray GreenMarket is a Saturday morning destination as an open air market place offering everything from off-the-vine produce to just picked citrus and fragrant baked goods to fresh cut flowers, blooming plants and gourmet taste treats.

Food

Chocolate for your sweetie can't be 'beet'

By Jan Norris

Chocolate for Valentine's Day is almost too cliché.

We said almost. It remains the perennial favorite no matter who is buying and who is receiving. A few facts: More than \$1 billion is spent in the weeks before Valentine's Day for chocolate candy — most of it bought by men as gifts for women. But annually, women buy and eat more chocolate than men. Chocolates as a love-gift is relatively new. It's been popular only since around 1913, when a Swiss confectioner figured out how to fill chocolates with creams and nuts. Before that, Valentine exchanges were mostly flowers and handwritten notes.

Today, the chocolate doesn't stop with the heart-shaped boxes; restaurant pastry chefs must have a chocolate dessert on the menu or face losing their jobs.

Some take the easy way out and just offer truffles as a lagniappe — a little something extra — in the form of chocolate ganache balls dusted with cocoa or dipped in dark chocolate.



If you dine at La Bonne Bouche on Valentine's Day, you will receive a couple of truffles with your Opera Cake. Truffles are easy to make at home. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

They're simple to make at home, yet yield the same over-the-top richness as offered in restaurants. (If you dine at La Bonne Bouche on Valentine's Day, you'll get a couple with your Opera Cake — the standard chocolate cake in that bakery.)

We tasted a chocolate-dipped cheesecake "lollipop" at the Culinary Café in

Delray Beach — and though neither of the two sweets is something we go out of the way for, together they were sublime. It's another simple way to work chocolate into a dessert, and please those who like cheesecake, and only want a bite of chocolate. If you shape the "lollipop" into a heart, you can claim this as your own creative idea.

Here's how it's done: Make or buy a creamy — not cakey — cheesecake. You can get a chocolate cheesecake if you want it to be total chocolate. Freeze the cake, then use a heart-shaped canapé cutter to cut it into little heart shapes — 2 or 3 across inches would work best. Once frozen, push lollipop sticks into the center of each.

Melt some good quality dark or milk chocolate in a deep double boiler. Dip the cheesecake hearts into the chocolate, coating completely. Note that the chocolate will set up almost immediately on the frozen cakes; you may also have to reheat the chocolate as you work to keep it fluid. Set the lollipops on a non-stick pan or on a cookie rack to dry completely. Cover, and chill until an hour before serving; remove and let lollipops come to room temperature.

At the Culinary Café, they served a trio of these, including a white-chocolate version, with a raspberry sauce for dipping. A warm caramel sauce, from the ice-cream aisle, also would be delicious.

Lastly, I'm offering an unusual recipe for beet brownies. The recipe has made the rounds of cooks all over, but it's not just the novelty that thrills — it's the incredible moist texture and rich chocolate flavor in every bite of these brownies. Fear of beets? No worries. The absolute lack of beet flavor will win you over. Those

See **CHOCOLATE** on page 21

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My parent's wedding, Province of Salerno, 1956.

CHOCOLATE:

Continued from page 20

who've cooked with shredded carrots and zucchini and other vegetables know how moist they make a cake. You don't have to tell a soul what's in them; only another beet-brownie maker might be able to guess.

Traditional chocolate truffles

These are named after the famous fungi sniffed out by pigs in France's woodlands. The recipe is one I've used for several years from Ghirardelli Chocolates. It's a messy job to make these; wear baker's decorating gloves. Begin the truffles at least 4 hours before serving. They can be prepared up to two weeks ahead.

- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 8 ounces (two bars) of bittersweet or dark (or a combination) chocolate, broken into small pieces — see note
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

In a small pan over medium heat, bring the cream to a simmer — bubbles form around the edges of the pan. Remove from heat and stir in the chocolate and butter. Put a half-inch of water into another larger pan; bring it to a simmer. Set the saucepan of chocolate into the simmering water and stir the chocolate, taking care not to let any water or steam droplets get into the chocolate. Stir until all the chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Use a rubber spatula to transfer the mixture to a shallow bowl; cool to room

temperature and then cover and refrigerate until firm, at least two hours.

Don gloves to complete the work. Pour the cocoa powder into a pie plate. Line an airtight container with waxed paper or parchment. Dip a melon baller or small spoon into a glass of warm water and scrape across the surface of the chilled chocolate mixture to form a rough 1-inch ball, using your other hand to help round it out. Drop the balls into the cocoa. Gently shake the pie plate to coat the truffles with cocoa. Transfer the truffles to the container, separating each layer with more waxed paper. Cover tightly. Truffles will keep two weeks in refrigerator or, if frozen, for up to 3 months.

This makes about 16 truffles.

Note: I have used Scharffen Berger, Ghirardelli and Callebaut chocolates to make these; these high-quality chocolates are available at most gourmet stores.

Beet brownies

Believe us when we tell you the beets will never be detected in these delectable brownies. You can cook your own beets for the puree, but organic canned ones work just as well.

- 4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate (chips or chopped bar)
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) butter, softened
- 3/4 cup beet puree (boil beets to fork-tender then puree; or use 15-oz. can with juices)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup sugar

- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

In a small bowl set over a simmering pan of water, melt chocolate and butter. Remove from heat and whisk in beet puree. Set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, beat eggs and sugar until eggs are light yellow

and sugar is incorporated. Stir in chocolate-beet mixture. Stir in vanilla. Use a rubber spatula to fold in flour mixture just until combined — do not beat.

Pour into a 13-by-9-inch greased baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. A tester may not work for a fudge-like brownie; if a cake-like

texture is desired, bake until tester in center comes out clean. Cool completely before cutting into bars or triangles. Serve with a raspberry or fudge sauce.

Jan Norris is the former Food Editor of The Palm Beach Post. She now freelances and writes her food blog at www.JanNorris.com.



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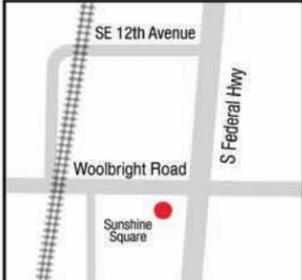
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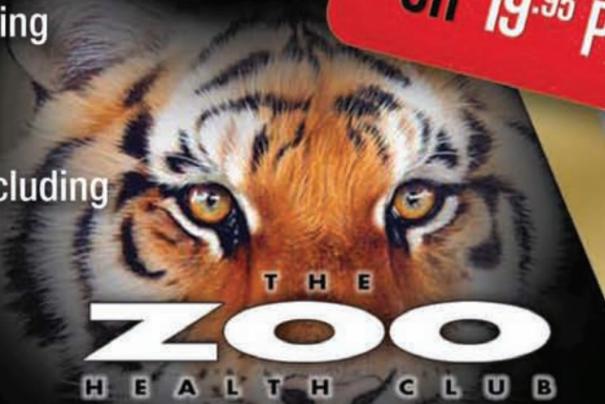


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Along the Coast



Librarian Mary Ann Kunkle brings her Shih Tzu, Angelina, to work at the J. Turner Moore Library in Manalapan. The library boasts a book club, lecture series and exhibits by local artists. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

Manalapan

Of all the smaller coastal communities, the J. Turner Moore Library is the most sophisticated. It has a paid part-time librarian, a newsletter, annual fees for residents and nonresidents alike, and an official library dog.

The librarian is Mary Ann Kunkle. The dog is Angelina, her Shih Tzu.

The library also sponsors a book club, seasonal lecture series and rotating exhibits by local artists.

"All the materials are on a computer, but people just ask me," says Kunkle. "It's easier."

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon. Annual fee: \$25 residents, \$35 non-residents.

Ocean Ridge

When the town celebrated the grand opening of its new Town Hall in December, it also celebrated its first library.

"We've got about 500 books in there now," says Zoanne Hennigan, president of the town's garden club, which is organizing the library.

The books, all donated, are divided into categories — arts and crafts, history and biography — but not alphabetized.

"We decided not to worry about it," she says. "We were more concerned with getting them into the right categories. Fiction is alphabetized on a piece of paper."

As in Briny Breezes and Gulf Stream, borrowers simply sign out the books and return them when they're done.



Ocean Ridge's library, part of the new Town Hall complex, boasts about 500 volumes. It was organized by the town's garden club. **Photos by Jerry Lower**

"There's still lots of room on the shelves," says Hennigan, "so could you mention we're very happy to accept donations?"

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Town residents only.



Books are divided into categories but not alphabetized in Ocean Ridge.

Briny Breezes

Every morning, *The Wall Street Journal* is delivered to Lu McInnes' trailer. She carries it to the town's Gladys Rasbach Memorial Library, along with any new books or DVDs she's bought with the \$1,600 annual budget.

"We're little," says the town's volunteer librarian for the past 17 years, "but we've got good stuff."

One recent morning, the newspaper was accompanied by DVDs of *Mamma Mia* and *Indiana Jones & The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.

With help from about 20 "Library Angels," McInnes runs a library that knows its users and their needs. The bottom shelves are kept empty so older browsers won't have to stoop, and the children's section is two extremely short shelves under the checkout desk.

Find a book you want? Just remove the checkout card, sign your name and the date, and leave the card in a basket by the door.

Hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily. Town residents only.



Volunteer librarian Lu McInnes runs Briny Breezes' Gladys Rasbach Memorial Library with the help of about 20 'Library Angels.' **Photo by Jerry Lower**

For the love of books

A peek inside our island libraries

By Ron Hayes

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., has 32 million books on 650 miles of shelves, 3,700 employees and 1.4 million visitors every year.

The town libraries in Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Manalapan and Ocean Ridge don't.

On the other hand, does the Library of Congress have an honor system?

Small towns may have small libraries, but they bring big rewards.



Sometimes people check out a book, and sometimes they just spend time in the library, says Gulf Stream Town Clerk Rita Taylor. The library is in the Town Hall. **Photo by Jerry Lower**

Gulf Stream

When the new Town Hall was built in 1986, a room off the lobby was set aside for a library. All the donated books were catalogued on the Dewey Decimal System.

"They're not on the Dewey Decimal System anymore," says Town Clerk Rita Taylor.

If the town has a librarian, Taylor is probably it. Like the library itself, her position in that regard is casual.

"Mostly people just stick their head in the door and say, 'I'm going to spend time in the library,'" she says. "Sometimes they tell us

they're going to take a book, and sometimes they don't."

That's why you'll find the novel *All Quiet On The Western Front* right up there next to Seymour Hersh's biography of President Kennedy.

But so what?

This is a library for browsers, and so small no title can get that far out of place anyway. And you're sure to spot something you'll want to read.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Open to town residents only.

10 Questions



Margot Stein started her art business in Palm Beach. The Hypoluxo Island resident now has a gallery in Lake Worth. Photo by Jerry Lower

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Margot Stein

Margot Stein is long-time resident of Hypoluxo Island and a well-known art collector, private dealer and gallery owner.

At present, her Lake Worth gallery is hosting a collection of major works by Robert Goodnough — an important second-generation abstract expressionist painter. The exhibit runs through Feb. 28.

With the artist's cooperation, Margot has just finished producing a catalog of his works, which she is happy to share with gallery visitors.

She and her husband, Bart, have four children and five grandchildren between them. Their poodle, Chip, is recognized throughout Hypoluxo Island.

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?

A. I grew up in Westchester County, N.Y., and graduated from Vassar College. While I probably got a very good liberal arts education, including some art history, I made some invaluable friendships with very intelligent, career-minded women.

Q. You built your career in the

art world. What advice do you have for a young person interested in art today?

A. Most people start in the art business by getting jobs in established galleries or artists' studios. When I decided to go into business, having two very young children, I was fortunate to be able to rent a small space in the Paramount Theater building in Palm Beach, which was less than five minutes from my home, for \$125 a month. I then put in an air-conditioner, some sisal rug material on the floor, and opened an art gallery.

In the '70s, I started buying and selling original prints by Miró, Vasarely, Chagall and even some Picasso. By the '80s, I became more interested in the American artists Stella, Warhol, Lichtenstein, Dine and Calder. In the early days, I used to get some free publicity from the *Palm Beach Daily News* (*The Shiny Sheet*) because publicity photographers would bring their clients into the gallery for photo shoots.

Q. What has been the highlight of your professional career?

A. I now realize, looking back over a long and wonderful

career, that the highlight of all this has been the wonderful and interesting people I have met. This includes all the artists, all the art dealers, the art buyers and the people who are just interested in looking at and talking about art. Most art dealers are probably also collectors, so being one lets you have your vocation and avocation as one.

Q. What is your favorite part of the work you do?

A. I get personal satisfaction when I find a work of art that enhances a client's life and brings them joy. A favorite part of my work has been finding an artist who is undervalued and underappreciated. This search has brought me to the work of Robert Goodnough. Although a major artist, his large marvelous paintings from the seventies to the present are still affordable.

Q. How did you choose to live on Hypoluxo Island?

A. I used to make regular visits to my parents on South Ocean Boulevard and take walks on Hypoluxo Island. I loved feeling that I was in this quiet place that felt like old Florida.

Q. What is your favorite part about living on Hypoluxo Island?

A. My husband and I love walking on the island with our 10-pound poodle, Chip. Through Chip, we have met so many of our wonderful neighbors who also enjoy the special nature and physical beauty of the island.

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

A. We usually have Sinatra music in the car, and I'm always surprised and delighted that we remember so many of the words of so many of the songs.

Q. If your life story were made into a movie, whom would you want to play you?

A. Melanie Griffith (why not!)

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

A. Yes: Man plans and God laughs.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?

A. Our grandchildren give us great pleasure. My husband and son are really funny sometimes, and I really thank them for that.

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Celebrations



Garden Club

The Garden Club of America recently held its Southeastern United States convention at The Marriott in Delray Beach. Here, pictured at the public lectures that were offered, are local Grass River Garden Club President Beverly Bagley(L) with Garden Club of America National President Maryjo Garre. Photo by Mary Kate Leming



Gulf Stream School

Gulf Stream School has devoted much of its educational efforts this year expanding students understanding of the environment. Tom Warnke of the Surf Rider foundation used this giant inflatable toilet to enhance the message of protecting our water quality. Photo by Jerry Lower



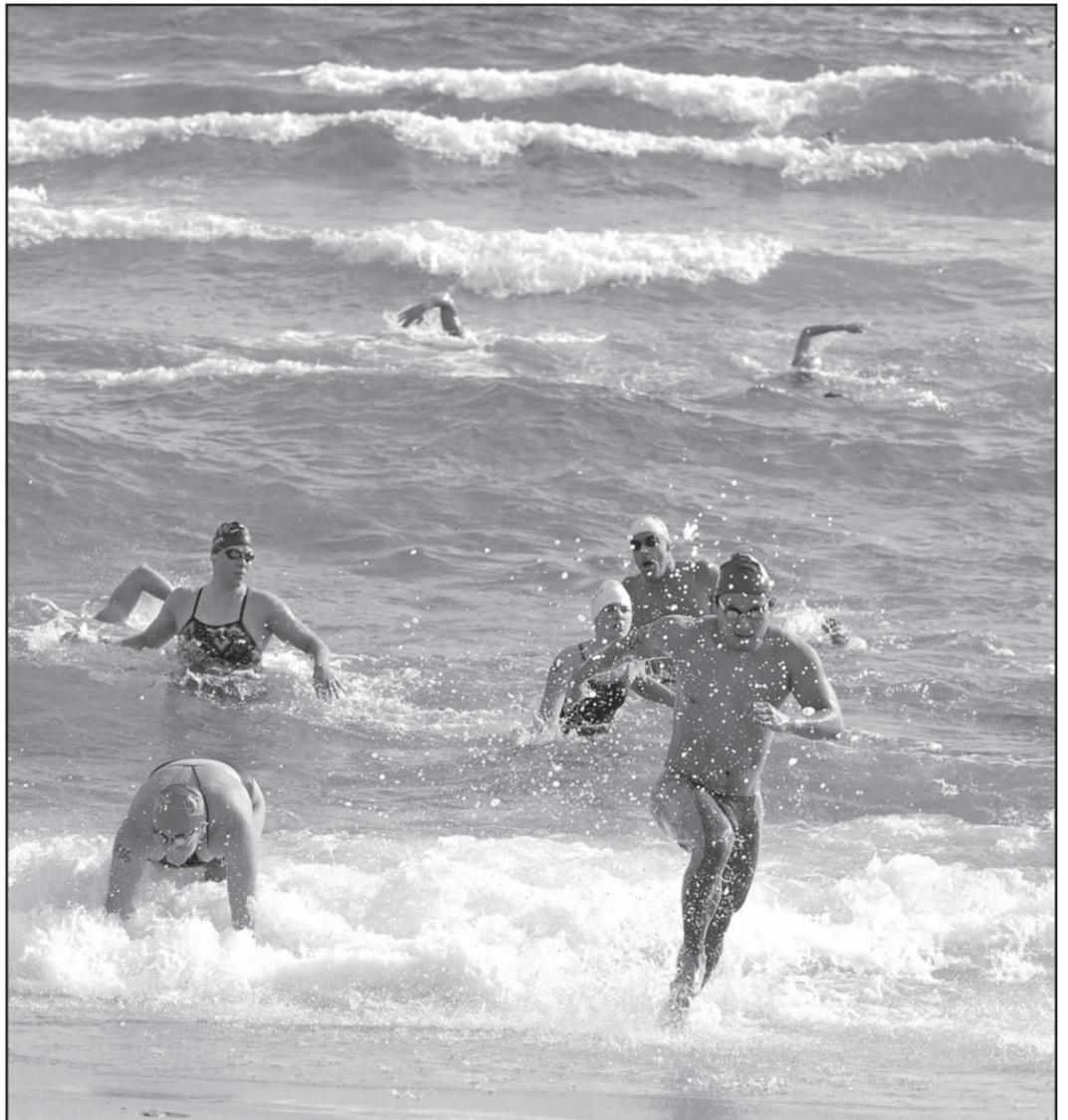
Bethesda Memorial

Bethesda Memorial Hospital Celebrates "50 Years of Caring." The first not-for-profit community hospital to be built in south Palm Beach County, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Feb. 9. The hospital has grown from a 70-bed hospital with 32 physicians to a 401-bed hospital with a medical staff of 525 physicians and more than 2,300 employees. 1959 and current photos, courtesy Bethesda Memorial Hospital



Hypoluxo Island

Nearly 50 residents young and old (below) gathered at the Lantana Nature Preserve on Jan. 31 to hear Harvey Oyer, III (above) speak about his new children's book, *The Adventures of Charlie Pierce: The American Jungle*. Oyer is the Chairman of the Palm Beach County Historical Society. His grandmother was born on Hypoluxo Island. Photos by Jerry Lower



Delray Beach

Nearly three hundred swimmers took part in a "Mile Swim" at Anchor Park in Delray Beach in early January. They braved rough swells and man-of-war stings. Photo by Jerry Lower



Note: Events are current as of Feb. 1. Please check with organizers for any changes.

February 7

Saturday - 2/7 - 6th Annual Race for Faith 5K 2009 is held at Okeehzeele Park - Micanopy Pavilion, 7715 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach. Proceeds benefit First Priority, a non-profit organization that empowers students to share their faith on the public school campus. 6:30 am. \$20. 329-2283 or www.RaceForFaith.com.

2/7 - Sand Sifters at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd. just north of Ocean Ave., Ocean Ridge. Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot. Bags, gloves and refreshments are provided. 8-10:30 am. Parking is free. Call Gary Solomon at 734-9128.

2/7 - Delray Beach GreenMarket in the Park is held each Saturday during season in downtown Delray Beach at Pineapple Grove Way, NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach from 8 am-1 pm. Live music in an open-air market. Free. 276-7511.

2/7 - Ocean Ave Green Market is held each Saturday at 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach from 8 am-1 pm. Includes music and children's play area. Admission and parking is free. Celebrate Healthy Heart Month with free blood pressure screening and Jazzercise. 364-9501.

2/7 - Oceanside Farmer's Market is held each Saturday at Lake Worth Beach (A1A and Lake Avenue) from 8 am-1 pm. Free. 547-3100 or www.oceanside-farmersmarket.com

2/7 - 10th Annual Everglades Day Festival Celebrating the Everglades at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 10216 Lee Rd., Boynton Beach. Canoeing, kayaking, wildlife presentations, live music and fishing demos. 8 am-4 pm. Free. 734-8303.

2/7 - Child Safety Prenatal Class is offered as a one-day weekend class at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Learn infant CPR for children up to 8 years old. No discounts or certification given for this class. 10 am-noon. \$40 per couple or \$25 per person. Payment must be made before class date. Early registration recommended. 369-2229.

2/7 - The Life of Harriet Tubman - Celebrate African-American Heritage Month with the story of Harriet Tubman at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. 10:30 am. \$1 per child plus admission to museum. 742-6782.

2/7 - Sunflower Creative Arts Shakespeare for Everyone presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. This children's repertory theatre group features actors ages 8-14. 1 pm. Open to all ages, but an adult must participate with children. Free. Reservations: 338-1473.

2/7 - Water Running Downhill is presented by Joan Ellen Gage as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/7 - Daddy & Daughter Valentine Dance - Daddies and daughters of all ages will enjoy a special night of music and dancing. Dance is held at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. 6-7:30 pm. \$3 per person. 742-6221.

2/7 - The Black and White Disco Ball is presented by the Lupus Foundation Southeast Florida Chapter Annual Butterfly Ball featuring disco divas Maxine Nightingale, France Joli and Jackie Moore. Poolside cocktails at 6:30 pm followed by a silent auction and gourmet four-course meal. The Mar-a-Lago Club, 1100 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. \$600. 279-8606 or 800-339-0586 or www.lupusfl.org.

2/7 - Bal des Arts: "Impressions of an Age" black tie event includes a cocktail reception, live performers, music, dancing, casino raffle and dinner held at the Norton Museum of Art, 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. 7-11 pm. \$1,000. 832-5196.

2/7-8 - Artists in the Park an outdoor art show with artists displaying and selling their work is held at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 10 am-4:30 pm. Show will be held again on 2/14-16 and 2/21-22. Free. 243-0958.

2/7-13 - Senior Games are held at various locations throughout Delray Beach. Times vary. 243-7277.

FEBRUARY 8-14

Sunday - 2/8 - One Generation to Another is presented by Mary Twitty as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/8 - Hooray for Hollywood 2009



See Matthew White (left) and Frank Webb of White Webb as the Delray Beach Historical Society hosts its 16th annual antiques show and sale through Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave., Delray Beach. 10 am-4 pm. \$15 (one-day pass), \$20 (two-day pass). White and Webb will lecture at 10 am Saturday, Feb. 7. Phone: 243-2577, or www.db-hs.org.

Fundraiser Gala for the new Israel Cancer Association USA Stem-Cell Initiative will be held at The Breakers, 1 S. County Road, Palm Beach. The dinner dance is set two weeks prior to the Academy Awards. Red carpet arrivals, 7 pm. \$800. 832-9277.

Monday - 2/9 - Delray Art League Winter Interlude show will be held at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW First Ave., Delray Beach. This is a juried show where participating artists work in a variety of mediums. Awards presentation will be held at 7 pm at the South County Civic Center on Congress Ave. The exhibit at City Hall is open until 3/26 from 8 am-5 pm. Free. Susan Sabin 272-1920.

2/9 - Delray Beach Lawn Bowling Club bowls Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Veterans Park. The club has been in existence for about 50 years and recently became a member of the United States Lawn Bowling Association. 8:45 am. Membership is \$35. Call Barry Brown: 735-7191 or Melissa: 243-7350.

2/9 - 18th Annual Hab-a-Hearts Luncheon will be held at The Mar-a-Lago Club, Palm Beach. The "Open Your Heart" event will feature a silent auction, complimentary wine reception and modeling by the Shoppes of Plaza del Mar in Manalapan as well as lunch with a live auction. 11 am. \$200. 965-8500.

2/9 - Musical Luncheon is presented by the School of the Arts Foundation Guild at The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach. Luncheon features performances by vocal and instrumental music students at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts. 11:30 am. \$100-125. 805-6298.

2/9 - Killer Blondes & Bad Brunettes on Poverty Row Film Series presents *Detour* (1945) with commentary by Assistant Director Mykal Banta at the Delray Beach Public Library. 1 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/9 - Teddy O'Farrell: Classical Guitar Music - presented by the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest, Boynton Beach. Bring your brown bag lunch; enjoy complimentary coffee and tea. Noon-1 pm. Free. 742-6390.

2/9 - Café Francais - French Conversation Club with rotating facilitators at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/9 - Non Drug Relief from Panic Attacks is presented by Dr. Stephen Blumberg as part of the Healthy Living Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/9 - Lantana Council Meetings are held on the second & fourth Mondays of each month at the Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Circle. Meeting begins at 7 pm. Agenda is available at www.lantana.org

Tuesday - 2/10 - Ocean Ridge Municipal Election will be held in the Town Hall Community Room, 6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge. Polls open 7 am-7 pm.

2/10 - Lung Disease and Pulmonary Rehabilitation - presented by Lori Sheehan and the Better Breathers Club at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Clayton Conference Center, Boynton Beach. 9:30-11 am. Free. Call Earsel McCleese: 374-5731.

2/10 - Coral Reef Shark Feedings are held each Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd. Delray Beach. Feeding begins at 10:30 am. Learn what Atlantic Ocean reef fish, nurse sharks and spiny lobsters eat for breakfast. Free with \$4 admission to the center. 274-7263 or www.sandowayhouse.com

2/10 - Be Happy, Be Free, Dance will be presented by Richard Weilheimer as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/10 - Boca Raton Historical Society Hotel Tours will be held on Tuesdays through April 28. Learn about the Boca Raton Resort

& Club, Boca's most historic building. Hotel is located at 501 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$10 (members), \$12 (non-members). Tour is not recommended for children younger than 12. RSVP. 395-6766, Ext. 100.

2/10 - The Esther B. O'Keefe Lecture Series presents Kati Martin - *The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Escaped Hitler and Changed the World* at The Society of the Four Arts Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 2:30 pm. \$25. 655-7227 or www.fourarts.org.

2/10 - Culture & Cocktails at Cafe Boulud series will focus on *Hang Time: A Conversation about the Secrets of Successful Art Exhibitions*. Panelists include: Wendy Blazier, Tracy Kameron and Faima NeJame. 5 - 7 pm. Cafe Boulud is in the Brazilian Court, 301 Australian Ave., Palm Beach. Complimentary cocktails and hors' d'oeuvres. \$35. Seating is limited. RSVP to 472-3330.

2/10 - An Evening with Local Wordsmiths will be presented by ANRALD Writer's Group at the Delray Beach Public Library. 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

Wednesday - 2/11 - I Can Cope: Cancer Education Seminar at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 8 am-2:30 pm. Free. Lynn Edinoff, 737-7733 Ext. 4948.

2/11 - Mystery Book Group discusses *The Devil of Nanking* by Mo Hayder, presented by Annette Nober at the Delray Beach Public Library. 10:15 am. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/11 - Boynton Beach Chamber Monthly Luncheon presents *Meet the Publisher* sponsored by *The Palm Beach Post* at Courtyard by Marriott, 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach. 11:30 - 1 pm. \$20 (members); \$30 (member walk-ins); \$40 (non-members). 737-4600.

2/11 - Palm Beach Opera's Lunch and Learn series will be held at the National Croquet Center, 700 Florida Mango Rd., West Palm Beach. Lunch begins at noon, followed by a program on *The Marriage of Figaro* presented by the opera's resident artists and artistic staff. \$45. Space is limited. 833-7888 or www.pbopera.org.

2/11 - Black Poetry will be presented by Dr. Barry Gross as part of Black History Month Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/11 - Bridge Lessons are taught at Veterans Park on Wednesdays. Learn how to play contract Bridge. 2-4 pm. Beginners only. \$35 for six classes. Call Melissa Backus at 243-7350.

2/11 - VinItaly is Italy's major touring trade show promoting the country's wines and olive oils. This tour stop will be held at Cafe Boulud, Palm Beach. 2pm. \$40. www.vinitaly.com.

2/11 - Manalapan Library Afternoon Lecture Series presents Angela Garcia Smith discussing her book *Straight to Your Heart* which describes a food-based program for heart health. J. Turner Moore Library, 1330 Lands End Road, Manalapan. 2:30 pm. 588-7577.

2/11 - Blacks in Florida & the Union Army 1862-1865 will be presented by Damian Wolf as part of Black History Month Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/11 - Steven Foreman speaks and signs his new book *Boca Knights* at Murder on the Beach, 273 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-7790 or www.murderonthebeach.com.

Thursday - 2/12 - Boynton Beach Library Quilters meet every Thursday from 9-11:45 am. Share quilting information and education and perpetuate quilting as a cultural and artistic form. The group meets at the Boynton Beach City Library. Free. 742-6390.

2/12 - Photographon photo exhibit opens at the Delray Beach Public Library. Exhibit features the work of Boca Raton photographer Alan Glueckert. Library hours. Free. 266-9490 or www.delraylibrary.org.

2/12 - Novel Moms Book Discussion Group discusses *Cost* by Roxana Robinson presented by Pat Cohen at the Delray Beach Public Library. Noon. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/12 - Nuclear Jellyfish will be presented by Tim Dorsey as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 4 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/12 - Memory Disorders and Alzheimer's Disease - Community Lecture Series presented by Mark L. Brody, M.D. at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:30 pm. Free. 731-2273.

2/12 - Manalapan Library Evening Lecture Series hosts Robert Lloyd George, grandson of British statesman David Lloyd George, discussing *David and Winston*, his book detailing the long, close relationship his grandfather enjoyed with Winston Churchill. J. Turner Moore Library, Manalapan. 6 pm. 588-7577.

2/12 - Emerald Isle Dinner Dance for the American Ireland Fund will be held at The Breakers, Palm Beach. The annual black-tie dinner dance begins with cocktail reception and includes silent and live auctions. 7 pm. \$500. 833-9730.

2/12 - Tim Dorsey speaks and signs his new book *Nuclear Jellyfish* at Murder on the Beach, Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-7790 or www.murderonthebeach.com.

Friday - 2/13 - Parker Ladd's Author Breakfast Series presents Jenet Conant - *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington* and Christopher Buckley - *The Supreme Courtship* at the Brazilian Court's Cafe Boulud, Palm Beach. The event includes breakfast, valet parking and a copy of one of the featured books. 8:45-10 am. Reservations required. \$100. Call Sandra Rodriguez at 366-4301.

2/13 - Gulf Stream Town Commission Meeting is held on the second Friday of the month at the Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Road. 9 am. Agenda available in clerk's office.

2/13 - Great Books Discussion Group presented by Dr. Barry Gross (Fourth Series) at the Delray Beach Public Library. 10 am. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/13 - Make & Take: Valentine's Day - Love is in the air! Kids and their families can show loved ones how much they care by making a special folded heart painting at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Pre-K ages 2-5. 10:30 am. \$2.50 plus admission to the museum. 742-6780.

2/13 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra performs on Friday afternoons at the Boynton Beach Civic Center. The full 16-piece big band plays tunes for both dancers and music lovers. 1:30-3:30 pm. \$3 at the door. 742-6240.

2/13 - Spady Museum Lecture Series celebrates Black History Month with a presentation by Ralph Johnson, Director of the Center for the Conservation of Architectural and Cultural Heritage at Florida Atlantic University. He'll discuss the culture of the Gullah, African-Americans who lived in the low-country regions of South Carolina and Georgia. Lecture held at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave., Delray Beach. 5:30 pm. Free. 279-8883 or www.spadymuseum.com.

2/13 - 4th Annual Everglades Foundation Benefit honoring Carl Hiaasen will be held at The Breakers, Palm Beach. 7 pm cocktails, 8 pm dinner, dancing and musical entertainment. Tickets start at \$500. 212-245-6570, Ext. 41 or 305-251-0001.

2/13-15 - 10th Annual Garlic Fest is held in Delray Beach at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Blvd. The event features the Italian Rose Garlic Market, Garlic Chef competition, Gourmet Alley, Garlic University and International Beer & Wine Garden. Fri. 5-10 pm, \$12, Sat. 11 am-10 pm, \$12, Sun. 11 am-7 pm, free. 279-0907 or www.dbgarlicfest.com.

Saturday - 2/14 - To Chocolate with Love a chocolate breakfast tasting fund-raising event to benefit ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) will be held at the Oceanside Farmers Market, Lake Worth. Raffles, cookbooks, cooking demonstrations and chocolate art. 9am - Noon. \$5 donation suggested. 283-5856 or 547-3100 or www.rogerals.org.

2/14 - Briny Breezes Charity Bazaar will be held at the town's auditorium, 5000 N. Ocean Blvd. 9:30 am-1 pm. Collectibles, clothing, household items, patio furniture and more. Lunch available 10:30 am-1 pm. Proceeds go to local charities. 989-884-1894.

2/14 - Ride and Remember Trolley Tour takes riders on a 90-minute narrated tour of Delray Beach's five historic districts. The Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and the

Delray Beach Historical Society sponsor the air-conditioned trolley. The tour begins and ends at the Cason Cottage at 5 NE 1st St. Departure is at 10 am. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. \$15 per person, \$10 for kids 12 and under. 279-8883 or www.spadymuseum.com

2/14 - Palm Beach Jewelry, Art & Antiques Show presented by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County will be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, West Palm Beach. 11 am-7 pm (Sat-Mon), 11 am-6 pm (Tues). \$15 (daily) \$25 (4-day pass). 832-4164, Ext. 103.

2/14 - Valentine's Heart - Family Fun Program with Morikami Origami at The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. The whole family can enjoy Japanese arts and crafts. 11 am-4 pm. Free with paid museum admission (All ages). Call 561-495-0233, Ext. 237.

2/14 - Kids Night Out at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center - Drop the kids off for a night at the museum while you enjoy a night out on the town. 6:30 - 10:30 pm. \$20 per child; \$10 each additional child from the same household. Registration required. 742-6783 or email marisa@schoolhousemuseum.org

2/14 - 54th Annual Palm Beach Heart Ball, Hearts and Roses will be presented by the American Heart Association at The Breakers, Palm Beach. Plan on spending Valentine's Day with your "Heart's Delight." 7 pm. \$750. 615-3888.

FEBRUARY 15 - 21

Monday - 2/16 - President's Day

2/16 - Bethesda Hospital Foundation 40th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament the longest-running, one-day, professional-amateur golf tournament in the U.S. with featured appearances by Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom Watson, Lee Trevino, Raymond Floyd, Beth Daniel and Bob Murphy. Delray Dunes Golf & Country Club, 12005 Dunes Rd., Boynton Beach. 9:30 am. \$15. 737-7733, Ext. 5600 or www.BethesdaWeb.com.

2/16 - Friends Annual Author Benefit Luncheon is presented by the Boynton Beach City Library at Benvenuto Caterestaurant, 1730 N. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Sip complimentary champagne and meet author Elaine Viets. Chinese auction and lunch. Event benefits children and teen programs at the library. 11 am. \$50 or \$45 when reserving a table of 10. Tickets available at the library. 742-6390.

Tuesday - 2/17 - Exhibit Opening: Florida's Lost Tribes - Through June 13 at the Cornell Museum of Art & American Culture, Old School Square, Delray Beach. Celebrate Florida's native cultures through the realistic oil paintings of St. Augustine artist Theodore Morris. 10:30 am-4:30 pm (T-Sat); 1-4:30 pm (Sunday). Admission: \$6 general, \$4 seniors and students (14-21), free for ages 13 and under. 243-7922.

2/17 - Exhibit Opening: Save Our Cottages: The Plein Air Cottage Artists - through June 13 at the Cornell Museum of Art & American Culture, Delray Beach. Enjoy award-winning works celebrating and promoting the preservation of Florida's historic cottages. 10:30 am-4:30 pm (T-Sat); 1-4:30 pm (Sunday). Admission: \$6 general, \$4 seniors and students (14-21), free for ages 13 and under. 243-7922.

2/17 - The Genetics Revolution and its Impact on Your Health presented by Dr. George Sack, Associate Professor of Medicine & Biochemistry Specialist in Adult Internal Medicine & Medical Director of Johns Hopkins International, as part of the Healthy Living Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/17 - The Esther B. O'Keefe Lecture Series presents Adam Gopkin - *Angels & Ages*. This event will be held at The Society of the Four Arts Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium, Palm Beach. 2:30 pm. \$25. 655-7227 or www.fourarts.org.

2/17 - Men's Health - Community Lecture Series presented by Aymen L. Atallah, M.D., at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:30 pm. Free. 731-2273.

2/17 - Stage Street Drama presents a program to encourage unrealized talent, and develop performance skills in children ages 9-17. Six-week sessions culminates in a one-act theater piece written by the students/instructor and performed by the students. Classes are held at the Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, 2240 N. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-6:30 pm. Saturday classes are available beginning 2/21 from 10:30 am - Noon. \$48 (residents), \$60 (non-residents). 742-6235 or 742-6650.

2/17 - Community Caring Center's 9th Annual Harvest of Hearts is held at the Boynton Beach Woman's Club, 1010 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Enjoy a New Orleans experience with the Green Market Cafe Chefs. Cash bar & silent auction, 6 pm. Buffet Dinner, music and dancing, 7 pm. \$65. RSVP 364-9501, Ext. 24.

2/17 - Delray Beach City Commission holds its regular meetings on the first & third Tuesdays of each month at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 N.W. First Ave. 6 pm. Agenda is available at www.mydelraybeach.com.

2/17 - The 3-Headed Monster vs. Real Estate, the Economy & Pessimism presented by Frank McKinney as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library, 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/17 - Garden Clubs Wine and Cheese Theater Party is held by the Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge and Town & Country Garden Clubs as a fundraiser for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' Scholarship Endowment Foundation and Camp Wekiva. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 Lake Shore Dr., Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$30. 491-8033.

Wednesday - 2/18 - Featuring Florida: A Film Series - Sunshine State - presented by the Boynton Beach City Library as part of the monthly film series on the third Wednesday of each month through May 13th. 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

2/18 - Faces of Ecuador is presented by Joyce Bruck as part of the Armchair Travel Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/18 - Spady Museum Lecture Series celebrates Black History Month with a presentation by Madafo of Miami, a master musician who often accompanies a story with creative movement and/or traditional African percussive instruments. Performance held at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Delray Beach. 5:30 pm. Free. 279-8883 or www.spadymuseum.com.

2/18 - 20th Citizens Police Academy conducted by the Delray Beach Police Department begins. Classes meet on Wednesdays for twelve consecutive evenings at the Delray Beach Police Department, 300 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Free and open to all Delray Beach residents 18 or older. Seating is limited. Call Officer Andrew Arena: 243-7873.

2/18 - Florida's Wacky History & Why You Should Care is presented by Eliot Kleinberg as part of the Author's Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/18 - 2nd Annual Party at the Playhouse fundraiser by the Auxilliary of Bethesda Memorial Hospital will be held at The Delray Beach Playhouse. Wine and cheese reception, 7 pm. 8 pm, curtain. \$35. Seating is limited. Reservations must be prepaid by 2/10. 737-7733, Ext. 4467.

Thursday - 2/19 - Day Trip to Jungle Island (formerly Parrot Jungle) leaves from Veterans Park at 9 am and returns at 6 m. \$55. Advanced registration required. Space is limited. 243-7350.

2/19 - Understanding Other Cultures Book Discussion Group - America: Melting Pot or Mosaic? - *China Boy* by Gus Lee will be presented by Pat Esterman, Charles Omana & Carl Wetzstein at the Delray Beach Public Library. 10:30 am. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/19 - Brian Stafford speaks as part of the 2009 Lecture Series at the Crest Theatre, Old School Square, Delray Beach.. Stafford served as the 20th director of the U.S. Secret Service, protecting Presidents Nixon through Clinton. 2 pm. \$25 (open balcony), \$40 (reserved main floor). 243-7922, Ext. 1.

2/19 - Trash or Treasures - Art & Antique Appraisal Show presented by Bill Hood of Bill Hood & Sons at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194

2/19 - Manalapan Library Evening Lecture Series hosts Del Staecker, who spoke during last year's Lecture Series on his mystery novel *Muted Mermaid*. He's back to speak on his second novel of the series, *Shaved Ice*. J. Turner Moore Library, Manalapan. 6 pm. 588-7577.

2/19 - Barbara Levenson speaks and signs her new book *Fatal February* at Murder on the Beach, Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-7790 or www.murderonthebeach.com.

2/19 - 22 - Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by *Food & Wine* will be held at various venues on and around Miami Beach featuring celebrity chefs. Emeril Lagasse will be honored at the 2009 Tribute Dinner emceed by Martha Stewart. For a schedule of parties and events, visit www.sobewineandfoodfest.com. Ticket prices vary. 877-762-3933.

Friday - 2/20 - Parker Ladd's Author Breakfast Series presents A.J. Jacobs - *A Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* and Stephen Gaines - *Fools Paradise: Players, Poseurs, and the Culture of Excess in South Beach* at the Brazilian Court's Cafe Boulud, Palm Beach. Event includes breakfast, valet parking and a copy of one of the featured books. 8:45 - 10 am. Reservations required. \$100. Call Sandra Rodriguez at 366-4301.

2/20 - Fun with Food: Cheerio Bird Feeders - Celebrate National Wild Bird Feeding Month by making eco-friendly bird feeders using Cheerios. Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Pre-k ages 2-5. 10:30 am. \$2.50 plus admission to the museum. 742-6782.

2/20 - 7th Annual Jewels of Life Designer Showcase and Fashion Luncheon presented by the American Lung Association will be held at Club Colette, 211 Peruvian Ave., Palm Beach. 11:30 am. \$250. 659-7644 or www.jewelsoflife.org.

2/20 - Arts Arena will host an exhibition for local artists Mimi Whitcomb, Maureen Sopourn, Marilyn Bailis, Judy Friedman and Barbara Lauterbach. The working-artists cooperative will host the event at the Atlantic Plaza, 777 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 6 - 9 pm. Refreshments will be served. Free. 954-588-3640.

2/20 - OceanFront Concert - Enjoy a free concert seaside, a monthly concert series sponsored by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Association. Oceanfront Park, Ocean Ridge. 6 pm. Free. 737-3256.

Saturday - 2/21 - Sand Sifters Shoreline & Park Cleanup - this special cleanup will be held at Intracoastal Park, Boynton Beach. The park is located directly across from the Boynton Inlet. 8-10:30 am. Bring your own water, sunscreen and hats. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided. Call Gary Solomon 734-9128.

2/21 - Breastfeeding Prenatal Class is taught by lactation consultants at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. This is an opportunity for expectant parents to learn the benefits of breastfeeding, keys to success, supply and demand, positioning, breast pumps, returning to work and weaning. Both parents are encouraged to attend. 10 am - Noon. \$25. Payment must be made before class date. 369-2229 or publicrelations@bethesdahealthcare.com.

2/21 - Chili Cook-Off at the Delray Beach GreenMarket will be held at the GreenMarket site. Veteran and novice chefs are invited to take up their ladles from 10 am - Noon. Free. For information or to enter, call Lori Nolan 276-7511.

2/21 - Summer Job Fair is held by the Boynton Beach Recreation and Parks Department at the Intracoastal Park Clubhouse. This fair is to recruit qualified individuals interested in becoming seasonal summer camp employees. 10 am-2 pm. Bring resume. Job fair will be held again on 3/7 & 4/18. 742-6235.

2/21 - Dominoes Tournament will be held at the Carolyn Sims Center, 311 NW 12th Ave., Boynton Beach. Everyone 18 and older is invited to participate. 1-4 pm. \$10 (residents), \$13 (non-residents). Pre-registration is required. Call Brenton Rolle: 742-6641.

2/21 - Blacks in Florida & the Union Army 1862-1865 will be presented by Damian Wolf as part of Black History Month Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

2/21 - A Touch of Ziegfeld 2009 is held at the Crest Theatre, Old School Square. The 90-minute show includes complimentary champagne during evening performances. 7 pm (Saturday), 2 pm & 7 pm (Sunday). Tickets are \$25 each. 477-0017.

2/21 - One Opera in One Hour presents *Le Nozze Di Figaro* at CityPlace, 700 S. Rosemary Ave., West Palm Beach. Meet the countess and experience her anguish over her husband's infidelities. 9 pm. Free. 833-7888 or www.pbopera.org.

2/21-22 - 15th Annual Lake Worth Street Painting Festival - Watch as more than 400 artists use the pavement as canvas to transform downtown Lake Worth into a temporary outdoor museum of original art and masterpiece reproductions. The festival will also include strolling minstrels, jazz, classical music, dance, theatre, improvisation and an array of street side cafes. The festival takes place on Lake Avenue. Free parking is available in the surrounding downtown area. 10 am-6 pm. 582-4401 or www.streetpaintingfestivalinc.org.

2/21-28 - Delray Beach International Tennis Championships (ITC) is held through March 1, at the Delray Beach Tennis Center, 301 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. The ITC features some of the world's best

athletes in exciting, action-filled tennis matches. This is an ATP World Tour event. Qualifying matches: 10 am Saturday & Noon Sunday (Free). Main draw sessions 11 am & 5:30 pm M-F. Semifinals 2/28 at Noon & 7 pm. Finals 3/1 with doubles at Noon and singles at 1:30 pm. 330-6000.

FEBRUARY 22 - 28

Sunday - 2/22 - Seminoles & Miccosukee of South Florida presented by Patsy West as part of the Delray Beach Historical Society Series at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

Monday - 2/23 - 11th Annual Junior League of the Palm Beaches Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon is held to recognize two dozen nominees from nonprofit organizations throughout Palm Beach County. Ritz-Carlton, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. 10:30 am. \$150. 689-7590 or www.jlppb.org.

2/23 - Gary Nikolits: Amendment One will be presented at the Boynton Beach City Library. Bring your brown bag lunch; enjoy complimentary coffee and tea. Noon-1 pm. Free. 742-6390.

2/23 - Caregivers and Care Partners Support Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Sand Dollar Room at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 3:30 pm. Free. 737-7733, Ext. 4948.

2/23 - Seeing with your Eyes Photographically is presented by members of The Boynton Beach Camera Club at the Boynton Beach City Library. Ranging from casual "shooters" and hobbyists to dedicated camera enthusiasts and professionals, they will share their photographic experiences in a digital presentation. 6-8 pm. Free. 742-6026 or www.boyntonbeacharts.com.

2/23 - Wine Tasting Event with five-course dinner is held at the Ocean Ave. Green Market Cafe, 400 E. Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach. This month features Caribbean Cuisine by chef Roselaine Joseph. 6:30 pm. Events range from \$17-\$25 per person. Seating is limited to 20. Call for reservations: 752-8598.

2/23 - Lantana Council Meetings are held on the second & fourth Mondays of each month at the Lantana Town Hall. 7 pm. Agenda available at www.lantana.org

2/23 - Painting Your Soul Canvas is presented by the Jewish Women's Circle of Palm Beach at the Palm Beach Jewish Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Palm Beach. Experience relaxation and creativity with guided meditation based on teachings of Jewish mysticism. No previous artistic experience necessary. 7 pm. \$25. 659-3884.

2/23-24 - Raise a Racquet & Food Drive are ITC events. Donate a usable tennis racquet at the on-site box office at the Delray Beach Tennis Center and receive two free grandstand seats for that session. Or bring four non-perishable food items and receive one free grandstand seat. 11 am-5:30 pm. Benefits community tennis programs and the Food Pantry. 330-6000 or 243-7190.

Tuesday - 2/24 - Manalapan Town Commission Meeting is usually held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Meetings are held at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd, Manalapan. Agendas available at www.manalapan.org.

2/24 - The Esther B. O'Keeffe Lecture Series presents Graham Allison - *Preventing Nuclear Terrorism* at The Society of the Four Arts Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium, Palm Beach. 2:30 pm. \$25. 655-7227 or www.fourarts.org.

2/24 - Advanced Technology in Radiation Therapy - Community Lecture Series presented by Bruce D. Greene, M.D., at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:30 pm. Free. 731-2273.

2/24 - Kindermusic come to Veterans Park and is available for newborn to 4 years old. Classes held Tuesdays at various times. 2/24-4/7. \$90 (Delray residents), \$105 (non-residents). 243-7350.

Wednesday - 2/25-26 - Senior Days at the ITC, Delray Beach Tennis Center. Seniors 55+ buy one reserved box seat and receive one free ticket of the same value. Tickets must be purchased at the on-site box office. 11 am-5:30 pm. 330-6000 or 243-7190.

Thursday - 2/26 - Briny Breezes Town Commission Meeting is usually held the 4th Thursday of each month at 4 pm. The meeting will be held at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd., Briny Breezes. Agenda available at www.townofbrinybreezes-fl.com.

2/26 - Spady Museum Lecture Series celebrates Black History Month with a presentation by Dr. Sika Dagbovie on African-American literature and women's studies.

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Lecture held at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Delray Beach. 5:30 pm. Free. 279-8883 or www.spadymuseum.com.

Friday - 2/27 - Fun with Food: Popcorn Flowers - Celebrate National Floral Design Day by using popcorn to make a floral design. Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Pre-k ages 2-5. 10:30 am-noon. \$2.50 plus admission to the museum. 742-6782.

2/27 - ITCVIP Dinner Party is held at The Delray Beach Tennis Center. Buffet with open bar, plus box seats and parking passes. 6 pm. \$115 per person. 330-6000.

2/27 - Parents Night Out - Enjoy a Friday night out knowing that your child, ages 5-12, is in good hands. Fun activities including movies and music in the game room at Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, Boynton Beach. 6-9 pm. \$19 for non-residents, \$15

for residents. Pre-registration required. Call Brenton Rolle at 742-6641.

2/27 - Kids Night Out at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center - Parents enjoy a night out while kids play with all of their favorite museum exhibits. 6:30-10 pm. \$20 per child; \$10 each additional child from the same household. Registration required. 742-6783 or email marisa@schoolhousemuseum.org

2/27-3/1 - Boca Bacchanal & Auction features eight Friday-night Vintner Dinners set in private residences. \$100-\$1,750. 396-6766, Ext. 101, or www.bocabacchanal.com

Saturday - 2/28 - Kidz Day at ITC is held at The Delray Beach Tennis Center. Interactive games and prizes. Kids receive free day session grandstand tickets or discount reserved/box seats with purchase of adult ticket. 11 am-12:30 pm. 330-6000 or 243-7190.

2/28-3/1 - Howard Alan Craft Show is held at NE/SE Fourth Ave. at Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach with more than 100 craft booths. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 279-1380, Ext. 3.

MARCH 1-7

Sunday - 3/1 - Performance in the Park - A Celebration of Sinatra featuring The Bob Hoose Quintet is held at Veterans Park, E. Atlantic Ave. at the Intracoastal, Delray Beach. 3-5 pm. Free. 243-7277 or www.mydelraybeach.com

Monday - 3/2 - Jewelry as Status: Through the Centuries of Change will be discussed by Boca Raton artist and jewelry designer Phyllis Annunziato at the Delray Beach Public Library. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or www.delraylibrary.org.

3/2 - Ocean Ridge Town Commission Meeting is held the first Monday of each month at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.oceanridgeflorida.com.

Tuesday - 3/3 - Manalapan Municipal Election will be held at Town Hall, 600 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Polls open 7 am-7 pm.

3/3 - Coral Reef Shark Feedings are held each Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd. Delray Beach. Feeding begins at 10:30 am. Free with \$4 admission to the center. 274-7263 or www.sandowayhouse.com

3/3 - Black Sea Highlights is presented by Joyce Bruck as part of the Armchair Travel Series at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 2 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

3/3 - The Esther B. O'Keefe Lecture Series presents Lord John Julius Norwich - *Trying to Please* at The Society of the Four Arts Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 2:30 pm. \$25. 655-7227 or www.fourarts.org.

3/3 - Delray Beach City Commission holds its regular meetings on the first & third Tuesdays of each month at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 N.W. First Ave. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.mydelraybeach.com.

3/3 - Real Peace, Real Balance, Real Bliss is presented as part of the Sahaja Yoga Meditation segment of the Healthy Living Series at the Delray Public Library. 6:30 pm. Free. 266-9490.

Wednesday - 3/4 - Exhibit Opening: Cornell Museum School of Art Student Exhibition - Through April 5 at the Crest Theatre Galleries, Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Blvd., Delray Beach. 9:30 am- 4:30 pm (M-F). 243-7922.

3/4 - Optimal Medical Therapy for Your Heart - presented by Janus L. Styperek, M.D., at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 4:30 pm. Free. 731-2273.

3/4 - Spady Museum Lecture Series celebrates Black History Month with a presentation by Major Joe Bernadel and Dr. Diane Allerdyce focusing on the Haitian community. Lecture held at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave., Delray Beach. 5:30 pm. Free. 279-8883 or www.spadymuseum.com.

Thursday - 3/5 - Surgical Weight Reduction Symposium presented by Miguel Lopez-Viego, M.D., at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 6:30 pm. Free. 737-7733 Ext. 4688.

3/5 - Peter Robinson speaks and signs his new book *All the Colors of Darkness* at Murder on the Beach, 273 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-7790 or www.murderonthebeach.com.

Friday - 3/6 - Pre-Grand Opening Gala at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest, Boynton Beach, provides a first look at the new building before it opens to the public. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music provided. Author Bob Morris will speak. Fund-raiser benefits children and teen programs. 6-10 pm. \$50 or \$45 when reserving table of 10. Tickets available at the library. 742-6380.

3/6 - Andrew Gross speaks and signs his new book *Don't Look Twice* at Murder on the Beach, Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-7790 or www.murderonthebeach.com.

3/6-7 - Elizabeth Bagley Jewelry Show is presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at the 1926 Bungalow, 3 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm. 243-2577.

Saturday - 3/7 - 2nd Annual "Be Green, Spring Clean" with Sand Sifters at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge. Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot to clean the beach. Bags, gloves and refreshments are provided. 8-10:30 am. Parking is free. Call Gary Solomon at 734-9128.

3/7 - Delray Beach GreenMarket in the Park is held each Saturday during season in downtown Delray Beach at Pineapple Grove Way, NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach from 8 am-1 pm. Live music in a open-air market. Free. 276-7511.

3/7 - Ocean Ave Green Market is held each Saturday at 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach from 8 am-1 pm. Includes music and children's play area. Admission and parking is free. 364-9501.

3/7 - Oceanside Farmer's Market is held each Saturday at Lake Worth Beach (A1A and Lake Avenue) from 8 am - 1pm. Free. 547-3100 or www.oceanside-farmersmarket.com.

3/7 - Rummage Sale at UCC Church of the Palms Fellowship Center, 1960 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Clothing, crafts, tools and more. 8:30 - 11 am. All invited. Free. 276-6347.

3/7 - 4th Annual Sea Turtle Day is held at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Celebrate sea turtles and marine life, as well as our terrestrial species and habitats in a day of environmental education. 10 am-4 pm. No admission fee; \$5 donation per person suggested. 338-1473.

3/7 - One Opera in One Hour presents Puccini's *La Boheme* at Cityplace, 700 S. Rosemary Ave., West Palm Beach. 9 pm. Free. 833-7888 or www.pbopera.org.

3/7-8 - Artists in the Park, an outdoor show with local artists displaying and selling their work is held at Veterans Park. 10 am-4:30 pm. Free. This show will be held again on 3/14-15. 243-0958.

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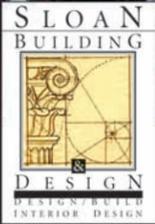
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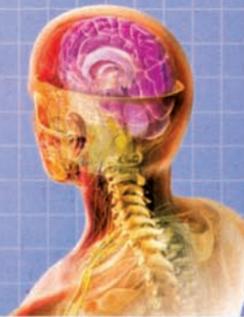


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Obituaries

Phyllis Keister Semple

By Dan Moffett

DELRAY BEACH — Two years ago, at age 85, Phyllis Keister Semple shot a hole-in-one on the 88-yard fourth hole at the St. Andrews Club par-three course in Delray Beach. It had been four decades since her last ace.

She waited only six more holes to get her next one, sinking her tee shot on the 90-yard 10th hole. It was a fittingly remarkable climax to a lifelong love affair with golf, and with a wry smile, Mrs. Semple suggested it was just part of a plan. "After the first one," she said, "I said I can do it again."

Mrs. Semple, matriarch of a family that included a United States Golf Association president,

her husband, Bud, and a seven-time USGA women's champion, daughter Carol, died Jan. 18 at her winter home in Delray Beach. She had battled lupus for 35 years.

Carol Semple Thompson, who was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame last year after a celebrated amateur career, called her mother "the most competitive person I have ever known."

Ms. Semple Thompson was playing with her mother when she scored the two aces, and the two played each other in many tournaments. In 1965, they competed against each other for the West Pennsylvania Amateur championship. Carol Semple won and went on to a

celebrated career.

Mrs. Semple was her daughter's biggest booster, riding a cart to follow her during tournaments and serenading her on the clubhouse piano afterward with *Yes, Sir, That's My Baby*. Besides being an accomplished pianist, Mrs. Semple also played the harp and was a longtime board member of the Pittsburgh Symphony and supporter of the arts — both in her native Pennsylvania and in South Florida.

Mrs. Semple won dozens of state and regional golf titles and also a U.S. Senior championship. She was also a talented tennis player and raised horses for nearly 70 years on her farm outside of Pittsburgh.



Phyllis Keister Semple (right) on the links with her daughter, World Golf Hall of Fame member Carol Semple Thompson. **Family photo**

She was an iconic figure at St. Andrews, and friends say she credited the warm Delray winters with helping her stay competitive at golf late in life despite her health problems.

Mrs. Semple took up golf in 1944 when she married Harton "Bud" Semple, a talented player in his own right who served as USGA president in 1974-75. The two

raised five children — who had seven grandchildren — and also raised the profile of amateur golf as it entered a period of exponential growth.

There will be a memorial gathering in Delray later this winter. If desired, a memorial contribution may be made to: Wayside House, 378 NE 6th Ave., Delray Beach.

Paul McCarthy

By Ron Hayes

BRINY BREEZES — Not long after Paul and Joan Ruopp moved to Briny Breezes in 1993, a stranger knocked on their door, bearing a golf bag and a smile.



"I hear you folks are from Ocean Grove," Paul McCarthy said. "So are we."

For the next 15 years, the two Pauls played golf almost every week, both in Florida and New Jersey.

"I'm going to miss him terribly," Ruopp said.

Mr. McCarthy died peacefully Jan. 19 in Scottsdale, Ariz., after a battle with brain cancer. He was 85.

A resident since 1986, Mr. McCarthy found time for more than golf. He was affectionately known as one of "the raisins," a group of friends who met daily on the beach to chat and work on their tans.

Mr. McCarthy raised



Friends arrayed flowers on two beach chairs as a memorial to Paul McCarthy and George Haller, part of a group of Briny Breezes friends known as 'the raisins.' **Photo by Mary Kate Leming**

the community's American flag in memory of his twin brother, Jack, a U.S. Navy paratrooper killed in October 1944. Mr. McCarthy was also a veteran of World War II, serving with U.S. Navy in the South Pacific.

"And he was a big blood donor," said his daughter, Kerry DeVito. "During his lifetime he donated 34.75 gallons of blood to the South Florida Blood Banks."

Born in Bradley Beach, N.J., Mr. McCarthy retired as an executive in an electrical manufacturing

plant.

His wife, Claire, passed away in 2005. In addition to Mrs. DeVito, he is survived by two other daughters, Tara Crewell and Holly McCarthy; two sons, Edward III and David; and nine grandchildren.

A private Mass was held in Scottsdale on Jan. 22. Memorial services will be planned in Briny Breezes and Bradley Beach, N.J., at a later date.

The family asks that donations be made to the Briny Breezes Memorial Fund or the South Florida Blood Bank.

George Haller

By Ron Hayes

BRINY BREEZES — Look for George Haller any sunny afternoon and you'd find him in his chair on the beach, joking, chatting and reminiscing with a



group of friends known as "the raisins," because of their devotion to the sun.

"We talked about Briny Breezes and our friends up in the cold," remembers Paul Ruopp. "We talked about the girls that walked along the beach — George was a great one for that — and friends that were no longer with us."

Now the raisins must reminisce about Mr. Haller. A resident since 1988, he died Jan. 14 at Bethesda Memorial Hospital while recovering from a stroke suffered over Thanksgiving. He was 84.

"Briny Breezes is a great little spot and the people are lovely," said his daughter, Susan Haller of Baldwin, N.Y. "My father treasured the friendships he made there."

In his retirement, Mr. Haller retained the discipline he learned during 30 years as a

New York City police officer. He rose each morning at 6:30 and headed to the exercise room, and followed that with a few laps in the pool and a bike ride along Ocean Boulevard. Then he'd pack a lunch and head to the county pool in Delray Beach for another 40 laps, followed by his session with "the raisins."

"George was a great guy," said Ruopp. "He lived a wonderful life, and he loved his routine."

Born in Brooklyn on Sept. 4, 1924, George John Haller was a Navy veteran who served in the Pacific theater during World War II. He joined the New York Police Department in 1951, the year before he married Dalma Prosperi. Mrs. Haller passed away in 1994.

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Haller is survived by two sons, Stephen, of Redondo Beach, Calif., and Robert, of Rockville Center, N.Y.; and three grandchildren, Kelsey, Elizabeth and Victoria Haller.

Mr. Haller was buried beside his late wife in Greenfield Cemetery, North Baldwin, N.Y., on Jan. 20. The family requests that donations in his memory be made to the Briny Breezes Memorial Fund or the Briny Breezes Library Fund.

Irving Sloane

By Ron Hayes

DELRAY BEACH — In the days before his death, a nurse at Bethesda Memorial Hospital called Irving Sloane's wife aside.



"I think his mind is wandering," the well-meaning nurse told Pearl Sloane. "He told us he ran the New York marathon when he was 66 and learned to water-ski at 72."

But the patient's mind was not wandering. In his 91 years, Mr. Sloane did all that and more.

A resident of Seagate Towers, he

died Dec. 20 and was buried in Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, N.Y. He had been a winter resident since the mid-1990s, before moving here permanently in 2003.

Born in Lower Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn, Mr. Sloane was for 35 years the co-owner of Ev-Ready Advertising, a silk-screening company that provided posters for the U.S. Army and Navy.

He was a founder of Temple Sholom, a Conservative congregation that began with meetings in his basement and still thrives in the Mill Basin section of Brooklyn.

In 1941, Mr. Sloane was riding in a car through Macon, Ga. His elbow

was resting in the window when a passing car clipped it, requiring extensive surgery.

The accident kept Mr. Sloane from serving in the military, as he'd hoped, but not from leading a full life.

"Years later, he was in a bank hold-up on Fifth Avenue," his widow recalled, "and the thief put a gun to his neck. He had to tell the robbers that he couldn't put his arm above his head."

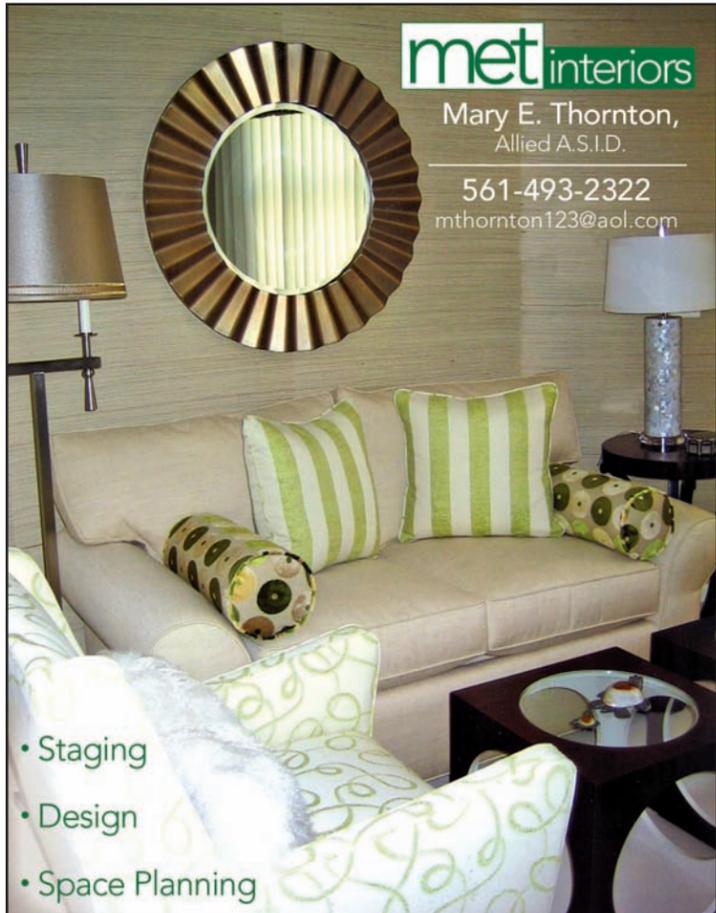
Otherwise, Mr. Sloane refused to be limited by his limitations. He was an avid golfer and tennis player, once worked as an amateur magician at Macy's department store

and was known as "Fix-it Sloane" at his Somers, N.Y., condominium for his eagerness to help neighbors with small repair jobs.

"He had a long, happy life," Pearl Sloane said. "We never had an argument because neither one of us was so set on a thing that it had to be a certain way. If something didn't work out, it would be better tomorrow. I had a 30-year honeymoon."

In addition to his widow, Mr. Sloane is survived by two sons, Robert of Boca Raton, and Larry of Dix Hills, N.Y., and six grandchildren.

More obituaries, Page 32



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Obituaries

Maureen Ann Blum

By Ron Hayes

MANALAPAN — Maureen and Peter Blum were baptized in the same church as children, met in high school, wed young and remained devoted to each other through 60 years of married life.

“She was the love of my life,” said her husband, a town commissioner since 1973. “We married young, but we both had good families who loved us both, so that was part of our success.”

Mrs. Blum passed away Jan. 30 at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, seven months after suffering a stroke.

She was 78 and had lived in Manalapan since 1971.



Maureen Ann Blum

With her husband, Mrs. Blum opened Blums of Boca Raton, an interior design studio, in 1963.

“We were in business together for 30-odd years,” Peter Blum said. “She was a brilliant designer with the greatest taste and feel for fabrics and so on. It was just a natural gift.”

While her husband kept a high public profile, serving on the Town Commission since 1973 except for one year, Mrs. Blum treasured her privacy.

“She minded the store so I could go out in the community and do all the civic things I love,” he explained. “She was the power behind the throne.”

After the couple’s retirement, Mrs. Blum devoted much of her time to a passion for gardening.

“She was out in the yard every morning as soon as it got light, working with the yard people,” her husband

recalled. “Every plant was important to her.

It was her lifelong love, next to me.”

Born April 4, 1930, in Peoria, Ill., Mrs. Blum was known as Teena to her family and friends.

“She was a lady in every way,” Peter Blum said. “Her dress was very stylish, but never overdone, and she did her own hair and makeup.”

She visited a beauty salon only twice in her life, he recalled.

“She didn’t like to hear the gossip in a beauty shop,” he explained. “She was very reserved, a private person. She was not the kind that went to ladies’ parties and gossiped.”

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, Randy of South Bend, Ind., and Larry, of Truth or Consequences, N.M., three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A fourth son, Peter III, preceded her in death.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at St. Mark Roman Catholic Church, 643 NE Fourth Ave., Boynton Beach.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice by the Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home, Boynton Beach, is in charge of arrangements.




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DeWitt ‘Bud’ Atwater Riley II

By Ron Hayes

BRINY BREEZES — DeWitt Atwater Riley II had an eye for finding lost money. “Dad had a hobby,” recalls his son, Scott. “He would go looking for money. But a metal detector was absolutely against the rules, and if a wallet had identification, it had to be returned.”

When “Bud” Riley died on Jan. 2, he left Tupperware containers filled with hundreds of pounds of coins and dollar bills he had found over the years, both in New Britain, Conn., and Florida. Mr. Riley was a second-generation resident of Briny Breezes.

His mother-in-law, Josephine Wells, had owned a home here in the early 1960s, which the family inherited at her death.

Mr. Riley moved to Briny Breezes in 1985, but returned to Connecticut seven years ago, after being diagnosed with emphysema. “They just absolutely adored Briny Breezes,” his son said. “They found a quaintness to it, and made friends. My mother

loved bridge and my father love cribbage.”

But finding lost coins and bills was his lifelong hobby, which he took so seriously that he kept records of what he had found and where. “One year, he was so excited when he found his 10,000th unit,” Scott Riley said. “Which happened to be a dime.”

Born May 1, 1927, in New Britain, Mr. Riley was a staff sergeant with the U.S. Marine Corps and served on the USS Mount McKinley when it participated in the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. After military service, he joined his father at Riley Insurance and Real Estate Co. in New Britain.

JoAnn, his wife of 37 years, died in 1997.

In addition to Scott Riley, Mr. Riley is survived by sons David, of Berlin, and Wayne, of Key West; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in July. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that his friends do an act of kindness to those they love.




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How green is my island?

Native alternatives to ficus hedges

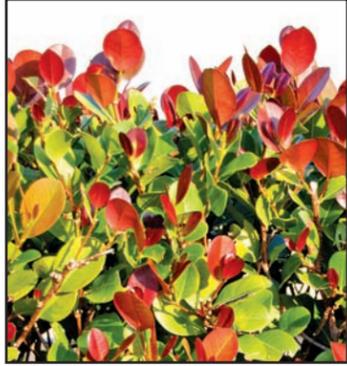
By Joanne Davis

With the advent of the fig whitefly outbreak, we now have a great excuse to stop being so boring in our landscapes, and to offer something we knew all along and somehow forgot: Plant the natives.

These plants will take what nature dishes out and reward us with delight every time we see a painted bunting, a cardinal or a warbler working the trees and shrubs to find food for its journeys. Suddenly, our backyards can become, well, comfortable and fascinating.

Here are few native Florida hedge options:

Cocoplum — This plant grows to 12–14 feet, becomes dense, and is ornamental with lime green, pink or red new growth. It's salt- and drought-tolerant, and will grow on its own with no additional water once established. It prunes extremely well and can be sculpted into nearly any hedge form. It is a wonderful bird plant, providing shelter and nesting opportunities. Foxes relish the fruits, which are edible to humans as well.



Cocoplum (red-tipped variety)

Crabwood — This is another nice native hedge plant. It is very well-behaved and will form a dense, 10- to 12-foot shrub that rarely needs pruning. Wind-, salt- and drought-resistant, it is less-known, but worth seeking out.



Crabwood

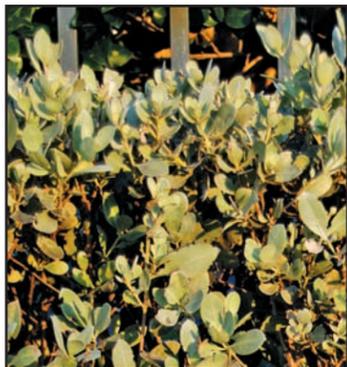
Florida Privet — The fruit is a food source for wildlife and migratory birds. These thin out a little in winter, but it prunes well and can be maintained in a formal hedge.



Marlberry

Marlberry — Has fragrant white flowers when in bloom. It's rather slow-growing, but easy to contain. It will grow in shade.

Myrsine — Similar to marlberry, but does not have fragrant flowers. It, too, takes pruning and is drought-, salt- and wind-resistant. This, too, has a moderate growth rate, but can be pushed with fertilizer.



Silver Buttonwood

Silver Buttonwood — Has a moderate growth rate, a showy coloring, and prunes well.

Simpson Stopper — This plant produces very dense growth that birds love for nesting. They also love the fruit. It has fragrant flowers in the spring, and is one of the best small-leaved shrubs for making hedges: It prunes well, is a moderate grower and is drought-, salt- and somewhat wind-resistant. It probably won't reach 14 feet, but who really needs a 14-foot hedge anyway?

Every time we plant natives, our lives are enriched. We see things we never saw before, and it's automatic: Plant it and they come. We can have the same

amount of privacy with a mixed run of natives as exotics, yet natives provide habitat for our birds and other wildlife.

In addition, we will see a beautiful palette of native Florida, with all its subtle color, texture, fragrance and charm, inviting us to watch the birds and butterflies up close.



Joanne Davis is the owner of Joanne Davis and Associates Design. Located in Lake Worth, she specializes in the installation of fine native landscapes, 582-8128.

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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.



Exquisite detailing is abundant in this classic Billiards room with custom cherry wood wet bar.



This pristine West Indies inspired waterfront estate is gloriously situated on 2/3 acre with abundant landscaping. A truly one-of-a-kind property.



A highly coveted location on Hypoluxo Island, this luxury estate has private dockage with easy ocean access.

Outstanding waterfront on Hypoluxo Island

A perfect setting for a one-of-a-kind waterfront estate located on Hypoluxo Island. Newly built in 2007, this home includes a guest cottage and sits on a 2/3 acre lushly landscaped lot with more than 100 mature trees. Ocean access from your private dock. The entry to this 7,950 square foot (under air) home opens to sprawling Crema Nuevo travertine marble floors and a magnificent Brazilian cherry floor stairwell that leads to the second floor. This elegant foyer has a 23' high ceiling with onyx and marble medallions.

The home boasts six bedrooms, six baths, two half-baths and a four-car garage as well as a Chicago brick driveway and pool deck. There is a luxurious 2,200-square-

foot master suite with an expansive balcony. There is an incredibly comfortable and inviting floor plan with decorative appointments from floor to ceiling, including 3.5 miles of crown molding and trim carpentry. Faux accented walls and oval coffered ceiling are further examples of the detailed craftsmanship included. Hurricane windows and doors, Cat 5 wiring, satellite and security system and a privacy fence in front of the property complete the elegant picture of this West Indies-inspired estate.

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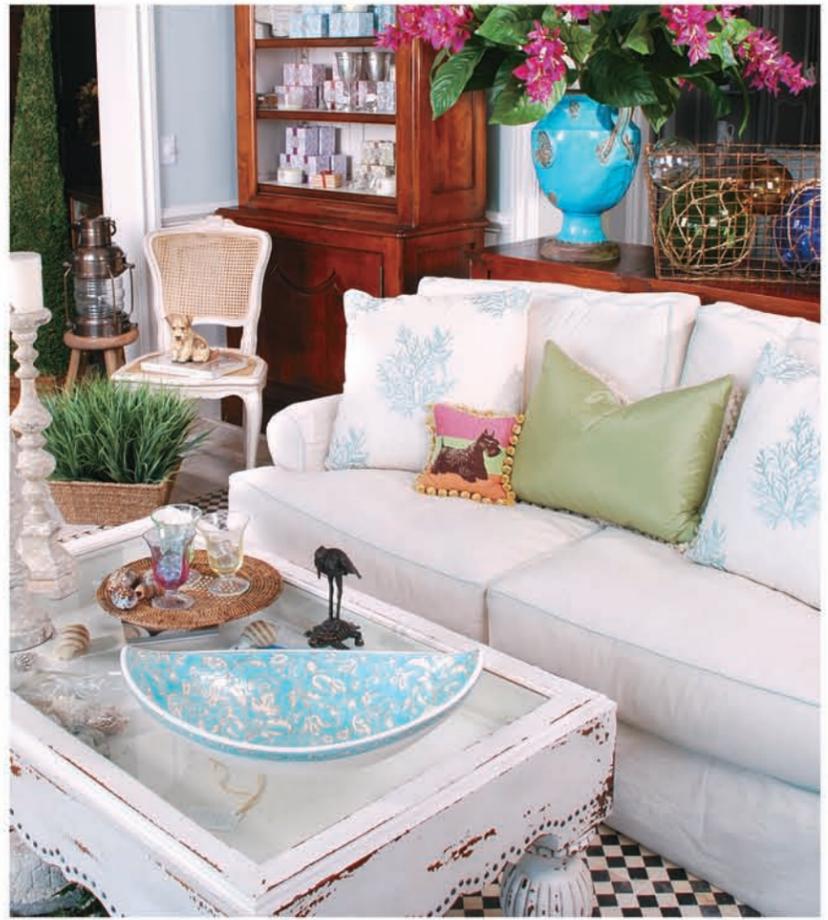


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EAST OF A1A

Beachside Beauty in Ocean Ridge. Delightful Henry Harding Bermuda, east of A1A and steps to private beach access. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, pool and updated with impact glass throughout, lovely country style kitchen, home office, Mexican tile floors, fireplace and vaulted cypress ceilings.

\$1,400,000



TURN KEY LUXURY IN OCEAN RIDGE

This ocean block one story 3/3/2 with den and heated pool has been completely updated from the inside out. Situated on a private, oversize corner lot, features include: impact glass throughout, saturnia floors, granite/stainless kitchen, volume ceilings, more.

\$1,300,000



EAST BOYNTON BEACH

Just 2 blocks from Ocean Ave and an easy stroll to the marina, Two George's & The Banana Boat, this 1/1 condo has a brand new kitchen and bath. Low HOA and central location make this a great starter home, getaway or staff housing. First floor, corner unit.

\$105,000



BEACHSIDE LUXURY ESTATE

Ocean Ridge traditional 2-story Key West style home built in '02 and features 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths and a gourmet cook's kitchen with marble countertops and center island. Butler's pantry. Dumb waiter. Outdoor entertainment area with heated pool, spa and pergola. Three car garage and Chicago brick drive and patios. Owner financing available.

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ADORABLE OCEAN BLOCK

Great Ocean Ridge property, east of A1A, 3/2 with heated pool, updated kitchen & baths, upstairs master with loft, lovely covered loggia - all just steps to the sand. Move in and head to the beach!

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East of A1A in Ocean Ridge's best beachside neighborhood, this authentic Bermuda home has been meticulously maintained. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplace, vaulted cypress ceilings, covered loggia. Private deeded beach access, 3 homes from the sand.

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