The city of Palm Beach Gardens will celebrate the Gardens GreenMarket’s 9th anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with an Anniversary Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Florida Weekly.

Check out the map in this week’s edition (it also will run in the Jan. 6 edition) on Page B3, get it stamped by all 17 sponsor vendors at GreenMarket and return it to the Recreation Information table to receive $4 in GreenMarket Bucks. The GreenMarket Bucks can be spent at any vendor in the market.

The Gardens GreenMarket began on Jan. 5, 2003 with 45 vendors and a steady crowd of more than 2,000 patrons. Nine successful years later, the market has grown to more than 100 vendors with more than 3,000 patrons visiting each Sunday to purchase everything from sour pickles to assorted breads. Many of the patrons come to sample the breakfast offerings before they purchase fresh produce, flowers, plants or handmade crafts.

It’s a great place to just relax and enjoy the live music offered every Sunday from October to May. In keeping with the spirit of community, the market hosts a business expo the first Sunday of each month, highlighting Palm Beach Gardens businesses and the members of the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce.

The market is located at 4301 Burns Road.
MSNBC chose Florida Democratic nominee Alex Sink as Worst Political Candidate of 2010 for her failed bid against Republican governor-elect Rick Scott. I’m not so sure about that call. Not with folks such as Christine “I am not a witch” O’Donnell garnering way too many votes up in Delaware. “It’s unbelievably,” proclaimed MSNBC’s Chuck Todd in bestowing on Sink the, er, dishonor. “Think about it,” asserted Mr. Todd, a Miami native. “You lost to a guy who defrauded Medicare — in Florida! OK?”

For certain, state CFO Sink failed to exploit neophyte Scott’s political flaws. And like many a Dem she ran an uninspired campaign. But Mr. Scott not only deftly surfed conservatism’s latest wave. In barely winning Florida’s closest gubernatorial battle since 1998, he spent a state record $70-plus million, most of it his own dough. Seems our professional political punditry not a witch” O’Donnell garnering way too much votes up in Delaware.

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Many hospitals go to great lengths to show that their ER wait times are short. But what happens when you have a real emergency, like a heart attack or stroke?

**Palm Beach Gardens’ New ER:**
- $13.6 million ER expansion
- 20 Private Rooms with flat screen TVs
- Bedside Registration & Triage
- Digital Communications Systems

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- Performed nearly 15,000 Open-Heart Surgeries & over 97,000 Cardiac Catheterizations
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- Certified Primary Stroke Center
- Ranked Among Top 10% of Hospitals Nationally for Treatment of Stroke
- Specialized surgeries for brain and spinal cord injuries

**Orthopedics**
- State-of-the-art Treatments and Technologies, such as Artificial Disc Replacement, Joint Replacement and Hip Resurfacing

When you have an emergency, be sure to choose the hospital that is equipped to provide the care you need, without lengthy transfer times. Entrust your health to Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.

**Call for a Free First Aid Kit** (561) 625-5070

**Our Experience:**
- Ranked as One of America’s 50 Best Hospitals for the past four years in a row.
- Ranked in the Top 5% of Hospitals in the Nation for Overall Cardiac Services
- To date, nearly 15,000 Open-heart Surgeries.

* Rating by HealthGrades, a leading healthcare ratings company.
** Rating by the Joint Commission.
In 1980, Francois Mitterrand swept to power in France in a watershed election. He united the left and fired the imagination of the country’s youth, who danced in the streets on election night in a frenzy of revolutionary anticipation.

President Mitterrand embraced a stimulus program that would have satisfied Paul Krugman. He increased the wages of government workers, and hired more of them. He boosted the minimum wage and reduced working hours. He tripled the budget deficit. In a year, he nationalized 36 banks and the country’s largest industrial corporations.

The late historian Tony Judt wrote in his book “Postwar” that the nationalizations were “to symbolize the anti-capitalist intent of the new regime; to confirm that the elections of 1981 had really changed something more than just the personnel of government.” This was “anathema,” he believe in, “taken to Gallic extremes.

Jump ahead to December 2010, where President Barack Obama is clearly in the back seat, being driven by Internet giants like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast. With him is Julius Genachowski, the Federal Communications Commission commissioner who has been appointed to the commission, Julius Genachowski, his Harvard Law School classmate and basketball pal who just pushed through a rule on network neutrality that Internet activists consider disastrous.

One of President Barack Obama’s signature campaign promises was to protect the freedom of the Internet. He said, in November 2007, “I will take back a seat to no one in my commitment to network neutrality, because once providers start to strip, block or throttle services more than wired connections.

Free Press Managing Director Craig Aaron told me, “This proposal appears to be riddled with loopholes that would open the door to all kinds of future abuses, allowing companies like AT&T, Comcast, Verizon, the big Internet service providers to decide which websites are going to work, which aren’t, and which are going to be able to get special treatment.

For comedian-turned-Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., the new rules on Net neutrality are a joke. He offered this example, writing: “I could prevent you from accessing Google Maps on your phone, forcing you to use their own mapping program, Verizon Navigator, even if it costs money to use and isn’t nearly as good. Or a mobile provider with a political agenda could prevent you from downloading an app that connects you with the Tea Party group in your area."

AT&T is one of the conglomerates that activists say practically wrote the FCC rules that Genachowski pushed through. We’ve seen this flip-flop before. Weeks before his 2007 Net neutrality pledge, then-Sen. Obama took on AT&T, which had gotten its way, and showed its appreciation quickly. The official tote bag issued to every DNC delegate was emblazoned with a large AT&T logo. AT&T threw an opening-night bash for David Letterman that was as much to the press, celebrating the Democratic Party for its get-out-of-jail-free card.

AT&T, Verizon, cable giant Comcast and other corporations have expressed support for the new FCC rule. Mr. Genachowski’s Democratic Party allies on the commission, Michael Copps and Mignon Clyburn (the daughter of House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C.) appeared to be lining up behind him, “to try these rules, but the chairman refused to budge, apparently because he had already reached an agreement with AT&T and the cable lobbyists about how far these rules were going to go.” Ms. Clyburn noted that the rules could allow mobile Internet providers to discriminate, and that poor communities, particularly African-American and Latino, rely on mobile Internet services more than wired connections.

Mr. Aaron lamented the power of the telecom and cable lobbyists in Wash-ington. “In recent years, they’ve deployed 500 lobbyists, basically one for every member of Congress, and that’s just the phone companies. AT&T is the biggest campaign giver in the history of campaign giving, as long as we have been tracking them.” And Comcast, Verizon, the other big companies, are not far behind.

Mr. Aaron added: “When AT&T wants to get together all of their lobbyists, there’s no room big enough. They had to rent out a movie theater. People from the public interest who are fighting for the free and open Internet here in D.C. can still share a cab.”

Campaign money is now more than ever the lifeblood of U.S. politicians, and you can be sure that President Obama and his advisers are looking to the 2012 election, which will likely be the costliest in U.S. history. Vigorous and innovative use of the Internet becomes increasingly stifled in a political system that is credited with helping President Obama secure his victory in 2008. As the open Internet becomes increasingly stifled in the U.S., and the corporations that control it become more powerful, we may not see such democratic participation for much longer.

— Amy Goodman is the host of “Democracy Now!”, a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 900 stations in North America. She is the author of “Breaking the Sound Barrier,” recently released in paperback and now a New York Times best-seller.

One of President Obama’s Christmas gift to AT&T (and Comcast and Verizon)

President Obama marks the extension of all the Bush tax cuts at a White House signing ceremony with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell present, but not House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. President Mitterrand’s supporter, President Obama’s boosters over-interpreted his election as the dawn of a new age, and his youthful fans invested him with unrealistic millennial expectations. His economic program hasn’t collapsed, but it has badly underperformed and opened up an unsettling vista on a future debt crisis. Even President Obama acknowledges at double digits, and “shovel-ready” stimulus projects were misbegotten. In a remarkable turnaround, his economic team sold the illusion of the Bush tax rates as protection against a double-dip recession.

It’s not economic fundamentals that are breaking President Obama’s leftist momentum so much as political ones. His administration can only take so much hope-and-change. Prior to the arrival of any tea partiers, Harry Reid’s Senate couldn’t pass a $1 trillion business-as-usual spending bill, and Nancy Pelosi’s House ratified the Bush tax cuts in a bipartisan vote. President Obama is adjusting to this new political reality rather than raging against it.

President Obama is in a long game. If he’s to succeed on his own terms as a pragmatic ideologue, the president will be as wily and flexible as it takes, if he ever gets re-elected, then protect much of his state agenda as feasible. Francois Mitterrand would understand, even if President Obama’s disappointed acolytes don’t.

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

GUEST OPINION

President Obama’s Christmas gift to AT&T (and Comcast and Verizon)

OPINION

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Special to Florida Weekly

In 1980, Francois Mitterrand swept to power in France in a watershed election. He united the left and fired the imagination of the country’s youth, who danced in the streets on election night in a frenzy of revolutionary anticipation.

President Mitterrand embraced a stimulus program that would have satisfied Paul Krugman. He increased the wages of government workers, and hired more of them. He boosted the minimum wage and reduced working hours. He tripled the budget deficit. In a year, he nationalized 36 banks and the country’s largest industrial corporations.

The late historian Tony Judt wrote in his book “Postwar” that the nationalizations were “to symbolize the anti-capitalist intent of the new regime; to confirm that the elections of 1981 had really changed something more than just the personnel of government.” This was “anathema,” he believe in, “taken to Gallic extremes.

Then, the unraveling. With inflation and unemployment at double digits, and with the business community terrified, and with currency and people fleeing the country, President Mitterrand’s “revolution” founded on the shoals of economic and social reality. As a matter of survival, he announced a “U-turn” and embraced austerity, or “La Rigueur,” reversing course on nearly everything.

But Barack Obama’s presidency is upon us. It is much more muted. He wasn’t as explicitly left-wing in his campaign or in his initial burst of activism as President Mitterrand, and he’ll never go as far in his reversal as the Frenchman. There’s nonetheless a whiff of President Mitterrand in the air when President Obama marks the extension of all the Bush tax cuts at a White House signing ceremony with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell present, but not House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. President Mitterrand’s supporter, President Obama’s boosters over-interpreted his election as the dawn of a new age, and his youthful fans invested him with unrealistic millennial expectations. His economic program hasn’t collapsed, but it has badly underperformed and opened up an unsettling vista on a future debt crisis. Even President Obama acknowledges at double digits, and “shovel-ready” stimulus projects were misbegotten. In a remarkable turnaround, his economic team sold the illusion of the Bush tax rates as protection against a double-dip recession.

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GUEST OPINION

President Obama’s Christmas gift to AT&T (and Comcast and Verizon)
Admit it: Day after day after day of unrelenting heat — daytime high 92, evening low (low!) 80 — and you’re silently begging for winter, or what passes for that here. Sure, last January oeridid it a tad, with II straight days of Jack Frost nipping at every exposed inch of you, but South Florida winters do have their blessings. No jellyfish, no Portuguese Man o’War, no sea lice. Maybe sun-worshippers see relief only in lower a/c bills, but...
Great savings in-store – PLUS – SALES TAX SAVINGS* on almost EVERY style – right now!

Hurry! – The savings opportunity you wait for is happening now – only at Robb & Stucky Interiors and Robb & Stucky Patio! Enjoy Sales Tax* savings on the beautiful styles you want all over our showrooms! Living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, accessories, even patio styles – get in on the best styles and the best savings in town!

Savings Equal to the Sales Tax*. Don’t Miss It!

Sales Tax Savings on fabulous furniture for every room in your home!

"Save an amount equal to the sales tax. Sales tax will be applied to the reduced amount of purchase. Excludes Comfort Sleepers®, Lexington, window, wall and floor coverings and all labor. Other exclusions may apply. Complete details in store. Savings off MSRP (Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price). Deductions made on the first $25,000 of purchases only. Not valid on prior purchases and cannot be combined with any other discounts."
From page 1

the brown pelicans and belted kingfishers already above the water looking for meals. The kayaks continue on through nature unencumbered with their presence; a confidence born from generations of life undisturbed by the hallmarks of human progress. This is old Florida.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park opened to the public in 1989, created from property that was acquired by the state in 1981 under the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Accessible from the Singer Island, it, like so much of the area, had once been owned by John D. MacArthur and encompasses almost 440 land and water acres. The boundaries were formed when Palm Beach County drew an environmental control line through this section of Lake Worth Lagoon across which it is not a cross-section. The resulting land is a unique cross-section of four natural Florida habitats: maritime hammock, estuary, beach dune, and the Anastasia limestone reef.

The maritime hammock covers 121 acres of the park on both sides of the central estuary, the largest area of its kind in Palm Beach County. Arial photos of the area show the conundrums and houses surrounding the park make clear why assistant park manager Patrick Rhodes refers to it as a “postage stamp of greens,” one of an increasingly small number dotting the U.S. coastline and providing a critical resting spot for migratory birds and butterflies.

“The next reasonable resting spot for them is Gumbo Limbo in Boca Ratón,” says Rhode, “which is quite a trek for some of the smaller birds and butterflies. For that reason alone it’s critical that we protect, it’s estimated from oysters to manatees. Another critical resource to protect, it’s estimated that than any other Florida state park. It’s one of the most beautiful places in the state, in 1981 and was passed to the state in 1989. It was once a hotel burned in 1917. The 21-room hotel now has been restored in 1997, the island now has covered picnic areas and a boardwalk, in addition to the network of channels and tidal pools. Still only reachable by boat, a dock construction project is currently underway that will provide 20 boat slips and make the island’s resources more accessible to people looking for an afternoon trip back in time.

The kayaks slow as they approach the bridge in the middle of the island, the small beach on the shore near the educational center at park. They draw up on the sand and are met there. At their backs, the tide continues to recede; the mud flats in the estuary slowly reappear. The wading birds, what Florida once was pervades. The network of inland channels to provide for wading blue herons. A hawk passes low overhead as they turn and paddle south.

The ocean beach at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park has its own unique characteristics. It’s a 700-foot stretch of undeveloped beach dune that’s an oasis of a time long past, sitting quietly undisturbed while life in the 21st century continues in the condominium towers visible to the south. The park starts offshore at the Anastasia limestone reef that’s just a short paddle from the beach, providing the snorkeling-toting visitors with an excellent and easy-to-reach destination to watch reef fish, squid, Atlantic sand eels and the occasional loggerhead turtle in their natural habitat. But the reef marks only the beginning and easy-to-reach destination to watch the ocean grows stronger. The sound too: creatures are dependent upon estuaries to search for land to the west after finding sea-hogs, the seed from a West Indian vine, in 2002, the sea hearts are still called Columbus beans. Here in Palm Beach County, sea bean hunters like Wallrath and Dunham walk the beach at first light a couple of times a week, looking for unique examples with which to expand their collection.

Another small group of kayakers is putting into the lagoon, led by a park ranger who is explaining the unique habitats and features found in the park. The educational programs at MacArthur are another important part of the park’s DNA. Last year, more than 2,500 kids from more than 100 schools visited to learn about the park’s four habitats, explore the theme of connectedness, and get a feel for Florida’s natural state. And the educational programs will receive a boost when the new Few Flowers, the Natural Science Education Center opens this spring.

A $2 million project, the new center was funded through the state’s “Partnership in Parks” program, in which private donors contribute 60 percent of the cost while the state picks up 40 percent. And, thanks to the efforts of the Friends of MacArthur Park Beach State Park, “As far as I’m concerned, the best friends group in the State Park system,” says Bergeron) the fundraising target was met. The new center will be equipped with a classroom containing 20-30 microscopes, a research library, a discovery lab, and the newly relocated gift shop. And not only will schools be able to attend educational programs taught by park personnel, a pilot “teach the teacher” program will be training teachers to use the facilities themselves, and the center to be a true extension to the traditional classroom. The park also offers summer camps to children ages seven to 13, providing age-appropriate activities that range from introducing the younger children to the park through the use of environmental crafts and outdoor activities, to a marine biology camp for older campers that includes explorations of the reef and estuary.

Added to the snorkeling, turtle walks, kayak outings, gator trips, and stargazing at $30 and popular annual events like the Blizzards at the Beach (happening this Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM), the educational programs fill out a slate of activities that easily explains the 130,000 annual park visitors and numerous still, stunningly, represents an under-utilization of the park’s resources.

Upon reaching Munyon Island, the kayaks begin to paddle through the network of island channels to protect tidal pools. Here, more than any other place in the state, you can find the essence of what Florida once was. The mangroves and trees tower above the ocean beach at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. A8 NEWS WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2010-JANUARY 5, 2011 www.FloridaWeekly.com FLORIDA WEEKLY
Joy of democracy

▷ The women’s group Pemex is growing in popularity in Ukraine (according to a November Reuters dispatch), helped in large part by its members’ willingness, during the group’s ubiquitous street protests, to remove their tops.
▷ The Socialist Party in Spain’s Catalonia region offered an election video in November on the joy of voting, in which an attractive, increasingly excited woman stimulates herself as she fills out her ballot, climaxing at the moment she drops it into the box.
▷ The nativist Danish People’s Party called in November for an anti-immigration film that featured bare-breasted women sunbathing, as one way to convince religious fundamentalists abroad not to immigrate to Denmark. ■

Unclear on the concept

In November, outgoing Florida Gov. Charlie Crist initiated pardon proceedings (granted in December) excusing now-deceased singer Jim Morrison of The Doors for his 1969 indecent-exposure conviction in Miami Beach. However, Gov. Crist has ignored petitions from still-living, still-incarcerated convicts who almost certainly suffered unfair prosecutions. Orlando Sentinel crusader Scott Maxwell has reported on several dozen people convicted in part by trainer Bill Preston’s dogs, who supposedly tracked crime-scene scents through water and other obstacles, sometimes months later and despite much site contamination, directly to the defendant on trial. Judge after judge permitted Mr. Preston’s “expert” testimony until one demanded a live courtroom test, which Mr. Preston’s dog utterly failed. In 2009 two convictions were relased after DNA tests proved the dog’s sniffs were erroneous, but as many as 60 similar convictions still stand. ■

Cautious maximus

Parents of the 450 pupils (aged 3 to 11) at Applecroft primary school in Welwyn Garden City, England, were given individualized yearbooks recently with all the children’s faces obscured by black bars over the eyes (except for photos of the recipients’ own children, which had no obstructions). The precautions (described by one parent as “creepy,” like kids were “prisoner(s)”) were ordered by headmistress Vicky Parsley, who feared that clear photos of children would inevitably wind up in child pornography. Last year, Ms. Parsley famously prohibited parents from taking photographs during school plays — of their kids or any others — for the same fear. ■

Weird commerce

Among the few commercially successful enterprises in North Korea is its General Federation of Science and Technological enterprises in North Korea is its General Federation of Science and Technology — the umbrella company of the federation’s international partner of the federation’s marketing arm Nosotek is the News Corporation — the umbrella company of Rupert Murdoch’s vast enterprises that include the conservative Fox News (which Mr. Preston’s “expert” testimony until one demanded a live courtroom test, which Mr. Preston’s dog utterly failed. In 2009 two convictions were released after DNA tests proved the dog’s sniffs were erroneous, but as many as 60 similar convictions still stand. ■

Biology’s challenges

Biologists studying rare species have to be quick. Researchers learned from reports in early 2010 of a new monkey species in Myanmar, with a nose so recessed that it habitually collects rainfall and constantly sneezes. However, according to an October National Geographic dispatch, by the time scientists arrived to investigate, natives had eaten the monkeys. Bloomberg News revealed in September that a major international partner of the federation’s marketing arm Nosotek is the News Corporation — the umbrella company of Rupert Murdoch’s vast enterprises that include the conservative Fox News (which is generally provocative toward the North Korean government). ■
Enjoy the Old World charm of the holidays at New World prices in the nation’s oldest city, St. Augustine. This oldest European settlement in North America has what the Spanish call “ambiente,” or atmospheric perfection.

During the holidays, St. Augustine has its Nights of Lights Festival, candlelight tours, kayak tours, nature explorations and moonlight buffets during this festive season. Visit (www.Getaway4Florida.com) for details.

But today, it’s known for its welcoming spirit. Recently, St. Augustine was listed as ABC News No. 1 selection of places Americans could go “to feel as though they had jetted across the Atlantic without breaking the bank.” Yes, even its historical society is 127 years old.

For the complete Spanish experience, we stop under a sign that states “St. Francis Inn 1775” across from quiet, lush St. Francis Park. The water in the inn’s goldfish pond comes from a well at the nearby Oldest House. Once, this well supplied drinking, cooking and bathing water for the inn.

Walking down St. Francis Street, we pass the Fernandez-Lamhist House, already standing here in 1763, when Spain ceded Florida to Great Britain, and the Towar House, named for the infantryman who lived there in 1763, before turning into the Oldest House.

Five feet away over the Gonzalez-Alvar-ez House — Spanish, British, second Spanish, Confederate and the U.S. The Spanish flag flew over this little garrison for 235 years, longer than any other national flag has flown in the U.S. The first houses on the site were thatched wooden structures and then coquina stone; later, a quaint second floor and off-street porch was added. A guide reviews family histories during the evening social — fresh baked cookies and tea. The inn, built in 1790, is perfectly situated in the Old Town and offers off-street parking, all the comforts, hearty breakfasts and is the simplest inn we’ve enjoyed. Our room, the Dummert Room is named for a former inn owner, and overlooks a lush courtyard. For dinner, we go to La Pavillion (www.lep.com), known for its fine food in the European style.

We enjoy a Bouillabaisse, a rich, zesty seafood broth of fish, crabmeat, mussels, shrimp and vegetables, that surpasses any we’ve had in France at half the cost. Later, we walk the Old Town, lined by quaint shops, working artists and the Ximenez-Fatio House, a historical museum complex and fine example of 18th and 19th century architecture (www.ximenezfatiohouse.org). St. Augustine has more than 60 historic sites and attractions plus 144 blocks of houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And there’s much more. Who needs expensive Europe?

After a fine breakfast of Belgian waffles, we take the Old Town Trolley Tours down Cordova, Sevilla, Granada and Cadi Street to get an overview of the town before getting off at the Castillo de San Marcos. Begun in 1572, it took 24 years to build and has stood firm against English attacks, it became a fortress to protect the Spanish treasure fleets bound for Spain and helped Spain hold Florida. It has never fallen.

During the American Revolution it was a British stronghold. Later, it became a battery in the U.S. coastal defense system. One of the oldest standing structures in North America, its 16-foot-thick walls have served six national flags, survived hurricanes and withstood bombardments and sieges. Its jagged outer wall, tidal moat, four-pronged fighting deck over the barracks, chapel and armory appear today much as they looked in 1756.

A self-guided walking tour allows an intimate look, beginning at the entrance, or Sally Port, flanked by guard rooms and the town jail. Here, soldiers cooked in fireplaces using candles for light. Next comes the vast, square courtyard, ringed by vaulted casemates. In 1702-1705 townspeople lived here for 51 days when the town was under siege.

Exhibit rooms feature the fort’s history, design and construction. The case-tours are infographics, including gunpowder, hardware and up to 20,000 cannonballs. The gun deck held 74 cannon in 1740. The largest guns had a range of 3.5 miles. Today, re-enactors wear bright, colorful 1740 Spanish Marine officers’ uniforms. As one says, “We re-enact life in the 1740s at a military outpost. Everything was military, including the leather shop. Many re-enactors order things through the carpenter uses only 18th-century tools.”

Nearby, we walk by the white marble copy of Michelangelo’s David and find ourselves in Ripley’s Believe it or Not Museum, featuring mind-boggling facts, mind-numbing oddities and curiosities from cartoonist Robert Ripley’s world travels. It’s housed in an 1887 historic Moorish-style revival mansion. Ripley’s is almost as fascinating as his artifacts.

We stop by Claude’s Chocolates on Hypolita Street for a treat, European-inspired chocolates (www.claude-chocolate.com) before lunching at The Spanish Bakery (www.thespanshbakery.com). Other fine choices are The Columbia Restaurant (www.ColumbiaRestau rant.com) or Denel Pastry Shop on Charlotte Street.

To complete the afternoon, we enjoy the Government House Museum that chronicles the history of this city that once ruled North America for Spain. When Sir Francis Drake’s 2,000-man force sacked the town, one of his men made the first known drawing of the city. It’s shown here along with stories of the 17th-century French privateer Chevalier Nicholas de Gramont and the Seminole Indians.

Not to be missed is the Flagler Hotel and College. Once called the Hotel Ponce de Leon and known as the “Palace in Paradise,” it was the former playground of the rich and famous. When it opened in 1888, it was described as the world’s finest hotel.

Built by Henry Morrison Flagler in 1887, its balconied guest rooms overlook a Spanish patio of palms, flowers and a splashing fountain. With this hotel, Mr. Flagler turned the city into a fashionable spa. Its Tiffany windows, ornate Spanish renaissance architecture, murals, paintings and opulent dining room still delights.

We step back in time to rooms where presidents played and the elite once sunned for three months each winter. Some $23 million was spent restoring the Ponce. Like so much in St. Augustine, the college offers a living time capsule.
The Alcazar Hotel, the center of social life for half century, closed in 1931. In 1947 Hobbies Magazine founder Otto Lightner purchased the building to house his collection of 40,000 to 50,000 antiques and collectibles gathered from Chicago estates after the WPD crash.

We enjoy the museum’s collection of Nickleodeons, cylinder music boxes, Violano-Virtuoses and Regina Orchestral Coronas. The German Orchestra 09000 produces the music of an entire orchestra. The superb music combines with fascinating historic details. Don’t miss the Turkish and Russian baths.

Two churches are noteworthy, Flagler’s church, the Memorial Presbyterian Church, built for his daughter, and the Mission of Nombre de Dios, founded in 1565 by secular priests. Here, America’s first Christian Mass was celebrated.

A personal favorite is Old St. Augustine Village, with its nine historic homes dating from 1700 to 1890. The Murat House (about 1790) is named after Prince Achille Murat, nephew of Napoleon and Crown Prince of Naples. Although the prince only lived in this quaint, pink cottage for months in 1824, its Empire-era furnishings speak volumes about him.

His wife, Catherine Gray, was the first great-grandniece of George Washington and through this marriage the first American-born princess. In the early 1800s Ralph Waldo Emerson described the prince as “a philosopher, scholar, man of the world... and lover of truth.”

Neighbors noted he loathed bathing, rarely changed clothes and feared on turkey buzzard, crow, alligator, lizards and the ink a mixture of carbon dust, glue and water mixed with soot from burning tar. Another ingredient is gum Arabic, the sap of a tree ground into a fine powder.”

The carpenter, Clark Wornweber, has worked here for 21 “satisfying” years and shows us how to make powder horns. “We have no skill saws hidden away,” he says.

St. Augustine is like a small Madrid, a town full of art, history, surprises, great food, carriage rides, festivals, events and, unlike Madrid, you can rent sailboats or power boats and visit Marineland. It’s a town to return to again and again. No one sees everything in one visit.

We didn’t have time for Potter’s Wax Museum, the San Sebastian winery, Marineland, the Spanish Military Hospital Museum, the Ghost Tours of St. Augustine, the Schooner Freedom, the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, the Old Jail, the Fountain of Youth, many other attractions and the fine nearby sun-drenched beaches and family fun and shopping in St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra and the beaches.

Don’t forget the boat and kayak excursions, deep sea fishing, boat rentals, parasailing, jet skis, helicopter tours and more than 40 annual festivals and events, many featuring re-enactments. St. Augustine Beach offers lodging and restaurants directly on the ocean.

The Colonial Spanish Quarter, the town’s only living history museum, takes us back to this garrison town of the 1740s. We spend a day here visiting with the carpenter and “horner,” blacksmith, leather worker, soldier’s wife and other re-enactors. The scribe, or calligrapher, John Powell, tells us that he’s a church employee and uses antique implements to make us a decorative family certificate.

“My primate duty is to keep a record of all births, deaths, marriages and first communions,” he says. “This script was developed in 1425 by the Roman church, an Italian writing style with a Spanish accent. Letters are not written, but drawn. The pens are wingtip feathers of geese, a personal favorite is Old St. Augustine Village, with its nine historic homes dating from 1700 to 1890. The Murat House (about 1790) is named after Prince Achille Murat, nephew of Napoleon and Crown Prince of Naples. Although the prince only lived in this quaint, pink cottage for months in 1824, its Empire-era furnishings speak volumes about him.

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As the New Year approaches, many of us review the events of the past year and are tormented by the “what if’s” and the “if only’s.” We size up our accomplishments, and spend far too much time berating ourselves for what we didn’t do.

What if I had called him? Should I have passed over that job offer? If only I had treated her better... And on, and on, and on.

The dictionary describes regret as a ‘sense of sorrow or remorse for something done or omitted, or of a feeling of sorrow or remorse for a fault or act.’

Regrets come in all sizes. Some we can undo: Janice beat herself up for wooling down the leftover cheesecake after promising herself she would stick to her diet. The good news, in her case, is that tomorrow is another day and she can undo the damage by eating more wisely and spending extra time on the treadmill.

A lot, unfortunately we can’t undo, at least not immediately. Susan can’t take back the hurtful words she said to her mother in an angry outburst. Although she wants her to undo the damage, if she chooses to, by apologizing and approaching the topic differently, she will not be able to take away the hurt seared in her mother’s memory (certainly not without a good while).

John can’t wish away the impact of the $350,000 tax bill that overdose on last week’s business trip. It happened! Now he must figure out how he is going to deal with it. Was this a one-time only occurrence? If so, he is left with the dilemma of whether to tell his spouse or the burden of carrying such a secret. Or is this the beginning of a new pattern of behavior? Either way his marriage has been greatly challenged.

Steve refused to listen to his wife, Sarah, when she warned him against a shabby business deal. She was very clear that she didn’t trust the other investors. He can’t bring himself to tell her that they took a huge hit and that the lost funds can’t be replaced from their children’s college fund.

For most of us, carrying regrets can be a burden that undermines our ability to feel good about ourselves. We carry the sense of guilt and stay stuck in a miserable place.

Our feelings of regret can often serve as a moral compass that can guide us in a direction we can feel proud of. If we are able to admit our faults, we might be able to consider regret as an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and mobilize our own resources to make important changes.

Susan’s regret, for example, might be inciting her to reach out to her mother in a different way. If she is self-reflective, she may acknowledge that she is often impatient and sarcastic. Knowing that she has hurt her mother deeply can be the catalyst to hold her tongue and to overlook some of her mother’s irritating, but harmless mannerisms. And, if she really is willing to take on a self-improvement challenge, she may stop to consider that she speaks this way to other important people in her personal life, and it’s a good time to make changes across the board.

If John elects to look his regret in the eye, it might prompt him to tackle a huge moral dilemma. Preserving one’s integrity while considering the self-respect and feelings of loved ones goes a long way. There are many ways to address hurt and dissatisfaction in a relationship. John’s complicated feelings might propel him to reconsider the direction he wants to take in his marriage, while simultaneously making important decisions about his personal sense of integrity.

Unfortunately, Steve learned a bitter lesson and cannot recoup the lost income. He may need some time to grive the losses and to forgive himself for a mistake that will have serious repercussions for his family. Taking steps to rectify his financial irresponsibility may help him to regain his self-worth at night.

Although the full truth will probably take some courage, but will be important if he is to let go of his regret.

Fortunately, there are steps we can take all that can relieve the burdens of regret.

We might need some time to grieve the losses and the negative consequences of our actions. Reliving the guilt, sadness or anger will allow us to experience these feelings fully and will be an important step in moving forward. Asking ourselves if there is anything we could have done differently and being accountable is critically important. And, of course, it would be good to reflect on the true motives for our behavior. If our remorse teaches us, and helps us avoid repeating foolish mistakes, then something positive has come from the regret.

Talking things through in a heartfelt way and sincerely apologizing may clear the air. It is an opportunity to forgive us right away, so we must be patient and fair. We will need to give them the opportunity to process our apologies, at their own pace, and in their own way.

We must remind ourselves that there are things that are out of our control keeps us stuck in a self-defeated place. Coming up with a positive direction might offer some hope and encouragement. Focusing on things that make us feel good about ourselves might help re-build self-confidence. Ultimately, we must find a way to let go of the anguish and to finally forgive ourselves.

— Linda Lipshutz, M.S., LCSW, is a private practitioner, 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 630-2827, or online at www.palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.
Ants, along with termites, represent one of the most successful species of insects in the world. There are 11,000 known species of ants to date (more are added yearly), 700 species in North America, 207 native species in Florida, 53 exotic species and two species of imported fire ants. The most notorious and familiar is Solenopsis invicta Buren, which is the imported, Brazilian fire most southerners are all too familiar with.

The invicta (which means unconquered) fire ant first arrived in Florida, via the port of Mobile, Ala., between 1933 and 1945. From there it has spread to every state in the South as far north as Virginia and west to California. The sheer scope of its current range makes eradication of this invasive and notorious insect impossible at this point in time.

Fire ants originated in the grasslands of Brazil, where their mounds of dirt helped to keep them out of danger during the annual floods of the rainy season. When accidently stepped upon, the worker ants react in defense of their nest, crawling up the legs of the intruder and, through the release of pheromones by the lead ant, the entire colony is signaled to bite at once. The result can not only be excruciatingly painful but sometimes even deadly. For smaller animals, such as alligator hatchlings, baby sea turtles, fledgling birds and small mammals, this bite en masse can cause paralysis and death. Some humans are allergic to the toxins in fire ants and the stings can cause the victim to go into anaphylactic shock, requiring immediate medical attention. Worldwide, dozens of people succumb to fire ant bites annually. In fact, worldwide, more people are killed by fire ant bites than shark bites annually.

The bite of a fire ant is incredibly painful. In fact it is not a bite at all, but a sting, which originates from the abdomen and injects a toxic alkaloid venom into its victim called solenopsin. It feels as if someone has taken a lit match and held it against your skin and the welts that result from these bites can last for weeks.

Treating the bites properly is essential to avoid infection. To start with, do not squeeze or pick at the pustule as that will greatly increase the chances of infection. Wash the bite with antibacterial soap for two minutes or longer. Disinfect the site using betadine, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. If it continues to itch, apply a dab of hydrocortisone cream to the site. Cover with a band aid and repeat the process three times a day until it is healed.

The best way to rid your yard of fire ant mounds is through the use of various chemical applications available at most hardware stores. Pouring boiling hot water on the mound can sometimes work, but the queen, who can lay up to 1,500 eggs per day, is sometimes hidden below ground as deep as 7 feet, so boiling water is not always effective. People have been known to soak the nests in gasoline, and then light the ground on fire. Aside from being exceedingly dangerous, it has been proven to be completely ineffective. Fire ants are eaten by only a handful of birds in the United States and in reality have few natural predators in their newfound range. They displace native ants and can be detrimental to a host of native flora and fauna.
PET TALES

Old dogs, new year
Tips for keeping seniors warm, pain-free in winter

BY DR. BRIAN L. SPEER & GINA SPADAFORI

People flip over puppies, but to me, a well-loved older dog is one of the most beautiful creatures on earth. An older dog has a nobleness about him, a look in the eyes that speaks of years of the special love that only a pet can give — trusting, nonjudgmental and unaw- reringly true.

Your dog’s health as he ages is not entirely in your control, but you can have a real impact on his attitude. Your dog doesn’t know he’s getting older. A dog lives in the now. Just as he doesn’t reflect on his past, he can’t imagine his future. Your dog takes his cues from you. When you’re upbeat, encouraging and loving, he’ll be at his best, no matter his age.

This can be a special one for both of you, and it’s up to you to make the most of it.

As your dogs age, increase the frequency and diminish the intensity of his exercise. Instead of taking your dog to the park once a week to chase tennis balls until he’s exhausted, take him for a long walk daily. If your dog is having problems with physical activity, talk to your veterinary. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications may help, as may supplements such as glucosamine and Omega 3 oils, or complementary treatments such as acupuncture. Your veterinarian can also prescribe medications that may address the confusion and anxiety some old dogs experience.

Your dog has no real sense of shame or embarrassment, so he suffers no loss of face if you come up with some ideas to make his life a little easier. Here are a few tips to get you thinking:

- Beds. Think soft. Think cushioned. Think low. Think heated. Your dog will thank you for all of these thoughts, especially at this time of year.

- Clothes. Older dogs, like older peo- ple, have more difficulty maintaining their body temperature. This prob- lem is even more pronounced in slender, short-coated breeds like the greyhound or whippet, or in tiny dogs. So check out the sweater selection at your local pet supply store.

- Ramps and steps. If your dogs are allowed on the couch and the bed, consider buying or building steps to help the dog who can no longer make it in one jump. You wouldn’t want to watch TV without your dog at your side, would you? A per- manent ramp going down the back-porch step or a collapsible one to help your dog into the car will also be appreciated.

- While you’re making house-hold adjustments, don’t forget to make an appointment for a senior dog checkup, ideally twice a year, to improve your odds of catching little problems before they become big ones. Your veterinarian will likely recommend some diagnostic tests in addition to a physical examination — typically blood work and an X-ray — to problems early enough to establish a baseline of what’s normal for your dog. You should also discuss having your dog’s teeth cleaned and monitored for osteoarthritis, since gum infections and mouth pain will affect his comfort and health.

- The senior dog checkup is also a good time to determine if your dog’s slowing down means his diet will need to change to take excess weight off his joints.

- Helping to keep your older dog healthy and fit will mean his senior years will be happier and more comfortable. And that will be good news for you both.

Shabbat services set at Palm Beach Synagogue

Rabbi Meir Y. Soloveichik, associate rabbi at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in New York, will hold services Friday and Saturday at the Palm Beach Syna- gogue, 120 N. County Road.

Friday, Dec. 31 — Turn New Year’s Eve into Shabbat with Rabbi Solovei- chik with “Hanukkah vs. Champagne: A Jewish Approach to New Year.”

Saturday, Jan. 1 — Celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Soloveichik. The sermon will be “Theological Reflections of Henry VIII” and Seudah Shlishit at 4:15 p.m. is “Father Jim and I: Reflections of a Rabbi at Divinity School.”

Rabbi Soloveichik teaches senior honors Talmud and Jewish thought at the Ramaz School. He graduated summa cum laude from Yeshiva Univer- sity, received ordination from its Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and was a member of YU’s Benen Kol- elyon. Rabbi Soloveichik received his Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University and has lectured across the United States and internationally on Jewish theology, Jewish-Christian rela- tions, and bio-ethics.

For information, call 838-9002, or go to www.palmbeachsynagogue.org.

Jupiter Town Council meeting canceled

The Jupiter Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 4, has been canceled. The next regular meeting of the council will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 in the town of Jupiter council chambers.

For information, call 743-2352.

Young horse sport series coming to Wellington

The 2011 FTI Winter Equestrian Festi- val in cooperation with the North Amer- ican Studbook will host three Young Horse Shows this year, one each month in January, February, and March. The shows will be held on Jan. 25, Feb. 22, and March 22, at the International Ring in the Mogavero Arena at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. Spy Coast Farm has signed on as the title sponsor of the series, which will conclude in December with a Young Horse Final at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. That final will be the culmination of all of the Young Horse Shows this year.

The Spy Coast Farm Young Sport- horse Show Series is designed to provide breeders, owners, trainers and riders of young sporthorses an affordable show venue. The goal of the young horse pro- gram is to introduce sporthorses of all disciplines to the show environment and provide special classes suitable to the proper development of young horses.

It is also intended to create a sales envi- ronment where numerous young horses are in a single location and their talents may be displayed in front of a buying audience.

“On behalf of the Wellington Eques- trian Partners, we are delighted to incor- porate the Spy Coast Farm Young Sport- horse Show Series into the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival, and anticipate that this series will be an important contribu- tor towards the evolution of sporthorse breeding in the US. We are honored to work together with Spy Coast Farm and the North American Studbook to help achieve their long-term vision of making breeding as prevalent in North America as it is overseas. We would like to especial- ly thank the Lories and the Tolas for being the motivation behind this challenging endeavor,” expressed Mark Bellissimo, Managing Partner of the Wel- lington Equestrian Partners.

The FTI Winter Equestrian Festi- val and the North American Studbook (NAS) present the Spy Coast Farm Young Sporthorse Show Series for young horses of all disciplines 1 to 5 years of age. Disciplines include jumpers, dressage, hunter ribbons and event- ing. NAS board member Lisa Lourie hosted this very suc- cessful inaugural event at Spy Coast Farm this spring and looks forward to continuing the shows in Wellington this winter.

“This whole concept was the idea of NAS President Jean Yves Tola,” Ms. Lourie said. “He approached me about facilitating the show and he asked if we could pursue this in other settings, which is where WEF came in. We are basically trying to create a tem- plate for American horse shows where sport standards are quite clearly set so that we are not over facing these horses. This emphasis is on style and technique rather than it is the competition to win. It is the intention of this Young Horse Show to provide young horses a suitable environment to begin their first steps towards a competitive career without the pressures of the show circuit.”

In order to continue to educate other equestrians about the management of breeding and young horses, Spy Coast Farm will be hosting a seminar on the Economics of Breeding on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 12:30 to 2 p.m., as part of the FTI WEF’s Lunch and Learn series. They will also host a clinic in the Mogavero Arena on Tuesday, Feb. 16, with the topic of How to Back a Young Horse.

The Young Horse Shows will host five events throughout the winter, divided by age. Divisions include Suitable for Sport In- Hand, Jump Chute, Schooling Dressage, Suitable for Sport Under Saddle, and Style Jump- ing Under Saddle. Horses can compete in more than one division appropriate to their age group.

To adopt or foster 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 so- ciety providing services to more than 10,000 ani- mals each year. It is located at 3100/3200 Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Adoptable pets and other information can be seen at www.FAPL.org. For adoption information, call 688-4656.

Pets of the Week

- Piper is a 1-year-old spayed female Terrier mix. She was neutered, current on her shots and rabies. She gets along well with people and little effort to socialize. She was brought to the shelter with her brother. Sammy is also available who is also available for adoption. When bringing in a new cat to the house, gentle introductions and a little time is always recommended.

- Captain is a 2-year-old male Jack Russell Terrier that weighs 24 pounds. He needs an active owner and is always ready to keep his body in shape. He is easily excitable and friendlier with a new dog than with an old dog. He is a darker color in a family that had Jack Russell experience. Little children may not be so happy with an enthusiastic dog. He would benefit from structured training lessons, which are offered at a Peggy Adams. Ongoing lessons are free.

- Apollo is a 2-year-old male Jack Russell Terrier that weighs 24 pounds. He needs an active owner who can keep up with his constant energy. He is friendly to other dogs in a family that has had Jack Russell experience. Little children may not be so happy with an enthusiastic dog. He would benefit from structured training lessons, which are offered at a Peggy Adams. Ongoing lessons are free.
2009 Better Weekly Newspaper Award Winners

Florida Weekly

OVERALL WINNER
Florida Weekly
Division A – circulation over 15,000

GENERAL EXCELLENCE
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly
Second – The East County Observer
Third – Osceola News-Gazette

OVERALL GRAPHIC DESIGN
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly
Second – Miami New Times
Third – The East County Observer

FRONT PAGE MAKEUP
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Eric Raddatz
Second – The East County Observer
Third – Florida Courier

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Evan Williams
Second – The Orlando Business Journal
Third – The Islander

FEATURE STORY
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Bill Cornwall
Second – Florida Courier
Third – Clearwater Beacon

OUTDOOR WRITING
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Roger Williams
Second – Miami New Times
Third – Osceola News-Gazette

CRITICISM
Open Circulation
First – Florida Weekly, Nancy Stetson
Second – The Islander
Third – Largo Locker

EDUCATION
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Evan Williams
Second – The Bay Beacon
Third – East Orlando Sun

HEALTH
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Roger Williams
Second – Miami New Times
Third – East Orlando Sun

CITY AND/OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Division A – circulation over 15,000
First – Florida Weekly, Evan Williams
Second – Largo Locker
Third – Miami New Times

Other Florida Weekly winners:

HONOROUS COLUMS
Second – Florida Weekly, Eric Raddatz

NEWS STORY
Second – Florida Weekly, Roger Williams

IN-DEPTH NEWS REPORTING
Second – Florida Weekly, Bill Cornwall

PHOTO SERIES IN ONE ISSUE
Second – Florida Weekly, Bryon Brilin

ENVIRONMENTAL OR CONSERVATION
Third – Florida Weekly, Evan Williams

BUSINESS WRITING
Second – Florida Weekly, Evan Williams

SPECIAL ISSUE, SECTION OR SUPPLEMENTS
Second – Florida Weekly

COMMUNITY HISTORY
Second – Florida Weekly, Bill Cornwall
Jupiter Medical Center adds surgery robot

Jupiter Medical Center recently launched its Robotic Surgery Program featuring the da Vinci Si Surgical System. The $1.7 million technological investment, funded primarily from philanthropy, will revolutionize the way surgeries are performed in northern Palm Beach County.

The da Vinci System is designed to expand surgeons' capabilities to perform minimally invasive procedures, and now offers a minimally invasive option for many major surgeries. “This new surgical tool gives physicians treating gynecologic, urologic, colorectal and thoracic patients unparalleled precision, control and dexterity, combined with high definition 3-D views inside the body,” said Dr. Donna Pinelli, board certified, gynecologic oncology, robotic surgery program medical director. The da Vinci’s robotic hands can perform surgical tasks beyond the capabilities of human hands, exceeding the natural range of motion. “Our Robotic Surgery Program offers more than just new technology. It means that our team of physicians, nurses and staff are working together to use these tools to give our patients better outcomes, with less pain and faster recovery,” said Dr. Pinelli.

Robotic surgery is an addition to Jupiter Medical Center’s cutting-edge Minimally-Invasive Surgical Program, in which surgeons perform procedures through small incisions that cause less trauma to the body. Surgeons are able to view the surgical site on a high-definition monitor using a miniaturized camera as one of their surgical instruments.

The new Robotic Surgery Program gives surgeons the ability to view the surgical site in high-definition with full 3D anatomical visualization. During robotic surgery, the surgeon sits at the system console next to the patient, and has a 3D view inside the patient’s body while controlling the robot’s four arms in real time. The system translates the surgeon’s hand, wrist and finger actions into precise movements with the da Vinci’s miniaturized instruments. The system requires that every surgical maneuver be performed with direct input from the surgeon, it cannot be programmed or make decisions on its own.

Jupiter Medical Center’s Robotic Surgery Program is just one of the many advances the hospital is bringing to the community. Jupiter Medical Center will open a new cardiac catheterization lab in the spring of 2011. The hospital is preparing to undergo a major expansion project over the next few years.

Building a Better Burger (Restaurant)

BY BRADFORD SCHMIDT
bschmidt@floridaweekly.com

s there a new way to do a burger restaurant? Palm Beach Gardens-based restaurateur Carmine Giardini thinks so, and on Jan. 10 he’ll be opening CG Burgers and Coal Fired Pizza on PGA Boulevard to show how. Mr. Giardini believes his new venture will offer diners something a bit more compelling than a traditional cheeseburger “This new surgical tool gives physicians treating gynecologic, urologic, colorectal and thoracic patients unparalleled precision, control and dexterity, combined with high definition 3-D views inside the body,” said Dr. Donna Pinelli, board certified, gynecologic oncology, robotic surgery program medical director. The da Vinci’s robotic hands can perform surgical tasks beyond the capabilities of human hands, exceeding the natural range of motion. “Our Robotic Surgery Program offers more than just new technology. It means that our team of physicians, nurses and staff are working together to use these tools to give our patients better outcomes, with less pain and faster recovery,” said Dr. Pinelli.

Robotic surgery is an addition to Jupiter Medical Center’s cutting-edge Minimally-Invasive Surgical Program, in which surgeons perform procedures through small incisions that cause less trauma to the body. Surgeons are able to view the surgical site on a high-definition monitor using a miniaturized camera as one of their surgical instruments.

The new Robotic Surgery Program gives surgeons the ability to view the surgical site in high-definition with full 3D anatomical visualization. During robotic surgery, the surgeon sits at the system console next to the patient, and has a 3D view inside the patient’s body while controlling the robot’s four arms in real time. The system translates the surgeon’s hand, wrist and finger actions into precise movements with the da Vinci’s miniaturized instruments. The system requires that every surgical maneuver be performed with direct input from the surgeon. It cannot be programmed or make decisions on its own.

Jupiter Medical Center’s Robotic Surgery Program is just one of the many advances the hospital is bringing to the community. Jupiter Medical Center will open a new cardiac catheterization lab in the spring of 2011. The hospital is preparing to undergo a major expansion project over the next few years.

Mr. Giardini says his menu, combined with a dedication to fresh ingredients, will allow his latest venture to capture fans of more than just ground beef, and is confident enough in the concept that he’ll be opening five more CG Burgers in the early 2011. Locations will include the Gardens and Coral Springs locations will include the pizza, though all will follow the conceptual lead set by the Gardens template.

The burger market has gotten plenty of attention in the last few years. Whether it’s the economy, original new burger varieties, or a desire to return to a simpler culinary era when using the term “my take on a traditional cheeseburger” would evoke laughter, not curiosity, burgers are big business and have been gaining credibility in fine-dining menus and at dedicated burger restaurants around the country.

SEE BURGER, A18 ▶

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Third quarter Gross Domestic Product was revised upward by a scant 0.1 percent to 2.6 percent, per the government’s Dec. 22 release. Economic growth has recovered from the several contractionary quarters from the middle of 2008 through the middle of 2009. But the recovery growth since then has not been “out of the ball park” numbers. Third quarter 2009 saw a growth of 1.6 percent; fourth quarter was 5 percent; first quarter 2010 was 3.7 percent; second quarter was 1.7 percent; and now the most recent quarterly release was 2.6 percent. This is surely a bumpy recovery despite the gargantuan sums of money thrown at the economy by the federal government and monetary authorities. As often quoted in this column, GDP growth takes some combination of net increase in spending; personal consumption plus business investment plus government spending plus net exports. C+I+G+NE equals GDP.

In our economy, in normalized years, the consumer accounts for about 67 percent of GDP; government combined spending is at about 20 percent (federal at 8 percent; state and local at 12 percent); and the balance is from business investment in capital equipment, hardware, software, etc. Forget growth coming from exports as the U.S. has been a net importer of product seemingly forever; this is a negative to the GDP equation, a drag on the economy.

The critical issue for the U.S. is how to create jobs for the 9.8 percent currently unemployed, as well as the significant numbers of underemployed (those who have been forced to take part-time jobs in lieu of full-time work), the discouraged-and-no-longer-looking for a job, and the still yet to be hired college grads into the labor force. The hundreds of billions of TARP, QE1 and QE2 money has not found a way to make a significant... or even an encouraging dent... in those employment statistics.

A rule of thumb is that it will take greater than 2.5 percent GDP growth to effect any reduction in unemployment. To further put it in perspective, 3 percent growth in GDP — the percentage currently bemoaned by a large number of economists for 2011’s growth — would generate new jobs sufficient to lower unemployment to an approximate 9 percent.

India, Brazil and China continue to grow at high rates and continue to be heavy exporters. Increasingly, they are becoming more competitive in areas for which the U.S. has monopolized technical and other expertise. There is no rush to build new factories and bases of operation in the U.S. by any multinational company, even U.S. based companies. So, unless the U.S. gets the show on the road in a meaningful way, there is going to be a huge problem with structural unemployment for many, many years to come. All bleak news? No, since corporate profits continue to climb. They’re up an approximate 25 percent for 2010. Corporate profits are expected to climb another 10 percent in 2011. Again, these are just estimates, forecasts and best guesses. A lot of the gains are coming from an increase in foreign earnings; no surprise as the U.S. dollar continues to depreciate against worldwide currencies.

Unfortunately, these corporate gains are not translating into expanded employment, higher incomes or new business capital investment. Corporations are holding very high cash balances; corporations don’t spend in uncertain times unless they absolutely have to do so (i.e. inventory rebuilding). Additionally, the U.S. monetary authorities will do anything and everything to keep interest rates low as long as unemployment remains high and residential housing is weak. So far they have been successful.

There is less and less wiggle room in dealing with our federal deficit, Medicare, Social Security, etc. This litany of problems and their severity has been stated over and over again since the 1990s. These cans continually get kicked down the road. Nothing much got solved in 2010 and nothing much got too worse either. The problems and their severity remain, and no solution is forthcoming. In the context of Iceland, Ireland, Greece, Spain and, as some would say, Japan, we aren’t doing so badly.

— Jeannette Boha Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals. Her office is at The Crezent Business Center, Bonita Springs. She can be reached at (239) 444-5633, Ext. 1092, or jshowalterca@yahoo.com.
Even traditional fast food restaurants have made moves to try and capitalize on the trend: at Burger King’s Whopper Bar in South Beach patrons can order toppings like foie gras, have a plate of duck fat fries, and wash it all down with cold beer.

To enter a market this crowded, Mr. Giardini knew that his venture needed to be distinct enough to rise above the noise and good enough to keep customers coming back. Mapping out his plan to help CG Burgers achieve those goals began at the current CG Burgers in Abacoa, which Mr. Giardini opened last February. By listening to customer opinions and working on the existing location’s menu, Mr. Giardini was able to hone what he hopes will be a unique and winning formula for his newest restaurants.

Feedback for the pizza menu came from CG Burgers’ next-door neighbor, Carmine’s Coal Fired Pizza. The Gardens’ location will use this knowledge to offer both products under one roof while keeping core concepts from the Abacoa locations intact.

“First of all, our meat is all-natural and never frozen, and we grind it fresh every day,” said Mr. Girardini. “And our pizza is a 12-inch coal-fired pie with whatever toppings you want for $10 — you don’t start out with one price and end up spending twice that when you’ve put your toppings on.” Mr. Giardini is confident that his formula will win the day, and Ron Magruder, the man hired to be president of the new venture, agrees.

“Carmine has created a better mouse trap,” said Mr. Magruder. “The natural products, the natural feeling of the décor, the quality and variety of offerings; it takes the concepts of pizza and burgers to a higher level while still remaining a fast casual restaurant.” Mr. Magruder came on board to head up the new CG rollout after a visit to the area during which he saw what Mr. Giardini was doing with CG Burgers and Carmine’s Coal Fired Pizza. His past experience includes 24 years at Darden, owners of restaurants including Olive Garden, Seasons 52 and Gallery Grille.

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“I loved the idea and saw how enthusiastic Carmine was about it,” said Mr. Magruder, “and I really wanted to get involved in the project.”

Enthusiastic may be an understatement: Mr. Giardini, who opened his first business, a butcher shop and market in Pembroke Pines 38 years ago, hopes the new CG Burgers will grow well beyond a half-dozen locations.

“Ron is here to do hundreds of these,” said Mr. Giardini. Magruder shares his excitement, though his eyes are fixed on the next few months. “We’re going to focus on executing what we’re doing now, and doing it well.”

Gardens residents can get a first-hand look at what Mr. Giardini’s and Mr. Magruder’s efforts have wrought when CG Burgers and Coal Fired Pizza opens in its new location on Jan. 10 at 2000 PGA Blvd., Suite 5502. West Kendall and Coral Springs are scheduled to open in March and April, respectively, with the other three locations following shortly thereafter.

“I’m really excited about this and where it will lead,” said Mr. Giardini. Then after a pause added: “I wish I were 20 years younger.”
VIP Holiday Party for Access Medical Laboratories at Off The Hookah

1. Adam El Hosseiny and Ryan El Hosseiny
2. Ashley and Dennis Evans
3. Briana Siter and Patrick Stella
4. Katelyn Whitney and Jess Lanza
5. Dr. Craig Beaver and Steve Guarnera
6. Shamir Bolivar, Ryan El Hosseiny and Andy Triggs
7. Leo Rodriguez and Kevin Morales

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.
Beyond her political importance via her influence on George, she was a patroness of the arts, and knew both Bach and Mozart. Charlotte was an amateur botanist, and helped expand Kew Gardens. It was for this reason that the genus of five species of flowering plants, Strelitzia, was named for her. We call this flower bird of paradise.

The bird of paradise is an exotically beautiful flower, pollinated by sunbirds. The weight of the perching bird opens the spathe, a sheath that encloses the flower clusters. This releases the pollen onto the bird’s feet, which is then deposited onto the next flower visited.

This is not the beginning of the story: This flower comes to its name because of a reminiscence of birds, living mainly in New Guinea, called birds of paradise. The beauty of these birds is legendary; for more than 2,000 years their feathers and skins have been sold, bought and collected. In the early 16th century, when specimens found their way to Europe, they arrived footless and wingless, stripped down, perhaps, for easier transport.

Perhaps it is in this form that made Europeans think of the dead avian parallel. It is not clear if it is the same phoenix that rises, or, if it is an identical offspring. Legend does not lend itself to clarity.

In fact, there is yet another legend. As phoenix is bird of fire, huma is, in Persian and Sufi mythology, a phoenix-like bird whose name means spirit of water. Huma spends its entire life flying, invisible high above the earth. It has no legs. It is both male and female. From a mere glimpse of huma or even from a touch of its shadow, one would be happy forever. Its shadow bestows kingship and queenship.

Jorge Luis Borges refers to the bird who is somehow all birds. This necessitates our going to the very beginning: With Borges we go from all points in space that contains all other points. ... It’s in the cellar under the dining room of the points in space that contains all other points. ... It’s in the cellar under the dining room of the points in space that contains all other points. ... It’s in the cellar under the dining room of the points in space that contains all other points.

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The Ritz-Carlton Residences arrive on Singer Island

S
iuated on 8.8 acres along the pristine waters of the Palm Beach County coastline, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Singer Island, present a private oasis of serene luxury and sophistication. Rising 27 stories and offering panoramic ocean views, the unique property offers residents unparalleled service and attention to detail.

The Ritz-Carlton Residences on Singer Island is one of only six, unique, stand-alone Ritz-Carlton Residences in the world. Owners will experience the privileges of ownership while being treated as honored guests through impeccable service for which The Ritz-Carlton is renowned. From the 24-hour gatehouse and valet parking, to the dedicated concierge, owners will appreciate 5-star living at its finest.

“The market response to The Residences has been outstanding,” says owner of the property, Lionheart Capital managing partner Ophir Sternberg. “The Ritz-Carlton brand adds a new dimension to an already spectacular property.”

Each of the two, 27-story towers is designed with its own expansive amenities similar to those found in the world’s most exclusive clubs. Residents can relax oceanside in a tropical oasis featuring an oceanfront lagoon pool and lap pool, two whirlpool spas, poolside grill, and 375 feet of white sand beach. Inside, a private resident social room, complete with a catering kitchen and billiard table, and a cinema-style screening room are perfect for entertaining guests. A state-of-the-art fitness and aerobic center with sauna, and business center further enhance the luxury lifestyle at The Ritz-Carlton Residences.

Residences range in size from 1,750 to 7,445 square feet of living space and offer expansive balconies and panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, Intracoastal Waterway and surrounding cityscapes. Many feature private elevator foyers and all offer luxurious appointments including gourmet kitchens with granite counter tops and Italian custom cabinets and generously sized baths with designer fixtures. The Residences are located near the celebrated Worth Avenue, PGA golf courses, and Wellington’s horse country. Owners will also enjoy the many dining, shopping and cultural offerings just minutes from this seaside location.

Debut pricing is featured from $700,000 to more than $10 million.

Visit the on-site sales gallery at 2700 N. Ocean Blvd., Singer Island, suite 1904A, or call 259-2700 to schedule a private tour. The sales gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional information is available at 2700northocean.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY PREMIER SALES GROUP INC.
Consumers Union calls for stricter oversight of reverse mortgage market

While California regulations may not be of particular interest to many Southwestern Floridians, the Federal Reserve Board is also considering a set of proposed regulations on reverse mortgages.

As the baby boomer generation retires, the market for reverse mortgages is growing fast. Reverse mortgages enable borrowers who are 62 or older to obtain income through cash payment or lines of credit by tapping the equity in their home. The reverse mortgage loan becomes due when the borrower dies, leaves the home for 12 consecutive months or more, or fails to maintain the property or pay homeowners insurance or property taxes. Borrowers must pay a loan origination fee, closing costs, and compounding interests on the loan principal, which can be significant.

In its examination of reverse mortgages, the groups cited a number of concerns they say underscores the need for more oversight:

- Misleading marketing claims: Borrowers can be duped by misleading marketing claims. A review by the Government Accountability Office found that 36 marketers of Home Equity Conversion Mortgages engaged in questionable sales tactics and made potentially misleading claims that minimized the risk for borrowers. The GAO found that required counseling provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to borrowers was sorely lacking.
- Seniors are particularly vulnerable to misleading marketing: Recent research has indicated that seniors are particularly susceptible to fraudulent marketing. University of Iowa researchers concluded that 35-40 percent of elders studied had impaired decision-making abilities that made them especially vulnerable to misleading advertising.
- Cross promotion of other unsuitable financial products: Seniors are also targeted with cross promotion of other financial products like long term care insurance or annuities that may not be suitable for them. While lenders and brokers selling HECM loans are prohibited from promoting annuities or insurance, insurance agents can legally direct senior clients to get a reverse mortgage to fund insurance products.
- Reverse mortgage defaults are triggering foreclosures: HUD’s Office of the Inspector General found that an increasing number of borrowers had defaulted because they had not paid their taxes or homeowners insurance premiums as required. As of March 2010, 20,631 reverse mortgage loans were in default. Reverse mortgages are likely to generate an even greater number of foreclosures when borrowers die and their heirs are not able to take possession of the home by paying off the mortgage.
- Reverse mortgage loan bailouts are on the rise: A Consumer Reports investigation found more cause for concern: loan bailouts have soared. The annual sum of reverse mortgage taken over by a federal insurance fund has more than quadrupled in four years, from $83.1 million in 2004 to $381.3 million in 2008. The groups recommended a number of reforms, including:
  - Ensure loans are suitable for borrowers: Lenders and brokers should be required to consider whether the loans put borrowers at risk of losing their homes, if the borrower understands the complex nature of the contract, and if there are more viable alternatives available to the borrower.
  - Establish a fiduciary responsibility for the loan: Lenders and brokers must be required to act in the best interests of the borrower and should be held liable for violating this fiduciary duty.
  - Outlaw deceptive marketing: All reverse mortgages should be required to include information to help borrowers determine whether the loans are suitable for them.
  - Adopt stronger prohibitions on cross promotions: Prohibitions against cross promotions of other financial products by lenders and brokers should extend to non-HECM loans. Insurance agents and brokers should be held liable for selling an annuity when it is purchased with reverse mortgage funds.
  - Strengthen the quality and content of counseling: HUD counselors should be required to hold an in-person session with prospective borrowers to determine whether a reverse mortgage is suitable for the borrower. The counselor should deny a counseling certificate to the borrower if the loan is not in the best interest of the senior.
  - Protect non-borrowing spouses and tenants: Spouses and tenants whose names are not on the reverse mortgage loan should be notified about their limited rights to remain in the home after the borrower dies or permanently moves out of the home.

Consumers Union calls for stricter oversight of reverse mortgage market
KOVELS: ANTIQUES & COLLECTING

Natural designs from late 1800s reflected philosophy of the times

During designers created a new look for dinenrware, furniture and other house- hold furnishings in the late 19th century. It was part of a new philosophy that pro- moted the power and importance of art and beauty. Life was to be led for pleasure, not for moral or useful reasons. You were to depend on personal experience and intu- tion, not science, when making decisions. Furniture was made in the aesthetic style with ebonized (black) finishes and gold trim. Many designs were influenced by tra- ditional Japanese designs and were usually asymmetrical — perhaps a single-off-center branch, bird or flower. All types of natural subjects, including realistic insects, but- terflies, animals and plants were included. The ceramics of the period also featured nature: living creatures, plants, mountains and streams. For about 30 years, ending in 1900, aesthetic designs were widely used in France, England and the United States. Today, collectors can find furniture made by Herry Brothers in the United States or dishes made in France and sold by Shreve, Crump & Low of Boston that exhibit aes- thetic ideals.

Q: I recently bought an old Turkish fainting couch made by Naperville Lounge Co. My husband says it's the ugliest couch he's ever seen. The upholstery is worn. I'm planning on selling it, but I wondering if I should have it restored first.

A: At Naperville Lounge Co. was founded in 1895. Peter Edward Kroehler, the company’s bookkeep- er, bought Naperville Lounge Co. in 1902. The company’s name was changed to Kroehler Manufacturing Co., and by 1915 it was the largest manufacturer of uphol- stered furniture in the United States. The factory in Naperville closed in 1978. Your fainting couch probably was made around 1900. Don’t pay to upholster it before you try to sell it. It will cost you more than the couch is worth.

Q: I have an antique print of “Daybreak” by Maxfield Parrish in an original antique frame with leaded glass. The print is 38 inches high and 30 inches wide and was produced and signed by The House of Art in New York. I can’t locate a date, but it seems to be quite old and has been in my family for decades. Can you give me an approximate value?

A: At Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966) was an illus- trator who designed magazine covers, posters, calendars and advertisements and also painted murals. He often painted from photographs, which he took. The House of Art reproduced several of his paintings in the 1920s. “Daybreak” done in 1921 is one of his most popular prints. More than a mil- lion copies were sold. By 1925 cheap copies were being made. Original prints sell for about $200.

Q: How can you remove old adhesive tape that has been on a painted metal surface for about 50 years? It won’t peel off. Scraping would scratch the painted surface.

A: There are several methods you can try. Test each method in a small area before using any kind of solvent or solution to be sure it doesn’t remove the paint. Start with the safest methods first. Try softening the glue by using a hair dryer set on high. Stop if you see the color coming off when you start to remove the tape. Try soaking the object in a solution of dishwashing liquid and vinegar stirred in warm water. If the paint is washable, you can try covering the taped area with a cloth soaked in warm vinegar. To remove the remaining traces of glue, try rubbing them with mayonnaise, lemon juice, peanut butter or WD-40. You also can use a commercial solvent like Goo Gone.

Q: I have a bottle labeled “Dr. Baker’s Grape Cure.” It says it “regulates your sys- tem” and lists several ailments it suppos- edly cures. Can you tell me how old it is? or ammonia in warm water. Kelsey retired in 1923. Unfilled bot- tles of Dr. Baker’s Grape Cure were used to bottle ink reducer from about 1905 to 1960.

Tips: Crayon marks can be removed from wooden furniture with mayonnaise. Rub in the mayonnaise, let it sit for a few hours, then wipe with a damp cloth.

— Terry Kovel answers as many ques- tions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or e-mail addresses will not be published. We cannot guarantee the return of any photo- graph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The volume of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovel’s, (Florida Weekly). King Fea- tures Syndicate, 300 W 37th St, New York, NY 10008
Wish You Could Buy the Model?
New 2-story Toll Brothers 3904 SF custom beauty is waiting. Lavish furnishings and full golf membership also included. $1,049,995 - Jupiter

Sugar Sands – Singer Island
Waterfront community on ICW across from beach. 2/1/1 den. Updated gourmet granite kitchen, tile throughout, super titled. Walk to pool or ocean. Seasonal tenant in place Jan thru March paying $7k to new owner. $340,000 - Singer Island

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River Ridge – Tequesta
Gated community. 4BR/3.5BA/2CG custom pool home w/summer kitchen on large landscaped lot. Volume ceilings, granite kitchen, fireplace & hardwood floors. $395,000 - Tequesta

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We’d like to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
CLYBOURNE PARK

RAISES SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS

BY HAP ERLSTEIN

When Bruce Norris is stuck for an idea for a play, he merely wangles an invitation for dinner.

“What usually happens is I find myself having dinner with some people and getting into an enormous argument,” says the author of “Clybourne Park,” the acclaimed dark comedy that begins previews for its Southeastern premiere at Boca Raton’s Caldwell Theatre on Sunday, Jan. 2. “I refuse to let the argument drop and I go home and I stew about it for several days and that’s usually how I get into the spirit of writing a play.”

In this instance, the argument was over criticism of the Iraq War and our troops. Fortunately — as it turned out — Mr. Norris was called a racist for his viewpoint on our minority-heavy combat force. That got him thinking about our progress, or lack of it, in racial matters since Lorraine Hansberry’s ground-breaking 1959 Broadway drama, “A Raisin in the Sun.”

The play had already left a vivid

Pursuing the muse in Palm Beach

BY PHILIP K. JASON

Special to Florida Weekly

In seven short years, the Palm Beach Poetry Festival has grown into an eagerly-awaited part of the area’s cultural calendar. It is at once a series of readings, craft talks and competitive admission workshops. The 2011 edition of the festival runs Jan. 17-22, with most of the public events at the Crest Theatre within the Old School Square Cultural Arts Center, 51 North Swinton in Delray Beach. General admission tickets to these events are available at the Crest Theatre Box Office, at www.palmbeachpoetryfestival.org/tix, and at

The Palm Beach Poetry Festival runs Jan. 17-22

(561) 243-7922, Ext. 1.

During the fall, the Festival solicits and evaluates applications from aspiring poets who would like to be accepted into one of the workshops. Each workshop is led by a master poet on the festival staff, and, after an introductory Monday evening meeting, each workshop meets for five consecutive weekday morning sessions (Tuesday through Saturday). Only twelve participants and three auditors gain entry to one of the eight workshops. This year, the workshop leaders are all widely recognized, award-winning poets: Stuart Dischell, Jane Hirshfield, Thomas Lux, Heather McHugh, Vijay Seshadri, Ellen Bryant Voigt, C.D. Wright, and Alan Shapiro. Sample workshop titles are “Enlarging Poems” (Hirshfield), “Word by Word, Line by Line” (Lux), “An Architecture of the Senses” (McHugh), and “Writing at the Edges of Things” (Wright). For the 2011 workshops, participants’ tuition is $725 and auditors’ tuition is $350. The participant selection process has been long concluded

TRUE GRIT

Hailie Stonfield steals the show in this Coen Bros. remake. B11
The third wheel is an exhausting role to play. You have to constantly make nice while the couples around you canoodle, as if you were the one left standing in a game of relationship musical chairs. You can play the third wheel or you can go home.

My roommate, Adele, who is from Toulouse, taught me the expression in French: tient la chandelle, or candle-holder. The term comes from the time before bedside lamps, when servants would hold the candle while their masters frolicked in bed. The expression has a certain poetry, I think, and Adele and I get a good laugh out of it. Like me, she holds the candle a lot, too.

When I come home from a night out with my paired friends, I give her all the details of their coupley antics — the way they tell stories that are only funny to them, the small spats at the table. We’ll have a drink together on the porch and laugh at the silly couples we know. Then she’ll tell me about her day as I listen, and I’ll tell her about mine. Sometimes she asks me to admit it was how later; how I made fun of her afterward; how later in the week I found myself crouched over the same snail as he gulped down another flower and had to admit it was fascinating. It’s not the kind of story that translates.

Sometimes Adele and I go out to dinner with friends, and if she’s in a hard mood, she’ll pick at me until I snap at her. Then she’ll walk through the rest of the meal, and I’ll notice the other couples sharing glances between them. Our tiff will surely be discussed in kitchens that evening.

The moment will blow over, though, and Adele and I will be back to sharing a pot of coffee in the morning. Over our buttered toast, we talk about getting a cat. We occasionally talk about men, and we both say we would kill for a proper date. But we don’t find myself pining for a relationship. It turns out, I’m already part of a couple.
'Buzz: The Life and Art of Busby Berkeley'

By Jeffrey Spivak  
(University Press of Kentucky, $39.95)

REVIEWED BY LARRY COX  
Special to Florida Weekly

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, millions of Americans sought escape from the grim realities of day-to-day life by going to the movies. And no one could craft celluloid fantasy quite like film director and choreographer Busby Berkeley.

Mr. Berkeley was the son of stage actress Gertrude Berkeley. During World War I, Mr. Berkeley, an Army lieutenant, watched soldiers drill, and this sparked his later interest in choreography. After the war, Mr. Berkeley was dance director in 17 Broadway productions before moving to Hollywood. After several musicals, he hit his stride in 1933 with four back-to-back blockbuster hits: “42nd Street,” “Gold Diggers of 1933,” “Footlight Parade” and “Roman Scandals.” The money generated by these four productions helped save Warner Bros. studio from bankruptcy.

Ironically, Mr. Berkeley didn’t like being called a choreographer and instead referred to his work as dance directing. He believed that a choreographer “designed” dances, whereas his method was much more complex and spontaneous. He used cameras to intensify the dances with such techniques as extreme close-ups and maneuvering his dancers in as many kaleidoscopic patterns as possible. He also was innovative. For example, when he couldn’t get the height he needed for an overhead shot, he cut a hole in the roof of the soundstage. He also received a patent for a revolving stage he perfected.

Jeffrey Spivak, who has written extensively about movies and the film industry, documents the life of this talented, flawed genius. Mr. Berkeley was married six times, but spent most of his life under the thumb of his mother. He battled alcoholism, attempted suicide and caused an automobile accident that killed three people. Although he eventually was acquitted after two trials, he never quite recovered from the ordeal.

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Come Celebrate the Gardens GreenMarket’s 9th Anniversary!

Sunday, January 9, 2011 • 8AM – 1PM  
Gardens Park • 4301 Burns Road

Anniversary Scavenger Hunt!

Simply bring this map to the Market, locate all 17 vendors and have each of them stamp their site.

Then bring your stamped map to the Florida Weekly booth and you will receive $4 GreenMarket bucks to be used for purchase at any booth at the Market and your picture will be taken for an upcoming Florida Weekly issue!!
CLYBOURNE

From page 1

impression on Mr. Norris, who was introduced to it in social studies class, when he was about 12. As one of the first plays he ever encountered, he recalls it was instrumental in his taking acting les-
sions and becoming a local professional actor in his hometown of Houston.
He recognized that this play about a black family’s struggle to move into an all-white neighborhood in fictional Clybourne Park, Chicago, has characters very much like the people around him as a kid.
“I grew up in an all-white neighbor-
hood, in Houston. An anti-integration neighborhood and school district,” says Norris. “Even from an early age I thought about myself, ‘Gosh, that’s me, I’m the antagonist in the play. I’m part of the community that’s the villain.’”
Stung by the label of racist that he felt he had long since gotten beyond, Norris decid-ed to explore turning “A Raisin in the Sun” inside out. “It’s already been made fun of by George Wolfe in ‘The Colored Museum,’” the playwright says. “It’s such an iconic play, such a sacred cow, about a period in history and I thought, ‘What’s the point? It’s ripe for a revisita-
tion from the other point of view and then an icon up-date.’”
Act One of “Clybourne Park” sees the imminent real estate transaction through the eyes of the white couple eager to unload the house. Then after internmis-
ion, the play jumps forward 50 years to 2009, when the house and neighborhood are rundown and a white couple arrives, eager to restore the structure and gentrify the area.
With a satirist’s darts, Mr. Norris asks if we’ve obviously left behind any racial strides in the past half century, or simply stood around with our hands in our pockets. “It’s the fact of sitting in a theater, and hopefully in a way that makes them laugh too,” Mr. Norris adds. “The per-
fected combination of responses for me is when people laugh and it’s followed by a gross.” He tests theatergoers with a string of overtly racial jokes in the second act, and laugh they do.
“We, part of what they’re laughing at is that they have laughed,” Mr. Nor-
ris suggests. “It’s the fact of sitting in a theater with a bunch of other people, some of whom are not the same race as you, hearing these things and having to wonder, ‘Am I permitted to respond to this?’ And if I do respond, what has that said about me?”
The only character Mr. Norris bor-
drows directly from “A Raisin in the Sun” is Karl Lindner, the racist neighbor who tries to block the Youngers from moving in. Norris readily concedes that he was enjoyable to bring back to life. “I mean, people with bad ideas are the most fun to write.”
Perhaps most interesting, but left pur-
posefully sketchy, are the black maid Franci-

cine and her husband, Albert. “Given the etique of the time, there is no way in which Francine or Albert can speak except in the coded language that they are allowed to use in that household. “A lot of people who have read the play, especially liberal white people, feel like I should have made some kind of violation of the reality of the world and created a special moment where Fran-
cine turns downright into a spotlight and speaks to the audience,” Mr. Nor-
ris notes. “I just feel like that’s the way of relieving the tension of white theathergo-
ers. They would feel like, ‘Whew, now we can feel like we’re not racist because we didn’t put those actors in that posi-
tion.’”
Nor does Mr. Norris apologize for the 50-year leap between the acts, which leaves the audience scrambling to fig-
ure out who is who after intermission. “Listen, I’m very particular about what I feel is unnecessary exposition, or heavy-
handed exposition,” he says. “I think an audience is much better served by
remaining in the dark for as long as they can possibly stand it. Because we have something called suspense, where they’re trying to figure out what’s going on instead of being told in the first three minutes of the act so they can nod off and go to sleep.”
As he says of the two acts, “They’re essentially two separate plays that have little sinewes that connect the two of them. But they’re separate groups of people and hopefully you’re enjoyment of the second act is not dependent on trying to draw the connection.”
And then there is the extreme ton-
ometry shift between the acts. “What I would say is that the first act is, in a sense, a tragedy and then the second is a comedy. And I had someone say to me, ‘But you can’t do that. Tragedy has to be sec-
ond.” I said, ‘That’s not true, it’s a textbook where that’s written down.’”
In addition to a well-received produc-
tion in racially mixed Washington, D.C., “Clybourne Park” has appeared off-Broadway, where it made The New York Times’ 10 best list for 2010, and in London, where it recently won the Eve-
ning Standard Award as best new play of the season. Still, Norris did not hesi-
tate when the Caldwell’s artistic director Clive Cholerton called to acquire the production rights for the house, saying, “It at first looked like no one was going to do the play, so when he asked for my in the way that way,” says Mr. Norris. He met with Cholerton,
feels confident about his take on the play. “It’s very much not involved with the production.”
“Beyond that, I feel like I’ve got to move on with my life,” he says. Why prob-
ably means attending more din-
ner parties and getting into new argu-
ments. 

From the left, Kenneth Kay and Patti Gardner star in “Clybourne Park” at the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton.

Clybourne

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POETRY

From page 1

for the 2011 festival.

During the afternoons and evenings, these same distinguished poets — and some special guests — provide poetry readings, craft talks and panel discus-
sions for both the workshop partici-
 pants and the general public.

Here is the schedule of public events. Two are free, the rest are tick-
eted for advance payment:

Tuesday, Jan. 18:
• 2 p.m. - Craft Talks: Jane Hirsh-
field on “Poetry and the Jewish Con-
tum of the Columns,” and Vijay Ses-
 hadi on “The Poetic Line: Beginning,
Middle, End, and Resurrection”
• 8 p.m. - Kickoff reading: Heather McHugh and Alan Shapiro

Wednesday, Jan. 19:
• 2 p.m. - Craft Talks: Heather McHugh on “The Soul of Wit,” and Thomas Lux on “Elements of Craft in ‘The Air Plant’” with Hart Crone
• 3 p.m. - Workshop: Gala: cocktails and dinner fundraiser to support the festival. Gala tickets can be ordered online or by calling (561) 860-2063
• 8 p.m. - Gala Reading: former Poet Laureate of the U.S., Robert Pinsky, along with Jazz & Solo Jazz Trio

Thursday, Jan. 20:
• 2 p.m. - Craft Talks: Alan Shapiro on “Technique of Empathy; Free Indi-
rect Style and Narrative Poetry,” and Ellen Bryant Voigt on “Propulsion and Patterns”
• 3:30 p.m. - Workshop Participants Reading I (free event)
• 8 p.m. - Mid-Week Reading: Vijay Seshadi and C. D. Wright

Friday, Jan. 21
• 2 p.m. - Craft Talks: Stuart Dis-
cnell on “Do You See What They Are Saying?” and C. D. Wright on “Doc-
umentary Vision and New Writing”
• 3:30 p.m. - Workshop Participants Reading II (free event)
• 8 p.m. - TGIF Reading: Jane Hir-
shfield and Thomas Lux

Saturday, Jan. 22
• 2 p.m. - Panel Discussion: “Beloved and Influential Poems” featuring all 8 faculty poets
• 7 p.m. - Final Reading: Stuart Dis-
cnell and Ellen Bryant Voigt

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shfield and Thomas Lux

7 p.m. - Final Reading: Stuart Dis-
cnell and Ellen Bryant Voigt

8 p.m. - Kickoff reading: Heather McHugh and Alan Shapiro

9 p.m. - Coffee House Performance Poetry & Party. Performance Poets D. Blair and Taylor Mali along with DiscO’Hara Dance Party with DJ Scott Cunningham.

The Palm Beach Poetry Festival, headed by its director, Miles A. Coon, is a unique celebration of the language arts, an opportunity for qualified indi-
viduals who desire mentoring, and an occa-
sion for the general public to hear and meet some of our foremost poets. “People have asked why that festival has helped aspiring poets, Mr. Coon said.
“We have a number of poets who took workshops at the festival and then went on to matriculate for an MFA in poetry writing. One such person then went on to do a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and her first book of poems will be out shortly. A very talented poet from Los Angeles just had her first book of poems published, and in the collec-
tion there is a poem titled ‘Palm Beach Poetry Festival: First Night.’
“I can think of at least four festival participants who went on to do gradu-
ate studies at Sarah Lawrence, my alma mater. Their exposure to faculty members from that school who taught at the festival led them to pursue their advance degree there.

One of our festival interns who graduated from FIU’s MFA program has founded a nonprofit organization in Miami called ‘Wynwood University,’ and with the help of the Knight Foun-
dation, he is organizing a huge Poetry Festival called ‘O Miami!’ to be pre-
se-
nted during National Poetry Month in April 2011.

“I can go on and on about chapbooks being published as a direct result of festival participation. I could tell you about a friend of ours whose boyfriend now has a book out, who got his honors from a reading at the second festival, and lugging into bed with them four books of poems by Jane Hirshfield, who is a Robert Lowell scholar for the festival year.

Our festival coordinator teaches at Bro-
don College. Our assistant director is matriculating for her MFA Degree at the low residency program of New Eng-
land College. I have said, despite only being around for seven weeks, we’ve infused countless lives, and by featuring the very best writing today, we are confident that the festival will continue to do so.”

Detailed information, including directions, order forms, and biogra-
phies of the poets and the teaching staff, is available at www.palmbeach-
poetryfestival.org.
THEATER REVIEW

2010: A theatrical year on the move

Despite the wobbly economy, 2010 was a year of area theater companies on the move, either moving into a new space, signing a deal to move, arriving on the scene or going professional for the first time. Could there be a better barometer that the recession in the arts is over, at least locally?

The most visible move was surely Florida Stage's move from Manalapan to the Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse in West Palm Beach, which began in July. The estimated $200,000 cost savings to the company made the move a no-brainer and the shows benefit from the added fly and wing space. Now Florida Stage has to convince the subscribers who prefer the old cozier digs that never knew they existed.

After a long time looking for larger quarters, and a long time negotiating with the wily Bob Cuillo, Palm Beach Dramaworks announced it would rent and re-design the vacant Cuillo Centre and begin a capital campaign to raise over $4.5 million to buy it. Seating will triple from 84 to 250, but the Dramaworks folks are determined to make that look intimate. And they've got the chutzpah to name an opening date — 11/11/11. Keep your fingers crossed for them.

Two amateur theaters — Palm Beach Players and Boca Raton Theatre Guild — decided to go pro. The Boca Raton Players unveiled its professional arm, the Boca cuillo Players, and began a capital campaign to raise enough money. The Boca Guild — decided to go pro. The Boca Guild did.

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The company's second concert of a Barbra Streisand tour revealed a powerhouse performance of Streisand's rich and powerful voice. The audience was treated to a list of Streisand's greatest hits, including "The Way We Were" and "Evergreen." The encore was a powerful rendition of "Send in the Clowns." The audience was on their feet, cheering and applauding for more. It was a night to remember for Streisand fans.
**WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO**

**Thursday, Dec. 30**

**Starfish & Coffee Storytime Session at the Loxahatchee River Center** – 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30. Loxahatchee River Center, 300 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Call (561) 743-7213 or visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.

**Mos’Art Theatre** – Screenings of “Tiny Furniture” 2:30 p.m., “Kings of Pastry” 3:30 p.m., Dec. 30. 30 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Call 743-7213.


**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: $55 and up; see 832-7469.


**Yo Yo’s New Year’s Eve – Countdown the New Year 2011 with boxing gloves and riding sides, games, face painting, A Latte Fun Flowers, handmade crafts and prepared food and drink items. Free: no pets. For vendor information, call 772-6345.

**Dave & Aaron’s Workout on Stand Up Paddleboarding** – 9:30 a.m. weekly, Jupiter Outdoor Center. For reservations, call 747-0603 or visit www.jupiteroutdoorcenter.com.

**“Swan Lake” by The State Ballet of Russia** – This romantic-classic ballet involves an enchanted princess, a noble prince and an evil witch; sharp points 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 Airview,” which airs Fridays from 12:30-1 p.m. WXXL-FM 90.7. Participants will attend a two-hour workshop twice a month (either 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. workshop) accompanied by a Saturday retreat. Held again Jan. 17 and 31, Feb. 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, April 7 and 21. 6-7 p.m. March 5 and April 9. Two class times: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. $700 for the Jan.-March 9 course. 832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

**Wimpie Kid Wednesday** – 3-5 p.m., Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave, Lake Park. Events and movie. Free; 881-3330.

**Hatching Tales** – 10:10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Loggerhead Marine Life Center, 12065 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Free; marinelif.org.

**“Peace on Earth” exhibition** – Through Dec. 30, Lighthouse ArtCenter, Gallery Square North, 373 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Admission: $5; free for students, veterans, ages 12 and under; for free; admission to public on Saturdays, 10-4.

**Holiday Light Show** – 6-7, 8 and 9 p.m. every day in December, Center Court, Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens. Free: 727-2640.

**Puttin’ on the Ritz** – New York cabaret star Steve Ross sings Fred Astaire, through Dec. 31, in the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion’s Helen E. Persons Hall, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $30 ($45 New Year’s Eve toast); 832-7469.

**“Goldie, Max & Milk”** A delightful musical, presented by Karen Harman, through Jan. 16. Florida Stage, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $30; (561) 333-4440.

**“Freud’s Last Session”** – Play by Mark St. Germain, through Feb. 6. Palm Beach DramaWorks, 320 Banyan Way, West Palm Beach. Tickets: $47; 514-4042.

**“Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee”** – Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum, 500 Captain Armour’s Way, Jupiter. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. 747-8380; Ext. 101; jupiterlighthouse.org.

**January events**

**The Best of Bobby Vinton** – Vinton is joined by an orchestra and family members to sing his hits. 8 p.m. Jan. 15, Cafe Carlyle, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: $45-$55; 561-278-7767. He also appears 8 p.m. Jan. 8, Barry & Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. Tickets: $38-$47; 561-297-3300.

**The Raging Jews of Communist Poland** – Perpetually to benefit the American Friends of Magen David Adom. The Raging Jews of Comedy — Gregg Rossell, Niki Kavet, Maria Cristina Kirov and Tommy Savitt — have appeared on the “Late Night with David Letterman,” the “Tonight Show” with Jay Leno, “The Late Show with Conan O’Brien” and specials on Showtime and Comedy Central, 8 p.m. Jan. 9. Tickets: $85; $86 for students with ID. Call 207-5900; www.ragingjews.com.

**Sight & Sound** – A conversation about the power of photography and its impact on the viewer is led by Brazilian Court Hotel, 301 Australian Ave., Palm Beach. Features nature photographer Robert Snell and poet Stephen Gibson. Presented as part of the Palm Beach Cultural Council’s Sight & Sound family program. Free for Cultural Council members ($575 level and above), non-member $35. RSVP: 472-3330 or www.palmbeachculture.com.

**“The Sound of Music”** – The final written works by Rodgers and Hammerstein follows the von Trapp family as they leave Austria to escape Nazi persecution. Jan. 11-30, Mt. Zion Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $43-$660; (561) 577-2223.
**WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO**

**River Toters 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; 743-7123.

**“Forever Plaid”** — The four members of an all-male singing group get a second chance to fulfill their dream and sing solo. Song List: Jan. 12, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $25; 832-7469.

**Lighthouse Sunset Tour** Take in the sunset views and see the Jupiter Light turn on to illuminate the night sky second and fourth Wednesday of the month. July 7. Visitors get an inside look at the nuts & bolts of a working lighthouse watchroom. Tour approximately 70 minutes. Must be 4 feet tall to climb, no flip-flops. $10; 5 p.m.; 832-7469. Check weather permitting, call for tour time.

**The Benjamin School 15th Annual Variety Show** — “The Best” at TBS” — featuring more than 150 students, faculty, parents and alumni. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Palm Okeechobee Gardens. Tickets: $20 and $25; 472-3466.

**Voices of Legends in Concert** — With Johnny T, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15. Fea. 5. March 19, Mov’Art Theatre, 700 Park Ave., Palm Beach. Free. 8 p.m. advance, $18 evening show of clowning; 337-6763.

**Pilobolus** — The group blends dance with acrobatics at 8 p.m. Jan. 15, at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at $20. Beyond the Stage: A free pre-performance discussion led by Steven Caras at 6:45 p.m.; 832-7469.

**Chris MacDonald’s Memoirs of Elvis** — A memorial tribute celebrating the life and music of Elvis Presley in honor of his 76th birthday. 8 p.m. Jan. 16. Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 101 E. Indialantic Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $45; 225-7073.

**Verdi “Requiem”** — Performance and gala dinner with the artists presented by the Palm Beach Opera, 4 p.m. Jan. 17, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. One-night only event features the Palm Beach Opera Chorus. Dressy attire encouraged. Ticket price includes gala dinner and performance following gala dinner at the Cohen Pavilion. $20-$125. Tickets for post-concert gala dinner and premium seating at $175; 855-7554 or www.pbopera.com.

**Joseph Urban: Palm Beach’s Architect of Dreams** — Lecture by John Loring, 3 p.m. Jan. 18, Society of the Four Arts, Walter S. Gubelman Auditorium, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Registration: 805-8562.

**Andrea Marrocchi** — Cabaret show Jan. 18-22 at The Royal Room, The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach. $75. Doors open for dinner at 6 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. $80-$125 dinner and show, $65-$80 show only; 659-8100.

**Free Lighthouse History Lecture Series** — Junebo Beach Town Center Library, 9045 S.R. A1A, Palm City, 20 Feb., 16, 17, 17. 438-8300, Ext. 10; jupiterlighthouse.org.

**The Sixth Floor Trio** — A chamber group of former students of the Curtis Institute of Music will perform music of Brahms, Bernstein, Handel and Bartok, plus Klezmer, jazz and bluegrass arrangements. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $30; 832-7469.

**Drumline Live** — Presented by the movie “Drumline” and featuring music from high school drumline teaching band programs, this show parades out of the football stadium onto the stage with explosive percussion, blazing brass, riveting choreography and soul-infused interpretations of top 40 hits. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17-18, The Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $15. Beyond the Stage: A free musical performance by Men of Valor on Jan. 17. Redemptive Life Church Live, Levitival Chorale on Jan. 18; 832-7469.

**Adelberto Delgado** — tickets start at $25. Beyond the Stage: A free pre-concert discussion at 6:45 p.m.; 832-7469. Call led by Sharon McDaniel and a musical presentation by the Jupiter Academy of Music and the Jupiter Light House Hall lobby at 7:30 p.m.; 832-7469.

**Don Rickles and Joan Rivers** — The veteran comics team for a show at 8 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Contains adult language. Tickets start at $35; 832-7469.

**A Night in Vienna** — The Malitz Jupiter Theatre’s eighth annual gala, inspired by the production of “The Sound of Music.” 6 p.m. Jan. 29, The Breakers, Palm Beach. Tickets: $75 per person; 972-624.

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream** — Aqualia Theatre performs Shakespeare’s play at 8 p.m. Jan. 22 and 1:30 p.m. Jan. 23 in the Kravis Center’s Riniker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $38. Beyond the Stage: A free pre-performance discussion led by Desmond Gallant at 6:45 p.m. Jan. 22; 832-7469.

**Kenny Loggins** — The singer had hit singles with “Whenever I Call Your Friend” and “This Is It.” “All Join In” is his most recent album, features up-tempo renditions of pop/rock classics. 8 p.m. Jan. 24, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at $20; 832-7469.

**The Capitol Steps** — Music and political satire, Jan. 25-26. Performances 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at $20. Beyond the Stage: A free pre-concert discussion at 6:45 p.m. led by Joseph Urban; 832-7469.

**Pilobolus** — The ukulele sensation’s concert features an array of genres, including jazz, blues, funk, classical, bluegrass, folk, flamenco and rock. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19, Kravis Center’s Rinker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $32; 832-7469.

**Robertia Flack** — The songstress sings such ballads as “The First Time I Saw Your Face” and “Where Is The Love?” 8 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at $25; 832-7469.

**Italy of My Dreams: The Story of an American Designer’s Life Real Passion for Style** — Lecture by R. Mark Jankowski, conducted by Richard Hayman. 8 p.m. Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. Jan. 20 at Matthew White at The Society of the Four Arts, Walter S. Gubelman Auditorium, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. $20; no charge for Four Arts members. Registration: 805-8562 or www.fourarts.org.

**Six Characters in Search of an Author** — Audiences perform this lay by Luigi Pirandello at 8 p.m. Jan. 20-21 at the Kravis Center’s Rinker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $32; 832-7469.

**Coaching the Mature Driver** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 21, North County Senior Center, 5217 Northlake Boulevard, West Palm Beach. Registration: 805-8562.

**Vic Damone** — The singer lends his romantic baritone to an evening dedicated to love songs. His performance will be accompanied by a full orchestra conducted by Richard Hayman. 8 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: $32-$35; 832-7469.$

**Aquila Theatre** — Off-Broadway play featuring Charles Ross portraying all of the characters, sound effects and music from all the movies. 8 p.m. Feb. 5. Malitz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $30; 575-2223.

**One Man Star Wars Trilogy** — An off-Broadway play featuring Charles Ross portraying all of the characters, sound effects and music from all the movies. 8 p.m. Feb. 5. Malitz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: $30; 575-2223.
A perfect anti-resolution that fits at the coffee pot and out to my Weber grill. Staying strong here may be harder than the level of worship I associate with Doug Stanhope, who’s a brilliant guy even if he doesn’t seem you to want to know that. Robert Kelly, Patricia O’Halloran and Colin Quinn all comedy that’s not only middling and mediocre. These, guys, and Bruce, Carlin, Pryor, Hicks and Kline, who by calling on knowledge banks that have more in them than their pop culture references, and they’re brazenly honest when comment- ing on their perceptions of society and themselves. That’s honesty about often personal failings, that lets these guys break out of the noise made by the majority of main- line comedians who beat a single con- cept into submission and bring nothing fresh to the stage. It may make viewers uncomfortable, but it also makes it so good. One of my other favorite cur- rent working comics is Louis CK who’s not only hilarious; he’s not brutal, and his self-deprecation is direct. It was a huge pleasure this past summer to see him given a series on FX Networks that’s actu- ally been renewed for a second season despite somewhat weak ratings; perhaps there’s hope in the comedy world after all. “Laugh” is 22 minutes of smart and highlyrecommendable comedy that CK has clearly mined from deep within his in- nate subversive insouciance. Episodes often feature a few minutes of CK performing at the Comedy Club in New York, and dur- ing one such scene he made this simple and profound statement: “Finally I have the body that I want — and that’s a thing people really care it’s hard thing to achieve, and I did.” He said, “And I’m going to tell you how to have exactly the body that you want: you just have to want a lousy body. That’s it. You have to want your own lousy, ugly, unattractive body.” CK used a different word in place of lousy, but that’s irrelevant, he’d clearly landed on the tip of a brilliant self-help movement. I thought of that episode while I was considering this week’s Mashup. With New Year’s Eve many moments away, most people start contemplating New Year’s resolutions. I don’t. Perhaps it’s just an excuse for my failure to keep past reso- lutions, but I’ve found that change comes when I really for it, not before, and certainly not simply because I’ve decided that this year will be the year that I finally fin whatever it is that’s broken. I’ve recog- nized that to make a personal success, what I need is a group of anti-resolutions, not unachievable goals. So this year, I resolve to accept and continue the following questionable behaviors: ■ Anti-Resolution One: I resolve to keep eat- ing poorly. This one’s a loser, but, and it’s a great anti-resolution. Anyone can decide to chase healthy goals like coming down at first eating more green and drinking last coffee. It takes someone with real internal fortitude to commit to another year of self-satisfying steak, sugar, and whole pizzas, smoked meat and cognac—a lifestyle to which I’ll stick like the terrible post- natal lethargy it’s not easy bringing back the couch for an hour after every meal after all. You folks who eat and start running. I’ll continue to eat delicious foods and tell you about them. Besides the way I look at it, all these facts create an internal gym for my heart to work out on and working out is good for you. ■ Anti-Resolution Two: I resolve to continue my minimal exercise pro- gram. A perfect anti-resolution that affords with my own the, the last thing I need right now is any incentivizing and additional exer- cise can cause by giving up the couch at least, but remaining an endo-styler. This year then, I’ll be keeping my exercise program simple and consistent, with regular results and not to my Niles grill. Staying strong love not be hard, I, this is my strongest with my kids, going back to the beach, going to the family, and something that will continue to wait until it’s not just due for a trim, perhaps even if it approaches my high-school level of lousy (I seem to have opted to looking like a cast member from “Hair”) before cutting it. I’ll just have to keep putting up with looks of irritation from my wife and dealing with an infuriatingly thick back for one more year. ■ Anti-Resolution Three: I resolve to re- solve to accept and continue my minimal exercise pro- gram. Anyone can decide to chase healthy goals like coming down at first eating more green and drinking last coffee. It takes someone with real internal fortitude to commit to another year of self-satisfying steak, sugar, and whole pizzas, smoked meat and cognac—a lifestyle to which I’ll stick like the terrible post- natal lethargy it’s not easy bringing back the couch for an hour after every meal after all. You folks who eat and start running. I’ll continue to eat delicious foods and tell you about them. Besides the way I look at it, all these facts create an internal gym for my heart to work out on and working out is good for you. ■ Anti-Resolution Four: I resolve to continue waiting too late and oversleeping in the morning. This one is particularly tough, especially as results in my wife having to get up much earlier than me to get the kids off to school, but I’m willing to continue making that sacrifice. It’s not all bad honestly the late nights give me more time to work on anti-resolution num- ber one, and my extra sleep cuts into my day and increases the pressure. I’ve already worked on making my writing deadlines. This in turn ratchets up stress and helps exercise my heart. Hopefully, all that heartwork won’t count as breaking a resolu- tion two. ■ Anti-Resolution Four: I resolve to continue waiting too late and oversleeping in the morning. This one is particularly tough, especially as results in my wife having to get up much earlier than me to get the kids off to school, but I’m willing to continue making that sacrifice. It’s not all bad honestly the late nights give me more time to work on anti-resolution num- ber one, and my extra sleep cuts into my day and increases the pressure. I’ve already worked on making my writing deadlines. This in turn ratchets up stress and helps exercise my heart. Hopefully, all that heartwork won’t count as breaking a resolu- tion two. ■ Anti-Resolution Four: I resolve to continue waiting too late and oversleeping in the morning. 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By Linda Thistle

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Set aside your usual reluctance to change, and consider reassessing your financial situation so that you can build on its strengths and minimize its weaknesses.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Some recently acquired information helps open up a dark part of the past. Resolve to put what you’ve learned to good use. Travel plans continue to be favored.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Act on your own keen instincts. Your strong Piscean backbone will support you as someone attempts to pressure you into a decision you’re not ready to make.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Your batteries should be fully recharged by now, making you more than eager to get back into the swing of things full time. Try to stay focused so that you don’t dissipate your energies.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You’re eager to charge straight ahead into your new responsibilities. But you’ll have to paw the ground a little longer, until a surprise complication is worked out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Rival factions are pressuring you to take a stand favoring one side or the other. But this isn’t the time to play judge. Bow out as gracefully as possible, without committing yourself to any position.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Reassure a longtime, trusted confidante that you appreciate his or her words of advice. But at this time, you need to act on what you perceive to be your own sense of self-interest.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
You need to let your warm Leonine heart fire up that new relationship if you hope to see it move from the “just friends” level to one that will be as romantic as you could hope for.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
There’s still time to repair a misunderstanding with an honest explanation and a heartfelt apology. The sooner you do, the sooner you can get on with other matters.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Expect a temporary setback as you progress toward your goal. Use this time to re-examine your plans and see where you might need to make some significant changes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Some missteps are revealed as the cause of current problems in a personal or professional partnership. Make the necessary adjustments and then move on.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Jupiter’s influence helps you work through a pesky problem, allowing your naturally jovial attitude to re-emerge stronger than ever. Enjoy your success.

BORN THIS WEEK:
You embody a love for traditional values combined with an appreciation of what’s new and challenging.

Puzzle Difficulty this week:

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
LATEST FILMS

‘True Grit’

Is it worth $10? Yes

For as good as all the actors in “True Grit” are — and Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Josh Brolin are exceptional here — the performance you’ll be talking about afterward is Hailee Steinfeld’s, whose precocious 14-year-old character drives the movie. It’s unfortunate that Paramount is promoting her as a supporting actor for awards purposes, because this is a lead character if there ever was one.

Miss Steinfeld plays Mattie Ross, who in the late 1870s sets out to avenge her father’s murder at the hand of Tom Chaney (Mr. Brolin). To get the job done, she hires grizzled U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn (Mr. Bridges) and Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Mr. Damon), who have their own motives for catching Chaney. As the unlikely trio ventures into hostile territory, they risk danger at every turn, particularly when they learn Chaney has joined Lucky Ned Pepper’s (Harry Pepper) crew.

The film was written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (aka the Coen Bros.), and it continues their theme of focusing on a character thrust into an uncomfortable situation and watching said character try to wiggle his/her way out. While the end result of each film is often dictated by the genre, it’s fascinating to see the Coen Bros.’ style and the gorgeous cinematography by Roger Deakins bring this Old West tale to life.

If only it did so with more urgency. For as great as the movie looks and as good as the performances are, the story is often slow and tedious. Far too much time is spent riding, scouting, talking and gesticulating, all of which takes away from the suspense. One of the appeals of the Coen Bros. is how raw and brutally honest their movies often are, but that harshness is easily undermined by boredom.

Thankfully, the acting always keeps us engaged. We immediately like Miss Steinfeld’s Mattie after she barters with a local businessman, and she never ventures into “pretentious child actor” mode. She also holds her own very well with the prominent cast, which is no small feat.

It’s not easy to step into an Oscar-winning shoes, unless maybe you’re an Oscar winner like Mr. Bridges (“Crazy Heart”). His Cogburn is just as gruff and tough as John Wayne’s Oscar-winning 1909 performance, though in that film Mr. Wayne was playing a version of his famous screen persona, whereas it’s relatively new territory for Mr. Bridges.

Regardless, Mr. Bridges, Mr. Damon and Mr. Brolin are very good, and the dialogue — how note distinct it sounds by simply not using contractions — always gives their characters interesting things to say. The last time the Coen Bros. gave us a remake it was “The Ladykillers” in 2004 with Tom Hanks, which wasn’t very good. “True Grit” has problems, but Miss Steinfeld’s star-making turn, the acting and the beautiful visuals make this worth recommending.

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

www.hudakonhollywood.com
FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

The Junior Honda Classic to benefit Children’s Healthcare Charity at PGA National Resort

1. Chase Young and Kelly Blanchard
2. Martina Ramos, Moises Mantilla and Marlon Mantilla
3. Connor Mays and Mark Mays
4. Kyle Kimmelman, Mark Berey, Hank Schilling and Scott Schilling
5. Reyes Martinez and Kenneth Martinez
7. Dean Sposato and Cole Sposato
8. Scott Martinez and Robyn Martinez

RACHEL HICKEY FLORIDA WEEKLY

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

1. Martha O’Brien and Robert Van Buren and Jan Utterback
2. Tim and Susan Malloy
3. Mieke Van Waveren and Kenn Karakul
4. Jyra Wilson, Christine Coleman and Megan Bockmeyer
5. Reid and Michelle Boren
6. Missy Savage, Allison Wren and Melanie Hill
7. Nancy Carter and Scott Velozo
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Let me put it out there that I don’t ordi-

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more than 20 minutes. That is, unless the

wait’s with a group I can’t get away

from, or if a restaurant is genuine with an

apology for not having a table for my res-

ervation. Sincere communication goes a

heck of a long way. I can handle the truth.

Nonchalance is unacceptable — I’ll turn

away from anyone who never answers since they gave up

on me. At Hog Snappers Shack & Sushi in Tequesta? I’m still not quite sure. A weak

apology for not having a table for my res-

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So why did I wait more than an hour for a table at Hog Snappers Shack & Sushi in Tequesta? I’m still not quite sure. A weak

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unbelievable that we ran out. A Cartlidge & Browne

serves some of the freshest fish anywhere, but be prepared to wait.

For starters, we got a glass of a Sonoma pinot noir from

flavor. It was served with coconut rice — jasmine rice tossed with coconut,

tossed in a creamy white balsamic dress-

ing — the leaves, but polished it off handily. The
tender flesh forked away from the

bone easily and I could scrape it down to the

cheekbones. Only a skeleton was left

on my plate. It was served with coconut rice
tossed in a creamy white balsamic dress-

ing — the leaves, but polished it off handily. My partner’s cedar plank salmon ($21)

also was perfectly cooked. The generous

thick fillet was seared crispy on the outside

and tender-baked on the coral-pink inte-

rior. Still moist and flaky, the textures were

wonderful and the flavor sweet and savory

at once. A mustardy horseradish aioli on

the plate under the tender halibut verts,
sautéed grape tomatoes and pearl onions

was the ticket — it complimented rather

than overwhelmed the dish. We took some

of this home — it was that large.

Throughout the meal, several servers

took care of us, bringing us extra napkins,

more wine, water, and answering ques-

tions — barring as they were. And once we

ordered, our foods were delivered with

no waiting and came out piping hot.

The wait here is all in the front end of the

meal. We couldn’t resist the pull of hot chur-

ros for dessert ($7) — crispy dough strips

coated in cinnamon sugar and served with

a scoop of really good vanilla ice cream.

Unfortunately, they were hard on the

outside rather than being freshly made

and crisp. Well go for the signature Key lime pie

next time. It may be a while — even after season — though certainly not because of the

food. It’s just that interminable wait. Even at leisure, my time’s worth something. It’s not particularly enjoyable

a view or seating while waiting, either, so you really do have to crave this to justify

up to an hour and half in line. I don’t even

want to think about weekend nights here.

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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Hog Snappers, worth the wait

Hog Snappers Shack & Sushi serves some of the freshest fish anywhere, but be prepared to wait.
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- 04 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER SR5 - BLUE/GREY, NEW TIRES, MOONROOF, STK#48003038
- 07 HONDA CIVIC HYBRID - WHITE/BEIGE, PRICED TO MOVE, STK#5E113706
- 03 MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 320 CONV - SILVER, NAV, BOSE, STK#8A111407
- 05 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD - WHITE, 3RD ROW, NAV, TOW PKG, STK#9C067017

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- '05 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD - WHITE, 3RD ROW, NAV, TOW PKG, STK#9C067017
- '06 INFINITI M35X - BROWN METALLIC, NAV, BOSE, STK#9C067017
- '08 AUDI A4 - BLACK, SUNROOF, CHROME, STK#6A133707
- '09 ACURA TSX TECH PKG - BRONZE METALLIC, NAV, NEW TIRES, STK#6A133708
- '06 MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 350 CONV - SILVER, NAV, SPORT PKG, STK#6A133708
- '06 INFINITI QX56 - BLACK/BLACK, DVD, CHROME, STK#6A133709
- '09 LEXUS RX350 - CREAM, BLACK, PRICED TO MOVE, STK#6A133707
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