City staffers, others volunteer to help homeowners

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

A few years ago when the economy began to slide, employees in the city of Palm Beach Gardens code enforcement department noticed that more and more residents were having trouble making repairs to their homes. “It’s not that they didn’t want to meet code, but people were losing their jobs, and in some cases high medical bills were hurting families,” says David Reyes, operations director in code enforcement.

Thus, CAST was born. The Community Action Support Team is comprised of employees from various city departments. The team partners with local businesses, agencies and Palm Beach County to help residents maintain their properties. “It’s not our goal to have a resident appear before a judge on a code complaint,” Mr. Reyes says. “We work and work until we have found a solution.”

Sometimes that solution is a group of employees volunteering to fix a home. So far, eight residences have been improved.

On Dec. 4 city employees and students from the Benjamin School in Palm Beach Gardens, worked on a house on North Mary Drive. “It’s amazing to see the volunteers,” said CAST coordinator Michael Williams. “It becomes a labor of love very quickly.”

Leanna Beck, whose Mary Circle home was painted, said: “It’s the best Christmas. I just think it’s so great that this program is there and available.”

See photos, page A12
COMMENTARY

Is WikiLeaks information helpful, hurtful or just voyeuristic?

By now we’ve finished off the leftover turkey. And others of us have digested a portion of the latest WikiLeaks release. For those who haven’t, WikiLeaks is the award-winning, international not-for-profit whistle-blowing organization that, as its name implies, publishes leaked documents alleging high institutional misconduct.

Beyond the obvious national security implications, there’s plenty for shock value, humor and serious contemplation in the recent massive release of confidential diplomatic cables. Perusing the trove of sensitive documents is like viewing our world neighbors’ — and our own — dirty linen.

Foreign leaders are as embarrassed as our own. I was left wondering just who decided what got leaked.

Like most local folks with whom I talked, I confess to being of two minds on all this.

Most were your average Jane or John who have been numbed by, or simply don’t care about all this. They are not our own. I was left wondering just who decided what got leaked.

“I have mixed reactions to WikiLeaks,” said B.J. Jenkins, member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on Burns Road.

Regarding that, Ghassan Rubeiz of Palm Beach Gardens, prior to his Dec. 2 talk on “Sex, Religion and Politics in the Middle East,” at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches, said: “Religious dynasties can be fratricidal: (Saudi Arabia) King Abdullah wants the ‘head of the snake to be cut off in Iran.’

“But the Saudi people and the major- ity of Arab society disagree with the king and with other Gulf rulers,” added Mr. Rubeiz. “Arab society may have mixed feelings about the Iranian regime. But they are against hosting a third war in the region, and they do not consider Iran a major threat.”

Mr. Rubeiz is an Arab-American social scientist with a background in ecumenism; he was Middle East Secre- tary of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches between 1979 and 1993.

“My reaction: Media is making too big an issue of it,” said Allen Maxwell, who’s back for the season to lead the popular NewsTalk discussions at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings at First Unitarian Universalist Churches between 1979 and 1993.

“This is the type of communication that takes place — and should take place — between our diplomats in the field and the Department of State in Wash- ington,” said Mr. Maxwell, emeritus professor of Political Science, Indiana University Kokomo, whose specialties include U.S. foreign policy and global politics.

“I am impressed with the candid nature of some of the cables,” he said.

“They provide insights into the attitudes of foreign leaders and of the foreign publics. These are necessary for wise policy-making by our policy makers in Washing- ton. These cables are the heart of diplomacy. The only difference with the WikiLeaks cables is that the public is getting a look at diplomatic commu- nications.”

That’s the transparency I want: to know what my government is doing even when — especially when — gov- ernment officials don’t think we need to know, or don’t want us to know.

But there’s also the need to balance the jealousy of our diplomatic and secu- rity service people.

That may or may not explain why WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is being pursued by Interpol for alleged sex crimes, why Amazon Inc. has stopped hosting his site, or why WikiLeaks had to move its servers to Switzerland fol- lowing “mass attacks” online.

But consider Bob Campbell’s caution- ary sentiment, as he recalled the leak during the Vietnam Era of the Pentagon Papers, by Daniel Ellsberg.

“Ellsberg was exposing lies perpe- trated on the American public by two administrations. That was a major ser- vice to America,” said the retired public school psychologist and Jupiter resident.

“The WikiLeaks revelations serve no useful purpose and in fact are destruc- tive to the U.S. and our relations with others.”

Truth does have consequences. Given these latest leaks’ potential for help and hurt, we need to be more than just voy- eurs.
Seacoast National collects toys for Love Doctors toy drive

The Seacoast National Bank branches in Palm Beach County collected toys for The Love Doctors Charity Toy Drive, which will give the toys to local families.

Seacoast National Bank is the operating arm of Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida, which has $2.1 billion in assets and 39 branches from Orlando to Palm Beach Gardens.

Jupiter Medical Center was one of four healthcare organizations surveyed nationally to receive the Laureate Award for Workplace Enhancement from The Jackson Group. This is the second year JMC received the award — the first was in 2007.

The award was based on the facility’s work climate survey results that showed significant improvement over previous survey outcomes and is the result of efforts to strengthen JMC as a “great place to work,” the company said in a prepared statement.

JMC is a not-for-profit 283-bed community hospital with 104 private acute care hospital beds and 120 long-term care beds. The center will open a cardiac catheterization lab in the spring of 2011, and is preparing to undergo a major expansion project over the next few years.

Founded in 1979, it is affiliated with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. It has about 1,400 employees, 525 physicians and 700 volunteers. For more information, call 747-2234 or see www.jupitermed.com.

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**WikiLeaks and the end of U.S. ‘diplomacy’**

Amy Goodman

Special to Florida Weekly

WikiLeaks is again publishing a trove of documents, in this case classified U.S. State Department diplomatic cables. The whistle-blower website will gradually be releasing more than 250,000 of these documents in the coming months so that they can be analyzed and gain the attention they deserve. The cables are internal, written communications between U.S. Embassies around the world to each other and to the U.S. State Department. WikiLeaks described the leak as “the largest set of confidential documents ever to be released into the public domain (giving) an unprecedented insight into U.S. Government foreign activities.”

Critics argue, as they did with earlier leaks of secret documents regarding Iraq and Afghanistan, that lives will be lost as a result. Rather, lives might actually be saved, since the way that the U.S. conducts diplomacy is now getting more exposure than ever — as is the apparent ease with which the U.S. government lives up (or down) to the adage used by pioneering journalist I.F. Stone: “Government lies.”

Take the case of Khaled El-Masri. The El-Masri was snatched in Macedonia as part of the CIA’s secret extra-territorial rendition program, in which people are taken by the U.S. government and sent to other countries, where they can be subjected to torture. He was held and tortured in a secret prison in Afghanistan for months before being dropped by the CIA on an isolated road in Albania, even though the CIA had long established that it had grabbed the wrong man. El-Masri, a German citizen, sought justice through German courts, and it looked like 13 CIA agents might be charged. Then the U.S. embassy in Berlin stepped in, threatening, according to one cable, that “issuance of international arrest warrants would have a negative impact on our bilateral relationship.” No charges were ever filed in Germany, suggesting the diplomatic threat worked. The 13 agents are, however, still facing charges in Spain, where prosecutors enjoy some freedom from political pressures.

Or so we thought. In fact, Spain figures prominently in the leaked documents as CIA agents might have been charged. The cable says that “issue of international arrest warrants would have a negative impact on our bilateral relationship.” No charges were ever filed in Germany, suggesting the diplomatic threat worked. The 13 agents are, however, still facing charges in Spain, where prosecutors enjoy some freedom from political pressures.

These revelations are rocking the Spanish government, as the cables clearly show an attempt to disrupt the Spanish justice system.

Ambassador Aguirre told Spain’s El País newspaper several years ago, “I am George Bush’s plumber, I will solve all the problems George gives me.”

In another series of cables, the U.S. State Department instructs its staff around the world and at the U.S. to spy on potential leaks. The cables also contain biometric information of diplomats. The cable reads, “Data should include email and the sales tax burden and 45th in the burden remaining taxes. Thanks to our Constitution prohibition of a state income tax, we are, of course 50th in that category. Our state is also trending in the right direction. New York Times, Florida was number 16 on the index, last year we were 11th, and now we are fifth. Based on the Economic Competitiveness Index, it appears Florida’s economy is well positioned to turn around sooner than most states in the country.

Of course, Florida’s economy does not operate in a vacuum. National and international economic conditions affect our state’s future as well. For example, if the economy rebounds it appears that Florida’s economy is well positioned to turn around sooner than most states in the country.

Over the last month, I have had the opportunity to meet with government and business leaders from Japan and Italy — including the Japanese ambas- sador to the United States, Ichiro Fujisaki, and the president of Umbria in Italy, Catiuscia Marini. One thing is clear from these meetings — the world is eager to do business with, and in, the state of Florida.

In fact, over the last four years, I have met with leaders from more than 30 countries to discuss opportunities for increased trade and tourism for Florida.

Our state is highly regarded around the world. Almost every leader I have met with at home and abroad has expressed interest in coming here for fun, government and business leaders from around the globe are now looking for opportunities to come here for business.

People around the world understand that Florida offers an unmatched combination of “pro-business” policies as well as an incredible quality of life. But the international interest in Florida is not limited to doing business in the Sunshine State.

With the expansion of the Panama Canal and the close proximity to the canal from a number of Florida ports, our state is seen as the gateway to emerging markets in Central and South America. Today one in six jobs in Florida is supported by international business — a number that is expected to increase significantly.

The increased international interest in Florida coincides with the Economic Competitiveness Index released by the American Legislative Exchange Council and economist Arthur Laffer. According to the index, the five states in America with the highest economic future are Utah, Colorado, Texas, South Dakota, and Florida — in that order. It is worth not- ing that Florida is the highest-ranked state in the Southeast.

The index is based on 15 indicators. Florida scores well in many areas. We are 37th in property tax burden, 39th in sales tax burden and 45th in the burden remaining taxes. Thanks to our Constitutional prohibition of a state income tax, we are, of course 50th in that category.

Our state is also trending in the right direction. New York Times, Florida was number 16 on the index, last year we were 11th, and now we are fifth. Based on the Economic Competitiveness Index, it appears Florida’s economy is well positioned to turn around sooner than most states in the country.

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**GUEST OPINION**

Florida’s economic future is bright

Jeff Kottcamp

Lieutenant Governor

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— Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottcamp is Florida’s 17th lieutenant governor. He serves as chairman of Space Florida, chairman on People, and, remarkably, to collect net and oversees the Office of Drug Control.
FLORIDA WEEKLY WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-15, 2010

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD
DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Settling for less

Britain’s National Health Service acknowledged in November that, because of a shortage of healthy lungs and other organs available for transplant, it was offering those on waiting lists the option of receiving them from

Compelling explanations

➤ French farmer Michele Rouyer, who was discovered by police with about 11 pounds of packaged marijuana and a dozen plants, said the weed was not for himself but for the 150 dакс he raises — in that a specialist had suggested that marijuana is an effective dewormer and fever-preventer. (Mr. Rouyer did acknowledge that, well, yes, maybe he smoked a little of it himself.)

➤ In November, a court in Rocheft fixed him the equivalent of about $700 — even though he insisted, proudly, that his ducks are, indeed, wormfree.

➤ Former Groveland, Mass., police officer Aaron Yeo, who was fired in 2009 for sleeping on the job and lying to dispatchers about his locations, challenged the termination in October 2010, claiming through his lawyer that he had declined to reveal his locations only because he was “watching for terrorists.”

➤ Body armor company CEO David H. Brooks, charged with tax fraud and insider trading, argued at his trial in August in New York City that his company’s hiring of prostitutes for staff and board members was a legitimate corporate expense because it could “make employees more productive.”

Human rights watch

➤ In recent years frisky Britons have popularized “dogging” — strangers meeting for outdoor sex in remote public parks — and U.K. government agencies appear to be of two minds about it. Local councils want to see it stopped, but the police chiefs’ association in Scotland recognizes that doggers have rights. (The Surrey County Council, for example, recently considered bringing wild bulls into one park to discourage doggers, although one critic said romping bulls “will probably make (doggers) even more excited.” The chiefs’ association issued a 60-page “hate crimes” manual in October that urged officers to be “outdoor sex” sensiti-

Redneck chronicles

➤ Joe Druce, serving life in prison in Massachusetts for one murder (and who subsequently murdered fellow inmate and former pedophile priest John Geoghan), popped the question recently to Christian minister Shirl Borden, who agreed to marry him in October after five years of being pen pals. Ms. Borden said the pair’s relationship turned romantic over their mutual love of NASCAR.

➤ Harvey Westmoreland of Lawrenceburg, Ky., maintains that the $250 price he was asking for his tractor was reasonable, but the potential buyer felt cheated and, with a friend, attacked Mr. Westmoreland. Said Mr. Westmoreland, “If they cut my beard and forced me to eat it.” In November, the two men pleaded guilty to assault.

Least-competent people

➤ In September for DUI in Orland Park, ILL, after failing a field sobriety test to walk a straight line. According to the officer’s report, Ms. Urzedowski put her hands on her hips and strutted to and fro “as if she were a (runway) model,” after which, apprehensive about being arrested, she asked the officer to read her “the Amanda rights.”

Running oneself over

➤ A 20-year-old man trying to push his car up a steep hill on Levering Street in Philadelphia lost control and was crushed and hospitalized (September).

➤ Jackie Long, 52, crashed her car into a tree in Chipping Campden, England. Her door burst open just as the car went airborne, and she fell to the ground and was run over by the rear driver’s-side wheel, requiring hospital treatment.

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Individual Elegance.
The social fabric is torn. The gossamer of good graces shreds in a hot wind. Some infantile, self-absorbed, possibly inebriated hoors enter the scene and goes off. This could happen anywhere, especially in traffic or crowded shopping places this time of year.

When the scene is a restaurant, though, the inquisition seems especially coarse. And the flags of warning that unfurl in the heads of surrounding diners can signal a rip-current underneath a mostly placid social surface.

We live, after all, in angry, fearful, self-righteous times. The trigger, in this case, is a 16-ounce Porterhouse steak. In a waterfront restaurant in Palm Beach Gardens not long after dark, on an outer patio, a genteel breeze flickers the candles, light jazz burbles from a bar inside, waiters and waitresses shift pleasantly and briskly among the tables. Even when they wouldn’t in other settings, they smile and defer.

Most patrons, otherwise disguised as you and me, are here to relax, here to be cooked for and waited on, here to get away. Most of the ones we who showed up earlier to conduct business have left by now or have put away laptops and attaché cases in favor of iced teas or gin-and-tonics.

When the scene is a restaurant, though, the inquisition seems especially coarse. And the flags of warning that unfurl in the heads of surrounding diners can signal a rip-current underneath a mostly placid social surface. Even when they wouldn’t in other settings, they smile and defer.

The two others at the table nod agreement. “I was a Marine,” the man starts. “I’m gonna kick his (F-bomb) ass!” F-bomb. Semper Fi? Semper...why? Or gonna kick his (F-bomb) ass! F-bomb. Semper F还有...why? Or maybe temper...why? We might be talking a lifetime of therapy, here.

Then he summons the owner. He calls him several names, including the name of the James Bond heroine that ends in “Gayore.”

His language takes on more vivid color and gets more and more amplified. His gold chain, and his voice is as loud as his look and getting louder. “I’m paying forty dollars for this piece of crap!” he is saying, with acrobatic arm-waving. “They can’t even cook it right. I oughta slap somebody in the face with it!”

The owner, well, maybe he could listen to the performer, who issues them to the tables, on their feet and under pressure, to calm the diners, asks if he can bring anything else. Coventry, asks if he can bring anything else.

As a race, confronted by confrontation, we show astounding grace. Maybe we’re afraid of what would happen if we all just let loose. Maybe we’re just not sure how to DO that. Either way, the lessons of that night seem clear. First, the people who run and work in restaurants are grossly undervalued. They may curse in the kitchen, may step into the walk-in-cooler to avoid a tantrum, but most of the time, over the grills and out among the tables, on their feet and under pressure, they take the heat and stay welcoming. The headline WAITER ASSAULTS PATRON would be a lot like MAN BITES DOG.

Rudeness, well, that’s out there, but the greatest act of courage that night, I thought, was the owner’s showing up to have it out. Maybe it was foolish, too, in the sense that he was hardy and the other guy was a fool, and possibly dangerous. I might have sent the bodyguard with the brass knuckles. He showed his wait staff at least, that he has their backs, the thing that they show HIM...for whom they have devoted the highest volume of experience with state-of-the-art varicose vein procedures in the nation. They have also trained hundreds of other medical professionals in advanced treatment methods. And they are known for achieving consistently excellent outcomes...which is just what you expect from leaders in the field.

Then he summons the owner. He calls him several names, including the name of the James Bond heroine that ends in “Gayore.”

He called the cops, but that’s an invitation to the Deep Muddy. Facing someone drunk and angry is akin to one of the most volatile police calls, to a “domestic disturbance.” It’s the backside of Forrest Gump’s box of chocolates; you never know what you’re gonna get. Maybe the guy will melt into a puddle; maybe he’s an escaped con who will pull an Uzi. And it would pull them into the legal system, which might be an even bigger muddy.

The owner, well, maybe he could listen more, but there isn’t much worth hearing. Who wants to stand there listening to a dia-tribe on the quality of his Porterhouse, espe-
cially when everybody else seems happy? No fists are thrown, but the owner, after saying “If you don’t like it, don’t come back here.” Finally retreats, leaving the last words to the performer, who issues them to the heavens and anyone within earshot, includ-
ing a dozen patrons.

The verdict is clear: loudmouth, estab-
lidium 0. He won’t have to pay. He makes a show of protesting that he ALWAYS pays, g-d it, but, in the end, he doesn’t. Then comes the clincher. To survivors left at nearby tables, a waiter and waitress reveal that the guy, this same guy, had pulled this protest THREE other times. “If he doesn’t like the meat,” a waitress says, “why does he come back here?” For a freebie? Sure. Maybe he also enjoys the melodrama.
Every ER Has Seen Its Share of Heroes. These Are Ours.

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GRAFFITI

From page 1

Just now, Harvey Scott moves along the low wall of a bridge on Kyoto Gardens Drive, a street with very little lighting, where it meets Alternate A1A (Hwy. 811). The top of the wall and its metal railing are spackled with “GW 561” and “peuk,” in crayon and black marker, here, there, over there, down the line. He takes out a digital camera and photographs each one. Then he pulls on plastic gloves.

Mr. Scott is a big man, in a bright green reflective vest, and his white city truck winks with flashers; still, some drivers barreling in off A1A come within inches. “Sometimes when we come out, on a busy street, we have cones set up, and some people get right where the cone is and then swing out,” he says. “They’re on the cell phone or whatever. A lot of times you need someone out here waving traffic around, watching your back.”

The fight goes on. Their weapons are high-pressure paint and water and, even more, a targeted product called Graffiti Wipes, pink and smelling of citrus and intense enough that they need gloves to handle it.

Mr. Scott bends over a “GW 561” on the railing in black marker. He frames the area in the lens tape he has been over it with Rustoleum protective enamel, in shiny silver. “You can’t always get the color perfect,” he says, “but we want it to look neat.”

Gray, pale yellow. Blue. Light or dark green. “They do their best to match the various surfaces favored by the vandals, the concrete of walls, the steel of service poles. They do their best to avoid paper and signs, the wood of telephone poles. They do their best to stay positive.

“What we say is, well, for Glenn and me, it’s job security.”

A young middle school student caught in Palm Beach Gardens last year seemed to verify that motive. He was assigned to spend a day with Mr. Scott, cleaning up. Mr. Scott would have to like to have him for a week. “I took him to a fence on Military, and he had to, like, go down into the canal,” Mr. Scott says. “He was saying, ‘How’d they get that down THERE?’ I said, ‘You tell US. It was hot, and by the end of the day he drained the water jug. He was all, like, drenched in sweat. He didn’t like it too much.’”

Maybe the tagger who manages to spray-paint a local water tower wanted most of all for his peers to praise his daring. None of the phantoms is stepping forward to say, “I leave messages in paint, and some are threats, such as one Mr. Scott found on the flyover bridge: ‘Stop erasin’ my s**t, you puss ass cops, 4 I put the heat on ya 561’ and ‘peuk,’ in crayon and black marker, here, there, over there, down the line. How nobody seems to do this, I don’t understand. It took us a few minutes to find the graffiti. These kids are relentless, man.”

So, in their way, are the graffiti-fighters, reporting at 7 A.M. and working into the heat of the day amid a regimen of other duties. Judging from public awareness, the unified front of the two city workers might appear a cloak of invisibility, its wearers carrying out essential services without fanfare or acclaim.

Their arch-enemies, though, are far more skilled in the art of dodging. The perpetrators of graffiti are known, in some quarters, as artists. Most of what Mr. Scott and partner Glenn MacDougall see every day is little more than scribble, remarkably consistent but unskilled and ugly. Their job is to remove it, and that takes them into chemistry, physics, and the science of materials. It also takes them into social psychology, or psychosis.

What they see is a mystery, a who-dunnit ... and HOW? AND WHY? “How do they have the time to do this much of this? This is work. You’d think with that much energy they could get a regular job,” Mr. MacDougall says. And Mr. Scott says, “On a main road like the PGA bridge, I wish they would put a camera up there. At least we could find out who the d**ks. Then maybe we could figure out why.”

A clue comes from the few graffiti artists who have been caught. A graffiti vandal branded in New Zealand told publisher Kristin Edge of the Northern Advocate newspaper there, “It’s a hobby. I do it whenever I can get cans of spray paint. It’s for fame and the adrenaline. I don’t care whose place it is. You don’t think about that.”

The police chief (Stephen J. Stepp), he’s real hot on this graffiti thing,” Mr. Scott says. “He always telling us, ‘You’re doing a good job out here.’”

If they catch them, most of them are young adults. “They’re on the face. They are both fathers, sympathetic to sons and daughters, aware of the pressures, of finding a place in an often confusing and hypocritical and contradictory world.”

They also know vandalism, destruction of public and personal property, when they see it. And they see it most working days. “We get certain spots that we have to check every day,” Mr. Scott says. “That bridge on Kyoto, the flyover bridge, a couple parks, behind some strip malls. It’s, like, we take it off, and they come and put it right back on.”

Mostly, the men are the restorers of Clean, but never temporary. They are also the inheritors of Sisyphus, the ancient of Greek legend condemned to push his rock uphill only to have it roll back down again and again and again.

The men have cleaned the Kyoto Gardens bridge a dozen times. Each time, the tagger returns to mark the same places. As Mr. Scott approaches it yet again, pulling on layers of clear plastic gloves, he confesses, “Yeah, it can get old. You go and clean up an area, and they come in right behind you, like a ‘screech’ to you.”

What we say is, well, for Glenn and me, it’s job security.”

Mr. MacDougall, 57, joined a year ago, moving over from the Palm Beach Gardens Purchasing Department amid personnel shifts following budget cuts. He had worked for public works in the city of Port St. Lucie and run his own daycare center, as he says, in life’s twists and turns.

“We like working together.” Mr. MacDougall says. “I said, ‘If you move me over, I want to work with HIM.’”

Mr. Scott adds, “Everybody got problems. If you come to work and you’re all mad, it makes the day go longer. ‘You know what I mean?’ We just come in, crack some jokes, talk about football, see some pretty girls walking around, make the day go faster. We know what to look for, and what to do on the jobs, too.”

These kids do their best to avoid police officers and other city employees that’s part of an initiative called W.O.W. (Workers on Watch). They look for debris in the road, dead animals, potholes. More than anything, they find graffiti. Past orders are piling into a drift on the desk in their office.

When they downloaded the camera recently, they found 703 images; most of them included “GW.” Before long, Smith predicts, they’ll see something else.

“Monday is the worst,” Mr. Scott says, “and the day after Halloween, my goodness! It wasn’t so bad this year. Most years, they go crazy.”

Around the Financial Center at the Gardens a few minutes later, Mr. Scott sees “GWs” on garbage cans, on scribble on benches. “They’re putting down the construction sign at a crosswalk. Some of them, he says, only the state can replace. “If I put the flyover bridge three weeks ago, walk sign, it would take all the letters off there,” he says.

Then.... “Right here, look, he hit that electrical box again. Oh, man! Two layers of GW, purple and blue. This is hard work. You get more mad than tired. It DOES frustrate you.”

Officials in cities and towns across the country share that frustration. None has found a lasting solution. Programs in big cities such as New York, Miami and Los Angeles include monetary rewards for turning in vandals, graffiti-resistant paints and chemicals such as aliphatic acrylic urethane, educational sessions in schools, intelligence databases to identify known vandals and their tags, publicity and advertising.

There still seem to be too many rebels, Mr. Scott and Mr. MacDougall say, without a cause, beyond the sheer thrill of the public expression and the chase. Without more severe punishments and public humiliation, what’s left to stop them? Streetlight doesn’t seem to. “They hit the flyover bridge three weeks ago in 3 places,” Mr. Scott says, “inside the wall along the walkway, on light
Drive, near Palm Beach Gardens.

Lilac Street and playground on Plantite vandal destination, a park on
HAVE caught weren't in gangs; they
dens? They're not sure. Some marks
that build and improve their cities, not
a life, to find a passion and a career
alternatives offered to young people,
heart of tagging.

Some of the messages are directed at
trayed among the young as the enemy.
they continue to be seen and por-
many people they help and protect,
prevailing order, that no matter how
erly shows. They also understand that
national displays, the celebrated gal-
impersonal world. They have seen the
ballyhoo, the discussions of disenfran-
other stuff was just nasty."

public view. Approaching the flyover
girls, that was it," he says.

up, guys were into sports and chasing
with day-to-day is, he says, stupid. He
up with it." Nearly all of what he deals
wants it off in, like 24 hours," he says,
"But the city don't want it on there,
creative on web sites and in museums.
documents. Some call it folk art, and it is
marks and scratches intruded on mon-
and then to Roman times, when chalk
villain yet who didn't think he was the

Mr. Scott meets Mr. MacDougall,
and Mr. Scott knows, "I never met a
eminent actor, social philosopher and
the clean and the profane, but, as the
Military, somebody tagged the front
message will get even worse.

"That really pissed off the police,"
we painted this, 10?" Mr. Scott says,
shows them. This place, along the
low from chin to knees. "The guys got
ruptured, spraying Scott pale light yel-
Mr. Scott meets Mr. MacDougall,
them?"

all night. Why didn't somebody see

FLORIDA WEEKLY
WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-15, 2010
NEWS A9

be high-pressure-cleaning Fire Station

A collage of the graffiti Harvey Scott and
Glenn MacDougall have removed from various
structures around Palm Beach Gardens.

Graffiti Photos courtesy of City of Palm Beach Gardens.

A9
Holiday HorseFest gallops into downtown West Palm Beach

Saddle up and head to downtown West Palm Beach for Holiday HorseFest. The focal point of the free Dec. 12 event, at the Meyer Amphitheatre, will be a dramatic equestrian competition featuring some of the nation’s top Olympic riders and horses.

And kids can ride ponies costumed with reindeer antlers and other holiday décor.

Other highlights include free face-painting, dog-agility shows, street performers, food, music and Santa Claus. Kids can sit on Santa’s knee — bring your camera for photos.

It’s also a good opportunity for presents — more than $10,000 in prizes will be raffled throughout the day, and the winner of the grand prize will receive a $1,000 cash gift card. The second-place winner will receive a $500 cash gift card, and other prizes include gift certificates to popular restaurants, boat seats to grand prix competition at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival, and gift cards to the clothing boutique at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Visit www.equestriansport.com to enter the raffle.

Throughout the day, there will be a drawing for the charities that have applied to participate in the 2011 Great Charity Challenge at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival. The 2011 Great Charity Challenge is a relay-style equestrian jumping competition in which 30 equestrian teams will be paired with 30 charities that serve Palm Beach County, to compete for a combined $1 million. Celebrity guests will be on hand at Holiday HorseFest to do the random drawing of the charities, including West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel.

Holiday HorseFest, presented by Fideli- ty Investments, will be 1-5 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Meyer Amphitheatre, Datura Street at Flagler Drive. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.equestriansport.com or call Equestrian Sport Productions at 793-5867. ■

Toll Brothers holds holiday food drive

Toll Brothers, a luxury-home building company, held its third annual “Operation Turkey” Food Drive, collecting food donations to help make Thanksgiving more joy- ful for residents of Palm Beach County.

Toll Brothers’ employees filled more than nine large boxes with non-perishable food items at its sales and division offices during the food drive. The food was donated to The Lord’s Place, a non-sectari- an, non-profit organization located in West Palm Beach dedicated to changing the lives of the homeless by providing innovative, compas- sionate and effective services to men, women and children at its four community campuses.

For more information, visit TollBrothersFlorida.com or call 989-7799. ■

Holiday show takes a look at the circus

December is a big time for the big top in downtown West Palm Beach as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey brings a Magical Holiday Circus Exhibition to the Waterfront Pavilion.

The circus exhibition, open Dec. 9-Jan. 2, will display vintage circus wagons, colorful costumes worn by Ringling Bros. ringmasters, performers, dancers and clowns, as well as ornate blankets crafted for elephants, horses and camels. Learn about efforts to preserve the endangered Asian elephant through photos and artifacts from the Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation. Artifacts will include an elephant headpiece, life-size castings of an elephant’s foot and teeth and a “bull tub” (elephant footstool). Explore the artistic side of painting pachyderms in the gallery area with paintings by eight elephants.

There also will be a photographic sneak peak at many of the acts that will be appearing in a Magical Holiday Circus Spectacular, playing Dec. 28-Jan. 2 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Tickets will be available at the Magical Holiday Circus Exhibition.

The Magical Holiday Circus Exhibit- ion is open 6-10 p.m. Fridays-Sundays and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is free. The Waterfront Pavilion is on Flagler Drive at Clematis Street (the former library site) in downtown West Palm Beach. ■
PET TALES

Adopt a holiday pet

Seasonal warnings shouldn’t stop a thoughtful addition

BY DR. MARTY BECKER

Universal Quirk

You know the usual warnings: “Don’t give pets as gifts”; “The holidays are the worst time to get a new pet”; “Pets are for life, not just for Christmas”... “The only good pet to give as a gift is a stuffed animal.”

Lately, though, I’ve found myself swimming against that tide — a little. When it comes to giving pets as gifts, it’s not always a good idea, but it’s also not always a bad idea. If you add just one word to the word “gift,” it pretty much fixes the problem. That word is “thoughtful.” And getting a pet should always be done thoughtfully, whether the pet is a gift or not.

First and foremost, being thoughtful means never buying a puppy or kitten from a pet store or Internet site that ships with no questions asked. You don’t want to support puppy mills, after all.

With that out of the way, what about the other common cautions? Sure, the holidays can be a busy time, with lots of activities, travel and guests. But parents often have time off from work during the holidays, and the children aren’t in school. The holidays would love nothing more than to move from the cage or run at the shelter to the couch at your home. Why make them wait?

So while springing an unwanted and unexpected pet on someone as a gift is always a bad idea, and buying from a pet store or click-and-ship puppy website is never a good idea, the careful and well-planned gift of an appropriate pet can be just what this veterinarian ordered for making your family happier and healthier, now and at any time of the year.

I’m a parent and a grandparent, and I’ll tell you one thing about children: They’re expert multitaskers. And they don’t suddenly become less so on Jan. 2. Puppies and kittens are just like little children, and they get into things. But that’s not true just at the holidays. If they aren’t getting into your Christmas decorations, they’ll be getting into your laundry basket. Part of acquiring a new pet is making sure that the environment is safe for him, and that the treasured family heirloom you inherited from your great-grandmother is locked away until the new furry family member learns the ropes. And that principle applies year-round, not just between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day.

If the family is prepared for the new addition, then all will be well. If not, it won’t — but that’s true whether you get the pet for yourself or for your spouse. And if the parents have unrealistic expectations about how much of the pet’s care will be handled by the kids, does that change if the pet isn’t given as a gift? Of course not.

It can be hard to adopt a shelter pet, since many shelters have traditionally discouraged holiday-season adoptions. That’s a trend that’s changing, in part thanks to pet food maker Iams’ noteworthy “Home for the Holidays” pet adoption campaign. Shelter pets would love nothing more than to move from the cage or run at the shelter to the couch at your home. Why make them wait?

Shelter pets need homes year-round, so if everything else is planned but you don’t let the holiday step you from adopting...

To adopt a pet

The Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, Humane Society of the Palm Beaches, was founded in 1925 and is a limited-admission non-profit humane society providing services to more than 10,000 animals each year. It is located at 3100/3200 Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Adoptable pets and other information can be seen at www.hspb.org.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Bailey is a 7-year-old spayed female Labrador mix. She weighs 58 pounds, and is a great companion. Bailey loves people but needs an adoptive home where she is the only dog. She is available for the senior-to-senior adoption program; the adoption fee is waived for animals 5 years and older placed with someone 55 years and older. The adopter is responsible only for the cost of the county license/tag.

Selene is a 3-year-old spayed female short-haired cat. She is petite and is a lap cat who purrs loudly and rules your little heart. Selene isn’t fond of dogs.

Adopt a pet with this coupon

PETS OF THE WEEK

You Have A Choice!

At Access Medical Laboratories, we provide both patients and doctors with fast, accurate, diagnostically meaningful results. Patients are treated with care, kindness, and the type of professionalism that has made Access Medical Laboratories a leader in the field of diagnostic testing.

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Toll Free 866-720-8386
Pre-race package pickup will be available at Running Sports on Donald Ross Road on December 17 from 3:00 to 7:00pm.

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CLASSICS BY THE SEA

DECEMBER 18, 2010
CARLIN PARK ~ 400 STATE ROAD A1A ~ JUPITER

5K @ 7:25am
10K @ 7:30am
Kids’ 1-Mile Run @ 7:10am

REGISTER ONLINE at palmbeachroadrunners.com

Adults ........................................ $35
Palm Beach Road Runners Club Members .......... $25
Students (18 and under) ................................ $25
Kids (12 and under).............................. $7

Online registration closes December 18 @ midnight

RACE DAY REGISTRATION $35 for everyone (Except Kids’ 1 Mile Run which remains at $7)

Pre-race package pickup will be available at Running Sports on Donald Ross Road on December 17 from 3:00 to 7:00pm.

Marines will be collecting for Toys for Tots

www.FloridaWeekly.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

MUSINGS

De rigueur

“Deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper; sweeter and sweeter and sweeter and sweeter. When you know the notes to sing, you can sing most anything.” — Madonna, “Erotica,” “Deeper and Deeper,” 1992

Strictly speaking, the use of allusion is quite compelling. It takes us down customary, expectable paths of associations, culturally embedded. We begin in the world matrix of language and meaning, the ground onto which we are thrown at our very beginning. And then the proper and seemingly prescribed by fashion and etiquette potentially burst into possibilities untoward. Opportunistic webs emerge. Vortex is created. Deeper and deeper; sweeter and sweeter: We move from wide-eyed child to creator of wonderment.

In “Erotica,” her fifth studio album, created in 1992, Madonna’s song “Deeper and Deeper” uses words from The Sound of Music. Like the echoes of the Austrian mountains, Madonna echoes Maria’s words: “When you know the notes to sing, you can sing most anything.” But is seems that there the Madonna parts company with her virgin Maria foil. Madonna’s album is seen as no longer acceptable, as suggestive, crass, vulgar and raunchy. The album merited a parental advisory warning. Virgin words tumble out of the mouth of a traumatized whore. The 5-year-old child Madonna had seen the mouth of her own dead mother, peaceful and grotesque, sewn shut in her casket. Perhaps the unlicensed Madonna had been calling Maria forth to mother herself even as Maria mothered the Austrian orphans. After all, the father of these orphans had also banished frivolity after their mother’s death. Maria would cure all that in her teaching the building blocks of the major scale to the Von Trapp children:

“Now children, do-re-mi-fa-so and so on are only the tools we use to build a song. Once you have these notes in your heads, you can sing a million different tunes by mixing them up.”

Madonna’s favorite music was the Baroque. She loved Mozart. Mozart was born in Maria’s country, Austria. He came from Salzburg, the Salt Castle named for the salt, which brought into being the musical prodigy. In the last year of his life, 1791, Mozart wrote his last opera, “The Magic Flute.” Mozart’s friend and fellow Freemason, Emanuel Schikaneder, wrote the libretto, managed the stage and played the role of Papageno. Many critics see the libretto as disjointed. Goethe referred to it as inane, but wanted to continue writing the libretro. The opera, which opens in the Egyptian temple of Isis, is an amazing blend of the sacred and the profane. In this opera Mozart presents a web of Freemason ritual, political commentary and absurd comedy in music of indescribable breadth and beauty.

The character of Papageno, a bird catcher dressed entirely in feathers, is comedic foil. His mouth is padlocked when he lies about being a hero, a snake monster killer. But later he is given bells to play, which bring people to laugh and dance. When he feels he will not be able to find his love, Papagena, he contemplates suicide. But she arrives, also feather-dressed. Seeing each other, they are so stunned that they stutter their song to each other: “Pa pa papa papa...”

In “The Magic Flute” there is victory of love’s union in both the realms of sacred and profane. There are sounds and grounds for every playful wonderment. We go deeper and sweeter with Madonna. We sing, you can sing most anything.” — Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows: You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.
City staffers and students from the Benjamin School volunteered to help Leanna Beck with her home. It was part of the city of Palm Beach Gardens' Community Action Support Team program, designed to help residents keep their homes up to code.

1. Jane Schwed, Ali Bernstein, Anita Spassoff and Samantha Hagar
2. The home on North Mary Drive.
3. Jessica Reichard, Katie Schepps, Erica Schwed and Zach Krumholz
4. Alexis Coudert
5. CAST coordinator Michael Williams, homeowner Leanna Beck and city code operations director David Reyes
6. Ben Appidoby
7. Samantha Hagar
Jealous of your child’s in-laws? Tread lightly or risk alienation

Patti Stone is a reasonable and level-headed woman, so it was quite alarming when she called me last week in hysterics. (I’ve changed all identifying information.) “This is the last straw! These people are calculated monsters!”

When she calmed down, she was able to articulate how hurt and angry she’s been. It began four years ago when her son Scott called excitedly to tell her he had met Tara Burke at a party. Patti prided herself on the close relationship that she had always shared with Scott. At the time Scott was unaware that Tara came from such a prominent family, but over time, Patti would realize that whatever she did never measured up. She then understood that Tara came from a family with its own set of values, traditions and lifestyle. People who come from this kind of household are very different and would never, on their own, have picked each other out as friends. In some instances, the sense of family importance is so strong that people are unable or unwilling to compromise their unity to be receptive to a completely different set of values and opinions. They are extremely uncomfortable to be put in a position to have their own interests challenged by someone who projects their own discomfort and insecurities onto Sydelle and Malcolm, possibly assigning negative attributes that are not accurate or fair. If after careful reflection they still believe that the Burkes are overbearing and difficult, they must proceed with caution. The worst thing they can do is put Scott on the defensive so that he and Tara feel caught in the middle of an ugly triangle, believing that they are being asked to take sides. They should be careful not to say anything negative about the Burkes (no matter how tempting.) They should assume that whatever they say negatively about the Burkes will be repeated at some point to Tara (it invariably works out that way.) I can assure you this will not endear them to their daughter-in-law. It is likely she will remember their words, and possibly, hold it against the Stones for years to come. Even more, the damage their unique bond with Scott can be the roadmap guiding them as they proceed. They have clearly communicated to the Stones that Scott thus far and do not want to risk alienating their son and daughter-in-law.

They should remember that most of us have room in our hearts to include new relationships, without compromising our own. They can start with the confidence that they have raised Scott to do the right thing; and reiterate to Scott how important he is to them and how much they want to stay close to him and Tara. They can express sensitivity to the fact it must be difficult for Scott and Tara to integrate two sets of parents into their lives. They should make it clear that they recognize the importance of Tara and Scott having a relationship with the Burkes and that Patti and Mike are not in conflict with the Burkes or compromise that relationship in any way. The goal is to create a climate where both families can continue their relationship free from the perpetuation of important issues, without animosity. Last, the Stones should take steps to remove themselves from a competitive stance with the Burkes. The reality is the two families are in very different financial circumstances. With creativity and non-defensiveness, the Stones can make the best of opportunities and experiences to enjoy with their children that will be unique to them.

— Linda Lipshutz, M.S., LCSW, is a psychotherapist serving individuals, couples and families. A Palm Beach Gardens resident, she holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia and trained at the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy in Manhattan. She can be reached at her Gardens office at 630-2827, or www.palmbeachlamilytherapy.com.

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Secure in your job? You’ll spend more on gifts, then

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

This year's holiday shoppers may not be your average consumers, according to a new index from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. According to the Kellogg Shopper Index, this year's biggest spenders include those who have had a significant increase in perceived security around their income and job. The survey also finds that the powerful and materialistic will be at the cash registers, and even though it’s the season for giving, many of their purchases will be for themselves.

The Kellogg Shopper Index is a new, ongoing study of consumers and their spending habits. The index explores how underlying consumer psychology and changes in household finance affect consumer shopping behaviors and trends.

This first issue explores shopping and gift-giving trends for the 2010 holiday season. Preliminary data were collected between Oct. 26 and Nov. 16, via an online survey of approximately 1,200 consumers.

Participants who had a significant increase in income, perhaps from getting a new job, indicated they would spend 16 percent more in holiday gifts versus last year. Those who said they experienced a decrease in income, due to a job loss or pay cut, plan to spend 9 percent less compared to 2009.

People who feel more secure about their job plan to spend 10 percent more on holiday gifts. Those with relatively stable job security said they will spend 2 percent more, and people whose job security has worsened noted they will spend 4 percent less this year.

Highly materialistic panelists said they would allocate 34 percent of their holiday gift budget on themselves and 66 percent spent on gifts for others. Less materialistic participants said they would spend only 17 percent on themselves and 83 percent on gifts for others. (For this survey, participants were defined as “materialistic” when they responded positively to questions about how possessions are signs of success, buying brand names and buying items to impress others.)

Two groups indicated they would spend more this year on gifts: People who buy premium gifts for themselves or others, and “deal shoppers” looking for value.

“Essentially not everyone is coming back to shop,” said Eric Anderson, faculty member and one of the designers of the survey. “While our panelists indicate they plan to spend slightly more than last year, we see two very different psychological mindsets at play. The first set represents those likely to have forgone nice rewards over the last two years, and who now want to treat themselves or others. The second set represents those who are still very cautious but are willing to spend for the right deal.”

Future surveys will research shopping trends among women, ethnic minorities and generations. For more information, see kellogg.northwestern.edu.

“Secure in your job? You’ll spend more on gifts, then” — Joel Paige, vice president and managing director

“Our staff works really hard to keep the resort looking its best at all times. We’re proud to be recognized for this award, and look forward to continuing to enhance the overall experience for every visitor.”

— Joel Paige, vice president and managing director

Lush landscaping at PGA National wins city award

The PGA National Resort & Spa has been awarded the 2010 Beautification Award by the city of Palm Beach Gardens.

Each year the city, through its community aesthetics board, bestows one commercial, one residential and one institutional award. Selection is based on effort rather than cost; creativity and effort; tasteful landscaping, including but not limited to trees, shrubs and flowers; well-maintained property; and structural improvements. PGA National was given the award in the commercial category.

Throughout 2010, PGA National enhanced a number of areas in and around the resort grounds, adding landscaping that is native to Florida, the resort reports. The plants thrive and provide a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including endangered and protected bird species.

“We are continuously enhancing and improving the landscaping around the resort and our five golf courses,” Joel Paige, vice president and managing director, said in a prepared statement. “From our tree planting program to establishing seasonal vegetation, the variety of plant life around the property truly creates a unique experience for every guest.”

The community aesthetics board presented PGA National with the award during a city council meeting; it will be displayed on the property throughout the year.

“Our staff works really hard to keep the resort looking its best at all times,” said Mr. Paige. “We’re proud to be recognized for this award, and look forward to continuing to enhance the overall experience for every visitor.”

PGA National was named as one of GOLF Magazine’s 2010-2011 Premier Resorts. The 379-room resort recently completed a $65 million revitalization. The resort offers 90 holes of golf on five courses, including the champion course, home to the PGA Tour’s Honda Classic. Its 40,000 square-foot European spa has 32 treatment areas and outdoor mineral pools; a 33,000 square-foot health and racquet club has 19 tennis courts. There are nine restaurants and lounges and 39,000 square feet of conference space.

Angela Wong, the city’s operations manager, said nominations are now being sought for the award in the residential category. The brochure for the program and a nomination form may be downloaded at pbgfl.com. Call Ms. Wong at 804-7003, or email her at awong@pbgfl.com for more information.

For more information on the PGA National Report & Spa, see pgaresort.com or call 800-533-9386.

Lush landscaping at PGA National wins city award

COURTESY PHOTOS
The world has been paying a lot of attention to problems with the banks in the EU, with emphasis most recently on Ireland’s banks. While U.S. banks are not in the same shadows, they absolutely face a number of challenges, many of which have received news coverage. But, as Ireland loomed so large, the news on U.S. banks was seemingly in the shadows. The topic of this column is two bank issues. In truth, they are worthy of much more reading, understanding and monitoring.

The first issue focuses on new capital requirements as set forth by the Bank for International Settlements and the second issue is the potentially very large (as in many billions of dollars) liabilities against the U.S. banks for their, as claimed, shoddy mortgage underwriting practices.

Let’s look at the first issue. Most know that U.S. banks do not regulate themselves in a vacuum from international banks. A long time ago, dating back to 1930, the BIS was formed. The international central bankers got together to create international standards and cooperation for bank regulators. Represents the top 27 central banks formulated new requirements, many of which start to go into effect by 2013. (Yes, these are the same bankers who caused the world’s credit problems and who are now figuring out how to solve the very problems they caused.)

The bottom line is that U.S. banks have to start working toward significantly higher capital or equity levels and significantly higher liquidity standards.

Per the Financial Times, Nov. 21, “The top 35 U.S. banks will be short of between $500bn and $1tn in equity capital after the new Basel III global bank regulations are imposed, with 90 percent of the shortfall concentrated in the biggest six banks, according to Barclays Capital.”

How will they get this new capital? “Banks can respond by increasing their capital through retained earnings or equity issuance or they can cut their risk-weighted assets through sell-offs and by cutting back on risky business lines.”

The U.S. banks have to raise capital or sell assets or do some combination of both. In the long run, a better-capitalized banking system is good news. The bad news is that, in the short term, these banks will now have to be focused on issuing equity or selling assets instead of getting on with the business of making loans.

The second issue facing U.S. banks is the potential of many billions of dollars in mortgage debt. The unhappy holders of these mortgages are called nonagency mortgage securities. The nonagency mortgage securities issuers to take this on are mortgage insurers like Ambac and MBIA. The mortgage insurers are in a world of hurt.

The bank indices have been telling a desultory story for some time. The story has not been told with words, but with prices and volume.

Talk to your advisers, review your portfolio, and discuss the impact of these issues and the suitability of your holdings.

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for financial analysts. She can be reached at 239-444-5635, ext. 3095, or jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com.

While Europe struggles, U.S. banks face their own problems.
Financial Advice for Distinguished Clients

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NETWORKING

Realtor open house at Frenchman’s Creek new fitness center and spa

2. Mary Saxton and Allan Meyerson
3. Richard Sites, Claire Sites and Dave Putnam
4. Rich Luchini, Robert Bruno, Lisa Moore, Rocco Panzitta and Ashish Sethi
5. Michael Leibowitz, Peter Leibowitz and Andrew Leibowitz
6. Carol Zazik, Joe DePaulis and Lee Fink

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too.

Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.
NETWORKING

Palm Beach County Dental Hygiene Association Head and Neck Cancer Seminar at The Doubletree Hotel

1. Christina Tufford and Drewell Deralta
2. Tracy Butler, Laura DiGeorge, Cyndi Roussert and Tina Cox
3. Dr. Daniel Petrisor and Therese Stewart
4. Lorette Fitter and Cindy Clements
5. Brenda Whitaker-Nagel and Sandra Deschene
6. Rhoda Kubickis, Debra Sabatini, Karina Martinez and Colleen Burns

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1909 1,310 SF 2BR/2.0BA PENDING $250,000
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1301 1,646 SF 2BR/2.0BA PENDING $300,000

Tiara - 3000 N. Ocean Drive
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14F 1,547 SF 2BR/2.0BA Finished SOLD

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Solar pool, amenities top draws for River Ridge home

CONTRIBUTED BY KELLER WILLIAMS

A four-bedroom custom-built pool home features hardwood floors, a stone, wood-burning fireplace and a gourmet kitchen. The screened patio area includes an outdoor kitchen with year-round gas grill. The pool is heated with solar power.

Beyond the pool enclosure, the one-half acre property offers a grassy backyard, mature fruit trees, and an additional raised side yard that is also fenced and could be used as a dog run or special flower/vegetable garden. This home, located at 18158 S.E. Ridgeview Drive in Tequesta, is listed at $425,000.

It’s in River Ridge, a waterfront gated community of 173 homes bordered on the north by the Loxahatchee River. The community is two miles north of the Jupiter Inlet and public boat ramps. River Ridge is pet-friendly. Other amenities include 24-hour gated security, a clubhouse, lighted tennis courts, a playground and tot lot and two lakes. The home is listed with Keller Williams Realty. Call Ron Jangaard or Lynne Rifkin at 906-7500.
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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Toll Brothers buys golf community in Broward

Toll Brothers has purchased Parkland Golf and Country Club, a community in northwest Broward County with a Greg Norman championship golf course. Toll acquired 350 of the community’s 820 home sites and will begin selling homes in late January at the community previously owned by WCI Communities.

Toll Brothers will offer single-family homes and villa-style homes in four styles beginning in the low $300s up to 1,800 square feet to 5,400 square feet. Prices will range from the upper $400,000s to more than $1.5 million, the company reported in a prepared statement.

Parkland is a private, gated golf and country club community. The centerpiece is a Greg Norman 18-hole championship golf course with bonus practice hole. The course is reminiscent of Australia’s Sandbelt links and is in its second year. The project is focused on preserving a natural vegetative setting featuring three distinct zones of planting that reflect the area’s natural habitats — the cypress heads, the low flatland, and the pineland.

Send us your real estate news

Do you have news about the real estate industry for Florida Weekly? Are you an agent on the move, or have you won an award? Send your items to pnews@floridaweekly.com. Or use snail mail and send to Betty Wells, Florida Weekly, 11380 Prosperity Farms Rd., Suite 103, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410.

Before the market changes, Be Smart… MAKE AN OFFER!

$1,750,000
Beautiful, fully furnished estate home with 4,000 SF of living space 4BR/5.5BA, with 4-car garage, 2-car plus golf cart garage. Saturnia floors, archways, coffered ceilings, columns, large windows. Wood/granite kitchen. Pool, spa, gas fireplace and lake views.

$2,695,000
Stunning estate home with lavish details. 8,200 of A/C, S/RB/5.7BA/4CG Master suite has his/her BA, custom walk-in closets. Gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line stainless appliances. Media, Billiards and Media rooms + wine cellar. Impeccable, summer kitchen, pool, rock waterfalls and more.

Florida home sales up 7 percent in October

Statewide year-to-date existing home sales in Florida showed positive momentum in October: 143,398 single-family existing homes sold for a 7 percent increase over the same period a year ago, though uncertainty over job growth, restrictive credit and foreclosure issues had a dampening effect on housing activity last month, according to industry analysts.

The latest housing data released by Florida Realtors also reported a 33 percent rise in statewide year-to-date condominium sales compared to a year ago, with total of 39,960 units sold.

In the latest industry outlook from the National Association of Realtors® (NAR), Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said several factors are slowing the housing market’s recovery, including the recent foreclosure moratorium.

“Nonetheless, there appears to be a pent-up demand that eventually will be unleashed as banks resolve their issues with foreclosures and the labor market improves,” he said. “However, tight credit and appraisals coming in below a negotiated price continue to constrain the market.”

Mr. Yun called for a gradual rise in home sales in buyers respond to historically low mortgage interest rates and favorable affordability conditions.

A total of 1,547 existing condos sold statewide in October compared to 1,598 units sold during the same month a year earlier for a decrease of 5 percent. Nine of Florida’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) reported higher existing condo sales last month, according to Florida Realtors.

The statewide existing condo median sales price last month was $82,400; in October 2009 it was $105,200 for a 22 percent decrease. The national median existing condo price was $140,900 in September, according to NAR.

Meanwhile, in the year-to-year comparison for existing home sales, a total of 11,888 single-family existing homes sold statewide last month compared to 14,980 homes sold in October 2009 for a decrease of 21 percent. Florida’s median existing-home sales price in October was $186,000; a year earlier, it was $140,000 for a 33 percent decrease. The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less.

The national median sales price for existing single-family homes in September was $272,000, down 19 percent from a year earlier, NAR reported. In California, the statewide median resale price was $267,600 in September. In Massachusetts, it was $296,000; in Maryland, it was $243,234; and in New York, it was $293,000.

The Pending Home Sale Index, a forward-looking indicator, rose 10.4 percent from the same month a year ago, though uncertainty over job growth, restrictive credit and foreclosure issues had a dampening effect on housing activity last month, according to industry analysts.

Pend ing home sales jump in October

Pending home sales jumped in October, showing a positive uptrend sincebottoming in June, according to the National Association of Realtors.

The Pending Home Sale Index, a forward-looking indicator, rose 10.4 percent to 89.3 based on contracts signed in October from 80.9 in September. The index remains 21.5 percent below a cyclical peak of 112.4 in October 2009, which was the highest level since May 2006 when it hit 112.6.

Last October, first-time buyers were motivated to make offers before the initial contract deadline for the tax credit last November. The data reflects contracts and not closings, which normally occur with a lag time of one or two months.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said excellent housing affordability conditions are drawing home buyers. “It is welcoming to see a solid double-digit percentage gain, but activity needs to improve further to reach healthy, sustainable levels. The housing market clearly is in a recovery phase and will be uneven at times, but the improving job market and consequential boost to household formation will help the recovery process going into 2011,” he said in a prepared statement.

“More importantly, a return to more normal loan underwriting standards and removal of unnecessary underwriting fees for very low risk borrowers is needed and could quickly help in the housing market and economic recovery,” Mr. Yun said. Recent loan performance data from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac clearly demonstrates very low default rates on recently originated mortgages, much lower that the vintages of 2002 and 2003 before the housing boom.

The Pending Home Sale Index for Florida reported a 33 percent rise in year-to-date year-over-year sales.

Also installed will be Chris Cox, of Florida Weekly, 11380 Prosperity Farms Rd., Suite 103, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410.

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$1,750,000
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$2,695,000
Stunning estate home with lavish details. 8,200 of A/C, S/RB/5.7BA/4CG Master suite has his/her BA, custom walk-in closets. Gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line stainless appliances. Master bath has marble countertops, wool claw bathtub and seamless shower doors. Heated pool & spa on large lot. $755,000

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LIKE SO MANY MUSICALS THAT MULTIPLE JUPITER THEATRE artistic director Andrew Kato has helped to launch, “Academy” began not with a storyline or a character, but with an image.

“I went to an a cappella workshop in New Jersey,” explains Mr. Kato. “I saw a group of boys perform Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller.’ What I was struck by was the sight of them standing and singing, the camaraderie and the energy that they brought to it, as well as the a cappella sound.”

As with most things that interest him, he wondered whether there was a musical to be created from it. So he took the fledgling notion and turned it into a prep school musical that may be destined for bigger stages.

INSET: Matthew Roscoe and Alex Wyse perform in “Academy”; the premiere of the play is at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre.
Faced with impossible choices

I would have understood if he preferred the naughty nurses. There were three of them, all dressed in white polyester, wearing plastic stethoscopes. Their skirts were short, their décolletage revealing, and they hailed from overseas.

“Who brought the Swedish porn stars?” a man asked at the Halloween party we all attended.

I did. But I missed the naughty nurse memo, and I rolled in as a sexy squaw instead. I mean, a classy Indian. I mean, a weak approximation of a Native American, promising them cute guys, the two feathers stuck in my hair.

They were innocuous topics, not sexy in the least, so when he took me aside later, blissed-out on having won the grand prize, I imagined there was some reason behind him wanting them both.

I stood there for a second, my mouth hanging open, rejecting this, this extraordinary, this impossible choice between three bombshells in nurse uniforms, have chosen me? Would you go to the Marine Ball with me?”

He did not make the impossible choice between sexy and smart after all. He decided he wanted them both. He called me twice this week.”

He had not called me. It turned out all of my highbrow theories were wrong. The Marine did not make the impossible choice between sexy and smart after all. He decided he wanted them both.
Tony Sandler, Four Freshmen sing cabaret at the Colony

The Colony Hotel continues its 10th annual cabaret season in its Royal Room Supper Club with continental singer Tony Sandler on Dec. 8-11 and The Four Freshmen on Dec. 31-3.

Cabaret headliners perform at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, with doors opening at 6:45 p.m. for dinner.

The cost for dinner and show is $80 per person and $60 for shows only. To make reservations, call the hotel box office at 659-8100. The Colony is at 155 Hammon Ave.

The Belgian-born Tony Sandler made his Royal Room debut in December 2006 and is returning to The Colony for his third engagement. The popular singer has enjoyed a 50-year career with performances on four continents, before millions of fans, and has appeared on hundreds of TV variety shows alongside Ed Sullivan, Merv Griffin, Milton Berle, Dean Martin, Andy Williams, Johnny Carson and Mike Douglas.

He was half of the long-running singing duo Sandler & Young, and has frequently performed a musical tribute to Maurice Chevalier.

Celebrating more than a half-century of crowd-pleasing performances, The Four Freshmen is the nation’s longest lasting vocal harmony group. From their first hit song, “It’s a Blue World,” to being voted Down Beat Magazine’s Vocal Group of the Year in both 2000 and 2001, the group presents classic jazz-pop songs with cut-throat three-edge vitality. The Four Freshmen have released more than 40 albums and 70 singles and been nominated six times for a Grammy.

This will be The Freshmen’s seventh series of performances in The Colony’s Royal Room since making their debut in April 2003.

Dates set for 2011 Kravis Center’s Writers’ Academy

It all starts with an empty page. Whether it’s a comedy or drama, every theatrical production relies on one thing to bring it to life: the printed word. That’s why the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts established The Writers’ Academy.

Last spring, after four years of working with writers through a series of instructional workshops conducted by novelist, biographer, playwright and teacher Julie Gilbert, the Kravis Center established The Writers’ Academy. This popular program returns in 2011 with one primary purpose: to encourage, develop and showcase talented writers of all ages.

A core group of prolific writers have remained with the program since it started, developing the Writers’ Circle program as a haven for serious writers of all ages. In fact, Nancy S. Sims of Palm Beach Gardens, one of the original Writers’ Circle members, is now the published author of “Verbal Snacks,” a collection of short stories that is being published by the Kravis Center.

“Variety is not the only key to the success of these stories, although the swath is wide. Verbal Snacks takes us from an excoriating hippie politico, to an aging Oscar winner, to a star surgeon’s last performance, to a child with being granted, to a woman facing a hurricane alone, and much more. However, it is Nancy’s character who shines. They are so exactly drawn that they elicit immediate recognition and compassion,” said Ms. Gilbert.

Ms. Sims, a native of Pittsburgh, has been engaged as part of the Kravis Center’s Writers’ Circle for six years. She has been actively involved in the field of art therapy, real estate and medical practice management and as a volunteer in her community.

Instructor Julie Gilbert has been teaching writing workshops nationally and internationally for over two decades. She was a nominee for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize for her biographies on Edna Ferber and “Opposite Attraction: The Lives of Erich Maria Remarque and Paulette Goddard.” Her first novel, “Umbrella Steps,” was published when she was 24, and her plays have been seen in America and in London.

All of the Writers’ Academy classes and events will take place at the Picower Foundation Arts Education Center in the Kravis Center’s Cohen Pavilion.

Writers’ Launch is just that — a pad from which to raise written expression. Within every human being there are unspoken thoughts and memories; there is buried treasure. This course is designed to alchemize the unexpressed bounty into a creative writing discipline that all writers require: Form, Content, Technique and Style. Weekly written assignments are requested, as is weekly attendance. A full eight-week commitment will render results. Sessions are Tuesdays from 12:30-3 p.m. on the dates: Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 and Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and April 5, 12 and 19.

Writers’ Circle is for serious writers of all ages, a safe environment in which to explore expression, expand and hone craft; share results with oral readings; and respectfully critique fellow-writers. Once a piece of work has been sufficiently developed, it will receive a public reading by professional actors at the Kravis Center and on “South Florida Artsview,” which airs Fridays from 12:30-1 p.m. on WXEL FM 90.7. Sessions are Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dates are Jan. 3, 17 and 31, Feb. 14 and 28 and March 14 and 28. And two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on March 5 and April 9.

Two events will introduce talented new writers to the public. All genres of work will be presented by professional actors who create the form of “story-theater.”

Showcase of Writing is Fridays on Jan. 14 and March 11 starting at 7 p.m.

Playwriting’s the Thing is Saturdays on March 12 and 19 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Kravis Center is at 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. For more information, call 832-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

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“Hate,” like “love,” is a four-letter word and so is “cute.” And cute is about as much as one can say for the epistolary tale, the unlikely relationship told entirely in correspondence.

The device has been used before, most notably in A.R. Gurney’s “Love Letters,” the script that inspired comic writers Bill Cobretti and Kara Obohlen-skyy to attempt a similar promising, but ultimately limiting, format. There are amusing moments in the production by the Boca Raton Theatre Guild — a community theater company making its first steps toward going professional — but not enough to sustain our interest over the play’s 90-minute running time. “Hate Mail” begins well enough as Preston Dennis Jr. and Dahlia Markle meet cute, in the parlance of romantic-comic situations. And then Preston mails Dahlia, a would-be art photographer working a subsistence job at a Manhattan tourist trap gift shop, the shards of a snow globe that did not survive his return flight from New York back to Minneapolis. She rebuffs his curt demand of a refund, reply that the store has a strict policy against such compensation.

As a man of considerable means, Preston is not used to taking “no” for an answer, and his letters escalate to a lawsuit that gets Dahlia fired from her job. About this time, Preston takes pity on Dahlia, sending her money for rent and groceries, and much of “Hate Mail” charts the frequent reversals of these two easily excitable souls. If he begins as a button-down prig, he will soon loosen up and join a community theater company making its first steps toward going professional — but not enough to sustain our interest over the play’s 90-minute running time.
Lighthouse ArtCenter offers visions for peace

Artists’ visions of peace deck the walls in paintings, photographs and sculptures throughout the Lighthouse ArtCenter, which currently is showing its “Peace on Earth” exhibition.

The show’s opening Nov. 18 attracted nearly 300 people, including its 103-year-old underwriter, peace activist Kathryn Davis of Jupiter Island. Heavy Head, a member of the Lakota-Sioux Native American tribe, read a statement by Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe. “Humanity did not weave the web of life, it is merely a strand in it,” he said. “Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.”

Some of the artists in this juried exhibition received special recognition for their artwork. The exhibition was judged by Glenn Tomlinson, William Randolph Hearst Curator of Education at the Norton Museum of Art. Five artists were awarded cash prizes for their outstanding pieces:

Best of Show was awarded to Karen Lewis for her oil on canvas, “Peaceful Dream”; First Place was awarded to Ahni Sal-laway for her installation panel series, “I Am You”; Second Place was awarded to David Wil-lison for his intaglio, “The Recipe for War”; Third Place was awarded to Norm Gitzen for his sculpture, “Higher Love”; Fourth Place was awarded to Linda McVay for her oil on canvas, “Easter Lily.”

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Nanette Carton for “The Gathering,” an acrylic on canvas; Mark W. Forman for “Contemplative Union,” an acrylic on canvas; Wheaton Mahoney for “I’m Always with You,” a photograph on canvas; and Dennis Usdan for “Peace Drops,” a photography piece.

The Lighthouse ArtCenter also is featuring its School of Art Faculty exhibition, with paintings, sculptures, drawings, jewelry and other media created by the instructors at the Lighthouse ArtCenter School of Art.

Both “Peace on Earth” and the faculty exhibition will be on display through Dec. 30.

The museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday with admission free for members and $5 for non-members ages 12 and up. The museum is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays, with free admission.

The Lighthouse ArtCenter is in Gal- lery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta. Phone: 746-3101. On the Web: www.lighthousearts.org.

Santa and holiday fun set for Christmas in Abacoa

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Make your way to Jupiter on Dec. 18 for Christmas in Abacoa.

Hear caroling by the Jupiter High School Choir, see the Christmas tree in Town Center and shop specialty vendors for one-of-a-kind gifts.

There also will be hot chocolate and a holiday performance by ArtStage.

For the kids, there will be face painting, puppet shows, and a bounce house sponsored by My Gym. And that jolly, old elf, Santa, arrives at 6 p.m.

The event is 4:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Abacoa Amphitheater and Village Green, at Main Street and University Boulevard, in Jupiter. For information, call 624-7788.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

4 6 9 1 8 2 5 7 3
8 3 2 5 4 7 6 1 9
1 7 5 3 6 9 8 4 2
2 1 4 9 7 5 3 8 6
6 5 3 4 2 8 7 9 1
9 8 7 6 1 3 4 2 5
5 4 8 2 9 6 1 3 7
7 2 6 8 3 1 9 5 4
3 9 1 7 5 4 2 6 8
Antiques, Flea and Craft Market – The 50 or so dealers at this bi-weekly event offer a variety of collectibles, furniture, crafts and art. It’s at Datura Street and Quadrille Boulevard from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4; and “Waste Land,” 6:30 p.m. Dec. 18. Admission is free, and free parking is available in the city parking lot on Datura Street across from the market.

Palm Beach Gardens Chess Club – 9 a.m.-4 p.m., North Palm Beach Parks and Recreation Center, 603 Anderson Road, North Palm Beach. Free for all players at a registered tournament on Saturday, by Florida Chess Federation certified arbiter. For information, call 747-0178.

Boot Camp – 9-10 a.m., Saturdays, 6401 Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Adults (13-17 years must be accompanied by an adult) $5. Call Constanza Alexander at 694-5430.

Saturday Kids Camp – weekly camp sponsored by Jupiter Outdoors Center; Session I: 9 a.m.-noon; Session 2: 1-4 p.m., Thursday, and Friday, and Saturday, and Sunday. Pre-registration required. Call 747-0063; jupiteroutdoorcenter.com.

Yoga boarding with Cora – 9-10 a.m., weekly; yoga class and guided mediation, while Stand Up Paddleboarding on the waters of the Jupiter River. Jupiter Outdoors Center; call 747-0063.

Kids Story Time – Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 14200 S. U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Storytelling, while children and their parents enjoy breakfast and see underwater videos. 340-1600.

Holiday Entertainer – Holiday choirs and dance groups, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. Dec. 12-15 in Downtown Gardens Centre Court, Palm Beach Gardens. Also Dec. 18-19, Free. 340-1600.


Sea Turtle Winter Holiday Celebration – 10:30-4 p.m. Dec. 11, 1 p.m., Dec. 12; 7 p.m. Dec. 12, at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $20 and up. For Cape Cod, For a pre-performance discussion by former New York City Ballet star Steven Coras is at 6:45 p.m.; 832-7469.

New Apostolic Church Youth and Orchestra – “The Greatest Gift,” a musical adventure expressing the true meaning and purpose of Christmas. 3 p.m. Dec. 11, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Free. No ticket required.

Movie by Moonlight/ “EIFF” – doors open at 9 p.m. Dec. 3, The Orange Door, 798 10th St., Lake Park. Tickets: $5; 842-7949.


Mike Super Magic and Illusion – The winner of NBC’s hit show “Phenomenon” was voted “America’s Favorite Mystifier” 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 9, noon, 3 p.m. Dec. 12, at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $10, $15, $20. For information, call 239-484-3538.

Taste in the Gardens Green Market – Gardens Park, 4034 Burns Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. Live entertainment, produce, plants, flowers, handmade crafts and prepared foods, and drink and artisan local food. For vendor information, call 772-624-55.

Dave & Aaron’s Workout on Stand Up Paddleboarding – 9:30 a.m. weekly, Jupiter Outdoor Center. For reservations, call 747-0063; visit www.jupiteroutdoorcenter.com.

Christmas concert – presented by the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta. No tickets required; a cash bar offering will be received. After the concert, visit a display of the congregation’s Nativity scenes.

Stevie Ray Vaughn Experience – Doors open at 8 p.m. Dec. 12, The Orange Door, 798 10th St., Lake Park. Tickets: $10; 842-7949.


Burt Reynolds Park, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Phone: (561) 747-6785.

Screenings for “Both Sides Now,” “Amazing Grace” and “Send in the Clowns,” will be a free show. Tickets: 800-564-9539.

Through Dec. 30, Lighthouse ArtStage. For the kids, there will be face painting, vendors, mid-century furniture, crafts and prepared foods, mid-century furniture, crafts and prepared foods and plants, flowers, handmade crafts and prepared foods. Parking is available in the city parking lot on Datura Street across from the market.

Katie’s Dolls – 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Beach Parks and Recreation Center, 603 Anderson Road, North Palm Beach. Phone: 832-5196.

FLORIDA WEEKLY
DEC. 9-15, 2010
WEEKLY DECEMBER EVENTS
December events
- Judy Collins – The singer famous for “Both Sides Now,” “Amazing Grace” and “Send in the Clowns,” will be a free show. Tickets: 800-564-9539.
- Hubbard Street Dance Chicago – The modern dance company is known for its innovative choreography and exuberance, 8 p.m. Dec. 14, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $20 and up. A free pre-performance discussion by former New York City Ballet star Steven Coras is at 6:45 p.m.; 832-7469.
- Jessica Price – Parent tickets are $25 and up; 832-7469.
- Annual Winter Performance – By Susan Lyle Dance Studio. Show is a dance showcase and story ball consisting of ballet, pointe, contemporary, modern, jazz and acrobatic dance forms. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17, 12:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at Burns Barn Reunion Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: $20 and up. A free pre-performance discussion by former New York City Ballet star Steven Coras is at 6:45 p.m.; 832-7469.
- Fred’s Last Session – “Wicked” performs hits from “Rent” and “Wicked,” as well as her own compositions. 8 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $25 and up and 8:30-7469.
- Purchase tickets online at www.FloridaWeekly.com
- Visit the Orange Door, 798 10th St., Lake Park. Tickets: $10; 842-7949.
Christmas with John Tesh – The New Age musician and radio host plays a holiday show, 8 p.m. Dec. 18, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $20 and up; 832-7469.

Voices of Legends in Concert – With Johnny 1, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, March 19, MozArt Theatre, 700 Park Ave., Lake Park. Tickets: $15 advance, $18 evening of show; 537-6763.

“The Mixed Nut Cracker” – An updating of the Christmas classic by Atlantic Theater, at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 19, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 11051 Campus Boulevard, in Jupiter; 624-7788.

Holiday Concert – Hear several local choruses in a concert of sacred and secular music, along with some new takes on holiday classics. Participating choirs include the Sanctuary choir of MCC of the Palm Beaches, Voices of Pride — The Palm Beaches, Voices of Legends in Concert, and the Sanctuary choir of Church of Our Savior MCC (Boynton Beach). At MCC of the Palm Beaches, 4857 Northlake Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. 775-5900; www.MCCPalmBeach.org.

Carter Brey and Christopher O’Riley – The cello and piano duo play a concert that includes Bach’s “Sonata in G minor for viola da gamba and keyboard,” Justin Dello Joio’s “Due per Due” (a world premiere) and Grieg’s “Sonata in A minor for cello and piano.” 8 p.m. Dec. 19, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $20 and up.

Pre-performance discussion by Sharon McDaniel at 6:45 p.m; 832-7469.

■ Palm Beach Gardens Concert Band Holiday Concert – 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 100 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $12, 579-2223; www.juptertheatre.org.

■ The Nicki Parrott Trio – With special guests Rossano Sportellis, piano, and Ed Metz, drums, 8 p.m. Dec. 21, The Harriet Himmel Theater, CityPlace, West Palm Beach. Tickets: $35, $45 for students with valid ID. Tickets: $35; 877-722-2802 or www.jamsociety.org.

■ Moscow Classic Ballet in “The Nutcracker” – Tchaikovsky’s timeless holiday tale. Dec. 22-24, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.. Tickets: $25 and up; 832-7469.

■ Monty Python’s “Spamalot” – The 2005 Tony Award winner for Best Musical tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Complete with flying cows, killer rabbits and taunting Frenchmen, 8 p.m. Dec. 26, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $25 and up; 832-7469.

■ Arturo Sandoval – The trumpeter is joined by jazz singer Connie James, 8 p.m. Dec. 30, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $30 (645 New Year’s Eve toast); 832-7469.

■ Noon Year’s Eve – Countdown the Noon Year 2011 with free carousel rides, games, face painting, A Latte Fun characters and giveaways, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 31, Downtown at the Gardens, Carousel Courtyard, Palm Beach Gardens. 340-1600.

■ New Year’s Eve Gala, A Night in Vienna – The Indian River Pops performs a traditional European New Year’s Eve program with Viennese waltzes and polkas, Broadway and movie music and musical surprises. Special guests include ballroom dancers and vocalists to ring in the New Year. Refreshments provided. Tickets: $35. Call 561-307-9900; www.indianriverpops.org.

■ Mandy Patinkin – “Dress Casual,” with Paul Ford on piano. The Broadway singer and actor sings a range of songs, 8 p.m. Dec. 31, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $25 and up; 832-7469.

■ The Capitol Steps – Music and political satire, 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 31, and 2 p.m. Jan. 1, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $50-$85; 575-2223.

■ The Best of Bobby Vinton – Vinton is joined by an orchestra, and family members, to sing his hits. 8 p.m. Jan. 7, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: $45-$55; 561-278-7677. He also appears 8 p.m. Jan. 8, Carole & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. Tickets: 800-564-9599; www.sunset.com.

River Totters Arts n’ Crafts – 9 a.m. second Wednesday of each month (next session is Jan. 12), Loxahatchee River Center, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Arts and crafts for kids. Cost: $3; 747-7123.
**FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES**

**EMOTIONAL STATES**

**HOROSCOPES**

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party’s advice just might prove helpful.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you’ve made.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don’t be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don’t hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn’t being handled quite the way it should be.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Although taking advice isn’t always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A new offer is tempting, but don’t be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Your Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week’s hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to any thing that might require fast action.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

**BORED THIS WEEK:** Your personal warmth helps you make friends, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

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**FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES**

**Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.**

- **★** Moderate
- **★ ★** Challenging
- **★ ★ ★** Expert

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**FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES**

**ENJOY THE GAME!**
“Welcome To The Rileys” tells an interesting story of three people in need of what each of the others eagerly wants to give. Receiving, however, isn’t so easy, but thanks to strong performances from Kristen Stewart and James Gandolfini, director Jake Scott’s film is fascinating to watch as the relationships evolve.

Mr. Gandolfini is equal parts soft and gruff as Doug, a small business owner in Indianapolis who’s unhappily married to Lois (Melissa Leo). Things have been tough for them since their 15-year-old daughter Emily died in a car accident. Lois has such a heavy case of survivor’s guilt that she cannot leave the house.

On a business trip to New Orleans, Doug meets Mallory (Ms. Stewart), an underage stripper/prostitute who ostensibly reminds him of his daughter. With Doug longing to be paternal and Mallory in need of a father figure, he offers her $100 a day if he can move into her place. She of course accepts, and he proceeds to look out for her, teach her how to properly make a bed, etc. Lois eventually enters into the mix as well, and a surrogate family is formed.

You might think the story unfolds in a way toward a happy ending, but writer Ken Hixon’s script is too smart for that. These are complex people living in the real world — a world that has not been kind to any of them. Watching them navigate their problems is a trying experience — because they deserve to be happy, even if they don’t know how to be.

Ms. Stewart has made a career out of playing teen angst roles (“Twilight,” “Adventureland”), and yes, this is another teen angst role. But Mallory is very different from Bella Swan, Ms. Stewart’s “Twilight” alter ego who might be the most annoying character ever created. While Bella is whiny and needy, Mallory in need of a father figure, he offers her $100 a day if he can move into her place.

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Don’t get “Wiki”-ed: Just follow these 3 steps

The Mashup

Don’t get “Wiki”-ed: Just follow these 3 steps

Our computers and our credit cards are all over the place, and the web is a very dangerous place. Here are some steps to keep you safe.

1. First and foremost, make sure you have a good antivirus program. Microsoft’s Security Essentials is free and great, especially if you use a Windows computer.

2. Use a good password manager. For PCs, LastPass is very popular and free. For Macs, Keychain is worth the investment. Make sure you’re using a password manager when you purchase anything online.

3. Finally, keep your computer’s security options up to date. This is very important. Don’t skip this step. A good antivirus program can’t protect you if your system is outdated.

The Mashup

Stay Connected

FLORIDA WEEKLY | WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-15, 2010

Fantastical new journeys!

Extraordinary adventures begin at Downtown at the Gardens where a one-of-a-kind carousel voyage awaits you.

Come experience Downtown’s new Carousel NOW OPEN with colorful, hand-crafted creatures waiting for you to take a ride with them. All kids of ages will delight in this fantastical new addition to Downtown’s eclectic mix of unique shops, boutiques, restaurants and entertainment.

DOWNTOWN’S CAROUSEL is now open!

The Mashup

MASHUP

page from B10

we’re at it, stop using your children’s birthday cards for passwords, your middle name, a pet’s name, your favorite ice cream flavor, a password. Not only are these sorts of passwords susceptible to a 7-year-old’s detective work, they’re easily uncovered in a brute-force attack in which common words and dates are hashed in a dictionary. Make your passwords combinations of letters and numbers. The combination of your initials followed by your birthday doesn’t count.

Also key. Make important passwords different for each site you log in to. Aside from the fact that if someone compromises your password, your passwords need to be different. To osten-dice the whole kit and caboodle to open up, some sites actually mass-pass- words in plain text on their servers. That means that any system administra- tor at a site you forget you even signed up for may have the password for your bank account. So unless you want to see cases of Mountain Dew and the Limited edition box set of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy charged to your credit card (and that’s your best-case scenario), keep cri- tical passwords for banking and credit card sites different and more complex than the one you use for your fitting room site.

Good password habits are particularly critical for users of online email services like Gmail, Yahoo! Live or Hotmail. As one of the many possible ways to attack you, check your mail from anywhere, it’s also that convenient. A hacker who gets a hold of your password can just be starting to access and retrieve all of your other online account pass- words! Imagine someone in the Bahamas sitting at home and doing sheets of cheap vodka while they drill your 401K and charge your Facebook photo to one of Mr. Ferguson’s Facebook (which would be, at that point, fitting). Not pretty. Change your password from “superpassword” to something tougher and do it now. If you like “I have no password and will die with you” and change your Facebook photo to one of Mr. Ferguson’s Facebook (which would be, at that point, fitting). Not pretty. Change your password from “superpassword” to something tougher and do it now.

And then, think before you click. Phish- ing scams are fake sites designed to look legit, so don’t click on links or in email claiming your account has been compromised, then attempt to log in. Instead, if you’re annoyed about your account, type the address directly into your brow- ser to ensure you actually get to the site you intend before entering your user- names and passwords. Also, beware of pop-ups that look like virus alerts — they’re a common scam to forward you to a site that actually infects you with spyware or a virus. And of course, many sites claim- ing free downloads of music, software, and especially valued ambient entertain- ment may give you a nasty infection, so be sure to check out sites that require a login or password. For extra protection, look for an anti-virus suite that contains filters that check web-stash and search results to warn you about dangerous pages before you ever reach them. These are particularly useful for computer newbies and children.

In the end, it’s about using some com- mon sense, staying away from anything that isn’t from a trusted source, and protecting your accounts with solid, reasonable passwords. Different passwords. Of course you could always just be the average user and hope that if someone compromises your password, you’ll be the only one who gets hacked. And while there are fewer viruses out there that attack Macs (a function of the considerably smaller market share that Apple has when com- pared to Windows-based computers), they do exist, so you may want to con- sider your options.

MASHUP

Fantastical new journeys!

Extraordinary adventures begin at Downtown at the Gardens where a one-of-a-kind carousel voyage awaits you. Come experience Downtown’s new Carousel NOW OPEN with colorful, hand-crafted creatures waiting for you to take a ride with them. All kids of ages will delight in this fantastical new addition to Downtown’s eclectic mix of unique shops, boutiques, restaurants and entertainment.

Downtown at the Gardens - the destination for fun.
Aboard the Arahurangi • Stand on the deck after midnight, and his ghost is there. Under a star-strewn sky in the middle of an eternity called the South Pacific, the bow wave cuts the black sea and the wild spirit of the artist Paul Gauguin rages.

The copra freighting vessel Arahurangi means “The Great Highway” in Maori — follows the artist’s final voyage more than 110 years ago. We sail from Papeete, Tahiti’s major port, as white clouds cover the violet peaks and rippling green valleys of Moorea, Tahiti’s sister island across the Sea of the Moon.

Dolphins leap off the bow, lost in the wonder of sky and sea. The HMS Bounty once rode these waves before its famed mutiny recalled in “The Bounty on the Bounty.” Our destinations are the six inhabited islands of the Marquesas, a wild, rugged archipelago featuring stunning bays, spiny volcanic crags, precipitous gorges and valleys full of palm, mango and papaya. These volcanic islands, without circling reefs, lie 750 miles and a world away from Tahiti.

When Eugene-Henri-Paul Gauguin sailed for the Marquesas in 1901, his turbulent life and work were dominated by an attempt to recapture his youthful vision of paradise. He found it amid tumbling waterfalls, overgrown archaeological ruins and exotic, welcoming Marquesans.

Vessels named Arahurangi have served the Marquesas since the end of World War II. The first was an old freighter purchased by the Wong family of Hong Kong and used in the copra (dried cocoa-nut) trade.

As operations expanded new vessels were added. Ours is a 386-foot ship that carries up to 198 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo. The Arahurangi is by far the best buy in expensive French Polynesia (www.arahurangi.com).

Today, our 14-day voyage carries 62 passengers, ride the waves toward shore. The barges, big enough to squeeze in 75 passengers, cargo into 25-foot whale boats or barges. Songs on drums, guitars, ukuleles and sponos. Music and dancing in the bar.

Our first Marquesan stop is Oa Pou, a small village on one of the world’s islands.

Travelers range these islands, which early Marquesans called “the Land of Man” thinking they were the only ones on earth, among the world’s most beauti-ful islands.

We eat French food — brioches and croissants for breakfast, fresh fish and meats, tangy salads and tasty soups and cheeses in a comfortable dining room and relax in a lively, top-deck bar, deck-side plunge pool or an indoor lounge, where we are briefed on the following day’s tropical excursion. I recite “Mutiny on the Bounty.”

After dinner one night, a cake is deily- ered, the lights go out and the Aranui band surprises my wife singing “Happy Birthday” as her candles blaze. Thereafter, smiling bartender Yo-Yo (Lui-Pon Yoel) holds court as passengers gather.

On the Aranui, the Aranui band — stevedores, crane operators, mechanics, laundry workers — plays wild Tahitian songs on drums, guitars, ukuleles and sponos.

In harbors, the crew labors, manning Aranui’s cranes and lowering its tons of cargo into 25-foot whale boats or barges. The barges, big enough to squeeze in 75 passengers, ride the waves toward shore. Muscular stevedores often lift passen- gers onto piers, timing their boists as the waves crest.

Our hearts are light, the sun bakes and the air is clean as we follow in the wakes of Captain Cook, Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, Thor Heyerdahl and Gauguin to the Marquesas.

Our first day at sea we engage in lifeboat drills, visit the bridge, swim and listen to Dr. Robert Stugis lecture on the Marquesas. In 1995, Spaniards Alvaro de Mendana and Pedro Quiros commanding fast, small caravels, discov- ered the Marquesas, the first islands in Polynesia touched by Europeans. Strangely, the Incas of Peru gave the Spaniards precise navigational instructions: Sail 4,000 miles due west.

Early explorers brought the islanders disease, alcoholism and slavery. Missionar- ies stamped out many tra- ditions, but today the 6,500 Marquesans retain their lan- guage, a dialect of Polynesian, while their ancient traditions return.

The young are tattooing their bodies with ancient geometric designs, tapa cloth is again pounded from the inner bark of mulberry trees and wood and bone carving flourishes. Yet the islands, far from shipping lanes and unprotected by barrier reefs, have not been tainted by tourism. There are no major hotels. Our first Marquesan stop is Oa Pou, which means “pillars,” and offers one of the world’s most dramatic skylines. Its 4,000-foot peaks shoot from the sea like warm, green icicles, their summits often wrapped in wreath-like clouds. Some of us ride or hike over a ridge to a secluded, unpolluted beach for a welcome dip. Others purchase carvings and handicrafts.

Later, lunch is celebrated at Rosalie Tats’ featuring lobster, curry goat, and the air is clean as we follow in the wakes of Captain Cook, Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, Thor Heyerdahl and Gauguin to the Marquesas.

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Because the 19th-century Industrial Revolution resulted in new technology and an ever-increasing middle class, the invention of tin toys was possible and profitable. Earlier toys had been made of wood, fabric or ceramics. Tin toys were made in the early years of the 19th century in Germany, England and France. The J. Henry toy company established in 1865 in Buc, other German toy companies, including Marklin, Bing and Lehmann, soon started up. Tin toys were first made in the United States in the early 1860s by the 1860s, many U.S. companies were producing the toys. In fact, the years from 1865 to 1895 are called the "Golden Age of American Tin Toys." By the 1890s, German and French toymakers were realizing that tin toys would be popular in the United States. They made large numbers of toys and pictured them in sales catalogs that helped collectors identify the makers. American toys were less complicated and more amusing than European examples.

Thirdly, as now-chronicled the everyday life of children. One popular Hess toy was a windup toy shaped like a boy on a sled. Turn the key and the sled scoots across the floor. It was made in several different color combinations. The boy might have a red, green or yellow jacket. Other companies made a very similar boy-on-sled toy. All date from about 1935.

Q: I have a dessert serving set that was given to me by a great-aunt in 1940s. There is a circular mark on the bottom of the dishes enclosing the word "Shofu" in large capital letters surrounded by the words "Made in Japan." Can you tell me who made this set and how old it is?

A: The history is confusing. Shofu Kago or Shofu Kato (1870 to 1928) made porcelain in Kyoto, Japan, beginning in the 1890s. He founded the Shofu Pottery Co. in 1908 and began importing ceramics. There is still a company called Shofu in Kyoto. It was in business after Kago Shofu III and is still in business making porcelain dentures. The words "Made in Japan" are a clue to the years when the mark on your dessert set was used. On its ceramics, Japan used the word "Nippon" (a transliteration of "Japan") as its country name until 1921. After 1921 the U.S. government forced Japanese exporters to use the word "Japan" in their marks. Please note that items marked "Japan" are marked "Made in Occupied Japan." Your dessert set was made between 1921 and 1945 or in the early 1950s.

Q: Are armadillo baskets really made out of armadillo "skin" or are they just made to look like an armadillo? When were they made?

A: Armadillo baskets are made from the hard "shell" of the nine-banded armadillo, one of the many varieties of armadillos. Usually the finished baskets are varnished; some have cloth linings. Charles Apelt (1862-1944), a German immigrant basket-maker who lived on a farm in Texas, noticed that the shell of an armadillo he had killed and skinned cut up into a basket shape as it dried. He started the Apelt Armadillo Co. in Comfort, Texas, in 1898 and began to make baskets from the shells. Handles were formed by looping the long tail over and wiring it to the basket. Armadillo baskets became popular after they were shown at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The company made baskets, purses, lamps and other items from armadillo shells until it closed in 1917. Armadillos have been used to control skunks and rats for a while, so some people thought owning an armadillo basket was dangerous because armadillos carry bubonic plague. It has been proven that very few of the animals carry the disease and it can't be transferred unless a person eats the undercooked meat. A basket in good shape sells for about $50 to $100, depending on its size and linings.
Art Basel impresses, overwhelms

REVIEWED BY ERIC RADDATZ
eraddatz@floridaweekly.com

EDGESCROSSNUFFBOX. The word stands plastered in a simple, bold sans serif font in all capital letters on one large white wall at Art Basel, the art exhibit where gallery owners spend tens of thousands of dollars to represent their finest art at arguably one of the most exciting and largest American art fairs held annually in the always live, always pulsing Miami Beach.

The 19-letter word stands as a testimony to the power of the word, and of the artistic respect given the spoken — and painted — word. “The first part of the word’s meaning is ground floor, and snuffbox, mentioned at the end, is like a snuff box, but also refers to snuff films,” commented Kristina Marberg er, representing Galerie Mez- zanin and artist Bernhard Fruen- dhirth, doing a solid job of convinc- ing me of the importance and display while confusing me as to the actual reason why. She took more than a few more minutes to explain how that word, when read in German, is interpreted and why it is significant at an international showing of this magnitude.

She wasn’t the only one impas- sioned to discuss with me how a favorite piece had made the cut to be seen this week among thousands of others spread through dozens of satellite fairs that have attached themselves to the larger show Art Basel. At a proportionately smaller Red Dot, just over the bridge from Miami Beach Convention Center, reports were plentifully rich in the finest any galleries around the world has to offer. The show, anchored at the Miami Beach Convention Center, reports to have attracted 46,000 visitors, a record number, also from around the world. I spoke to and overheard art lovers speaking in more languages than I have ever experienced in one location.

One of my favorite pieces, dressed in sharp white, was by Cuban artist Francisco Acea, part of a series of business- man silhouette adorns adored with pieces of gold at the Pan-American Horse show Art Basel Miami Beach. Which exhibited works by more than 2,000 artists from more than 250 galleries from all over the world. North America, Europe, Asia and Africa were well represented. The number would be less startling if you didn’t find each gallery displaying some pretty amazing, high quality, highly sought after and internationally recognized works. It’d be different if you didn’t find Rauschenberg next to Botero next to Picasso next to Lichtenstein next to Matisses next to Dali. But it was plentifully rich in the finest any gallery around the world has to offer.

From the Art Basel Miami — painted directly on buildings. From Art Basel Miami, we wandered up from white rails beckoning, young and old alike to walk through and get immersed and play in the fun strings.

Through the Wynwood District passersby could observe, without any entry fee, some of the most vibrant and edgy pieces to be found in all of Miami — painted directly on buildings. After Art Basel Miami, we wandered up and down the streets as the sun set on the masterpieces in the streets. The smell of barbecue was in the air and the sidewalks surged with passersby at the indie-operated, lower profile warehouses near the Wynwood Walls and Graf- fiti Gone Global exhibit. Artists spray painting walls left and right were celebrating a once-rebellious movement now turned respectable artistic genre. Tightly spun hip hop and electronic music accompanied generous offerings of spirits and raw, unproven pieces that were no less interesting. Artists Tatiana Suarez, Gottfried Helnwein, Tomoko Nagai and Gustavo Mestre were some of my more favorites of the year.

Art Projects booth. The silhouette looked so much like a portrait of me that I quickly snapped it and used it as my Facebook profile picture. It too was gone by day four and I told the gallery owners it became popular thanks to my tagging it so quickly in the event’s beginning. They smiled appreciatively.

Outside of one of my favorite exhibits of the year, “SCOPE Miami,” where local artist Marcus Jansen had a paint- ing represented by 101/Exhibit, was a public “penetrable” piece by Jesus Soto. Hundreds of blue strings hung from white rails beckoning, young and old alike to walk through and get immersed and play in the fun strings.

For a complete photo gallery from Art Basel and surrounding fairs, go to www.floridaweekly.com.

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“Live, Laugh, Learn, Love Yourself” an evening of shopping & cocktails in support of WXEL Garnet Society at Tory Burch

1. Janet Robbins, Victor Jimenez and Lauren Shea
2. Debra Tomabon, Ellen Hauser-Laffer and Kathy Marks
3. Tracy House, Desiree Mufson and Maryellen Pate
4. Michael Corey, Loretta Corey, Melissa Sypul and Matthew Corey
5. Chitra Shah and Amol Shah
6. Maxine Woods and Rozzellen Klopfer
7. Jude Gibbons and Marcia Wolf

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation’s “Swing with the Stars” Gala at The Breakers

1. Anne Geddes
2. Kelly Donney, Sharrin Abbas, Matt Lauer and Shannon Felder
3. Denis and Luz Martinez
4. Sonja Dean and Alex Giguere
5. Lauryn Bronstein and Evan Cohen
6. Luis Escobar, Dr. Susan Lee and Brandon Phillips
7. Karen Smith, Doug Smith and Janet Lano
8. Michael Monceur and Cathy Olsen
9. Cana Pelew and Marc Hasfield

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Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade

1. Ashley Bennett and Mark Bennett
2. Alyssa and Jeff Freeman, Tessie and David Kerslake
3. One of the boats on parade
5. Brenda Gruber, Rena Williams, Chuck Watkins, Carrie Watkins and Criste Carter
6. Frank and Brittany Gruber, Sean Coleman and Janelle Von
7. Mauricio Diaz, Mike Ascani, Milton Demaria, Trevor Smigelski and Ian Shaw

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

City of Palm Beach Gardens Holiday Tree Lighting

1. John Johnston, Ashley Copeland, Pete Sesso, Tara Bennett-Holcomb and Bud Broda
2. Charles and Mary Rice, Caroline McCaughey, Bill Butler and Mary Blasi
3. Denise McCann, Michael Danis and Bridget Healey
4. Bjaye and Frank Pilotte, Cheryl and Ron Warner

The Salvation Army’s 39th Annual Christmas Ball at The Club at Admiral’s Cove

1. John Johnston, Ashley Copeland, Pete Sesso, Tara Bennett-Holcomb and Bud Broda
2. Joe Russo, Marice Tinsley, David Levy, Eric Jablin and Bert Premurso
3. Dylan Tomsak and Nina Tomsak
4. Carol Davis, Dorita Edelmann, Carol Teichman and Janice Webber
5. Holly Beer and Brittany Hynes

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Capt. Charlie's Reef Grill serves up great fun

First Gardens Chipotle opening at Midtown

The first Chipotle Mexican Grill in Palm Beach County South of West Palm is opening in Midtown in Palm Beach Gardens.

The 2,400-square-foot restaurant is set for a grand opening on Dec. 14. It has patio dining and is at the Midtown main entrance along PGA Boulevard.

Food With Integrity, the new Chipotle will feature the restaurateur's focused menu of burritos, tacos, burrito bowls (a burrito without the tortilla) and salads made from fresh, high-quality raw ingredients, prepared using classic cooking methods. The new Midtown dining establishments include III Forks Steakhouse, J Alex and La Gourmande.

Midtown is located on PGA Boulevard, between I-95 and Florida's Turnpike. For information, visit www.middowntownga.com.

Food For The Poor gala at Breakers is Jan. 30

Food For The Poor's eighth annual Palm Beach gala was Jan. 30 at The Breakers in Palm Beach. The annual event is chaired by Palm Beach philanthropists Robert G. and Arlette Gore (Grand Honorary Chairpersons), and Elizabeth Bowden (Chairwoman). Food For The Poor's gala will begin with a wine tasting reception with selected wines compliments of Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., and Republic National Distributing Company. Throughout the reception, unique wine selections, jewelry and exotic escapes are among the varied silent and live auction prizes. Specially selected fine wines will be chosen to highlight each course prepared by the executive chefs of The Breakers. Additionally, there will be Broadway-inspired performances by La Mytique.

Stop in and you might rub elbows with baseball, tennis or golf stars, or the gardener who manicures their yards. Or— if you come late. Since I'm only sometimes in the mood for waiting — and nobody gets star treatment. You're all on “the list,” but can drink as you wait, and chat with Matheson. He's the guy in white hair and mustache, behind the bar. Bistro, (a little, is served from the same kitchen at Three Doors Up, three storefronts to the west of the Reef Grill.)

Owner Ross Matheson built the bar at Capt. Charlie's Reef Grill.

Dining NOTES

Gourmet Culinary Oscar, a local award, is served from the same kitchen at Three Doors Up, three storefronts to the west of the Reef Grill.

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Certified & Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles

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<td>05 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD SLVR, 3RD ROW, NAVI/CAMARA.</td>
<td>$17,492</td>
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<td>06 INFINITI M35X BGNZ METALLIC.</td>
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<td>08 AUDI A4 BLK.SUNROOF.</td>
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<td>09 ACURA TSX TECH PKG.</td>
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<td>06 INFINITI QX56 BLACK/BLK.SUNROOF.</td>
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<td>09 LEXUS RX350 CERT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 BMW 525IA.</td>
<td>$28,991</td>
<td>$28,991</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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