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Week of February 13 - 19, 2004. Two Sections • 44 Pages

## Valentine's



Urban & Olga Palmer just elebrated 75 years togethe



Meet Iona Air on the Home Pages

New York Market



nck Elias (right) and Judy Furner. former high school sweethearts, reunited at a class reunion

Talinka will Will



monday dight is prime time!!



PRIME AIB

Served with baked Idaho potato & corn on the cob



Shrimo 615.98

Grouper \$15.95

Served with French Fries & corn on the cob



Mon.- Fri, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. 2330 Palm Ridge Rd. Sanibel Island

37 items on the "Consider the Kids" menu. All specials subject to availability. Master Card, Visa, Discover Credit Cards Accepted



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New to the Hungry Heron!

Overloaded with an array of your favorite crustaceans and more, steamed in the Heron's special brew

1 1/4 Pound Maine Lobster served with corn on the cobFrench Fries, & Coleslaw (while supplies last)



RISE & SHINE Fabulous Breakfast Auffal

Saturday Sunday

7:30 - 1:30 p.m. 7:30 -12:00 noon



## Rotary Arts & Crafts Fair 2004



First 2-D - Edgar Reims is presented his First Place Award in Two-Dimensional Art by Rotary President Bill Currise (L)



First Creative - Ralph Gates is presented his First Place Award in the Creative Crafts category by Chet Sadler. His son Jeff Gates (L) is an artist an assistant. Ralph's 100% and Chet Sadler for his fine plein-air oil painting technique. Natural material brooms are made from exotic local woods and grasses.









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Corner of Periwinkle Way and Casa Ybel Road



## Steve Blackwell on Guitar and Harmonica, Dan Leach on Mandolin and Vocalist Carrie Blackwell Hussey perform for the crowd with the food court in the background. Safe Boating Week



Power Squadron Safety Offier Tom Lagan and Henry Hoenk, West Marine manager, at the Safe Boating Day exhibit at the Community Center.



Fire & Rescue showed how Marine Rescue One is used in waterrelated accidents at Safe Boating Day.

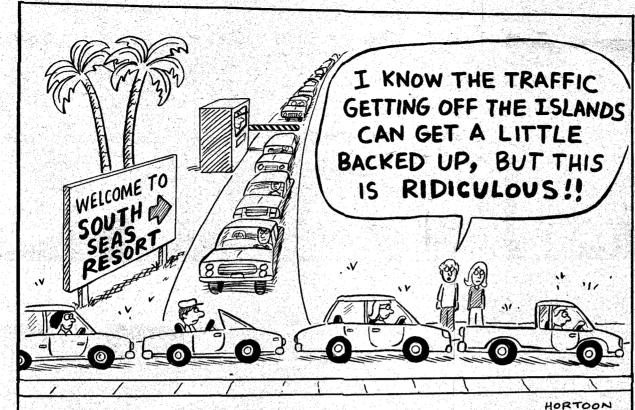


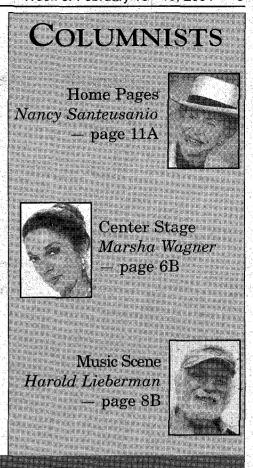


Sanibel Police Chief Bill Tomlinson presented winners of the Sanibel Captiva Sail and Power Squadron's Captiva Sail and Fower Squadron's Safe Boating poster contest gift certificates from local merchants (Big Red Q Quick Print, Arundel's, Sanibel Island Bookshop) at Safe Boating Day, Feb. 5th at the Community Center. Christina Rinaldi won 1st prize, Chris Pavlick, 2nd prize and Anna Gele, 3rd

## TOO MUCH SUN Horton

Horton





## **UP PERISCOPE**

To the uninitiated, it may seem stranage that Sanibel has no pedestrian/bike crossing lights or, for that matter, any traffic lights at all. For over 20 years, the City of Sanibel and Captiva Island have managed to deal

with people wanting to cross, turn or enter lines of traffic in a different way-with courtesy and consideration. "New" drivers on Sanibel and Captiva should be aware that we do have a few unwritten rules of the road—rules that may not be common elsewhere but that we follow here.

1) Bike paths on Periwinkle, Tarpon Bay or any other island roads are not passing lanes. They are not right turn lanes. They are not for map-reading or temporary parking. (It never ceases to amaze me that the driver of a semi can

pull over and unload endless quantities of beer or soda, leaving plenty or room for bikers and pedestrians, but that the driver of a Geo or Hyundai can block the entire width of the bike path while trying to read a map.) Bike paths are also not shortcuts for getting from one store to another without re-entering street traffic. They are for bicycles and pedestrians-period. Do you drive on the sidewalk at home?

2) Bicyclists on the bike paths, in cross walks or about to cross, or crossing island driveways and roads have the right of way.

Conversely, when a group is riding together, each rider should be aware that, if a line of cars backs up because the car in front needs to turn across the bike path, the group needs to pause and let the car through—much as island drivers do for each other on the roads.

3) Particularly during season, bikers should try to

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ride on the paths—especially on Periwinkle. Riding on the street is, unfortunately, hazardous to your health (as well as that of the unwary driver) and tends to disrupt the "flow" of traffic. And onerous though the idea may

be, the words STOP BIKE at intersections are there to save your life, not create an inconvenience

4) Pedestrians about to cross or crossing a street at a crosswalk or intersection have the right of way. That is Florida law and its violation carries an \$80 fine. Therefore, it behooves bikers to dismount, become pedestrians, and safely walk their bikes across the street.

5) And rollerbladers: Remember, you are perceived by the operator of a motor vehicle as a

pedestrian. In some ways you are (you're on foot, sort of), but you approach a driveway or intersection considerably faster than the average motorist expects you to. Also, you do not own the bike paths; you share them with young and old—on foot, on bikes, trikes, in pedalmobiles and, yes, even on skateboards.

6) If someone is waiting to get into or across a line of traffic and a driver in that line slows or stops close to the wait-er (even going so far as to signal with hand or headlights), the wait-er is being offered the opportunity he/she is looking for. Be cautious, but go for it! Don't just sitthere!

7) On Sanibel, those hexagonal red signs with the big white letters mean what they say: STOP.

8) At the three- and four-way STOPs, the next person "around" the intersection who is completely stopped gets to go, not the car behind the one that just went. This is not Massachusetts (I can say that: I lived there); you don't have to be an aggressive driver here to get where you want to go.

9) As the bumper sticker says, "If you're in a hurry, you don't belong on Sanibel." Our speed limits were set for the protection of all of us and, particularly, for

Periscope, see page 4



ANNE BELLEW Assoc. Editor





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## Coming up this week -Friday, Feb. 13

## Mad Cow Disease author to speak at FGCU

Cattle Rancher turned vegan and author of "Mad Cowboy," Howard Lyman will speak at PGCU on Friday, Feb. 13. He will be speaking at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at FGCU, 10501 FGCU Boulevard South in Fort Myers. The cost is \$5 for the public; \$3 for FGCU students.

Sanibel-Captiva Vegetarian The Society and FGCU's The Power of One Animal Rights Group are co-sponsoring Lyman, winner of Veg News' "best speaker in the country" award. After the first reported case of Mad Cow Disease in the United States, Howard Lyman, author of "Mad Cowboy" and a co-defendant with Oprah Winfrey, could not speak at a more opportune time. As a fourth-generation family farmer in Montana for nearly forty years, few are more qualitifed to speak about the conditions in today's factory

In 1996, Howard's comments about today's cows being turned cannibalistic prompted Oprah Winfrey to declare, "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger!" The Texas Cattlemen's Association found that comment to hurt their business and promptly sued on the basis of food disparagement laws and suffered a dispuraging loss.

Howard will talk about the United Kingdom's BSE (or Mad Cow Disease) epidemic and the prospect of the disease becoming widespread in the United States itself. As founder and president of Voice for a Viable Future, Howard Lyman will tell his tale of going from a fourth-generation cattleman in Montana to one of the nation's leading animal rights activists and plant-based diet proponents. For more information, call Joe Walsh, (239) 395-0250 or Katie Hammer, (239) 590-1735 or e-mail Sancapvegans@aol.com

### Saturday, Feb. 14

## Self-defense awareness class

Don't be a victim of a violent crime. Take charge with a free, self-defense awareness class.

Prevention and education are highly effective deterrents, says Stacey Payne, a crime prevention specialist for the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

"Ninety percent of self-defense is awareness and preparedness and only 10 percent is physical self-defense," Payne says...

Females ages 13 and older are encouraged to attend a two-hour program from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Lee County Sheriff's Office headquarters, 14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Minors must have a legal guardian to attend.

S.A.F.E. (Self-defense Awareness and Fumiliarization Exchange) teaches women the basics of physical self-defense and ways to reduce threat risks.

Class components include a video overview, handouts and an introduction to physical self-defense. Call 477-1400 to register.

## **Ghost Walks at Koreshan**

Koreshan State Historic Site is proud to present their annual Ghost Walks on Saturday and Sunday, February 14 and 15. The Ghost walks are a large scale living history program that interprets the aspects of Koreshan ways of life. Guest speakers act out short plays and monologues in costume during a one hour and 15 minute moonlit tour of the Koreshan Unity settlement. This special event will take place at the Koreshan State Historic Site on the corner of

Corkscrew Road and US 41 in Estero. Show times are 7, 7:15, 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. Reservations for this unique cultural event can be made by calling (239) 992-0311. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Sunday, Feb. 15

## **ABC Auction Preview Party** on Feb. 15.

Get a sneak peak this Sunday of the artist decorated Fish Chairs to be auctioned off on February 28 at the ABC Auction. The Fish Chairs will be on display at the Preview Auction Party, hosted by Harry and Pumfey Silverglide at their home. The artists will also be on hand to present their work.

This year's featured artists are: Sharon Brace, Diane Fugit, Lauri Kaihlanen, Vanessa Lombardo, Jan Markle, and Pam Rambo. The six Fish Chairs will be on display at the ABC Preview Party from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Tickets are \$10 for the party, and must reserved in advance. There will be molley service from designated parking areas to the Silverglide home. To reserve your fickets, please call Rose at the Captiva Civic Association at 472-2111.

The 2004 ABC Auction is a Captiva tradition dating back over thirty-eight years. Ten percent of the Auction's gross sales will benefit the Sanibel School Fund. The monies raised by the ABC

Auction for the Sanibel School fund will be used as seed money for the Captiva Art room at the Sanibel School. One exciting addition to the Captiva Art room is the Kiln Room where students will be able to have their ceramic artwork fired.

The ABC Auction will be held at the Captiva Civic Association the evening of February 28, 2004. If you would like to donate items for the ABC Auction, please contact Doris Holzheimer at 472-1978, Ron Gibson at 472-6179, or Alison Hagerup at 472-2472.

Volunteers are needed for the ABC Auction, please contact Rose at the Captiva Civic Association at 472-2111, to participate. Last year the ABC event raised over \$6,600 for the SCCP's Tarpon Bay Marine Laboratory.

## Periscope, from page 3

the safety of those creatures smaller than we who don't understand that large moving objects can kill or maim in a heartbeat.

10) Passing on causeway bridges is verboten, a no-no, taboo, against the law. etc

11) The center lane on the causeway is for drivers who wish to turn left, not for passing those vehicles in the right lane who are already driving at the specified 30 mph or above. The sand/grass areas off the road to the right are for those who want to picnic and/or savor our beach views, sunsets, birds and windsurfers.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit, particularly on the bridges (20 on the bascule bridge), are part of what's destroying the bridges as well as killing low-flying terns, gulls, pelicans and the other species that seem to litter the road-- especially on windy days when the birds have difficulty controlling their flight patterns and can actually get blown against a moving car or truck. The driver going 45 or 50 has no time to adjust either thinking or speed before it's too

You'll get to your tee time, or to work or home, or to your appointment, close enough to on time. You don't need to maim, kill or run somebody (or something) off the road to do it.





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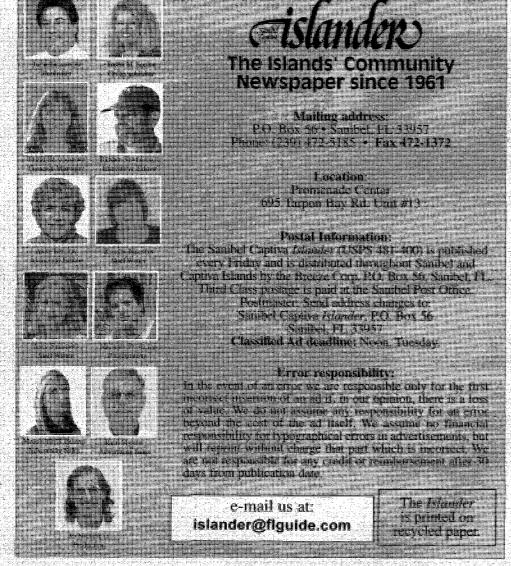
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- Weil Trican



## Coming up this week -

Bunday, Feb. 15

## **Clements speaks at UU**

The guest speaker at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service on Feb. 15 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers will be Dr. Charles Clements, president of the UU Service Committee. Dr. Clements, who has served on the board of Physicians for Social Justice and Human Rights, has chosen "Justice is Flowing" as his sermon topic. The UU Church of Fort Myers is on Shire Lane, off Daniels Parkway in south Fort Myers. All are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 16

## Sanibel-Captiva Orchid **Society Program**

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Sanibel-

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Orchid

Society

opens to

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**Granberry and Vidussi** 

Monday, February 16, 1:30 pm, Saint Michael Episcopal Church, 2 3 0 4 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel to present two

educational programs - Faye Granberry, "Diseases of Orchids" and Harvey Vidussi of Marilyn's Exotic Orchids, Fort Myers, "Techniques of Repotting Orchids". Vidussi, a commercial grower of

orchids, has a long, successful history in the culture of orchids. He was one of the first instructors for the members of the Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society and their favorite lecturer. remains Granberry, president of the society, is a local orchid hobbyist, lecturer and writer. She brings to the group 40 plus years of experience in growing orchids.

Attendees are invited to enter the judged, ribbons awarded, orchid show co-chaired by Cel Luke and John

Bralove. Entrees must be in place prior to 1:30. Show and Tell, a favorite section of the meeting is open to members and guests to show their prized orchid or even a dead one, and to share their experiences. Members free, guests \$2.50. No reservations needed.

## **Vintage Fashion Show to** benefit museum

On Monday, Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m., the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum will hold a "Vintage Fashion Show & Luncheon" at The Sanctuary Clubhouse on Wulfert Road to benefit the Museum.

Models strolling among the tables will be wearing fashions dating from the mid 19th century through the 1960's such as a Victorian Period Wedding Gown, a 1940's Chinese Smoking Jacket, an ivory satin shirred dress from the early 20th century and an 1880's period dress.

Sponsors for this show include Chico's, Dillard's, Congress Jewelers, F. Schumacher & Co., and the Sanctuary Golf Course to name a few. Tickets are \$50 a person and include a superb sitdown luncheon. Here is a chance to support the efforts of the volunteers at the Historical Museum while enjoying a wonderful afternoon. Seating is limited. For tickets or more information, please call Betty Fisher at 395-2128.

## **SCCF Open House**

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will hold its annual Open House on Monday, Feb. 16 at its Nature Center on Sanibel-Captiva Road. The Open House will include games, activities, music, programs and refreshments for people of all ages.

It will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. with original sawgrass music about Southwest Florida provided by Cindy Hackney. Programs and activities include a nature sounds contest, extra guided trail walks, bracelet making, love potions, herb terrariums, origami and information on snakes and turtles. Food and beverage is being provided by Bailey's General Store.

Bring a friend and/or meet new ones at

the SCCF Open House. The Nature some and a school day off for most chil-Center is located one mile west of Tarpon Bay Road, on Sanibel-Captiva Road. Overflow parking is available at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. There is no roadside parking permitted. People are encouraged to use the overflow parking or come by bicycle.

## **SCCF Nature Sounds** Contest

Practice, practice! It's time to prepare for the Nature Sounds Contest at Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Open House on Feb. 16.

Nature sounds include bird songs, wind, waves and any other sounds in the great outdoors. In one contest, a naturalist imitated a group of second graders on a field trip to the rocky shore by trampling a pile of empty oyster shells. Use your imagination to hoot, howl, growl, babble, rustle or whistle your way to victory.

SCCF's Open House is scheduled annually for President's Day, a holiday for



F a y e Granberry, Sanibel, wins top honors in Edison The Festival of Light Strolling Flower Show, Fort Myers for her creative flower design, "Thank you, Mr. Edison for Your, Inventions. Winning a blue ribbon with a score of 95 plus, she also

won the Violet Ribbon as the best design using tropical flowers, and the coveted top award Designer's Choice Award. Winners were honored with an awards luncheon including all the garden clubs of Lee County. Some participants have been entering the show for more than thirty Some participants have been years. This was Granberry's first entry.

dren. Activities, music, exhibits and more are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Nature Sounds Contest will take place near the porch of the Nature Center at 11 a.m. Sign up the day of the event. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded with categories for both adults and children.

## Chamber AfterHours

Green Earth Landscaping and Marcel Ventura of Karen Bell Realty (VIP) will host the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce monthly AfterHours on Monday, Feb. 16. The landscaping company is located at 3889 Sanibel-Captiva Road (across from the Sanibel School).

Reservations must be made by Friday, Feb. 13 before 5 p.m. for all attending. There is a \$5 charge for members and guests with advance reservations; without reservations, the charge is \$8. Please call 472-1966 or email your reservation to: office@sanibel-captiva.org.

Chamber AfterHours is held on the third Monday at 5:30 p.m. Chamber members, prospective members and guests are invited to attend.

For more information on attending or hosting an AfterHours, call Ava at 472-1080, Ext. 225.

## Tuesday, Feb. 17

## Safety class for bankers

Lee County bankers are encouraged to attend a free safety class by the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The program, for both new and current employees, will be from 8 a.m. until noon on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the e Lee County Sheriff's Office headquarters, 14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers.

Topics include bank robbery prevention, recognition of counterfeit money, identity theft, and credit card and identification fraud

'The more you are aware of possible problems and ways to prevent them, the safer you are going to be," says Stacey Payne, a crime prevention specialist for the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Space is limited. Call (239) 477-1400 to register and reserve your seat.



## ONE BITE AND YOU'RE HOOKED FOR LUNCH

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## **OBITUARIES**

## Richard John Brodeur

Heaven is rejoicing! Dick Brodeur passed on February 8, 2004, to be with his Lord. Dick was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 22, 1943, the third son of

MATLACHA RESTAURANT

established restaurant & bar sits on a canal with

lots of potential here for other ventures!

Tiki Hut in beautiful historic downtown Mattacha.

Vincent and Madeline Brodeur. Dick was reared in Greensboro, North Carolina, graduating from Clearwater High School in Clearwater, Florida, in 1961, obtaining a B. A. degree with honors in History and English at the

BAYFRONT RESTAURANT

Bayfront restaurant in Matlacha. Includes the well as the building. Water on 2 sides with a I

view of the dolphins, pelicans, bridge & bay: very hot property! \$1,000,000

University of Florida in Gainesville (Go Gatorst) in 1968. Dick was a founding member and the first President of the Kiwamis Club on Sanibel in 1973, a former member of The Florida Supreme Court, and is currently a member of the Florida Bar, the Lee County Bar Association, and is a Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer, maintaining offices on Sanibel since 1970.

One of the loves of Dick's life was theater: his first performance was "God" in Every Man; Dick enjoyed acting throughout high school and college; being a member of the Peanut Butter & Jelly Company Children's Theater in Cape Coral, performing in many productions for many years with his daughter, being one of the founding members of Actors Repertory Theatre, which brought the first dinner theater to Lee County in the 1970's; playing the part of St. Paul in The Smoky Mountain Passion Play in

early 1980's; and most recently, has taught drama to the Junior High kids at Covenant Community Academy in Fort Myers for the past two years.

Another love was ministering to those incarcerated in the prison system, which Dick visit weekly from 1985— 1994 through Royal Palm Ministries and the Chuck Colson Ministry, with his travels not only to Hendry County, but also to Quito, Eduador, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Another love was Dick's two Boy Scout Troops in 1978 and in 1987-1988, as an Adult Volunteer for Explorer Post 6109 in 1995-1996; and being involved in the youth ministry at Church of the Islands and Sanibel Community Church from 1980 - 1994. In the 1980's, Dick and his wife cared for troubled teens who needed a positive and safe environment in which to find love and make affirmative life decisions.

Another love was Dick's church and his caring church family. Dick was a member and elder of Covenant Community Ministries and a Bible Teacher at CCM since 1994. Dick's faith and love for God is as wondrous as God's love for him - Psalm 40:5.

Dick's foremost love was his wife, Judy. Dick is survived by his wife, Judy, celebrating 33 years of life together this Valentine's Day; his daughter, Molly, and her husband, Mark, and his three granddaughters, Sarah, Briana, and Nicole; his brother-in-law, Chuck, and wife Mary, and niece, Alison, and nephew, Alan; numerous nieces and nephews in Massachusetts and California, and many, many, many fine friends, colleagues, and clients.

Dick was enthusiastic and always optimistic about life, he brought uplifting words of encouragement, challenge, and affirmation to those he encountered. Dick loved the "younga people" and sought to better their life experiences. Dick will always be remembered for the joy he brought to others, the wisdom he imparted, and his passionate nature.

A Memorial Service will be held on Valentine's Day at Covenant Community Ministries at 2:00 pm. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice; cremation arrangements entrusted to Horizon Funeral Home and Cremation Center.

## John Francis Hotchkiss

John Hotchkiss, of Fort Myers and Rochester, N.Y.died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2004 at the age of 97. A longtime resident of Sanibel Island, Florida, he was born in Geneseo, N.Y. on March 26, 1906.

A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, Hotchkiss began his career at Goodyear Tire Company in Akron, Ohio, before joining the Thomas A. Edison Company in Orange, N.J. The majority of his career was spent at Eastman Kodak Co. as an engineering executive. He was a renowned lecturer, certified appraiser, author of several books on antiques and collectibles and a lifelong member of the Antiques Dealer's Association, the Appraisers Association of America and the Golf Collector's Society.

He is survived by three daughters — Joan Welch, and her husband, James, of Rochester, Katherine Gullo, and her husband, James, of Atlanta, and Ann Jaglowski, and her husband, Michael, Huntington Woods, Mich.; five step-children — Mary Montgomery, Charles Potts and his wife, Jan, Louise Thibadeau, and her husband, Paul, Ann Rose and her husband, Jerry, and Elisa Potts; and 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was a devoted husband to the late Catherine Fidelis McKenna and Mary (Mimi) Westervelt Potts.

A memorial mass was held on yesterday, Feb. 12, at St. Isabel's and one will be held at a later-date in Rochester. Memorial donations may be sent to the Carnegie-Mellon Scholarship Fund, Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers 33908.









Wednesday, Feb. 18

## Pseudo-caucus at **Democratic Club**

The Democratic Club of the Islands will be considering the choices in the March 9 Presidential Preference Primary during its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way.

Using a pseudo-caucus approach, the club will let members present their reasons for supporting their preferred candidate. For more information, call Robin Krivanek, 395-0927.

## Volunteers needed to build playground

On Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 18-20, Kids Around the World will be building a playground at the Sanibel Community Church. This playground will be available to the community, and the church will also make use of it for its after-school program, which currently has about 250 kids.

Volunteers are needed, working in four-hour shifts, from 8 a.m. to noon and from noon (or 1 p.m.) to 4 (or 5 p.m.), They need diggers, carpenters, people to help with moving and assembling parts. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church at 472-2684 to find out when people are needed.

Kids Around the World has built playgrounds around the world. They just completed a playground in Beijing and playgrounds have been built in Vietnam, Cuba, India, Africa, the old Soviet Union. Part-time islander Bob Lindemann is working with the program and he has

Logan Fawley from Thurmont, MD, shelling with Grandma Margaret Everly of Fort Myers Beach, found a junonia at Gulfside City Park on Saturday, Jan. 10. They were on the beach around 3:30 in the afternoon, with the tide coming in and it was right along the shore line. Grandma looked down and saw it and went, "Wow!" Noted Logan's dad, "I hope they put a 500 pound/day limit — she is a sheller!

State Certified

been on a number of the trips. He noted that the playground in Vietnam was built on a site where 50 children were killed during the war. There were 5,000 people there to celebrate the completion of the playground: children and their families and "they were all smiling and happy," noted Lindemann.

With this program, he added, "We're building relationships that are good for America, working alongside locals."

### Monday, Feb. 16

## **Coping with Life Challenges** at Island Seniors

The first program in a series on Coping with Life Challenges will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. Dr. Leslie Neal of the Audiology Center will be talking on, "Have you heard?"

One in ten Americans suffer from hearing loss and when untreated, it can result in misunderstandings, fatigue, depression, memory problems and problems with quality of life. Come to this seminar to learn about hearing loss and the latest treatments.

This series of free lectures on the challenges faced by many seniors is being offered to Island Seniors members and the community. Programs are open to all and will be held in the aerobics room of the Island Senior Center of Library Way, but there is only space for 50 people, on a firstcome, first-served basis. Upcoming topics include Living with Arthritis, Diabetes Education, American on the Move, Financing Residential Care Options, Suddenly Single, Understanding Depression, Alzheimers and having joy in your life.



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## FORUM: Thurber on presidential politics

The Forum at BIG ARTS will host

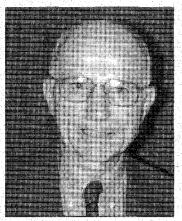
nationally recognized authority on campaigns, elections, and presidential and congressional politics, James Thurber on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Schein Hall located at BIG ARTS Center, Dunlop Road, Sanibel. Tickets \$20.

His timely subject is "The Politics of the 2004 Presidential Election: Strategies, Tactics and Issues." Dr. Thurber is currently a professor of Government and founder /director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University. He is the principle investigator, with a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, to study campaign conduct.

The author or co-author of numerous books and over 75 articles on Congress, lobbying congressional /presidential relations, campaigns and elections, Dr. Thurber was honored as the University Scholar /Teacher of the Year in



Thurber



Korb

The Forum's final speaker of the season, Mr. Lawrence J. Korb, will appear Sunday, Feb. 29 at 7:30. The subject to be addressed by Mr. Korb will be "National Security in an Age of Terrorists, Tyrants and Weapons of Mass Destruction."
The FORUM at BIG

ARTS endeavors to bring the finest in distinguished scholars to our islands. The expertise and insights of these carefully chosen speakers are meant to challenge the thinking, hone the perceptions and broaden the understanding of their island listeners. Support for this year's program has been phenomenal, with many scholars speaking to sold out crowds. The FORUM is generously supported by series sponsor, Northern Trust as well as by Chico's, and The Sanibel-Captiva Trust Company. Please call now to make your reservations for these final speakers as tickets are very limited, 395-0900.

Sanibel/Captiva Real Estate Seminar

Wed. Feb. 18, 2004 Sanibel Community House 9 AM to 10 AM

Some Topics

• Island Sales & 2004 Forecast Putting Real Estate into an IRA

How to Save Taxes with a 1031 Exchange

Fractional Share Purchases On Sanibel

What's selling on Sanibel/Captiva

Seminar Speakers Jay Richter Licensed Real Estate Instructor Academy of Real Estate



Dave Owens President Island Financial

Reservations 472-3121

Program is 60 minutes with Q&A No Real Estate agents will be present

## HAPPENINGS

For items to be included on these pages, they must be submitted by Friday, a week before publication date.

## St. Isabel Women's Guild

The St. Isabel's Women's Guild will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 9:30 in the Church Hall.

After the business meeting, the guest speaker will be Jennifer Benton, executive director of ACT, Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. Benton will discuss the measures being taken at the center to end domestic abuse and the many needs shared by those who are victims. Like last year, the Guild is encouraging all the women in the parish to fill a basket, box or other creative receptacle of their choosing with personal care items for those who must have shelter including children. As a suggestion, just think of some items you would like to have with you if you had to spend the night in a strange place. They can be brought to the Church Hall on the morning of the 24 and Benton will take them back to a shelter after the meeting.

All of the women of the parish are invited to participate and to bring a friend.

## A Russian tea party

The Horticulture and Tea Society of Sanibel-Captiva is presented a Russian Tea Party on Monday, Feb. 23 from 1 - 3 p.m. at St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church at 2304 Periwinkle Way.

Violinist Oksana Pavilionis will be playing; Amy Williams, editor of the News-Press magazine, Tropicalia, will speak; and Seminole uses of plants will be discussed by Dr. Susan Enns Stans, professor of Anthropology at FGCU and author of "Healing Plants, Medicine of the Florida Seminole Indians" and Alice Micco Snow, Seminole tribal elder and co-author, "Human Uses of Plants."

There will be door prizes, raffles and refreshments... all for \$3. Please call Barbara at 472-8334 for reservations, or e-mail hatssancap.org.

## Redevelopment subject of CASI breakfast

The next Condominium Associations of Sanibel (CASI) Members Breakfast will be on Friday, Feb. 27. The topic will be Redevelopment After a Disaster and the guest speakers will be David Schuldenfrei, president of the Sanibel

Board of Realtors; Jack Samler from the Sanibel Planning Commission and Steve Greenstein, executive director of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce.

The breakfast will be held at the Clubhouse at the Sanctuary. Registration is at 8 a.m.; the breakfast buffet starts at 8:30 and the program will run from 9 to 10 a.m. For reservations, please call 334-2138 by Feb. 25.

## Upcoming—

## **Tenth Annual Cast Net Rodeo**

Mark your calendars for the Tenth Annual Southwest Florida Cast Net Rodeo, to be held on Saturday, Feb. 21 at The Bait Box.

Activities begin FREE cast net demonstrations & lessons. The Youth competition will begin at about 11 a.m. (registration is FREE for anyone under 16 years of age). The Adult competition will begin at about 1 p.m. (registration is \$25 in advance or \$35 the day of the event). The First Place winner will receive \$500. There will be a raffle drawing (you do not have to be present to win). The Tenth Annual Southwest Florida Cast Net Rodeo will be held at The Bait Box at 1041 Periwinkle Way; for additional information, please call 472-1618.

## **Transformation Workshop at Fort Myers Beach**

Georgia Shakti-Hill and Mikki McDonald Fraser will present the Game of Transformation Workshop at Fort Myers Beach on February 20 and 21, 2004. Two one-day workshops will be offered with up to four players per Game. The participants will choose a focus in their life and play the Game to find insights and resolutions of an issue or problem. The Game is a multi-purpose tool, which can be experienced on many levels. While playing you will get a clear feedback from the Game itself and through the interaction with other players. It's an opportunity to break through old patterns and try out new ways of responding to life in a safe setting. Through the game you can become more aware of your

personal strengths and learn important lessons that can deepen your understanding of how you operate. The Transformation Game triggers your creativity and lets you realize your full power and potential. Shakti-Hill is a local TV personality and national speaker. Fraser is a teacher and lecturer on empowerment. For more information and a reservation for either of the days call 463-8088 or visit http://www.shakti-hill.com

## Serving size and portion distortion

Sanibel's three parish nurses offer a special program every year as part of their efforts to do things for their respective churches and the community. The first in this year's three-part program will be held at Sanibel Congregational Church on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The speaker is Celia Hill from the

The speaker is Celia Hill from the University of Florida, a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. Hill has a B.S. in Home Economics Education and a Masters in Consumer Affairs and she will be speaking on Portion Distortion. She has a unique way of teaching about foods, nutrition, and the food guide pyramid and her presentation is very informative and entertaining. The other two programs to be offered will be announced at a later date.

## Charity Ball at St. Isabel

The Sixth Annual Charity Ball will be held at St. Isabel Catholic Church on Saturday, Feb. 21, benefiting the various charities of the Catholic diocese of Venice.

A significant portion of the funds raised come from the silent auction. Please consider donating an item or service from your business; your business will appear on the list of donors in the evening's printed program. When submitting such items, please advise the fair retail value of the item.

Individual tickets for the dance are \$100 each. Additional patron levels and sponsor package rates are available. Please call the church office at 472-2763 for more information.

## **Silent Chef's Auction**

Don't forget to return your bids from the Silent Chef's Auction promotion that ran in the Feb. 6 Islander.

All bids need to be received at the Islander office at 695 Tarpon Bay Road, Suite 13, Sanibel, 33957 by Feb. 23, 2004.

If you need a copy of the form, please stop by the Islander office.

## Junque and Treasure Sale accepting donations

The annual Junque and Treasure Sale will be held on Saturday, March 13 at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ.

Donations are being accepted until March 1. Clean usable clothing, new shoes, household goods, working small electronics with instructions, jewelry, books, toys, pictures, collectibles, lamps and furniture and other treasures are being accepted in the lower level of Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Mondays from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Not acceptable for safety reasons are mattresses, box springs, baby equipment, hide-a beds, plumbing, building materials, or exercise equipment.

Proceeds are given by the Sanibel Church Women in Mission (SCWIM) to area non-profits that serve children, women, and families. To arrange for furniture pick-up or if you have any questions, call Dee Hunter (395-9511) or the church office (472-0497).

## Page Field Open House Lee County Port Authority invites

Lee County Port Authority invites Southwest Floridians to celebrate aviation during Page Field Open House 2004 on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The free event will include airplane rides, static displays of aircraft, military-aircraft flybys, airport tours, demonstrations by airport rescue & fire fighting and airport-police canines, aviation-safety seminars and historical exhibits. The Open House will be held on the airport's north ramp, located on North Airport Road, off U.S. 41 south of Edison Mall in Fort Myers. To learn more about Page Field Open House 2004, please call 936-1443.



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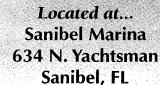
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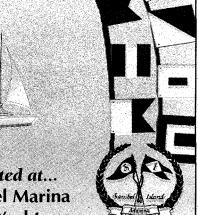
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## **Bereavement support group**

There is a Bereavement Support Group on Sanibel Island. It meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. The group leader is a Hospice-trained facilitator. It is held at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ at 2050 Periwinkle Way. If you or someone you know has lost someone in death, you might find this group most helpful.

## **World Day of Prayer 2004**

World Day of Prayer 2004 will be held on Friday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together every first Friday in March to observe a common day of prayer and fellowship. Each year women of a different country prepare the worship service. This year it is the turn of the women of Panama. Their theme is "In Faith, Women

Shape the Future." Music and prayers will be in English, Spanish and Guaymi.

Churchwomen from all seven churches in the Sanibel community are planning the program cooperatively. The churches are Chapel by the Sea on Captiva, First Church of Christ Scientist, St. Isabel Catholic Church, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel Community Church, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ and Village Church of Shell Point. The program is intended for men as well as women and children to come together for

prayer and fellowship all over the world.

A fellowship hour will follow the service. Child care/nursery service is available from 9:30 to 12:30. For more information, please—call the church at 472-0947.

(left) Jazel Schuller, S a n i b e l Congregational Church World Day of Prayer committee coordinator; (right) Judy Maurer, president, Sanibel Congregational Church Women.





## Take me to the river

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will be offering an environmental education program for kids entitled, "Take Me to the River."

Kids will have the opportunity to learn about the fascinating aspects of wetlands by exploring and investigating Sanibel's interior wetlands. This interpretive program is geared for ages 5-12 and will take

## Dr. Seuss in Cape Coral

Dr. Seuss, the children's author, will come alive with a special U. S. Postal Service event on Saturday, March 27 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Cape Coral Public Library. The Postal Service is issuing a 37-cent stamp in honor of Theodor Geisel's (Dr. Seuss) 100th birthday in early March.

The public is invited to attend the free event. Children may dress as their favorite Dr. Seuss character and enter the costume contest. Prizes for this and writing competitions will be awarded. In addition, every child attending will be entered in a drawing for door prizes. A storyteller will present several Dr. Seuss stories, all children will be presented with a certificate of attendance and a red bow tie.

In keeping with the Dr. Seuss theme, children in grades 1-6 can submit writing entries in advance of the event. The entries will have a preliminary judging by members of the Postal Consumer Advisory Council. The winners will be selected by those in attendance at the March 27 event from the finalist entries. The following specifications are to be followed:

place on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m. An adult must accompany kids, so kids, parents and grandparents, please come to the Conservation Foundation's Nature

Center and "Take Me to the River."

Space will be limited so reservations are required. The program will be free for kids and \$3/adult, Additional information and reservations can be obtained by calling the Conservation Foundation at 472-2329.

In a maximum of 100 words, children in grades 1 and 2 are to answer the question, "If you were the cat in the hat, what would you pull out ... and why?". Children in grades 3 and 4, with a maximum of 200 words, are to write a creative recipe using green eggs and ham. Children in grades 5 and 6, in 250 words or less, are to answer the question, "What is your favorite Dr. Seuss story or character ... and why?"

All entries must be the original creation of the child and must be received by March 15 by Debra Mitchell, Customer Relations Coordinator, United States Postal Service, 2655 N. Airport Road, Fort Myers, FL 33907. Each entry must have the following information on the back of the entry: the child's name; the child's grade, teacher's name, and school name (or indicate home schooled); and a local phone number, Teachers are encouraged to use this as a class writing assignment.

Additional information about the Dr. Seuss program may be obtained by contacting Debra Mitchell, U. S. Postal Service Customer Relations Coordinator, at 239-277-3313.

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## ENVIRONMENT

## **Don and Lillian Stokes at** Audubon

Birding with Don and Lillian Stokes will be the topic at the next Sanibel-Captiva Audubon presentation on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way.

In this entertaining and educational presentation on birding, Don and Lillian Stokes, "America's first couple of birding," best-selling authors and TV personalities, will give you an up close and personal look at birding the Stokes way. You will learn how to boost your identification skills, gain new insights into birds' lives and behavior and discover how you can make a difference in the future of bird conserva-

Called America's "First Family of Birding," Don and Lillian Stokes are two of the country's most productive and popular birding authors and TV personalities. They were the creators and hosts of the very first national birdwatching series to appear on PBS. Their highly popular series, Stokes Birds At Home, ran on public television through 2002, and was seen by over 40 million viewers. Don and Lillian were the producers, writers, hosts, and shot all of the video of birds that appeared in the show. Their latest television project — a five-part TV series called DIY Bird Watching Workshop with Don and Lillian Stokes — will be playing on the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) cable television channel for the next several years.

The Stokeses are also prolific authors who have written 30 books on nature which have sold more than 4.5 million copies. Their well-known titles include the best-selling, Stokes Field Guide to Birds, available in eastern and western editions. Their Stokes Beginner's Guides series includes Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds eastern and western editions, and additional titles in the Stokes Beginner's Guide series include Hummingbirds, Shorebirds, Bats, Bird Feeding and Dragonflies.

They have also written Stokes Nature Guides, a series of books on observing bird and animal behavior; and the Stokes Backyard Nature Books, a series on attracting backyard birds and nature. They have helped produce the bird song CDs and cassettes, Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region, with Lang Elliot, and Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Western Region, with Kevin Colver. Due out in March 2004 is their newest book, Stokes Field Guide To Warblers, a beautiful and innovative photographic field guide that will make warbler identification easy.

Don and Lillian have been consultants to the wild bird feeding industry for 20

years and have recently created the Stokes Select line of bird seed, feeders, and accessories that are sold in Petsmart, Petco, and other bird retailers across the country. A portion of the profits from the sales of Stokes Select products is donated to bird habitat and conservation.

The Stokeses recently moved to southern New Hampshire and created a 16-acre bird sanctuary, called Bobolink Farm, to which they have attracted 159 species of birds. This remarkable habitat features rolling meadows with nesting meadowlarks, bobolinks, bluebirds, and tree swallows, a lake with herons and ducks, woodlands filled with warblers, and large perennial borders that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Accompanied by their constant companion Daisy, their pet Pembroke Welsh Corgi, they spend their winters here on Sanibel Island, where they enjoy and photograph an even greater variety of birds.

This Audubon program is the seventh in a weekly series that continues on Thursdays at 8 p,m. The suggested donation is \$4. There is plenty of parking available at the Sanibel Community House and in the lot across the street in front of the Periwinkle Playhouse (the former J. Howard Wood Theater). For additional information, con-

tact Elaine Jacobson at 395-1878 or visit Audubon's Web site at www.sancapaudubon.org.

## Audubon outing on Feb. 14

The next Sanibel-Captiva Audubon birding outing will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14 (tomorrow) at Bowman's Beach. Meet at the bridge adjacent to the town parking lot at 8 a.m. All birders are welcome.

The next outing will be on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Blind Pass, also at 8 a.m. These outings are open to the public and the suggested donation is \$2. Call Malcolm Harpham at 395-3804 for other details Seagrass Wading Trip

Did you know that the shallow waters between Sanibel and Fort Myers are home to a wide variety of fascinating sea life? This estuarine environment is where the fresh water of the Caloosahatchee River meets the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico. It is also one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth. Here the seagrass beds act as a nursery and a feeding ground for many species of fish and other marine

On Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m., come explore the wonders living below the surface of San Carlos Bay with a Naturalist from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. You will not only see your favorite estuarine creatures up close, but you will also learn about the delicate ecology of seagrass habitats and what is being done to find out more about and protect these valuable nurseries of the sea.

This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to explore the world that lies below the surface of an estuary. This program is being brought to you by a partnership between the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

The program is free to children and adults. Space is limited to 16. Reservations are required; please call 472-2329 or 395-4617. Bring old clothes and/or bathing suit, closed-toe water shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and



## Walkin' Talks at Bowditch

Join a volunteer naturalist each Tuesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. at Bowditch Point Regional Preserve for a free one-hour walk through the various plant communities of a barrier island, including beach, dune and mangroves. Hear about the history and restoration of the preserve. Visit a gopher tortoise habitat and take in the beauty of land and sea from Lookout Point on Gopher Hill. Part of the trail may be under shallow water at high tide so wear shoes that can get wet. Meet at picnic tables behind Flip Flops Cafe 15 minutes before walk.

Bowditch Point is at the north end of Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. From Fort Myers, make a right at the foot of the bridge. For more information, call (239) 765-4222 or 765-4233. Bowditch Point Regional Preserve is a Lee County Parks and Recreation facility.

## Kayak tours

Tuesdays and Saturdays - Lover's Key State Park - 9AM - 2 hour guided kayak nature tour of the water surrounding this award winning state park. See many of the 300 species of birds that frequent the area, dolphins and manatees. Learn about the history of the Calusa Indians that lived here for thousands of year. - \$35 per person.

Tuesdays - Ostego Bay Foundation 1PM - 5PM - Enjoy a guided tour of this wonderful Marine Sciences facility and then take a 2 hour guided paddle on the Great Calusa Blueway to see the critters you just learned about - in their natural habitat. A portion of the proceeds goes to support the Foundation - \$40 per person

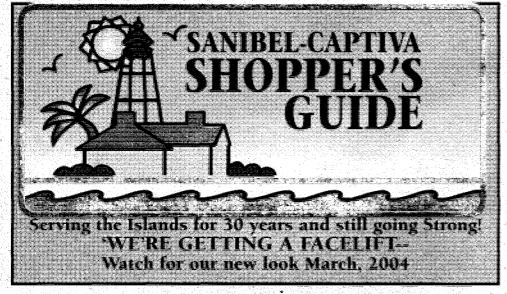
Friday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 22: Manatee Tour - 10AM - get up close and personal with these gentle giants and learn about their history, habitat and habits - 3 hours - \$40 per person

Saturday, Feb. 14 - Kayak Clinic at Manatee Park - 9AM - learn the basics of kayaking and enjoy a tour on the Orange River - 2 hours - \$27.50 per person.

Sunday, February 15th - Bird Rookery/River Tour - 4:00PM - Visit a very special island where thousands of birds of up to 12 species roost. Paddle in a wonderful, natural area of our beautiful Caloosahatchee River . 2 hours - \$35 per person.

For more information and a reservation, please call 239 694-5513







## IONA AIR Inc.: Call Us Today and Sleep Well Tonight

by Nancy Santeusanio Special to The Islander

With over twenty Yellow Pages listings under "Air Conditioning Contractors and Systems" and claims ranging from best service, high quality service, fast and honest service, free estimates, free second opinions, same day service, one day installation, preventive maintenance and the finest indoor air quality, no wonder the consumer is perplexed about how to differentiate between all this highly competitive advertising.

On a checklist of these qualities Iona Air can compete favorably and, in some areas, exceed expectations. However, as Byron Babb and Steve Parkin, owners of the company, state, "You can make all kinds of advertising promises but the only proof is what happens when you call a particular air conditioning company." They emphasize, "The biggest thing is trust. Anyone can say they are honest and that they do the best job but the most important thing is to be able to show the customer and prove it." Claims are easy but results are what count. That's the premise upon which this business is building its reputation. "We want to build an image beyond the telephone book."

The goal of Iona Air is to fix it right the first time. Babb acknowledges that it's easy to say you want to offer quality service but, behind that, you must maintain your own high ethical standards. When you go to someone's home, you are there to listen to their needs and offer them the best available options in high efficiency systems and, at the same time, save

them money.

Other times, a customer is calling for immediate emergency service and that's the crucial test. How fast, how efficiently and how well did the company you called troubleshoot and solve your problem? As one of his many examples, Babb tells about a 2:00 a.m. call from a gentleman on Captiva. His wife was bedridden and the air was out! Babb arrived at their home in less than forty five minutes after receiving the call and replaced the indoor fan motor, which had shorted internally. Following the repair, Babb, as he always does, went through the system to ensure that everything was working properly. The gentleman was almost ecstatic and extremely grateful to Babb for solving his problem so promptly. What counts is the fact that the indelible first impression never fades away, continuing to maintain that same high level of integrity and quality is equally important.

A caution that Babb and Parkin point out is that

along with good air quality and high expectations in service, people are worried about system longevity. "You should have something that protects your system from the numerous power surges so common in this area." Now there are both high and low voltage protectors. Major components such as compressors require high voltage whereas components such as thermostats, printed circuit boards and motor modules use a low voltage protector. Most of these carry their own insurance and a lifetime warranty. "Basically, this is inexpensive insurance for your system and reasonably priced," explains Babb.

Parkin reinforces that the big thing today is indoor air quality or IAQ. Today's houses are much more tightly sealed than in the past and pollutants are much,

much higher indoors than outdoors. The result is that the homes are becoming more energy efficient with less air infiltration. This problem is exacerbated with the increasing evidence of Red Tide. The good news

is that with the addition of new ultra violet technology along with good air filtration the effects of the Red

Iona Air, see page 12

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## Iona Air, from page 11

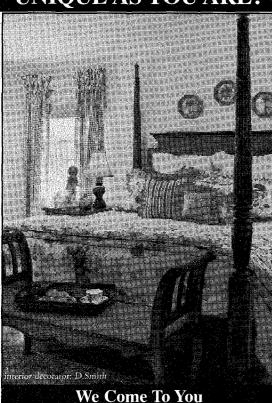
Tide syndrome can be reduced considerably

With rising energy costs, high efficiency systems are coming more to the forefront. If a system is properly

designed, it will work at its peak. Babb and Parkin like to educate people about this knowledge but they also advise people not to run out and buy a new a/c system unless the cost of the repair to their present system is extreme or they

Iona Air, see page 14

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## **Cooking with Rashida**

by Barbara Ganz Special to the Islander

My daughter, Tiffany, was about to visit us at our condominium near Marbella, Spain and I wanted to do something really different, with just the two of us — kind of a mother and daughter bonding experience.

While reading a local magazine, I came to an advertisement that read, "Mediterranean cooking classes, contact easydishes.com." "Sounds like a plan," I said to myself. (I often talk to myself when making plans). And so, I contacted Algerian born Rashida Reidel, who lived only five minutes from our home. I told her that I wanted to learn about

Mediterranean cooking and that I would bring my daughter along. She then insisted that my husband, David and I first visit her to discuss what foods I was interested in and to review the menu. David had the standard male reaction, "What, is she kidding? Why do I have to go? I just burned the water for tea!"

Some time later, we arrived at Rashida's beach villa, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The view was simply breathtaking and there was not just one, but two kitchens. One was inside and the other was outside. Rashida told us that she used the indoor kitchen only during inclement weather. Over freshly brewed mint tea, Rashida explained the differ-

Rashida, see page 14

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## LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

Presented by Margie Davison

### **NEW YEAR, NEW INVESTMENTS**

Lower-than-ever interest rates kept the housing market strong and healthy during the past year, and the demand for housing continue to surpass the current supply of home as the New Year begins. If you are thinking about investing in the real estate market, it's and excellent time to take action.

Home prices appreciation has given homeowners increased

Home prices appreciation has given homeowners increased home equity, and many are choosing to cash out some of that equity by refinancing or taking out a home equity loan. While many homeowners use the cash to pay down debt or make improvements on their principle residence, a growing number will be investing a second homes or investment properties during the coming year.

Senior home buyers between the ages of 55 and 60 are among the most active (and affluent) shoppers in today's real estate market. Seniors who purchased properties decades ago are now enjoying the rewards of investing in real estate. They have plenty of home equity to turn into ready cash, and many own their home out right. Senior buyers are looking for new investments in luxury homes, vacation or retirement getaways and rental properties.

So take a tip from our senior citizens – buy property, and be propersous!

Margie specializes in Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers real estate. She was named Realtor of the Year by Sanibel and Captiva Assn. of Realtors in 2000 and 2002. Her new book, "How To Make Your Realtor Get You The Best Deal-South Florida Edition" is must reading if you are thinking of buying or selling. Call Margie at PMR 472-1511, or visit her web site at http://www.MargieDavison.com.



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## Iona Air, from page 12

want to think about upgrading. Much depends on the needs and wants of the customer and their comfort level as well as the amount of money they are spending on their electric bill. They offer honest, free and unbiased home consultation and analysis of any system to determine the needs and anticipated expense of a new, high efficiency system. With such a large number of a/c companies, the first thing is to establish a rapport with the customer and to build trust between the company and the customer. "Call us today and sleep well tonight" is their easy to remember motto and they can deliver what they promise in a very short time span.

Iona Air has a strong island connec-

tion, with Babb having lived on Sanibel as a child, attending local schools and subsequently living and working in the Iona McGregor area for several years. From this small town background, he moved to San Diego, California where he joined Steve Parkin in a growing and prosperous air conditioning company. Before moving to San Diego, Parkin had apprenticed in the air conditioning business in England and now Babb and Parkin are offering their combined total of thirty five years of experience in Iona Air, their new company. Tel (239) 823-7664. Remember they fix it right the first time, save the customer money whenever possible and always maintain that same level of integrity and quality.

## Rashida, from page 13

ences between the various Mediterranean cuisines, such as Andalusian, Lebanese, Provincial, and Italian. Since David and I were now legal Spanish residents, I decided that it was time to learn to cook some regional Spanish Andalusian dish-

The menu I selected consisted of canapes called "checkchoukas," which consisted of tomatoes, onions, olive oil, cayenne, fresh herbs and bay leaves. This is served hot on crackers. Then comes "almejas," or tiny clams with lots of unique spices. The main entree was 'arroz marinara with vegetables," which is a rice dish with mussels, calamari and prawns, seasoned and served with peas and green beans. We even decided to

make Spanish tortillas just to make the meal authentic. Desert was an "apple omelette" made from yellow apples, brown sugar, eggs, cream, and more—real dietetic stuff. And, of course, there was mint tea.

After hearing the menu, all of a sudden my husband became very interested. We agreed that my daughter and I would start preparing the lunch at 9 a.m., while David was scheduled to join us at 1 p.m. to do the job he does best—eating. Yes, it would take us four hours to properly prepare this lunch. But it was worth every minute we were about to spend on it.

The next morning, my daughter and I were given more mint tea and issued our uniforms of the day, long white aprons. We reviewed our recipes, lit the outdoor

Rashida, see page 15



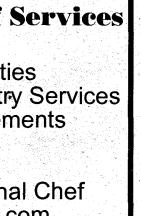
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Zonta welcomes island favorite, Dee Serage-Century, as the featured speaker for their February 18 meeting.

Mark your calendars and plan to be at The Dunes at 7:30

a.m. to hear this engaging presentation by Dee. "Landscaping for Wildlife" is a topic so important to living successfully on Sanibel, a "sanctuary" island.

for the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation for the

last 15 years as the Landscaping for Wildlife Educator.

She brings a wealth of knowledge to the subject and will

help us become more aware of how we can help all the

little critters when we landscape and maintain our yards.

little grass shack by the lighthouse where Lucas has his

glass studio. Dee says she is so lucky to be making her

living doing what she loves... the wonder and beauty of

Butterflies and Native Plants." The Zonta Club of

Sanibel/Captiva, part of an international service organi-

zation that works to advance and enhance the status of

women, meets on the first and third Wednesday of the

month at 7:30 a.m. at The Dunes Restaurant, Sanibel.

Meetings are open to all interested persons, and the breakfast cost for non-members is \$8. For information

Join us for her specific presentation on "Florida

the natural world that surrounds us here on Sanibel.

Dee, Lucas and Gracie (the greyhound) live in their

Dee is a 25-year resident of Sanibel and has worked

Dee Serage to speak at Zonta

Think native!

## SERVICE CLUBS

## They're everywhere! (...and soon, they'll be eating spaghetti)

News from the Kiwanis Submitted by Bob Wimbush

They're everywhere! They're everywhere! Yellow jacketed, swooping, zooming around our Islands. And no wonder — there are soooo many of them. According to George Sousa, president, and this week's Kiwanis speaker, the Sanibel Bicycle Club has around 240 members.

This is a big group.

And, it is politically correct — he and their nicely prepared brochure consistently referred to our "shared-use paths," never slipping back into the no longer proper "bike paths" designator favored by the rest of us. And, it is politically active, swarming yellow-and-reflector-clad into City Council (and other) meetings where it feels its presence must be felt.

And, it is environmentally active. Recently Bike Club members scooped up over 150 pounds of trash and recyclables cluttering our island. They even bird-dog safety issues, advising the city when overhanging trees or path up-heavals imperil the comfort and safety of the two-wheeled advocates. What about a path through Gumbo Limbo that would take

more bicycle traffic off Periwinkle? Bikers want it. Predictably, residents don't.

Souza

You've noticed the proliferation of marked crosswalks, painted lines and reflective delineators separating the paths from traffic? Yep. The bike club provides the city wiht stencils to mark landes, turns, hazards and places where bikers are supposed to stop. They claim to have inspired the city to install them.

And, when the Lee County Health Department needed someone to relay a standard Olympics-style from the lighthouse to a waiting kayak in Tarpon Bay for Step Up Florida, a campaign to encourage us to be more active in daily life, the Sanibel Bike Club stepped up. Like I said, they're everywhere.

Even off-island. The more stalwart among them enjoy regular sojourns to Naples and Pine Island and Gateway. They even have extended three-day trips and, because cycling takes so much energy, a monthly pot luck.

Bikers on the road? In Florida they have the same rights as cars. Translation: if someone is so stupid as to ride in traffic instead of on a nice, safe, reserved bik... oops...shared-use path, they're entitled to do so. Perhaps those persons have ridden too long without a helmet? Nope. Not Bike Clubbers. Helmets are required for every ride.

This is a really cool group... except for the fact they have usurped Kiwanis yellow as their color and might even make our club appear to be socially responsible and a group to be admired. Perhaps we can impress a few of them into working the Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 28th they'll be the slim ones who sweat the least.

To sample the bike club camaraderie while working those underused muscles, join the regular Saturday morning ride. It departs the Holiday Inn at 7:30, but will start earlier when the sun does. Contact the club at Post

> Office Box 951, Sanibel, or check the web at www.sanibelbicycleclub.org.

## Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner — Bigger, Better, and World Famous

Mark your calendar for Feb. 28!

Kiwanis is at it again — bigger and better than ever now that the islands' traditional All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner, which was featured in Kiwanis internationally distributed members' magazine, has become

Event sponsors are Century 21 J.B. Novelli Internationale, Bailey's, Sanibel Captiva Trust and Sanibel-

and the community greatly appreciate their support.

As usual, this year's event will be festive and fun. Not that it's THE place to be seen, but your friends and neighbors — all of whom will be there — will probably miss you if you don't attend. Last year Kiwanians served over 1,400 dinners, not counting kids who eat free.

The first diners will be served at 4 p.m. and the last a little after 8. Music, dancing, stuff for kids, auctions and desserts will run until 10 at the Sanibel Community House.

You will consume over 300 pounds (dry weight) of spaghetti, over 1,000 loaves of bread, over 3,000 meatballs, several hundred pounds of salad and enough wine and other beverages to wash it all down.

Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased from any Kiwanian, at Periwinkle Park, Big Red Q, Bailey's, Colonial Bank, Bank of the Islands, Sanibel Captiva Trust and Century 21 J.B. Novelli Internationale. They are \$8 at the door, and kids under 10 are free.

Kiwanis breakfasts at the Dunes on Tuesdays at which times they plot extravaganzas like the Spaghetti Dinner and the San-Cap Revue Variety Show coming March 6th

Captiva Community Bank. Kiwanis

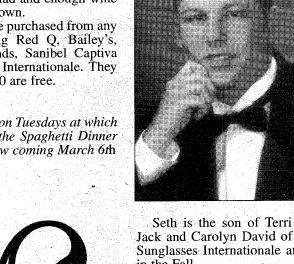
Sanibel youth receives Good Citizenship Award

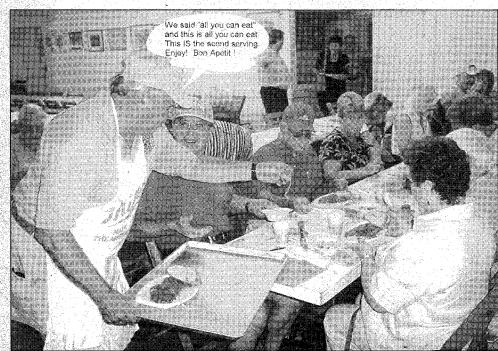
call Marie Gargano 395-3089.

resident Island David Seth Gleeson was awarded the Good Citizenship Award by the National Society of the Daughers of the American Revolution Caloosahatchee Chapter.

Seth was nominated by his peers and the faculty at Canterbury School, based on his honesty, community service, courage, leadership and patriotism, projected during his high school years. Seth was one of only four students chosen throughout County.

Seth is the son of Terri Cummins and grandson of Jack and Carolyn David of Sanibel. He is employed at Sunglasses Internationale and will be attending college









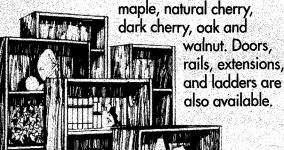
## ABWA Entertainment Book Fundraiser

The Sanibel-Captiva Chapter of the American Business Women's Association is selling 2003-2004 Entertainment Books. The Entertainment Books are full of terrific discount coupons on air travel, car rentals, car washes, dry cleaning and, of course, dining. Many fine Sanibel and Captiva restaurants are participating.

Entertainment Books make great gifts for housewarmings or just a special "thank you." ABWA provides scholarships and last year, 10 women who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to further their education were sponsored. Books may be purchased at the Bank of the Islands and Island Graphics for \$30.

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20" W x 72" H 20" W x 84" H	\$239 \$279	\$189 \$219
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## **Walk to Cure Diabetes**

The Third Annual Walk to Cure Diabetes will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28 at FGCU. Sponsored by the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the walk will consist of a two-mile walk around the FGCU campus, beginning in the Student

A complimentary light breakfast will be offered prior to the walk and lunch with entertainment follows. Commemorative T-shirts will be provided for participants who raise over \$100.

The walk will take place rain or shine, so please come and turn in your donations that morning. Teams from families, businesses and organizations are forming to fundraise and participate as a group. Individual walkers are also needed to seek donations. On-line registration and fundraising are available at www.jdrf.org. Complimentary team photos will be taken.

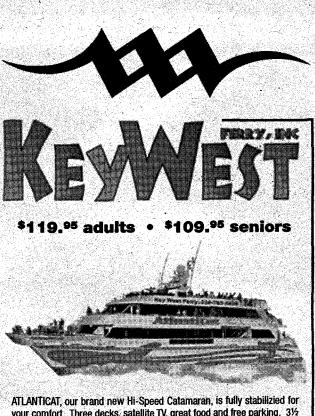
JDRF's mission is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of medical research. Walks such as this one will be held in more than 225 cities worldwide over the year. For more information, call JDRF at 239/992-3840.

## **Democratic Club Wine & Cheese**

A member of the Democratic Club at Shell Point is hosting an Italian Wine & Cheese Party with an eclectic silent auction fund-raiser on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at her home, 14871 David Drive, Palm Acres (which is to the left off Shell Point Boulevard just before the entrance gate to the Island).

Items for the silent auction include jewelry from Sanibel's finest shops, gift certificates from fine restaurants on Sanibel, Captiva and the mainland, and a variety of other offerings including art objects, gift baskets, and numerous store gift certificates.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door. Everyone is welcome! Call 466-7587 for information.



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## **Junior Achievement's** Beach Bowl 2004

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida is shaking the sand out of the traditional bowl-a-thon concept with its Beach Bowl 2004. The Fort Myers, Naples and surrounding communities are invited to don their Hawaiian-print shirts and flip flops and join colleagues, friends and neighbors to raise funds that will help more than 5,500 area students learn about free enterprise and economics through a variety of Junior Achievement programs. The Beach Bowl 2004 bowla-thon events are Saturday, Feb. 28 at Beacon Bowl in Naples and Saturday, March 13 at Galaxy Lanes in Fort Myers.

Participants assemble a team of five bowlers who are willing to raise \$100 each. A \$20 donation covers the cost of two games, shoe rental, fun activities and prizes. Those interested in participating may contact Stefanie Cutshall at 939-1553 to reserve a lane. Bowling times are assigned on a first come, first serve basis, and the \$20 bowling fee from each bowler is due two weeks prior to the event.

Junior Achievement is dedicated to educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise. Through age-appropriate curricula, Junior Achievement programs, from elementary school through high school. For more information, visit www.ja.org.

## Rashida, from page 14

oven and we were ready to rumble. Rashida instructed us on how to prepare every organic ingredient and gave us some very useful information such as, never to use virgin olive oil when you cook. Use it on your face for soft, silky skin. Only use regular olive oil when cooking as it brings out the flavor of the ingredients much more. Another tip was never to eat farm raised fish as they are fed contaminants from the other fish. Rashida told me that the way to spot farm raised fish in the supermarket is that all the fish on display are the same size. Fresh fish comes in varying sizes and is much, much healthier.

Time flew as we cooked away, with pans sizzling, pots boiling and kettles whistling. The only catastrophe of the day was when yours truly dropped a tortilla on the floor. Rashida was very understanding and told me not worry, because that was how her cat had became so fat.

The big moment finally came. It was now 1 p.m. and David and Rashida's husband came to partake in the day's repast. I felt as if El Exigente had arrived. We all ate outdoors together, looking out at the sea while sampling the delicious Andalusian cuisine. David and Rashida's husband gave us 5 stars, not 4, for food, atmosphere and service.

Rashida told us that since she cooks only with organic foods, she and her husband are convinced that she has prevented him from getting heart disease or a stroke.

When we return to Spain this spring, Rashida has promised to take me to the local markets to purchase all the fresh organic ingredients she cooks with. I can't wait. In fact, I plan on taking several of our neighbors in Spain to Rashida for cooking lessons.

So, if you are ever in Spain, be sure to log onto the "easydishes.com" website and set yourself up for a cooking lesson with Rashida. You'll be glad you did. And, don't forget to tell her that Barbara sent you.



## TO YOUR HEALTH

## **Inside the healing process**

by Karen Nelson

Suzanne Weinheimer, who is teaching an eight-week workshop, Finding Me: An Inside Job, also has a practice as a healer and this writer went for a session. I've read about healing but had never before visited a healer, and wanted to experience it for myself.

I'm lucky enough to be in pretty good health (knock wood!), despite issues with weight (and an earlier less-than-successful attempt to follow Claudia Burns' eminently reasonable program). So, wanted to make another run at losing, I decided to work on releasing the need to hold onto excess weight with Suzanne.

Suzanne began the session by asking what I wanted to work on and I gave her some background and specifics. She normally works on a table but I was more comfortable sitting, so we remained in her living room, overlooking a peaceful bay.

I closed my eyes and followed her voice. Working with visualization and guided by intuition, she led me into a series of wonderful visualization exercises. She paused each step of the way to gauge my level of comfort and adjusted the exercise to my reactions.

Without going into specifics, I came away from the session feeling lighter and equipped with several exercises to use as I continue to work through this deepseated issue.

While no life-changing revelation was flung down at me like a thunderbolt from the heavens (I'm always looking for magic solutions), the feeling of self-acceptance at the end of the session remains and the visualizations she gave me are ones that I will actively use.

She has worked with AIDS patients and many others. Some patients have refused what they want and leave the rest." to accept the healing, those who are dealing with unresolved issues and feelings that they are not ready to release. The "person [needs to] work with it and understand it. They have to understand why they needed it in the first place...

"As we get older, we begin to listen and feel differently. All parts of us are not give Suzanne Weinheimer a call at 472-operating at the same level. Someone can 0214. And if you are interested in joining terms of how we grow, it's not even.'

"not in charge of results... People take information.

## Going on a Diet

by Claudia Burns Special to the Islander

Going on a diet is never fun. It means giving up all the foods you love, right? It smacks of deprivation, which causes resentment and may lead to abandoning the diet altogether

There's always a hot new diet to try. I favored The Drinking Man's Diet during my college/early career years, while my roommate ingested only cottage cheese and buttermilk for weeks at a time. Mom followed The Grapefruit Diet, my husband applied the Sports Illustrated approach, and cousin Kate enrolled in The Rice Diet. Nowadays, dieters swear by Atkins or The South Beach diet.

You can lose weight on any of these plans, of course. Unfortunately, once you resume

eating "normally" it just piles back on.
That's the trick, isn't it - to keep the weight off once you go back to your usual regimen. I finally got fed up with the yo-yo syndrome of weight loss/weight gain, and looked for a way to eat that is healthy as well as satisfying so I could follow it longterm without feeling deprived. As a result, I've read just about every diet book/magazine article that's been published.

Three years ago I discovered Sugar Busters, which calls for avoiding sugar, or anything that turns to sugar in your body, in order to lose weight, be healthy, and maintain your weight long-term. Like Atkins and South Beach, it allows plenty of protein and fat - BUT it's picky about the TYPE of fat you eat AND it allows cer-

The client is always in control of the session since she continually pauses, checking on the level of engagement. It was a fascinating experience and one that should remain personally useful to me for some time to come

If you would like more information, be brilliant but lacking common sense. In her class, newcomers are still welcome to join the second class on Monday, Feb. 16. She has learned, particularly through Classes are free but donations are accepted her work with AIDS patients, that she's for materials and refreshments. Call for

tain carbohydrates - namely: nonstarchy vegetables, the occasional whole

grain, and a few fruits in limited amounts. It also permits a modicum of alcohol - as long as it's wine.

After adapting the Sugar Busters approach to my tastes and needs and following it for three years, I find myself trimmer, fitter, and more energetic than I've ever been as an adult. Exercise is also a crucial part of my weight management strategy, as it's necessary to maintain a

healthy body. It also burns calories, so I can eat more of my favorite foods.

Based on my success, I've devised a program called "Fit'n'Trim", which offers a lifestyle (not a "diet") that anyone can follow forever to maintain a healthy weight. Here are its guidelines: consume 40% protein, 30% "healthy" fat and 30% nonstarchy vegetables for every vegetables nonstarchy meal/snack; avoid white carbohydrates, starchy foods, and all sugars; limit grains to one serving a day and make it whole grain; use caution in consuming fruit; enjoy up to two 4-ounce glasses of wine daily if you wish, but avoid all other alcohol; get one to three hours of exercise

And feel free to drop by a Fit'n'Trim meeting some Friday from 11:30 to noon (doors open at 11 a.m.) in Heron Hall at the Congregational Church to see what it's all about.

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## Jack Elias & Judy Turner: High school sweethearts reunited

Young love, lost. How many of those at high school reunions secretly nurse the hope of rekindling a cherished first romance, and magically recapturing the wonder and innocence of youth? That's the very special story of Sanybel's Finest Owner Jack Elias and his high school sweetheart, Judy Turner.

When they parted as teens and went their separate ways, he felt that she was "the finest person I would know, a pure, true Christian, an honest and loving person." However, he was a Roman Catholic and she was a Lutheran. In their small town in northern Minnesota, "We knew life together was not possible."

For her part, Judy had her heart set on being a missionary, and she "thought life was supposed to be serious and you were supposed to do something for the world. With Jack I always had fun but I didn't think he was serious enough and artists never make a living."

But after many years, two marriages (each) and several children (each), they reconnected at a high school reunion. Judy had moved to Golden, Colorado and Jack had moved to Sanibel. Judy heard that Jack was divorced and — hoping that he would be attending the 1997 all-school reunion — said to herself that there was "no way he was going to get out of that room without my getting my arms around him."

Jack was sitting with two former girfriends and their husbands, talking about old times when one of them said, "Do you know that Judy's here?"

"I stood up," he said. "There were three classes, 160 people I hadn't seen in 40 years. It was like in a movie: Judy was on the opposite side of the room. Our eyes met and we were trying to get to each other around folding tables and chairs: All her life, Judy has cut to the quick. 'You married?' she asked. 'No, you?' 'No," and they embraced.

"It was just so neat," Jack remembered, "like turning a page in a book and nothing had changed: the mannerisms, speech, caring for each other." They began talking on the phone nightly. When Jack found out that an upcoming gift show was being held in Denver, he asked Judy, "How far is it from Denver to Golden on the map?"

"About a half-inch to a quarter inch," she shot back, before adding, "Would you come out to Denver?"

He bought a ticket and during the next conversation, he broached the delicate subject of accommodations. "Do you have a room?" she asked. Jack said no, assuming that she probably had a boyfriend. "There are a couple of hotels not too far from here," she added, noting that she'd been rehearsing the conversation in her head

"Will you tell me about your house?" he asked. "I have three bedrooms. One is an office."

"You have a guestroom?" he asked.

"I'd forgotten how sly he was," Judy interjected while telling the story. "Would you like to stay?" she asked.

"I was as nervous as a teenager," Jack said. "I couldn't believe a 60-year-old person could still be that way."

They had a wonderful visit, but "seeing her, with such enthusiasm, showing me the Rocky Mountains, and seeing her friends and the love and care they had for her, I said to myself, 'she won't leave here. It will be a long-distance relationship." For the first two years, they connected during various business trips around the country. Then Judy began taking extended vacations, staying in touch with her office via laptop. Finally, she decided to relocate to Sanibel and went in to resign: her boss sent her to Sanibel with her blessing and orders to "set up an office and send me the bill."

When Jack found out that she was making the move, he gave her the biggest room in the house. "If you're coming, you can have what you want."

It was a long road to reunion for both of them, Jack free-lanced after graduation from the College of Art & Design in Minneapolis before accepting a position with one of his clients, Lakeside, which manufactured beer signs. His first assignment was to design a bar game for Budweiser and he took the Budweiser logo eagles and twisted them slightly so that their wings curved into hooks for a "hooking game." They made a barrel to hold the game pieces and Jack headed down to St. Louis to make the presentation to Budweiser on a Friday.

It was a disaster, with the president and owner objecting most strongly to anyone tampering with their logo. Certain that he would be fired, despite his boss's best efforts to assure him otherwise, Jack spent Sunday evening circling classified ads. "Wild Kingdom" with Marlin Perkins was on TV, and Perkins was holding a monkey as he outlined the evening's show. Jack looked up and saw the monkey reach down to scoop up its baby. Something in the action of the mother hooking the baby clicked in his mind — a hooking monkey — and he carved a half-dozen little monkeys and presented the idea to his boss; why not a barrel of monkeys?

Lakeside had the injection molding equipment to manufacture the toys but they were not a toy company. The owner called friends in the toy business for advice, and sent Jack to New York for an upcoming toy show to gauge interest.

There was no booth space so Jack sat at a card table in the hallway. For three days, a man without a badge stopped by but said nothing. On the fourth day, he said that he really like the product but had one question: "What's your EBD?" Jack had no idea and said he'd find out, asking the man to watch his booth while he went down the hall to use the phone. They'd never heard of "EBD" back in Minneapolis, either. The man was a buyer

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for Sears, then one of the top three retailers in the country, and Sears was granted an early buy discount when they bought a three-year exclusive on the Barrel of Monkeys.

Jack remained with Lakeside as Director of Research and Development until 1975, designing several games including Deluxe Aggravation, working with 3M on the design of the folding game board, and working on flexible Gumby, Pokey, Disney and Warner Brothers characters.

When Lakeside was acquired in 1975, Jack was offered a position in New Jersey. He first visited Sanibel in 1961 (on his honeymoon) and returned yearly with his family. In a 1975 family meeting, Sanibel won out over New Jersey. He was involved in several businesses on Sanibel before he opened Sanybel's Finest in 1984 as a nautical gift shop. He added Captiva's Finest in 1985 and has twice expanded his space in Jerry's.

The importance of customer loyalty was impressed upon him as a child by his father, who was in the grocery business, where it's not "hard to get a loaf of bread 10 cents cheaper" somewhere else.

Judy became a nurse, married a Lutheran minister and they were assigned to a mission in Tanzania, in east Africa. Judy and a pediatric specialist from Finland opened a one-day-a-week children's clinic in the Usumbarra Mountain that served 1,800 children in a rural area. "Mothers the world over want something better for their children. Some walked 20 miles" to get to the clinic. "They were hungry for information and they used it."

Judy and her husband rotated out of the mission (a local hospital took it over) and, after divorcing, Judy moved to Colorado with three kids, marrying, divorcing and working at a hospital. She felt that she "had to do something more holistic, rather than keep perpetuating the same system" and in 1986, she began learning therapeutic touch. She moved to Golden and became a certified Healing Touch instructor and practitioner. In 1995, she began traveling and giving seminars throughout the U.S.; she'll be giving her second overseas seminar in Amsterdam this June. She used Jack's love of Monet to lure him to a Paris stopover on her first Amsterdam seminar, and he'll be joining her when she goes again this June.

In fact, during Jack's first visit to Golden, Judy applied Healing Touch to a torn ligament in one of his fingers that had stubbornly refused to heal completely and was causing him a lot of pain. During the course of the visit, Judy would take his hand in hers and gently run her other hand just above his hand, over and over again. By the end of the visit, his finger had healed.

She has taught Healing Touch in Fort Myers and Naples, and will be teaching in March at Casa Ybel Resort on Sanibel.

"She's such a wonderful woman," says Jack. Judy left the room to meet with a client, so he got the last word. "I still get emotional over the fact we were able to get together... We appreciate each other far more than we would have if we'd been together. Every minute of every day is precious."

They have discussed the death of some of her friends. "We've got to enjoy every day for what it is. That's the great benefit of having her around... plus her wonderful smile."



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## Urban and Olga Palmer: Celebrating 75 years together

Urban Palmer

Named after a Polish pope ("There were six — take your pick!"), the son of vaudeville-circuit parents. Raised by a Chicago grandmother obsessed with politics. A bus boy, a leather board factory worker (shoe soles), a coat checker, a bass drum player soliciting funds for Liberty Bonds, a machine shop instructor. A nightclub musician, an onstage show musician. And, in the remaining hours of the day and/or night, a butter and egg man and wholesale meat distributor. Oh, also a husband, father, devoted son and one of the most loved and respected citizens of Sanibel.

Olga Palmer.

Brooklyn-born daughter of a Russian baroness and a

French violinist. Ballet dancer at the tender age of three or four, modern, tap and acrobatics dancer. Nightclub dancer from eight to 18. Holiday cashier at Marshall Fields. Egg packer and primary chicken/goose/turkey plucker for Urban's burgeoning egg, butter and poultry business. World renowned, award-winning horsewoman. And, homemaker (Urban's grandfather taught her how to cook), mother and, without the shadow of a doubt, Urban's greatest supporter.

Married Feb. 5th, 1929, 101year-old Urban and 92-year-old Olga celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary last week. At 101, Urban is no longer in good health but Olga attributes her good health to being in good shape for such a long time —

"from age of five on I was a dancer — until one month before my 18th birthday! I loved dancing, I loved showing horses and I was good at it. I've truly had a wonderful life... And I'll love Urb 'til the day I die."

Urban and Olga now have live-in help — Carol Neal who has been with them for almost four years and whom Olga considers part of the family. "She's a dear. She's a good cook, she cleans, drives me around — to the grocery, to get my hair done, to the doctor... She's just wonderful!"

A 1968 vacation on Sanibel gave the Palmers island fever and the dream of a permanent home here. The

house where they still live was built to their specifications in 1971 (the one in Shell Harbour with the huge, lovingly tended banyan tree in front). Olga became a part-time island resident; Urban commuted for another five years until he retired from the butter, egg and meat packing industry.

The minute he moved here full time, Urban got involved in the community and that interest, involvement and his all-encompassing concern never waned. Well over 20 years ago, he was roasted by the community and described as "indefatigable, tenacious, eager, steadfast, unfailing, energetic and absolutely everywhere"

Why all that? Urban simply expresses his deep love for the island — "The happiest days of my life have

been spent on Sanibel. And I say it all the time: 'If Sanibel isn't your life, then you don't belong here.'"

Over the years he received the Walter Klie Award from the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Committee of the Islands (COTI), which he also served as president — along with the presof the Sanibel idency Community Association and the Shell Harbour Homeowner's Association; and he founded and served as president of the Committee of Neighborhood Associations (CONA). A Lion since 1976, he is extremely proud of being a Melvin Jones Fellow and of the plaque presented him by Lions Club International in 1992 for his

"dedicated humanitarian service."

When asked about major island problems about eight years ago, Urban answered, "The traffic. And it looks like it's just going to get worse." (Prophetic? That was 1996.) At one time there had been talk of a round-about at Periwinkle and Lindgren, but Urban and several friends recruited highway experts from Tallahassee who explained why it was totally unfeasible. It hasn't come up again...

Urban has been an island watchdog ever since becoming a permanent resident. Olga is a tower of strength, fully participating with Urban in any and all

political and social situations. She, too, has a mind like a steel trap and little or nothing gets past her.

"There's not another place I'd rather be," she said this past Saturday, "and Urb feels the same way. We've been very happy here.

"...There are some things I don't like... I think the island's getting overbuilt. A little bit of vacant property appears and it's clear-and-build right away. It was so beautiful here when we first came... At least, we have the ordinance about no house extending above treetop level... And then there's all that



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hemming and having about the bridge. We don't need a high-rise. We need to keep it the way it is but take care of it.

"I think I worry most about the damage that is being done to the environment," she commented. "Look what unthinking and uncaring people have done to our water, developers have done to our lands... I do think there is less litter and trash along the roadsides now than a few years ago. I guess people are finally becoming more aware of that problem."

Everyone has heard the phrase, "They don't make 'em like they used to..." One look at Urban, dubbed Mr. Sanibel by the community, and his spouse, Baroness Olga, and the meaning of that phrase becomes crystal clear.

A 10-part series about Urban and Olga Palmer was written by the late Frank Wagner in 1996. This adaptation is by Anne Bellew.





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## **FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 14 & 15**

## SATURDAY P.M

Partly sunny today with scattered showers in the evening



18661 472-7800



Another partly cloudy day with showers likely later in the day.

WEEKEND TIDES				
City	Sat.High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral	5:18 a.m.		6:28 a.m.	3:54 a.m.
Bridge		2:53 p.m.		10:54 p.m.
Captiva at	3:08 a.m.	en St. St.	4;18 a.m.	12:38 a.m.
Redfish Pass		11:37 p.m.		8:44 p.m.
Fort Myers	6:11 a.m.		7:21 a.m.	4:36 a.m.
		3:35 p.m.		11:47 p.m.
Matlacha Pass	4:46 a.m.		5:56 a.m.	3:20 a.m.
		2:19 p.m.		10:22 p.m.
Pineland	3:44 a.m.		4:54 a.m.	2:18 a.m.
		1:17 p.m.		9:20 p.m.
Point Ybel	2:13 a.m.		3:23 a.m.	12:40 a.m.
		11:39 p.m.		7:49 p.m.
Punta Rassa	3:02 a.m.		4:12 a.m.	12:33 a.m.
		11:32 p.m.	8:38 p.m.	11:57 p.m.
St. James City	3:33 a.m.		4:43 a.m.	
	].	12:07 p.m.	9:0 <b>9</b> p.m.	1:08 p.m.



79/60 Sat 76/61 Sun

CAPE

CORAL

79/60 Sat 76/61 Sun

FORT MYERS

BEACH 75/66 Sat

75/65 Sun

BOCA GRANDE 75/66 Sat 75/66 Sun

> PINE ISLAND

78/62 Sat 76/63 Sun

CAPTIVA ISLAND 75/65 Sat 75/65 Sun

> SANIBEL ISLAND

76/65 Sat 75/66 **S**un

Mexico **BOATING FORECAST** Wind: Variable 15 Knots

Seas: 1-3 Feet

Gulf

of

Bay & Inland: Moderate Chop

CHARLOTTE COUNTY**PUNTA GORDA** 

LEE COUNTY

36, 30, 44, 51, 37, 54, 58, 58

LEHIGH ACRES 76/60 Sur

IMMOKALEE

84/55 Sat 80/57Sun

FORT **MYERS** 80/61 Sat 77/62 Sun

ESTERO 78/63 Sun

> **BONITA SPRINGS** 81/62 Sat 78/65 Sun

> > COLLIER county

MARCO ISLAND 81/66 Sat 79/65 Sun

NAPLES 81/64 Sat 78/64 Sun



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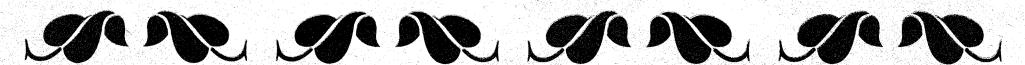
## STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CAPE CORAL DAYTONA BEACH 72/58 82/67 77/66 68/42 62/48 FT. LAUDERDALE FT. MYERS BEACH GAINESVILLE .
JACKSONVILLE KEY WEST KISSIMMEE 68/55 MIAMI . 82/67 ORLANDO PANAMA CITY 72/58 57/44 PENSACOLA 70/57 70/56 SARASOTA ST. PETERSBURG TALLAHASSEE TAMPA 58/44 70/55 VERO BEACH WEST PALM BEACH





SUNSET 5:46PM





## Leisure

Week of February 13 - 21:

## Meet Capiiva ariist Laurie Kaihlaner

## By Karen Nelson

"Anything I start, I finish," even when problems arise on a piece and it becomes a question of problem-solving. Sometimes he feels like "ripping it up, but I never have."

His "first memory as a child is drawing and painting" and he also loved sports, so he would copy the pictures from "Sports Illustrated." He played sports all through high school, keeping quiet about his artistic aspirations since the two worlds didn't comfortably meet.

He got his BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and taught middle

school for three vears - which with which the only real with the

ever had." It was while teaching that he met his write. Anne, who Massa Indisid leacher

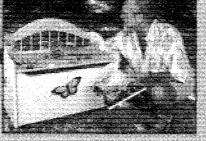
On weekends and during the summer break, he did shows all: nored New Empland: Eds host diffmat character was an ectorus Dad, playing tennis, golf aist being a lawyer as well -- all at

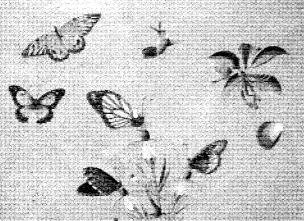
the same time. He would take space in a mall in December and at Father's Day, selling prints of "Dad" running, play-

He began getting into his multi-toned animals, including a multitoned zebra for a card company, 25 years ago: then started adding new animals to his "zoo" — elephants, giraffes and three-headed dragons. He now has 30 individual creatures. At first, he sold only originals but began adding prints; he still sells cle. He loved the idea and med it. He now has several other characters on bikes - a frog stortle, pelican, all 

In his gallery in Rockport, Mass., paintings cover two whole walls, from his whimsical three-headed dragons to his little characters tootling along on their hikes. "Lenjoy my gallery so much. I have people, maybe 10 families a day, coming back (every year). I like people." There is a common bond "you build with people through your artwork. People ask, can we take a picture of you and the kids." They send him the pictures, which pleases him.

Kaiblanen works in a variety of styles and, business





wanted to do but never had the opportunity."
His red-bellied woodpecker birdhouse will be auctioned in the SCCF/BIG Arts Swing Like a Bird joint fundraiser — it has a yellow ring around the entrance "so they can see it at night," he says, tongue in cheek.

His new work will be displayed in a onemight show on Friday, Feb. 20, at the Captiva-Civic Association. Two black-and-white paintings of winter frees are a departure from his trademark vibrant colors. The trees are imaginary, with elegantly curving branches; they draw the eye up into the branches; it's "almost spiritual, as you look up into the Teranches

His new Butterflies was done about six weeks ago. He generally does the background first in all of his paintings. After completing this softly colored background, be wanted things to appear to float individually in the painting, so he came up with butterflies... and he's pleased with the effect: instead of picking his work apart, this painting is 'grewing on me

both originals and prints of many of his paintings. "I love the fact that at reasonable (prices), I sell a lot."

His "raccoon on a bicycle" is one of his best known on the islands. He had custom-painted some bicycles (real ones) when friend Sheila Turner approached him and asked him if he could do a painting of a raccoon on a bicy-

wise, it allows him to sell to a cross-section, "People come into the gallery and think there are several artists." Most of the things he sells in Rockport are "very small, transportable... They're affordable and people can get them into their higgage." People love to buy his work for children's rooms and they also love his wtropical fish in their hathrams.

He's "still doing my little stuff. It makes a lot of people happy. I guess."

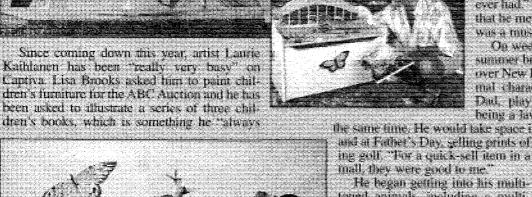
His new character painting is a "rock hand." The first Captiva trash container to have wildlife painted on it has his rock hand and he'd like to do a chamber music version in Ame

"I feet lacky --- I love the freedom and independence to do well enough to make a living ... I have stuff all over the world.... Anne's sister was in a park in Berlin and got to talking with a woman from the U.S. who, it turned out, had brought five of Laurie's paintings to Germany with her and had them in

ter Berin brane

When I'm gone, it will be pieces of me left. harded down to the next veneration. Its a great ittint"







## Shell Museum part of international virtual exhibit

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, in collaboration with the Virtual Museum of Canada, invites islanders, their guests and vacationers to visit the virtual exhibit, Valentine's Day: Love and Romance Through the Ages, which is now available at www.shellmuseum.org/exhibits or www.vircollections related to various facets of the Valentine's Day celebration.

Images of the five sailors' valentines at the Shell Museum are featured in on-line exhibit. Sailors' valentines are a shell art form developed in the early 19th century and, contrary to popular understanding,

were not made by sailors in order to pass time at sea but were usually assembled by women residents of Barbados and other Caribbean ports.

The images include "Home Again," an antique sailors' valentine made in the 1850s in Barbados by an unknown artist, and "Untitled," a double sailors' valentine made in the mid-1970s by Bert Porreca, who lived for many decades on Sanibel and died last year at age 104.

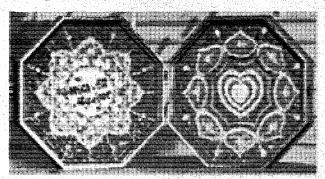
Also shown are another "Untitled," a sailors' valentine table made in 1988 by Helen Nemirow Beck, and "With All My Love," a double valentine made in 1993 by Mrs. Beck, who divides her time between

Long Island, N.Y., and Sanibel. "It Had To Be You" is also a double sailors' valentine made in 1995 by Sandi Blanda, who is a resident of Long Island, N.Y., and vacations during the winter on Captiva.

Valentine's Day: Love and Romance Through the Ages features post cards, greeting cards, heart-shaped objects, love letters, and sheet music. Audio renditions of romantic

music and poetry as well as three-dimensional Valentine cards and objects are exciting additions to the site. Visitors can even send electronic Valentines to their loved ones through an interactive E-card compo-

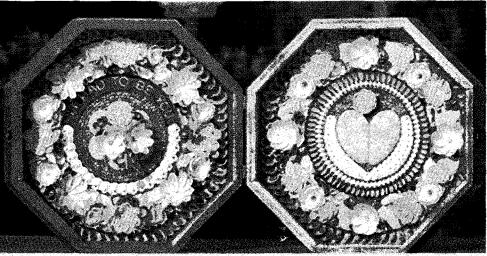
In addition to The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, the following institutions



tualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Valentin.

The brand-new virtual exhibition introduces visitors to a rich tradition with a multi-faceted history, from its origins in Ancient Rome to modern-day celebrations. This exploration of the history of Valentine's Day and its celebration around the world is done through museum and archive collections from throughout Canada, The Bailey—Matthews Museum and the British Museum.

Valentine's Day: Love and Romance.. is in English and French and is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The exhibit, which is expected to stay online for at least five years, encourages the discovery of Canadian and international



present important contributions from their collections in this exciting virtual exhibition — The Provincial Museum of Alberta, Maison St. Gabriel, Cupids Museum, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, Musée Colby-Curtis-Société historique de Stanstead, Doon Heritage Crossroads, St. Marys Museum, and the British Museum in London, England.

The Virtual Museum of Canada was created by the Department of Canadian Heritage, in collaboration with other government agencies, educational institutions, the private sector, and more than a thousand museums. Since its launch in March 2001, it has gained international attention and the site has recorded nearly 10 million visits.

## Mrs. Edison's Bequests

on an invention.

Causey did, and came up

with a humorous pen and

ink drawing "Found In Mr.

Edison's Reject Pile." Her

line work traces gears and

gadgets that are all linked

Deborah

Apparently

## By Amy Fleming ~ Art critic

friend, Henry Ford.

"Ford Home," one of three paintings by Daniel Ruke, is a wonderfully meticulous piece depicting Henry Ford's front yard... Talk about manicured lawns — in this, as in all three of Ruke's paintings, not one blade of grass, not one

leaf or shadow is out of line. Just as in Ford's and Edison's machines, every component has its place.

less machine.

Two

Rick

.0 W

are at least two versions of the Rachel at the Well statue that stands at the entrance gates. Other artists were intrigued by the estate's enormous banyan tree, recording the curves and hollows on film and canvas.

Some were drawn to the lab-

oratory and the inventions that emerged, others to the grounds' unique landscape and the wildlife that call it home. There are works that refer directly to Mina Edison, and one to their

together into one fantastically useartists, Lynn Russell and Russell, found their source material lying on the ground. Using wood and vegetation either gathered from the estate or of the same type found on the Edison grounds, they each fashioned their materi-Lynn's bowis.

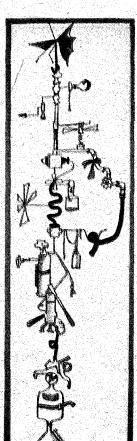
into "Remembrance Vessel" has a substructure of copper wire, a reference to an element frequently used by Edison, interwoven with various types of vines. "Earwood" is a broad, flat container made by turning on

a lathe. Rick's use of a simple form highlights the natural modulated tones in this unusual

Carmine Ballorino's "Electra Lily" is a dayglo nod both to Edison's laboratory and his garden. Ballorino uses even, curved lines to mimic

a neon sign, a reference to electricity and its application to advertising. Mrs. Edison's Bequests is an Edison Festival of Lights event and runs through Feb. 21st. The

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor in Fort Myers. There is no charge for admission.





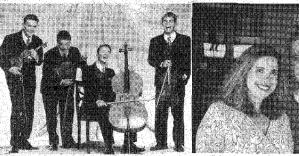
## The 18th Season ~ 2004 Sanibel Music Festival

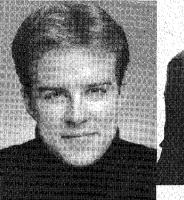


The Sanibel Music Festival, an island tradition, will begin its 18th season of outstanding repertoire and artists entertaining and stretching one's musical experience on Saturday, March 6. Artistic Director Mary Jaqua has skillfully selected a variety of special artists to perform "Must Hear" repertoire such as Ravel's gorgeous Introduction and Allegro, Brahm's Liebeslieder Waltzes Book 1, Brahms' orchestral Viola Quintet Op 111, and Messiaen's dramatic Vingt Regards sur l'enfant Jesus.

This year, for the first time, a PianoFest—a mini-festival within the festival—will show-case the versatility and technique of three dynamic young pianists. Throughout the month of March 2004 on Tuesdays and Saturdays, concerts will be performed at 8 p.m. in the intimate setting of the Sanibel Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way.

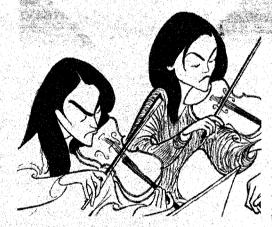
Opening the season will be the Ying Quartet, resident artists at Harvard and Eastman School of Music and the first allsibling professional string quartet in more than a generation. They bring their extraordinary talent to the Sanibel Music Festival Saturday, March 6. Natives of Chicago, the Yings began their career as an ensemble in the farming town of Jesup, Iowa (pop. 2,000), in 1992 — the first recipients of a National Endowment For the Arts grant to support chamber music in rural America. The Yings, who last appeared at the Festival in 1996, will perform with harp, flute and clarinet Maurice Ravel's Introduction and Allegro. They will also play allegro movements from Mozart's works for flute and clarinet and Tehaikovsky's Quartet in D Major No. 1 Op 11.





Bryan Wallick, a two-year recipient of a Sanibel Music

Festival Young Artist Scholarship, is the first of three exceptional artists appearing in PianoFest. He will perform Tuesday, March 9. In his twenties, Wallick has already created an impressive career path as a Gold Medalist at the Vladimir Horowitz International Piano Competition



in Kiev, Ukraine and as a recipient of the Associated Board International Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London where he finished his post-graduate residency in 2003.

Wallick will perform Sonata No. 1 by Australian composer Carl Vine, who wrote theme music for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the Bach/Busoni Chaconne in D Major, Mozart Sonata in D Major, Ravel's Mirrors, and the Liszt/Horowitz Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.

One of the most dynamic and



exciting young ensembles performing today is The Jerusalem Quartet who will appear at the Sanibel Music Festival Saturday, March 13. Founded within the framework of the Young Musicians' Group of the Jerusalem Music Centre and supported by Isaac Stern's America-Israel Cultural Foundation in cooperation with the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music & Dance, they gave their first concert in 1993. They were awarded first prize at both the Franz Schubert Chamber Music Competition and the Music of the 20th Century music Competition in

Graz, Austria in 1997. The previous year they had taken first prize at the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Music Competition.

In their mid-twenties, the quartet members include Alexander Pavlovsky, first violin; Sergei Bresler, second violin;

Amichai Grosz, viola; and Kyril Ziotnikov, cello.

The Juilliard Vocal Ensemble with Piano Duo will perform Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes, Book 1, on Tuesday, March 16. These 18 lush romantic love songs, presented by SMF in 1990, will be interpreted this year by Juilliard Opera Center Artists soprano Camille Zamora, mezzo-soprano Alison Tupay, tenor Waldo Gonzalez and baritone Brian Mulligan. Twin sister duo pianists Desirae and Deondra Brown will provide the piano accompaniment as well as perform other piano duets. The program will also feature arias from several operas.

Pianist Wu Han, the second PianoFest artist, is one of today's most talked-about classical artists. A dynamic recitalist, concert pianist, chamber player, and educator, she brings her splendid technical and interpretive finesse to the Festival

Saturday, March 20.

Winner of the Andrew Wolf Award for pianists making a significant contribution to the world of chamber music, Wu Han has performed at New York's Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and with ensembles such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet, to hame but a few

She is married to David Finckel, the Emerson Quartet cellist who appeared at the Festival in 1997 and, in the summer 2003 they launched Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival in Silicon Valley. This new festival has attracted widespread attention and international acclaim for its innovative programming and roster of word-class artists.

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## POTPOURRI

## Young people recognized

Several young people whose names, known to islanders for their performances at the former Wood Theatre, with Florida Rep and with other area theaters, will be recognized for their talent by the Edison Youth Theatre Awards at an awards ceremony at the Broadway Palm later this month.

Receiving one of the awards in the Contemporary Voice category is Elise Benzing (one of a family of actors/ singer/performers, she played Annie at one of the local venues) and in the Classical Voice division, Leslie Newport and Jessica Hicks — all students at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts. Erin McBride, also at the Center for the Arts, took an award for Drama; and another Center student, Mandi John, received recognition both in the Contemporary Voice category and the Writing division. McBride and John are both featured in the Cypress Lake Center for the Arts' upcoming production of the Moss Hart/George Kauffman production, You Can't Take It With You, on Feb. 27th and 28th. For tickets or more information, call 481-2233.

Canterbury School is also presenting You Can't Take it With You on Thursday and Friday, March 18-19. The Pulitzer Prize winning comedy explores the happy madness of the kooky Sycamore family as their young daughter falls in love with a boy from a stuffy Upper East Side family. At first, the Sycamores seem crazy. It doesn't take the audience long, however, to realize if the Sycamores are crazy, then the rest of the world is even crazier!

Several Sanibel students are featured in this production.

## **Call for fine craft artists**

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild is inviting local artists of fine craft to display and self their work on Sanibel island at Fine Craft Market Day on Saturday, April 10th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The deadline for applications is March 10th. Contact Barbara Luck at 283-3984 for applications and additional information.

## Photography exhibit opens

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, the Matsumoto Gallery will present an exhibition of photographs, Images of the Islands by Florida photographer and master boat builder, John Whiticar.



As an addition-

al attraction, Dennis Clark of Ampersand Graphics in Stuart, Florida will demonstrate siikscreen printing on fabric using a design by Ikki Matsumoto. The opening and printing demonstration will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 14th. The photo exhibit will continue through March 15,

Fifty-three-year-old John Whiticar, a third generation Florida native, was born in Stuart into a boat-building heritagestarted by his great-grandfather.

Addison A Whiticar, a commercial fisherman known as Capt. Add, arrived in Stuart from Fortesque, N.J. in 1917. Curt Whiticar, John's father, was 6 years old. With the eventual rise in Florida tourism and the demand for charter boat fishing, Capt. Add along with his three sons Jack, Johnson, and Curt progressed from commercial fishing and started the Whiticar Sportfishing Fleet.

Curt started building boats when he was only 14 and, later, on built boats for his father and both brothers. When boat building became a full time job, Curt gave up charter fishing and created Whiticar Boat Works in 1947. John now heads up Whiticar Custom Boats, a division of the original Boat Works, and is finishing Hull #63, the company's largest project to date. The 76 ft., 125,000 lb. enclosed bridge sportfisher is scheduled for its first splash this summer. For additional information on the Whiticar Group, check out their website: www.whiticar.com.

John's father gave him a camera at age 12, just before John took off for summer camp. A shutterbug at heart, John took photography courses in college and has never put the camera down. Even though he received awards in several amateur photography exhibits, his main interests are

his wife and two boys as well as carrying on the family's boat building tradition.

That first camera was a Brownie; it was followed by a manually-set viewfinder 35mm and then several 35mm through-the-lens reflexes. He has dabbled in medium format but recently has settled in with a 5-mega-pixel digital camera from Minolta. The island theme images chosen for the Matsutmoto exhibit include prints from 35mm, medium format, and digital images printed on an Epson 7500 with archival inks that rival the longevity of the best photographic medium.

## San-Cap Art League All-Member Show

All members of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League are invited to submit two works for the all member show to be held March 1st through 30th at the Sanibel Public Library and pieces must remain at the library until March 30th.

Works cannot exceed 22 by 28 inches. All members are guaranteed at least one space in the show, but it may be possible to have more than one work hung. One or two works may be entered for a \$10 fee. Computer art, sculpture, giclée and iris prints, photography and crafts will not be accepted.

Each participant is expected to donate 20 percent of the purchase price to the library if a work sells and should include that percentage plus sales tax in the purchase price. Work should be brought to the ground floor meeting room at the library for judging on March 1 between 9 and 11 a.m.

The show's judge, Douglas Flynt, will award ten prizes, ranging from \$25 to \$200. He will critique the exposition at 2:30 p.m. March 1 in the meeting room with a reception to follow from 5 to 7. Call Neil Glaser at 395-4683 with questions about the show.

Flynt holds a BFA and MFA from Florida State and the New York Academy of Art as well as a BA in Art History and Criticism. He believes that his most valuable education was under the tutelage of Edward Jonas, a portrait artist and sculptor of Tallahassee and an apprentice to Jacob Collins at the Water Street Atelier in New York City, Flynt, who is teaching this month at BIG Arts, believes his strongest work is in portraiture because it illustrates his use of sculptural elements as well as traditional techniques.

League Meeting

Everyone is welcome at the Feb. 19th meeting of the local Art League, at 1:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Center. The presenter this month is Anita Putnam, a long-time Sanibel resident who now lives at Shell Point. Putnam's subject is Painting People — Enjoying the Process.

Putnam's "past life" was as an Assistant Vice President of Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn. Her "new" life includes her paintings which have been in Big Arts Shows, at the Alliance for the Arts and Edison Community College, Last year she had a one-person show in the small gallery at the Alliance.

Using acrylic and pastel paintings, she will explain why she chooses the people she paints as "painterly objects." Putnam believes in painting the same person many times over, as have many other fine artists have done.

## Sobczak signing





Sanibel Island author Charles Sobczak will be signing copies of his critically acclaimed novel, A Choice of Angels, at a special Valentine's Day booksigning at CW's Market & Deli near the entrance to South Seas Resort on Captiva tomorrow, Feb. 14th, from 4 until 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Sobczak will also sign copies of his previous works, including Six Mornings on Sanibel, currently in its fifth printing, Way Under Contract, winner of the 2001 Patrick Smith Award, and Rhythm of the Tides.

His latest novel, A Choice of Angels, received a starred review in Booklist, the official review publication of The American Library Association. Set in Atlanta and Istanbul, the story focuses on the relationship and marriage between the son of a Southern Baptist minister and a Muslim girl from Turkey. Addressing religious intolerance in a world growing smaller, the book can be described as a love story for our times.

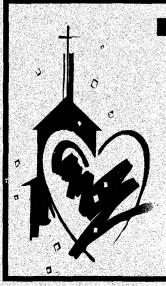
In celebration of Feb. 14th, CW's will also be giving away a Valentine's Day gift basket immediately after the signing. The gift basket will include champagne, chocolates and a signed and numbered hardcover first edition of *A Choice of Angels*.

## **Tellers cancel stereotypes**

Stories about strong, courageous girls and women and/or tales about kind and sensitive boys and men will be told at the Thursday night, Feb. 19, meeting of the Tamiami Tale Tellers (TTT) at 7 p.m. at the Grand Court, 8351 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

Tellers and listeners will be focusing on folk tales, personal and family stories, or historical tales about those role models who stand out because they have broken the stereotypical mold, according to TTT spokesperson Bert MacCarry, of Sanibel, "These are usually the unsung heroes and heroines of real life or folk tale characters who dared to challenge their age-old assigned gender roles."

Storytellers must dig a little harder in folk tale collections, but it's not too difficult to find family members, friends or historical characters who risked criticism to step outside the usual boundaries of



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## POTPOURRI

behavior and achievement, MacCarry explained.

TTT meetings are held the third Thursday of each month and are free and open to the public, ages 5 to 95. Both tellers and listeners are welcome. For more information, call 472-1781.

## **Biolchini** demonstration



Local award winning artist, Greg Biolchini will hold a Portraiture in Pastel Demonstration at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, next Friday, Feb. 20th, at 6 p.m. Working with a live model, Biolchini will

present an intensive, interactive, information-packed creative session in which he shares his simple and direct ways to compose and block-in (imprimatura) portraits, achieve a likeness, mix colors, etc. Admission is \$10 per person, or \$5 if already enrolled in the Feb. 21st and 22nd Portraiture in Pastel Workshop (\$110 for members, \$125 for non-members) at the Alliance.

Biolchini has been awarded Master Pastellist status by the Pastel Society of America. He is well known for his figurative, portrait, landscape, and nature subject matters. Nationally his work has been shown many places including the Arts for the Parks Traveling Exhibitions 2002-2003, and regionally, at BIG Arts and the Museum of Florida Art and Culture in Avon Park.

For more information about the demonstration, or the Portraiture in Pastel Workshop call the Alliance at 939–2787, Ext. 27.

## Classical Jazz launches series

Classical Jazz — a program performed by Geoffrey Day, violin, Richard Bosworth, piano, Kevin Mauldin, bass, and William E. Peterson III, drums — will kick off the fifth season of the UU Performing Arts Society concert series this Sunday, Feb. 15. The concert is



Richard Bosworth, pianist

## The UU Performing Arts Society

scheduled for 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13411 Shire Lane, off Daniels Parkway east of I-75 in Fort Myers.

Tickets for the three-concert series are \$36 per person. Admission for Classical Jazz is \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. Student tickets are \$8 each per concert. For advance tickets or information, please call 275-2640.

Classical Jazz will include Claude Bolling's Suite for Violin and Jazz Trio and works by Gershwin, Joplin and Ravel. The performers are symphony professionals from the Southwest Florida area.

"This is our first venture into the jazz medium, and both the program and the performers are outstanding," said Jean Stone, one of the series' organizers. "Everyone is invited to a post-concert reception where the performers and audience members can meet and discuss-the performance. During our past four seasons, audiences have been enormously impressed with the excellent acoustics and visual beauty of the concert setting."

The concert series also includes the celebrated Philadelphia Piano Quartet, making one of its first-ever Fort Myers appearances on Sunday, March 7th, and The Florida Wind Quintet of Sarasota, which performed in 2002, closing the series on Sunday, March 21st.

The UU Performing Arts Society was established in 1999 to promote the fine performing arts in Lee County. Its concerts feature quality programming, the best Southwest Florida professional musicians and affordable ticket prices.

# THIS Sunday, Feb. 15. The concert is WATRIX PRULMITCHELL. Discover The Experience # 1 Salon in the Sanibel | Captiva Area OPEN 7 Salon by Design OPEN 7 Salon by Design MONDAY thru SATURDAY til 9 PM Open SUNDAY 11AM - 6 PM Call now for your free color & style consultation by one of our professional stylist 472-2005 Located in the Sanibel Tanger Factory Stores Suite 61115

## **Music on Pine Island**

Music on Pine Island is excited to announce a schedule of four quality concerts of highly talented artists for the 2004 season. The performances are held at Fritts Park, located about five miles north of the Pine Island Road intersection, left off Stringfellow Road.

Now in its 12th year, sharing the success of MOPI is a priority. In 1997, an endowed scholarship fund was established with Edison Community College Foundation, Inc. MOPI has its 501(c-3), is a federal tax-exempt organization and makes its annual contribution to the Fund for the benefit of a music scholarship (preferably, to a student from Pine Island).

The concert dates are as follows:

Feb. 15: Blue Angel Traditional blend of bluegrass and gospel.

Feb. 29: Acoustic Eidolon
A mixture of folk, blues, popular, blue
grass and classical.

Mar. 14: Kraichy Duo Classical violin and harp. Mar. 21: Don Irwin Classical, pop, contemporary pianist (Held at Pine Island United Methodist

Church on Pine Island Road).

All concerts start at 3 pm at Fritts Park (except where noted) or, in the event of inclement weather, when they will be held at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, on the left side of Stringfellow, just south of

the four-way intersection.

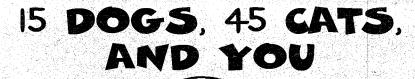
Tickets are \$10 per person over 12 years old, and season tickets are \$35 and may be purchased or ordered through the Crossed Palm Gallery in Bokeelia on Pine Island — 283-2283.

## Festival stadium show

Spectacular fireworks and classic big band favorites will kick off this year's Edison Festival of Light Stadium Show. The show will be Saturday, Feb. 21st, at Fort Myers High stadium. BJ's Big Band will play, along with performers from Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, in a Medley of the Decades. Bandleader Bill Jarboe (BJ) said, "This show is two hours of big band classics that vocalist Katt Hefner from Disney World. The songs in the show are a patriotic salute to the brave men and woman in uniform."

Stadium Show chairman Frank Mann, Jr. said, "This will be one of the best shows in years. In addition to the preparade show, the Fort Myers High stadium is a wonderful venue for watching the parade. There's lots of parking and the show seats are reserved."

The stadium show, Medley of the Decades, begins at 5 p.m. Fireworks begin at 7, and the parade arrives at the stadium at 7:30 Tickets to the stadium show are \$15 and may be purchased at the Edison Festival of Light office at 2254 Edwards Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call 334-2999.





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Pet overpopulation is a BIG PROBLEM as these statistics show. In order to keep up with the current flood of puppies and kittens, every person would have to own two dogs and six cats during their entire lifetime (assuming that people live for 75 years, and dogs and cats for 10). A household of five would have to harbor ten dogs and thirty cats! Adoption alone is obviously not the answer; altering is.

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## CENTER STAGE

Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show is back by popular demand to help celebrate Theatre Conspiracy's 10th Anniversary. Kathy Grey and Lauren Drexler make this third re-creation of their 18 roles the best yet. They slide into their various male and female characters as easily as slipping on a pair of well- worn jeans — totally relaxed onstage and in no rush to deliver each perfectly devastating punch line without ever going overboard for a laugh. Grey has mastered the art of mugging, yet is never tempted to go over the top. She has fine-tuned her comic skills to the point that she can have you aching with laughter one instant and

misting over the next. Drexler also exhibits her enormous acting ability and versatility throughout the evening. Her defining moment comes in the "Three Sisters" sketch where she

convincingly plays two totally different characters (sisters) at the same time, in another scene "Silent Torture" she perfectly mimes the hellish ritual women put themselves through every morning. Drexler moves easi-

## **Parallel Lives:** The Kathy and Mo **Sh**QW

ly as well as seamlessly from character to character, blending one into the next.

This 1988 Off-Broadway show written by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney consists of a series of hilarious

skits based on female issues as well as some universal ones. The script, which won the writers an Obie Award, lines up joke after joke like the shot glasses piling up on the bar of "The Hank and Karen Sue" vignette. Parallel Lives, delivers quality laughs at a machine gun pace. The laughs begin right at the top of the show when "The Supreme Beings Create the World." This divine sketch is a clever heavenly opener. Two angels try and figure out how the newly created humans will procreate and what roles to assign to men and women: the guys get EGOS in capitol letters, while the women get the benefits of womanhood, childbirth and the menstrual cycle. Next the Beings decide what colors should people be — red, yellow, brown, beige and white ... Leaving them to ask this question, with all the beauty in the world, will white people feel inferior? "Period Piece" is an skewers feminine hygiene products, and looks at how guys would handle "the four week flow." Give up? Why, in typical guy fashion with a game of tampon football and a keg party to celebrate the event. "Three Sisters" gives a comic view of a not-so-funny topic, death. The laughs derive from the stupid fights that arise between family members, from the "oh how nice you look... are you putting on a little weight?" remarks to the overall thrill of trying to explain the funeral arrangements to folks who are about ready to kick the bucket themselves.

One of the funniest bits in the whole show, sets up Grey and Drexler as feminist performing artists putting on a show called "Sister, Woman Sister," in which every feminist sisterhood cliché is delightfully put on a spit and roasted.

But, underneath all the funny shtick lie some real substance and dramatic themes, giving the script validity as well as importance. In one scene a prostitute shares the stage with the Southern Belle immortalized in the Kenny Rogers love song "Lady." In the hands of playwrights Gaffney and Najimy and actresses Grey and Drexler the moral message is rendered without a hard sell. It is simply



tossed out as titillating parallel lives for the viewers to evaluate and ponder. Director Bill Taylor has kept a firm hand in dealing with the integrity of the script. He has mined every bit of gold for possible laughs, and gotten all of the audience's attention throughout this two-hour long magical performance.

Since The Kathy and Mo Show only plays tonight, tomorrow and Sunday, you need to phone 936-3239 today. Don't forget to tell 'em Marsha sent you.

Pssst, here's a Center Stage whisper for you. In case you haven't noticed, there was a sign at the Periwinkle Playhouse that read Sold Out Performance Tonight for a terrific show titled I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. This comical commentary dealing with the rise and demise of modern romance, was presented by Andrew Kurtz, Producing Artistic Director for Synergy Productions of Sanibel. Kurtz, making his stage directing debut, gave the show the just right crisp, smart, simple staging along with expert musical direction (which he has done successfully before) and surrounded this fine production with an extraordinary, multi-talented. vivacious cast of four. Sweet voiced Sarah Lamb, an Old Schoolhouse veteran, song and dance funny man Erik Hogan, and the talented island native, Drew Stern, in his first local professional outing, make up this remarkable, wellchosen cast. I Love You... proved to be an audience favorite, celebrating the never-ending dating/mating game.

So, if you love live musical theatre and you missed this one, get on the stick and call the box office now at 472-0324 for tickets to the next two Synergy Productions. — from Feb. 20th to 29th, They're Playing Our Song, Neil Simon's oh-so-delightful book set to Marvin Hamlisch music, and Marry Me a Little, a delightful musical review with music by Steven Sondheim, from March 6th to 20th.

Support the Periwinkle Playhouse and the island's new Synergy Productions by buying tickets and attending all of their upcoming productions.



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## SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OUR MISSION: TO PROMOTE BUSINESS PROSPERITY AND PRESERVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

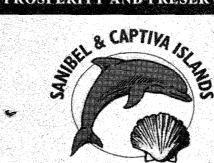
By Anne Joffe, She Sells Sea Shells

At no time in the Chamber's history has there been a greater need for unity and cooperation between business, residents and government to ensure that the road to our future is paved with opportunity.

The Sanibel Causeway is the lifeline of our existence. It needs to be a safe and efficient means of transportation both onto and off of the islands.

The ongoing disagreement regarding the Sanibel Causeway threatens our area's economic health and the quality of life in our community. We can not afford the time, expense and risk associated with continued delay in the process.

We have continued confidence in the wisdom of our City and County officials and hope they can quickly find a solution that will best serve the interests of all who live, work and visit here.



## Chamber of Commerce

Business ◊ Community ◊ Government

### **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

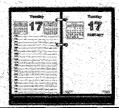
The Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce will facilitate communication and cooperation between businesses, residents and government to enhance the economic health of our community.

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

The Chamber of Commerce maintains a
Community Calendar where you can register
your non-profit community related event.
It is also a great tool in planning for the future
to find out what is already planned for a date
you may have in mind for your event.

We invite everyone to log on to our new website at www.sanibel-captiva.biz where you can access the Community Calendar. For ongoing activities and entertainment please refer to our www.sanibel-captiva.org

Entertainment Page.



## www.sanibel-captiva.biz

### FLORIDA STATE FAIR

The Florida State Fair will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Held in Tampa, from the 5th to the 16th of February, the Fair is a chance to reach thousands of Floridians with a message about our area.

The Chamber will man a booth in the Florida Living Center, an exhibition hall that features the economic diversity of our state.

There will be a special "Celebration of the Century" display area honoring the handful of businesses in Florida which have been in continuous existence during the 100 years of the State Fair. We are proud that one of the honorees is our own Bailey's General Store.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That the Chamber was originally organized in 1954 and chartered as the Sanibel-Captiva Business Association to promote commercial and civic enterprises.

The name was changed in 1961 to the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Throughout its history, the Chamber has always played a leading role in island affairs and today, nearly 50 years after its inception, is still dedicated to improving the quality of life for all that live, visit and work on the islands.

## **BOARD ELECTIONS**

The following 10 candidates will be seeking office for the 5 Board seats up for annual election:

(in alphabetical order)

Michael P. Arnheiter, New York Life Insurance Co.
Anne Bellew, Sanibel Captiva Islander
Mark Dickson, South Seas Resort
John English, Sanibel Spirits
Wendy Erler, Tarpon Bay Explorers
Liz Fowler, B.I.G. Arts
Karen Pratt, Arden Courts
Barb Rich, South Seas Sanibel & Captiva Properties
Sandra Stilwell, Captiva Island Inn
William Waites, Aboriginals: Art of the First Person

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE CANDIDATES

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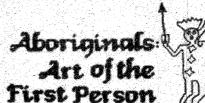
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## THE MUSIC SCENE -

## The Takács — a joy to hear at Schein Hall

Last Friday's Great Performers Series concert in Schein Hall featured the Takács String Quartet in a performance sponsored by Serine Bonnist. And what a performance it was! Most audiences, if moved to do so, will rise with a standing ovation at the conclusion of a concert. Not so with the Takács. The audience hooted and hollered, clapped and stomped their feet at the conclusion of each of the three works presented.

The musicians — Edward Dusinbeere, violin, Karoly Schranz, violin, Roger Tapping, viola, and Andras Fejer, cello—have been together for the past 29 years and play with impeccable lyricism, intonation, technical fluidity and gorgeous sound. They are four virtuosi who blend so perfectly together that their sound resembles that of a four-part organ.

It was fitting to open the program with Franz Joseph Haydn's String Quartet in C Major, Op. 54 No.2, as it was Haydn who wrote more than 70 string quartets and modernized this genre with substance that included counterpoint, folk music and an expansion of the role of the cello. Opus 54, No. 2 consists of four movements — Vivace, Adagio, Menuetto and Finale and the Takacs presented a polished and highly musical performance. The daz-



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

zling Vivace led into the slow and somber Adagio in which the classic esthetic seems somewhat compromised with a highly romantic and passionate violin obbligato played over the somber three-part ensem-ble. However, it quickly segued into a most elegant and stately Menuetto in the characteristic three meter, played with sensitive phrasing and dynamics. The dynamic range of the

Takács, with its subtle sonic graduations, is truly impressive, from its softest pianissimo to its commanding fortissimo.

Who better than the Takács to interpret the next work, Bartok's String Quartet No. 5? In 1998, their recording of the Bartok Quartet Cycle on London/Decca was awarded Gramophone's Chamber Music Recording of the Year. In addition, in 1999 and 2000, their recordings were nominated for Grammys, Bartok's Quartet No. 5 is in five movements: Allegro, Adagio molto, Scherzo, Andante and Finale.

Bartok, using elements of Hungarian folk music, wrote his highly complex music with atonal and polytonal dissonance, irregular rhythms, odd meters, complex contrapuntal lines and exploited each intrument's musical capabilities to its maximum limit. Extra musical devices are abundant as the players obtain various effects by plucking the strings, varying the pitches by sliding their fingers on the strings and even using the bow's wood on the strings. The furious last movement contains a fugal development of short motifs and ends suddenly after a long coda.

The final piece on the program was the five-movement, String Quartet in a minor, Op. 132 by Ludwig van Beethoven. This work was written two years before the composer's death and includes the great third movement subtitled "Holy song of thanks to God from one who is unwell." Beethoven asks the musicians to play "with the most intimate feeling," and the Takács' performance certainly fulfilled this request. It was somber and organ-like in balance with great feeling, sensitivity and emotional undertones.

The members of the Takacs String Quartet work together as a great team. They listen to and communicate with each other at the highest level using meaningful eye contact and body language. They play with energy, passion, sensitivity and most important, musicality. It was indeed an extraordinary delight to witness a musical ensemble of this



magnitude.

Harold Lieberman is a Professor of Music emeritus at Ramapo College of New Jersey, has also taught at Manhattan School of Music, played solo trumpet with the CBS Symphony Orchestra and for Benny Goodman, Arthur Godfrey and many other well-known band leaders.



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## THE MUSIC SCENE -

## Artie Shaw... One more time...



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

Thanks to the West Wind Inn, the Artie Shaw Orchestra, led by clarinetist Dick Johnson, blew into Sanibel last Saturday and presented a night of nostalgia to a sold-out Schein Hall. The 16 musicians, using many of the original

arrangements from the 1940s, recreated 21 hits made famous by the famous Artie Shaw Orchestra. Johnson, like many of the sidemen and women, is from the Boston area and told me that his first task, when he took over the band in 1984, was to order 16 music folders labeled with the name Artie Shaw Orchestra. He ordered the folders by phone and, because of his thick Boston accent, they were delivered with the unusual name, Ottie Shaare...!

The opening selection on Feb. 7th, composed and arranged by Shaw, was his theme song, "Nightmare." If you have read his autobigraphical book, The Trouble with Cinderella, it is not difficult to understand why he gave the composition that name. Although this talented, sensitive and creative musician followed a carefully planned path to early fame and fortune, haunting memories of his troubled childhood limited his ability to enjoy his musicial success and led

Thanks to the to the failure of eight marriages. From his est Wind Inn, the point of view, life was indeed a "nightmare."

The theme song was followed by his 1938 classic, "Back Bay Shuffle." Johnson allowed his soloists great latitude to improvise and, like a good leader, smiled and encouraged their contributions. The 1941 arrangement of

"Moonglow" was next and featured a cleanly phrased sax solo. This was followed by Shaw's arrangement of "Softly As In A Morning Sunrise" and featured Johnson on clarinet, Chris Overholz on trombone and a very tasteful flugelhorn solo by Kerry McKillop. Pianist Paul O'Day improvised some jazz, and Bronek Suehanek was heard in a bass viol solo. Fours (four bars each) featuring drummer Mark Holunia and clarinetist Johnson led into a nice out-chorus with a clean balance and blend by the ensemble and also a brief jazz solo by tenor sax Matt Koza.

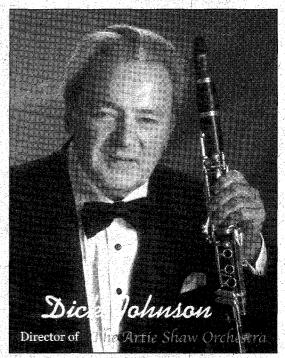
"Stardust," one of Artie Shaw's huge hits, was performed with lead trumpeter Jay Daly playing, note for note, the solo made famous by Billy Butterfield. Other verbatim solos were created in this Hoagy Carmichael classic with Johnson playing Shaw's famous clarinet solo as well as trombonist Overholz playing the solo performed by Jack Jennings.

Much to the audience's delight, trumpeter Phil Person added comic relief impersonating Louis Armstrong by singing (com-

plete with gravel voice) and playing What A Wonderful World." The band performed an arrangement of 'Grabtown Gattle" that Artie wrote for one of his many wives (Ava Gardner, in this instance). The blockbuster hits were scattered throughout the concert and included "Carioca" (complete with Buddy Rich's shouts), the 1946 arrangement of an uptempo, "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "Frenezi," "Begin The Beguine," and an extended work written by Shaw, titled "Concerto for Clarinet," which also featured O'Day in a well-crafted solo improvisation that ranged from Boogie Woogie, Swing and BeBop to Avant Garde,

A special treat was served up (especially for me) when guest artist, trombonist George Masso appeared for two numbers — "The Nearness Of You" and "Tangerine." I have worked many, many concerts and record dates with George, but it has been at least 10 years since we last met. I was thrilled to see and hear him again — he is truly one of the great jazz trombonists.

Johnson does, to a degree, capture Shaw's sound and style. However, his solos, especially cadenzas heard at the end of "Every Thing Happens To Me" and "Concerto for Clarinet" were much too long, redundant and self-serving. The ensemble playing, although fairly clean and



balanced, did not have the necessary energy and excitement that it might have had. Solos were adequate but not awe-inspiring. It was pleasant to wax nostalgic with the Artie Shaw hits of the past, but the overall concert did not swing the way a polished swing-band intuitively swings.

## Symphony on Sanibel



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

The Southwest Florida Chamber Orchestra — key players drawn from the Southwest Florida Symphony — presented an aptly named Twisted and Stirred program at Schein Hall on Feb. 8. The concert was con-

ducted by Musical Director Paul Nadler and generously sponsored by 'Tween Waters Inn, Century 21 J.B. Novelli Internationale and the Friends of Sanibel and Captiva.

The opening work, Hipocondrie, by Baroque composer, Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679-1745) is written in three movements — "Grave," "Allegro" and "Lentement" — and is scored for 13 strings, one bassoon, two oboes and continuo, quite characteristic of this period. Similar to Bach and Telemann, the work is contrapuntal in texture with a complex double fugue in the "Allegro." Like Bach, Zelenka

places severe demands on his players, especially the bassoon. ... Not to slight the other players, however, they too had difficult technical phrases to conquer and met the challenges skillfully. At first, most noticeably in the "Grave," there were some minor intonation problems among the winds but they vanished as the piece developed. However, the overall sound was not in keeping with the Baroque tradition — it was too bold and heavy. (This was especially noticeable in the Stravinsky and Schubert as the French horn bells pointed directly at the hard glass, which created a "bounce" effect and greatly magnified their sound.) Perhaps the curtain in the back of the stage should be drawn to absorb some of this.

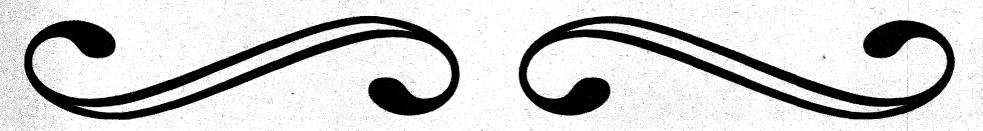
The next work was Concerto in E flat, also known as Dumbarton Oaks, by Igor Stravinsky. To celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary, Robert Woods Bliss and his wife, who lived on an estate near Washington, D.C., commissioned the composer to write a concerto for chamber orchestra. The work was inspired by Bach's Brandenburg concertos, particular-

ly the third. It is a concerto grosso in which all of the 15 instruments (10 strings, two French horns, clarinet, bassoon and flute) are treated as soloists. The first movement, "Tempo giusto," is polyphonic in texture with motifs that form a fugue. The second movement, "Allegro," is most elegant in the classic style and grows to a dazzling texture while the last movement, "Con moto," is marchlike in character and fugal in texture. It is somewhat difficult to hear all of these musical ingredients in just one, as Stravinsky masks these characteristics with polytonality, odd meters and aperiodic rhythms. But the vitality and energy of his writing comes through boldly.

Closing the program was Octet in F Major, Op. 116/D. 803 by the Austrian composer, Franz Schubert. Written in 1824, it was commissioned by Count Ferdinand von Troyer, himself an amateur clarinetist. The composition is scored for five strings, bassoon, French horn and clarinet. That last instrument plays a very prominent role in this six-movement work since Count Troyer was to play the clar-

inet in the first performance. The first movement, "Adagio allegro," is written in sonata form and the second movement, "Adagio," opens with a lyrical clarinet solo beautifully played by Michael Forte. The third movement, Allegro vivace," is written in a stately, minuet form and the fourth movement, "Andante," a theme and variations form, featured a beautiful violin solo by Concertmistress Reiko Niiya. Her solo was echoed by the complimentary sound of the clarinet. The fifth movement, "Menuetto allegretto" was in the scherzo format and tasteful solos were heard by the french hornist, Cheryle Naberhaus, and bassoonist, Michael Ellert. The last movement, "Andante molto allegro" was in sonata form and was introduced by a cello tremolo prior to the final Allegro a majestic and grand conclusion to a wonderful piece of music.

Special thanks should be given to Dr. Elwood Smith, emeritus professor of Music at Northwestern Illinois University and director of music at the Sanibel Congregational Church for his scholarly and clearly written program notes.



## I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

By Claudia Burns ~ Special to the Islander

elationships have always intrigued me — especially those between males and females. They start out sweet but all too often turn sour.

So I thoroughly enjoyed Jo DiPietro's smash hit, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, which spoofs the tension between sexes and emphasizes its poignancy through incisive scenarios and brilliant lyrics. All the characters in this play are likable because



Above, Islander Drew below, Julie Ellis. Stern;



they all suffer human foibles that the audience can relate to, one way or another.

The Synergy Productions presentation of Love You... at the Periwinkle Playhouse ran from Jan. 29th through Feb. 8th with many sold-out houses. Four players skillful-



Above, Erik Hogan; ly performed right, Sarah Lamb more than 60 roles in under

two hours, with ingenious (as well as expeditious) costume and set changes The characters aged as the play progressed, which lent the vignettes of the second act a bittersweet tone in contrast to the hilarity of the first. Playwright DiPietro would have been gratified to hear the laughter at the Playhouse, I'm sure. Everyone loves a local hero, so we were especially pleased to have several of "our own" involved in this production. Long-time Sanibel resident Andrew Kurtz, music director of the Gulf Coast Symphony and artistic director of the Opera Theater of Philadelphia, as well as an accomplished violinist, is the brains behind Synergy Productions. With this production of off-Broadway's longest running hit musical, Kurtz added theatrical director to his

long list of artistic credentials. In addition, he performed with the small combo that provided background music for and accompaniment to the actors/singers.

Another local, Drew Stern, son of islanders Jerry and Lynne Stern and a graduate of New England Conservatory, Tufts University (cum laude) and New York University, is no stranger to the stage, but he made his professional Sanibel debut in this production. Periwinkle Playhouse audiences were not only impressed with Drew's versatile talents but also expressed hopes of seeing him perform

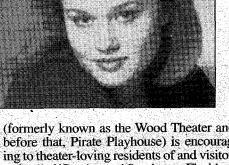
The success of this and other productions this season at Periwinkle Playhouse



Artistic Director of Synergy Produtions, Andrew Kurtz

largest audience. Just as a chef learns what his customers crave by offering daily specials, so a theater manager determines what a community will support by presenting a variety of short-run productions. Todd Sherman, the Playhouse's general manager (aka chief cook, bottle washer, lightbulb changer and box office manager!), has done a stellar job in attracting and booking numerous well-received performances and productions.

And kudos to Maestro Kurtz, who applies his classical training to his penchant for musical theater. His newly-formed Synergy Productions will present two more shows at Periwinkle Playhouse this season, including Neil Simon's hilarious comedy They're Playing Our Song from Feb. 20th to 29th and Marry Me a Little, a revue of Stephen Sondheim's music, from March 6th to 20th. We're hoping he'll choose the exceptionally talented performers of I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change for future



(formerly known as the Wood Theater and, before that, Pirate Playhouse) is encouraging to theater-loving residents of and visitors to Sanibel/Captiva and Southwest Florida as well. A steady stream of boards and personnel have struggled in recent years to preserve this delightful venue and the current regime seems, at last, to have found a niche

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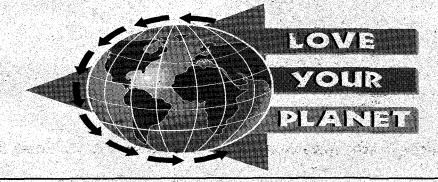


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by discovering which productions draw the productions as well.

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## COMMUNITY CONCE \*\*\*\*\*

The Fort Myers Community Concert Association

(A Volunteer Non-Profit Organization)

## A musical puzzlement By Charlotte Heimann ~ Special to the Islander

ow to comment on the Fort Myers Community Concert Association's second offering in their 54th season? Four internationally-known musicians, who whimsically call themselves Quartetto Gelato, appeared at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Tuesday,

Their program sponsor was Barbara B. Mann herself, about whom one of the artists said from the stage, "I'm very happy to be here in a building named for someone who is so alive and charming!" From her traditional box seat, Mrs. Mann acknowledged this and the resulting applause — with a wave of a sparkling black-and-gold-clad arm.

Reactions to the performance seemed to vary from fervent enthusiasm to indifference to downright dislike. There's about the talent diplayed. Each artist is a master of the particular instrument involved — violin, cello. oboe and accordion - surely the

only quartet of its kind ever assembled. Actually, if one counts the double participaion of the violinist as a soaring tenor vocalist, there are five performers.

That dual role is filled with constant movement by co-founder (in 1994) Peter DeSotto. Dressed in unrelieved black, DeSotto unleashed a gamut of mostly comic emotions and postures while he did technical wonders with his fine violin. Add to that the most effective use of what the program calls his "natural, Italinate tenor." He was an audience favorite.

Co-founder Cynthia Steljes is an amazing virtuoso on the oboe (widely known as 'an ill wind nobody blows good.") In Steljes's hands, however, that complicated instrument seemed simple to play, even in the most difficult passages. She is a true professional, with dignity and serious regard for her music.

Cellist Kristine Reiko Cooper was invit-

ed to join Quartetto Gelato in 2002. She clearly has a prodigious musical memory to complement her spectacular technique. Her bowing, her fingering, pizzicato and plucking were always right on. Like the fabled cellist Jacqueline DuPre, Cooper tends to toss her head for frequent emphasis. She's a delight.

Alexander Sevastian, also a quartet member since 2002, played — or underplayed — his shiny black accordion so well that even the most negatve listener couldn't help but admire him. The excellent arrangements were done with unusual skill to make use of the accordion as a friendly and unobtrusive background. That worked very well indeed; Sevastian's considerable talent was showcased by his Bach solo.

This Quartetto Gelato ("Ice Cream Quartet") evening was in sharp contrast to the powerful symphonic all-Tchaikovsy experience presented a week earlier by the Fort Myers Community Concedit Association. Composers represented on the Quartetto program were as diverse as Ravel, Handel, Leoncavallo and Kreisler, with songs by Piaf, Lehar and DiCapula ("O Sole Mio"). The generous encore was an atypical but quietly touching "Danny Boy."

Yes, Quartetto Gelato was an unforgettable musical experience. And, yes, pleas-

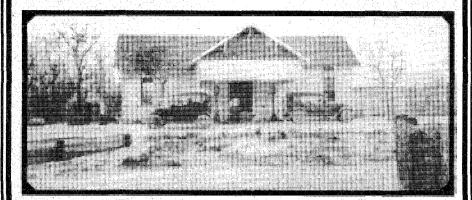
antly puzzling.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, the next Community Concert will be a full production of Puccini's Tosca, with star soloists, a chorus of 40, and a 50-member orchestra. For information, call 939-3236.

Charlotte Heimann is a well-known local actress who was the Islander arts critic before the late Frank Wagner joined the staff.. she has been active in the theatre for a long time and she done community theatre wherever she has lived.



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## AT BIG ARTS

## **James Sewell Ballet returns**



It's a night of celebration and one not to be missed, when the James Sewell Ballet returns to Schein Hall on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m.

The dance troupe received huge accolades last month at the Joyce Theater... "Mr. Sewell has developed into one of American ballet's most inventive choreographers ... A polished gem of a chamber dance troupe with a classical approach, wrapped in surprises

... Both fun and sophisticated, weaving the classical idiom into dazzling and dissolving patterns by way of highly mobile bodies." —The New York Times, January, '04

Sewell began his career in New York City, dancing as a principle performer with the Joffrey Ballet before forming his own company in 1990. Three years dents. Call 395-0900.

later the James Sewell Ballet relocated to his home territory, St. Paul, Minn. The company has blossomed there. becoming the center of a very active cultural community. The Sewell Ballet continually tours the country annually in St. Paul, Rochester, St. Cloud, and throughout the United States

James is married to dancer Sally Rousse. Together, in a unique partnership, they run the company, sharing artistic and business decisions. Their relationship is one of choreographer/ muse, coach/student, dance partners, and parents of their young daughter, Mona.

This performance is generously sponsored by The Ferguson Foundation. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for stu-

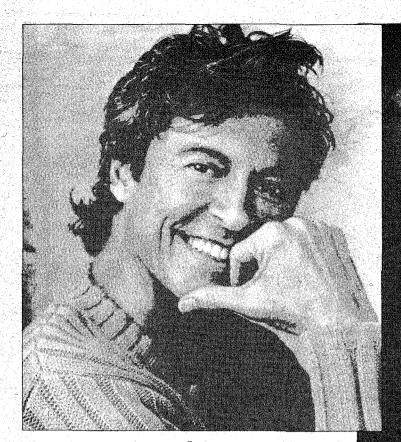
## Special workshops this week

This Monday, Feb.16th, BIG Arts' own gifted artist/instructor, Lois Ferguson, will teach a one-day workshop Birdhouse Painting. Make one for yourself, to give as a gift to a bird lover you know or to donate to the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation/BIG ARTS to be joint auction/fundraiser, Swing Like A Bird. Come ready to paint and learn all you need to know to paint a one-of-a-kind original that you will be proud of and your little feathered friends will be thrilled to call home!

Swing Like A Bird takes place on March 8 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at BIG Arts A full evening of silent and live auction fun as well as delicious food, drink and music to swing by from the Larry Elgart Band is being planned for this special event. All proceeds from both the silent and live auctions will go to the internship programs of the two organizations.

Call BIG ARTS to sign up for Birdhouse Painting now, \$15. Tickets for Swing Like a Bird will be available at BIG Arts, the Sanibel-Conservation Foundation and Bank of the Islands for \$40. Don't hesitate, get your tickets for this great event today.

The next two days, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 17th and 18th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., visiting artist, Yvonne George, will teach a special two-day course on Tilemaking. This unique course will include the making of several simple tiles, various ways of decorating tiles with underglazes and textures, and several ways of making three-dimensional tile. Tiles will be fired when dry for students to pick up later. The cost for the two days is only \$90. Please call BIG ARTS now to reserve your spot, 395-0900.



## **Bravo Broadway!**

A benefit concert for Gulfshore Ballet will feature Broadway legend and nine-time Tony Winner Tommy Tune and the acclaimed singing, tap-dancing trio, Manhattan Rhythm Kings, in what the Chicago Tribune referred to as "A splashy, stylish song and dance revue, pure Broadway, completely irresistible." Sponsored by Edison National Bank and Bank of the Islands, White Tie and Tails features a 16-piece on-stage orchestra along with Tune and the Rhythm Kings in an unforgettable song-and-dance celebration of favorites from Berlin to The Beatles, the Gershwins to Kander & Ebb.

Tune — dancer, singer, choreographer and director — is the winner of nine Tony Awards, and the only person in theatrical history to win in four different categories and to win the same two Tony Awards two years in a row. Variety refers to him as "the last genuine song-and-dance man."

Born Feb. 28, 1938 in Wichita Falls, Texas, Tune danced onto the Broadway scene in the chorus of *Baker Street* in 1965 and hasn't stopped since. He worked in the chorus of *A Joyful Noise* in 1967 and *How Now, Dow Jones* in 1968. He garnered raves and his first Tony Award (Best Featured Actor in a Musical) in Michael Bennett's Seesaw in 1973.

Branching out, he directed his first show, the off-Broadway production of the ground-breaking feminist musical, *The Club* in 1976. *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* was his next venture followed by *A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine* and his second Tony (Best Choreography). He returned to off-Broadway in 1981 to direct his highly acclaimed and controversial production of Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*.

1982 brought *Nine* and his third Tony (Best Direction of a Musical). Tune pulled double duty in *My One and Only* and was rewarded with his fourth and fifth Tonys (Best Choreography, Best Actor in a Musical). He received his next two Tonys with *Grand Hotel* (Best Choreography, Best Direction of a Musical). The following year brought *The Will Rogers Follies* and his next two Tony Awards (Best Choreography, Best Direction of a Musical). Not satisfied to remain stationary, Tune returned to the stage in his acclaimed one-man song and dance extravaganza, *Tommy Tune Tonite!* first on Broadway and then touring nationally and internationally.

In addition to the long, long list of Tunes awards, he was also named to the Top 10 International Best Dressed List of 1992!

Andy Warhol once said that Tommy Tune "exudes a cultivated serenity and a genuine love of life." And, of his unique talents as a director/choreographer, the New York Times proclaimed, "Mr. Tune has reshuffled the elements of

the old-style musical into state of the art." Variety said, "The 6'6" Texan has been a fixture on Broadway since leaving Houston, where he began tap, acrobatics and ballet lessons at the age of 5. He majored in drama at the University of Texas and the University of Houston. Drama critic John Simon described him "as long on talent as on legs," a sentiment echoed around the globe by critics and audiences alike.

Tune has shied away from Hollywood, appearing in only two films early in his career. He played Ambrose Kemper in the movie version of *Hello Dolly!* directed by Gene Kelly and starring Barbra Streisand; and, after working as assistant choreographer for *The Dean Martin Show* on television, he was featured in Ken-Russell's *The Boyfriend*, starring Twiggy. The two were reunited on Broadway in *My One and Only*. Tune also toured the United States and Canada in the musical classic, *Bye Bye Birdie*, directed by Gene Saks.

November of 1997 brought the release by Simon and Schuster of Tommy's memoir, *Footnotes*, as well as his first solo CD, *Slow Dancin*', a collection of romantic ballads on the RCA/ Victor label.

Known for their polished performances of American popular music from the '20s, '30s and '40s, the Rhythm Kings — Hal Shane, Marc Kessler and Brian Nalepka — have gained a large and enthusiastic following across the country. While frequently compared with such musical greats as the Mills Brothers and Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys, the trio has established a unique character of its own with a combination of close harmony singing, virtuosic instrumental work, and spectacular tap dancing. They started performing together on the sidewalks of New York in 1980, soon graduating to some of the Big Apple's top nightspots.

It was their sparkling combination of song and dance that first attracted Tune's attention and, in 1984, he asked the trio to help him assemble an act based on songs writ-

ten by Fred Astaire. Their collaboration continues today and the act has performed together in venues as diverse as Carnegie Hall and Atlantic City's Trump Plaza plus a tour of the former Soviet Union, where they commanded standing ovations in Moscow, Tiblisi, and St. Petersburg.



## AT THE THEATRE

## More unique one-person shows

On the heels of the very well-received Unlaunch'd Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman, two other critically acclaimed one-person nights out are on the schedule for Schein Hall Sanibel in February. Wednesday, Feb. 18, will be an evening with actress, Cynthia Adler — excerpts from her one person show, Downloaded-and in Denial, followed by a close-up look at how her socio-political experiences helped create this show.

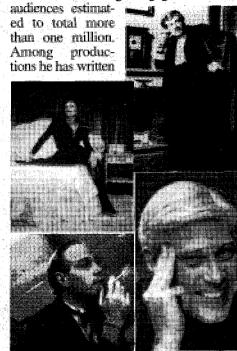
Adler is one of the top voice-over talents in America. Her *Downloaded-and in Denial* lays bare the lunacy of modern American life with a zany romp through dys-



function. Adler's characters have been compared to Whoopi Goldberg and Lily Tomlin and embody her work as a socio-political activist and focus on a society overloaded with media and advertising.

Adler will be followed some 10 days later by the ever-popular Will Stutts in his much acclaimed one-person show, *Tallulah!*, based on the life of famous actress Tallulah Bankhead, on Saturday, Feb. 28th.

Except for Hal Holbrook, Will Stutts has worked longer and more in the genre of one-person plays than other actor. For more than three decades, Stutts has appeared in well over 1,000 single engagements before



or devised, and starred in are Mark Twain's

America, Journey Through the Mind...Edgar Allan Poe, and Noel Coward at the Café de Paris, to name a few.

Stutts' second cousin was the legendary actress Tallulah Bankhead. She was a brilliant comedienne and dramatic actress whose seductive beauty and natural talent galvanized a war-weary and jaded audience. Among the glamour girls of the Golden Age of Hollywood that included Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich, Tallulah in her heyday was described as "a blonde stick of dynamite with the mind of a race car engine!" Her private life has been called "irrepressible, unpredictable and shocking." She was indeed a star.

Tickets for *Downloaded and in Denial* are \$20, for *Tallulah!* \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, call BIG Arts at 395-0900, or visit the office, 900 Dunlop Road, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

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## Patsy lives...!



"You really should see this," Jeffrey Searles, the new managing director of the Old Schoolhouse Theatre, said over the phone earlier this week. "Moe Arko's Falling to Pieces — The music of Patsy Cline is just unforgettable!" Falling to

Pieces is a collection of the most beloved country/pop hits of all time, plus some swingin' rockabilly numbers and a few lesser known gems from Cline's songbook. Arko's vocal interpretation is "so authentic, you'll swear she's lip-synching! You have to hear it to believe it!" Supported by a superb on-stage band, Arko opened Monday night with the show running through March 30th — 8 p.m. every night except Sunday (no matinees this time). You won't want to miss this amazing concert-style performance! Tickets are \$25, and the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 472-6862 for reservations.

"...Cline... soars on the supple voice of star Moe Arko... her voice, carriage and personality beautifully translates the singer's idiosyncratic style"

—The Star Tribune, Minneapolis /St. Paul

## Ongoing, coming up at Playhouse

Pamela Gien's *The Syringa Tree* is being staged at the Periwinkle Playhouse by The Neighborhood Theatre Company for five performances only through this Sunday. It stars New York actress Tamara Flannagan.

NTC is a new Equity professional company, which opened its doors last year in North Naples with an evening of three oneacts, and will take Syringa Tree to the same venue when it closes on the island. At the helm is Artistic Director Steven Ditmyer



who currently lives in New York City and works with Tony Randall's National Actors Theatre. He is also an acting teacher at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre, as well as various other venues around the country. He has in the works, in addition to *The Syringa Tree* and a couple of other proects, a reading of a new play — Ctrl-Alt-Delete — for Randall right now.

He and his wife, Flannagan, started the Company with their two best friends Domenic and Michelle Costantini (two former NY actors who now make their home in Southwest Florida). Members of both Ditmyer's and Flannagan's families are in Florida as well. With the success of their sold-out inaugural production last year of By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea—three chewy one-acts by established playwrights Joe Pintauro, Lanford Wilson

## AT THE THEATRE

and Terrence McNally — and their recent production of *ART* (also in Naples), NTC is opening its second season at The Periwinkle Playhouse.

This 2001 Obie Award winner for Best Play, *The Syringa Tree* is a personal, deeply evocative story of an abiding love between two families, one black, one white, and the two children that are born into their shared household in early 1960s South Africa. In addition to the Obie it received a Drama Desk award and awards from the Drama League (NY) and Outer Critics (LA).

Syringa Tree will be performed by Flannagan and directed by Ditmyer. This is another of those performances where the actress performs a whole range of characters — spanning over four decades of history and four generations.

"The changes are created by means of my physicality — voice, dialect, facial expression," Flannagan says. "There are no props and no costume changes — just changes in who I, physically, am. We started learning the show two months ago, and I'm really looking forward to taking people on this journey"

Tamara and Steve are the parents of Callan Pate Ditmyer, an eight-month-old to whom Flannagan finds herself singing African lullabies. "It's almost as if I'm watching two babies," she says, "one in the play, one at home."

When the run is over in Naples, they go back to New York for a vehicle called The 'A" Train Plays, opening March 2nd at The Neighborhood Playhouse It, too, sounds fascinating. The "A" Train Plays are 15-20 minute pieces that are written overnight while the playwrights are riding the run of the A train — and delivered to the actors at 11 a.m. The actors then have until 1 o'clock to get off the book and go public with complete sets and all at the usual curtain time of 8 p.m. The Flannagan/Ditmyer team have done this about 10 times with different directors and different actors. "It actually started in our home about six years ago over a poker game!" Steve said.

At press time, a few *Syringa Tree* tickets were still available for \$20 each by calling the box office 472-0324.

In order to continue the community's support of the continuing efforts of the general manager and SCA Periwinkle Playhouse to bring the Sanibel community the types of great entertainment the community seems to want at this theatre, on Feb. 17th a fund-raising benefit concert starring Academy Award and Oscar -nominated songstress Jane Olivor is being mounted. Sponsored by Sanibel/Captiva Trust Co. the event will start with wine and hors d'ouevres at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by the concert at 8. Dessert and coffee will be served at the end of the concert. Benefit tickets are \$75. Call 472-0324 for more information and reservations.

Opening on Feb. 20th and running through the 29th is *They're Playing our Song*, another Synergy production. Based on premise that sold-out performances of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* are a pleasant omen, one should, perhaps, make sure to purchase tickets ahead of time.

## **Auditions tomorrow and Sunday**

The Off Beach Players will be holding auditions for the comedy We Blew Up the Bridge, Didn't We? on Feb. 14th and 15th at 2 p.m at the Periwinkle Playhouse. Sought are two lawyers, a female Florida landowner, a mayor and an assistant mayor, townies and protesfors and a wild character named 'Firecracker' — many parts for both old and young at any level of expertise.

Off Beach Players believes that community theater should be of, by, and for the people. This play is definitely locally-flavored and accessible to aspiring theater lovers. Stop by and sign up for behind-thescenes duties, if you really think you can't be in the spotlight — backstage, props, costumes, makeup, set building. Off Beach has been producing theater on Sanibel since 1984 and urges everyone to come out and support real community theater on Sanibel. Hopefully, several shows can be cast from these auditions. For additional information, call producer June Koc at 472-5400. Show dates for We Blew Up the Bridge are April 8th to 10th and 13th to 17th

The Players are also looking for an old coke machine for a set piece... even just the door would be perfect!!!! And, they are also in need of rehearsal space — if any one has an extra space around 20 X 30 feet, please call June.

## Miller and Wade star in I'm Not Rappaport



Broadway veterans Niels Miller and Adam Wade open tonight in Herb Gardner's much loved, Tony Award -winning comedy, *I'm Not Rappaport*, at Florida Repertory Theatre. The opening night performance is sponsored by 'Tween Waters Inn and the production runs through March 7th.

Florida Rep Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo directs this story of unlikely kinship between two octogenarian men — Midge, a half-blind African-American building superintenden and Nat, a lifelong radical and Jewish kibbitzer, Sitting in a secluded spot in New York's Central Park, these two men, like Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, fight impossible fights against injustice, indignity and, ultimately, against time. Together, they cope with the denizens of Central Park, relive their glory years and dream the dreams of younger men.

Cacioppo says, "This play pays homage to our human potential for greatness. Gardner shows this to us in everyday people, characters we may pass on the street. 'Though their bodies are frail, living life is still very important to these two men. Their nobility grows from their willingness to fight against terrible odds for the respect of a beautiful young woman or, more importantly, to preserve their own dignity and independence."

I'm Not Rappaport opened on Broadwayat the Booth Theatre in 1985 after a successful run Off-Broadway at the American Place Theatre. The original cast starred Judd Hirsch and Cleavon Little and ran over 800 performances. In addition to the 1985 Tony Award for Best Play, I'm Not Rappaport won the Outer Critics Circle Award and was adapted by Gardner into a film starring Walter Matthau and Ossie Davis. In 2002's well-received Broadway revival, Hirsch recreated the role of Nat, opposite Ben Vereen as Midge.

"If I had a magic wand, I couldn't have created a better cast than this one," Cacioppo commented. "Niels Miller and Adam Wade are flawless."

Southwest Florida theatre-goers are alreadyfamiliar with the versatile and popular Florida Rep stage presence, Niels Miller. Miller's first professional production was in 1948 when he appeared on Broadway in *Crime and Punishment*, starring John-Gielgud and Lillian Gish. Since then he has acted and directed at many stock and regional theatres in Massachusetts, Bermuda, Nantucket, Hedgerow in Pennsylvania and The Phoenix Theatre in New York City, among others. His teaching of acting took him to Amsterdam for eight years. Niels has done over 30 productions with Robert Cacioppo.

'Though Adam Wade is a Florida Rep newcomer, audiences should immediately recognize him from his extensive work on television, radio and stage. Wade most recently was cast as Ben Vereen's understudy in the Broadway revival of Rappaport.

He was the first black man to MC a network game show, when he hosted The Musical Chairs on NBC in 1975. Starting his career as a singer in 1960, his hit records include "Tell Her for Me," "Ruby," "Take Good Care of Her," "The Writing on the Wall" and ""As If I Didn't Know. His stage credits include Staggerlee with Ruth Brown, Same Time Next Year with Della Reese, Black Girl with Leslie Uggams, Comfortable Shoes, ...Rappaport, Hamlet,

Macbeth and A Lesson Before Dying. Wade is the recipient of the Audelco, Cleo, Billboard & Cashbox Awards.

I'm Not Rappaport also includes Carrie Lund (All My Sons; Absurd Person Singular) as Nat's daughter Clara, a role Lund also played in Cacioppo's successful 1990 production of I'm Not Rappaport on Captiva (also sponsored by 'Tween Waters).

The cast is filled out by company member Zolan Henderson (All My Sons; The Foreigner) as The Cowboy and also includes local favorite, Mitch Haley. Jane Roy-Bachman and Ryan Mellske join Wade in Florida Rep debuts.

Florida Rep audiences will be treated to another spectacular set by Richard Crowell (*Proof; The Mousetrap; Noises Off*). Resident lighting designer Dave Upton (*All My Sons; Absurd Person Singular*) and resident costume designer Jen Ables (*All My Sons; Absurd Person Singular*) again produce radiant designs.

I'm Not Rappaport plays Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays, Sundays and selected Saturdays at 2, through March 7th. There will be a post-show discussion of the play on Feb. 26th.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$32 with student and group discounts available and can be reserved by calling the Florida Rep box office at 332-4488 or toll free at (877) 787-8053.

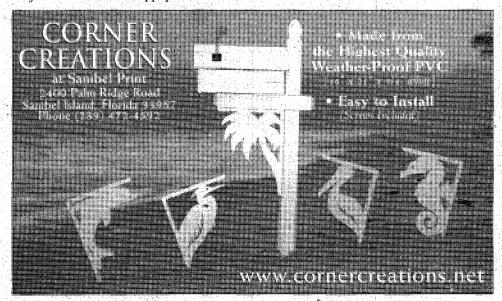
The Florida Repertory Theatre is located in the historic Arcade Theatre on Bay Street between Jackson and Hendry Streets in downtown Fort Myers. Visit Florida Rep on the web at www.floridarep.org

## Kids Conspiracy presents...

The thrilling sequel to last year's hit space show blasts off when Kids Conspiracy presents Lucky Hightops and the Cosmic Cat Patrol: Attack of the Crab Nebula by Lane Riosley. Part the second of this hilarious, campy series begins when Space Patrol sends Lucky and her cat cadets to the Crab Nebula to investigate the disappearances of Planetary Exploration Team (PET) members.

Lucky, Cirrus and Rufus must use all their talents, courage and wits to rescue the missing Team explorers, avoid any intergalactic incidents and resourcefully solve the

See Opening Nights, page 16



## **OPENING NIGHTS, FROM PAGE 15**

menacing mystery of the Crab Nebula. The show is a zany salute to the melodramatic space shows of the 1950s, has lots of laughs and concludes with a valuable moral about respecting other species.

Lucky Hightops... Attack of the Crab Nebula will be presented tomorrow, Feb. 14th, at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 16th at 11:30 and 1, Feb. 21st at 11:30 and 1, and Feb. 22 at 2 and 7.

The Lee County Library's bookmobile will be on site on tomorrow, Feb. 14th, with extra books about astronomy. After the Feb. 22nd performance at 7 p.m., members of the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society will have telescopes on hand for free viewings of the winter night-time skies.

All performances are in the Foulds Theatre at the Lee County Alliance of the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard. As always, there is free. convenient parking and, for those who want to enjoy the outdoors, there are picnic tables available to make this a fun afternoon. And there will also be face painting and balloon sculptures after each show. Tickets are \$5 with group rates available. Call 936-3239 for reservations.

Even though audiences have grown over the past year, they still need help in keeping quality, affordable children's theater alive in Southwest Florida. The Southwest Florida Community Foundation grant, which paid for buses to bring in children participating in the subsidized after-school program with Childcare of outhwest Florida, has been spent and they too are scrambing to find funds. The large gift KC received from Mrs. J. Howard

Wood in 2000 is just about gone, so outside support is more important than ever. Businessess as well as individuals, for example, can participate on several sponsorship levels. There is also help needed with publicity, costumes and grants. (Founder/director Shawn Holiday is even forfeiting his director's fee this time just to keep the program afloat.)

In other news, Kids Conspiracy performed Don Quixote for all the students at Alva Middle School last month. There are several more schools scheduled for the winter and KC will be offering Don Quixote again to schools in the fall. The cost is only \$2 per student — only a little more than lunch money for a live, theatrical performance, study guide and an important message about the value of books. No corporate sludge, no belly buttons and no lasers. Contact Holliday if your school is interested.

Kids Conspiracy, founded in 1999, is the children's theater division of Theatre Conspiracy Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit theater company and the resident theater company of the Foulds Theatre.

## Final weekend for show

Orpheus Players present their final performances in the extended run of Agnes of God, a play written by John Pielmeir, this weekend. This psychological drama is about a psychiatrist and a Mother Superior who try to help a young nun, Sr. Agnes, regain her memory of a mysterious night of horror which resulted in the murder of a

newborn baby. The final shows are Feb. 13th and 14th starting at 8 p.m. at the Holmes House Restaurant, 2500 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach. Show only is \$15; dinner (starting at 6 p.m.) and show are \$35. For reservations, call 463-5519.

## Carousel at Broadway Palm

The most glorious of the Rodgers and Hammerstein productions, Carousel, plays at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Feb. 19 through April 11. Carousel is a story about sorrow, hope and redemption. It's the bittersweet love story between a smooth-talking carnival barker and a naive mill worker.

For Carousel, Rodgers and Hammerstein created songs ranging from tenderness and compassion, to rousing choruses, to comic gaiety, to a finale with a climactic hymn. The score includes "You'll Never Walk Alone," "If I Loved You" and "June is Bustin' Out All Over.'

Performing the role of Billy Bigelow, the arrogant carnival barker is Aaron Lake. He has appeared in Broadway Palm productions of Here's Love and most recently The Pajama Game. The role of Julie Jordan, the gentle mill worker is played by Tracy Lake. Tracy has performed in Broadway Palm's Camelot, Funny Girl, Here's Love and Show Boat. Tracy and Aaron are married in real life and add a heartfelt romantic element to the production.

Carousel is directed by M. Seth Reines, Artistic Producer for Broadway Palm West, in Mesa, AZ. His directorial credits include Camelot, Show Boat, Some Like It Hot, Singin' in the Rain and My Fair Lady. and he has directed over 350 productions for regional, stock, dinner theatre and public television.

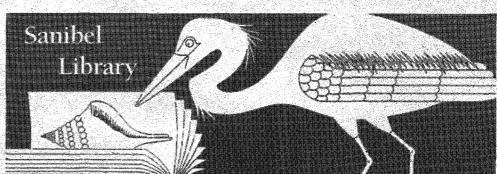
The run of Carousel is from Feb. 19

through April 11. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday with selected matinees. Prices range from \$21 to \$44 and may be purchased by calling the box office at 278.4422, by visiting the website at www.BroadwayPalm. com, or by stopping at the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

## Man of La Mancha opens

The musical, Man of La Mancha, starring Cheryl Ruppert as Aldonza/Dulcinea, opens tonight at Cultural Park Theatre, 528 Cultural Park Boulevard in Cape Coral and plays weekends through Feb. 29th. James Recca, who plays Don Quixote, has a voice that "will make you melt," according to Ruppert, "and makes the trip to the Cape well worth the trip, I promise!" Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays through Sundays at Cultural Park Theatre in Cape Coral located 528 Cultural Park Boulevard. We open this Friday the 13th and continue with shows every weekend till Feb. 29, including 3 matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$15, \$14 for seniors, and can be reserved by calling 772-







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## Chamber Feb. 10 lunch

By Karen Nelson

### In Chamber News:

• The booth at the Florida State Fair won second place again this year and it was an excellent way to reach the "summer drive market.'

• Executive Title Insurance Services, Inc., is sponsoring a presentation by Ted C. Jones, Ph.D., senior vice president and chief economist with Stewart Title Guaranty Company at BIG ARTS on Monday, March 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. He will be giving a 2004 Economic Forecast, and the program is free. Please RSVP to Elaine Burva at Executive Title at 427-8228.

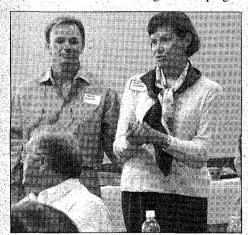
Ginny Fleming introduced Jeffrey Searles, who has been the managing director of Encore Productions at the Old Schoolhouse since Jan. 1. Searles thanked the community for its support and noted that "J.T. is alive, he is well, he is kicking and he is healing.

• Dian Eddy has joined Island Inn as director of sales & marketing after 17 years with 'Tween Waters Inn. "I'm not jumping ship," she explained, "I'm just changing docks."

•The Chamber will be starting a new program, Eggs & Issues, in March. Members of the board and executive committee will invite members from membership categories to breakfast at the Island Inn to discuss how the Chamber can continue to be

Chamber Executive Director Steve Greenstein then introduced D.T. Minich, executive director of the Lee County Visitors & Convention Bureau. Minich said that the redcent campaign name change, from the Lee Island Coast to the Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, has been receiving "phenomenal name recognition." They printed 220,000 of the new 110-page visitors book and they're aiming for a soft launch of the new web site next week, with the offical launch on March 1.

The new award-winning ad campaigns



Ginny Fleming introduced Jeffrey Searles, the new managthe at Schoolhouse.



D.T. Minich, executive director, Lee County VCB

print and TV — focus on beach, sunshine and ecology, and the "different kind of Florida experience we are, different from Florida and different from other parts of the country."

He's expecting a good year, with a rebound in retail and restaurants, although not up to 2001 levels. They had expected to reach the two millionth visitor mark in 2001; it has taken two years to catch up after 9-11.

The "coming Summer and Fall are looking good from Europe." There has been no negative affect from the recent spate of flight cancellations due to terrorist fears. and those originally planning trips to the Far East are rebooking to "more secure, safe destinations" after the flu fears in Asia. The weaker dollar is also helping with the European market.

Water quality has become a major Tourism Development Council concern, with the recent red algae and increase in red tide incidents. SFWMD will be attending the next TDC meeting on March 5 to make a presentation on the impact of the freshwater releases through Caloosahatchee. Minich noted that Lee is considering hiring County lobbyist/attorney to attend the SFWMD meetings (these last one to two days and the Florida East coast has someone in attendance at all meetings).

Lee County was hoping for \$1.5 - 2 million in Federal beach renourishment dollars; the Federal budget allocated \$60 million to go to Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Illinois; no monies for Florida or

The Lee County VCB is actively promoting the uniqueness of the area, which has a minimum of what marketing terminology is now dubbing "generica." To that end, they are fighting the six additional WalMart stores that "are on the table" in order to "keep the unique businesses in

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## Congress Jewelers opens in Naples

Congress Jewelers will celebrate the opening of their new store in Napes with a rare personal appearance by worldreknowned jewelry designer Bez Ambar during this weekend. The new store is located at 601 Fifth Avenue South.

Ambar — best known for inventing the Ouadrillion Diamond — has designed a special creation just for the Congress Jewelry grand opening, estimated to be worth more than \$1 million. Along with Ambar Diamonds, also on display will be the newest creations from JB Star, Color Master, Giovane and others.

The grand opening event will also benefit the Conservancy of South Florida and their Sea Turtle Monitoring Program, with a percentage of sales of the "Sealife by Congress" line as well as the proceeds

from a special silent auction.

We are extremely pleased to be helping a very important Southwest Florida cause, while showcasing our spectacular new store," said Scot Congress, company President. "We have always looked for ways to better serve the communities in which we work and our partnership with the conservancy of South Florida speaks volumes to that commitment." Congress Jewelers also sponsors the Naples Town Hall Speakers' Series, as well as habitat for Humanity and other charities and projects throughout Southwest Florida.

Congress Jewelers is also the title sponsor for Evening on Fifth, this year designated as "Fall in Love on Fifth" for the Valentine's Day weekend. "It's the perfect fit for Fifth Avenue's newest store," said Debra Newman, executive director of the Fifth Avenue South Association. "Congress Jewelers is a great addition to our neighborhood.'

The 5000 square foot store will join the other Congress Jewelers locations in Sanibel Island, Bonita Springs and Key West to mark the fourth location in the company's market growth. Established in Sanibel Island in 1985, Congress Jewelers was founded by Larry and Dee Congress. The business grew and flourished and was sold to sons Scot and Doug in 1996. "We are proud to continue the tradition of elegant, high quality jewelry combined with sincere, professional service," says Doug Congress, company Vice President. "We pride ourselves in our long-term relationships with our clientele. That tradition will continue with the Naples store."

The opening event will be ongoing through tomorrow evening at 9 p.m. and will include hors d'oeuvres, prizes and great entertainment. Perhaps Scot Congress puts it best when he says, "It will be just like an elegant party with your friends in their new home.





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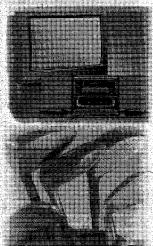
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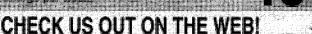
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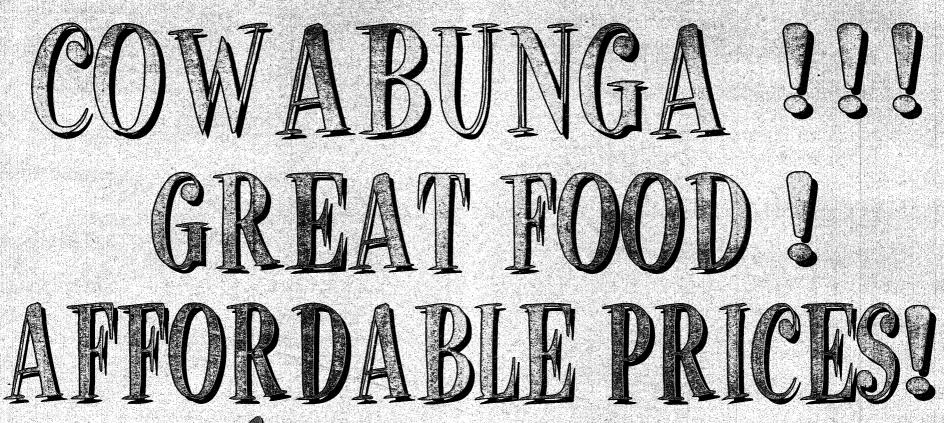
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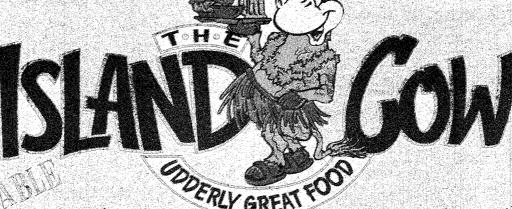
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