

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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Kristie Thomas, Chocolatier

Couple of the Month...

Danny & Yolanda Neris

Hunk of the Month...

Michael Trixx

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Key Largo Locator Map

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VNA/Hospice Commended

Art Box Artist of the Month...

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Remembering Rosie Biskar

All the Buzz

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Conch Characters

Business in the Keys



Larry Rhodes (center) of the Florida Keys Visitor Center poses with four Cuban refugees who came ashore in late September at MM 106 after 3 days on the ocean. Rhodes took them under his wing and gave them water and made them sandwiches.

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Captain Morgan Girls (The Morganettes)

Captain Morgan BBQ Food Specials

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FROM OPEN TO CLOSE



Captain Morgan

Coconut Telegraph

November 2013
Volume 8 Issue #81

Prestige Publishing, Inc
101425 Overseas Highway
PMB #628
Key Largo, FL 33037
Phone 305-304-2837

Deadline
for the
Coconut Telegraph's
December issue is
Monday,
Friday, November 22, 2013

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Editorial

continued

Keys. Look close and you will see that they are not produced locally. Readership of newspapers is higher than that of magazines and the content is more versatile. They will stay on the coffee table until it is all read. Grandma cuts out articles, funny jokes, photos, recipes, etc. and mails them to relatives.

The reason for our success is low overhead. We have no big expensive building and no employees so we can charge less for advertising. You get more bang for your buck and our rates are the lowest.

Remember we **ONLY** promote our advertisers. And our advertisers get results because we have a higher penetration, meaning more readership per issue. That also means less waste.

So save a tree - Read the Coconut Telegraph! The only independently owned and operated local community newspaper in the Upper Keys.



There are 1500 newspapers, 1100 magazines, 9000 radio stations, 1500 TV stations, and 2400 publishers.... **ALL OWNED BY 6 CORPORATIONS!**
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Editorial: Save a Tree! Read the Coconut Telegraph

I received many calls this month from people frantically looking for The Coconut Telegraph. We ran out of papers halfway through the month of October! This is unheard of in the off season and a first for us. So, for the month of November, and from now on we are increasing our circulation by adding another 1,000 papers. If that isn't enough we'll add another 1,000 in December, and another... We now have two vehicles so we have the room. The paper is always available on line for free at TheConchTelegraph.com.

Why are we growing while others fail?

Print newspapers advertising has been on a decline

while online continues to grow. Across the nations many newspapers have folded, cut employees and expenses or gone strictly online.

There are many different formats for newspapers or publications. Here are a few.

Broad sheet - A newspaper with a large page format, regarded as more serious and less sensationalist than tabloids.

Berliner - Larger than the tabloid but narrower and shorter than the broadsheet format. Many broadsheet newspapers have gone to this size to save money on printing costs.

Tabloid - Small newspaper with short articles: a small-format popular newspaper with a simple style, many

photographs, and sometimes an emphasis on sensational stories.

Shopper or Pennysaver - A free newspaper that only has advertising and little or no content. Unless they are chock full of classified or personal ads, these go from the mailbox directly into the garbage. They can claim to have a huge circulation but what good is it if no one reads it and 90% of them wind up in the trash?

I love our local weekly newspapers but I do not always have the time to find one and read them. Online I am able to quickly read their top news stories and skip the ads.

The Coconut Telegraph is a monthly tabloid that hangs

around the house for a full month so you don't miss a thing. We have a paid distribution spot at the Publix supermarket and we try hard to keep it full for your convenience. There is also a box at the Key Largo Winn Dixie and a box outside the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce at MM 106. We have to maintain about 100 distribution locations but will gladly add your business to our circulation list if you give us a call.

And then there are magazines. Printed on slick paper and colorful, magazines - are not sources of fresh content. They take too long to produce to be current. There are a couple new ones being mailed to parts of the



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Hunk of the Month



Michael Trixx

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Artist of the Month: Kristie Thomas, Chocolatier

(An inside narrative written by an anonymous local observer.)



Right here in Key Largo we have a magical place that is all about delicious, creative, heart pounding, mouth-watering, over the top, "I would kill for a piece" kind of chocolate that drives women wild and men crazy and creates shrieks of joy from children. It's the kind of chocolate that properly deployed, insures you'll never be in

the doghouse again. It's the kind of chocolate that is so unbelievably good that it is represented by a whacky flamingo named Lucy who has never been to Europe but just happens to love chocolate truffles. Keys locals are smug in the knowledge that they don't have to travel to Zurich or Belgium to savor world-class, royalty level chocolate truffles. A step through the Key Largo Chocolates door triggers an amazing taste adventure that usually starts with exclusive key lime chocolate made from a highly secret and well-guarded recipe. For generations, Europeans have understood that great chocolate is never an accident. Great chocolate is produced through a combination of skill, experience, a large dose of esoteric

knowledge, sharply honed instincts and, most importantly, love. Combined together it all comes to life into a glowing passion in the form of a Master Chocolatier with virtually mystical powers.

In Key Largo, her name is Kristie Thomas. On her own 41-foot Morgan ketch, Kristie literally sailed into the Florida Keys, where she instantly knew she was here to stay. With her was her husband Bob, a professional pilot and a man on a mission. They had wandered the world and finally they found home. They were instantly in love with Key Largo and all that it offered and represented.

But there was still a missing ingredient in their lives. For years, Kristie had honed her innate skills as a chocolate confectionery maker and baker of key lime and rum cakes. She had become a master of the alchemy and ruthless principles of making great chocolate treats. Once she and Bob reached the Keys, they realized they were in the right place at the right time. The time had come to take her talents to the next level. Thus was born Key Largo Chocolates.

Kristie and Bob have never looked back. Starting in their own kitchen and then moving to a rented space, they began tempering chocolate to produce the truffles and other treats that had locals and tourists in the know beating a path to their door. Valen-



tines Day of 2012 was such a smash hit, they bought their own building with an expanded kitchen and new chocolate making equipment to help them meet the growing, at times almost frantic demands of their customers.

For Kristie, making and selling chocolate is not just a business. It's a passion. It's a cause. It's a way of life. It's a way of connecting with others by providing them with something to boost the pleasure level of daily life.

If you are fortunate enough to visit the store, ask for Kristie. She loves her customers. She would love to say hello and help make your day.

And yes, she still bakes those famous key lime and rum cakes. But if you are in a hurry, don't get her started about her wedding services or the Junior and Adult Chocolatier programs.



Kristie and Bob invite you to stop by. They even have some free samples!



Don't forget your Veterans this holiday season. Stop by and arrange to send some Bob's Chippers. Kristie will even mail them for you.

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3 COWBOY UP BAND 2-7	4 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	5 KARAOKEE 6-10	6 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	7 LUKE SOMMER GLENN BAND 7-10	8 KEVIN HURLEY 1-5 STORMWATCH 7-11	9 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 LOOSE CANNONS 7-11
10 STALKING MILDRED 2-7	11 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	12 KARAOKEE 6-10	13 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	14 LUKE SOMMER GLENN BAND 7-10	15 BOBBE BROWN 1-5 COLBERT 7-11	16 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 CALAMITY JANE 7-11
17 MR NICE GUY 2-7	18 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	19 KARAOKEE 6-10	20 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	21 LUKE SOMMER GLENN BAND 7-10	22 KEVIN HURLEY 1-5 BOBBE BROWN EXPERIENCE 7-11	23 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 3 FEET CLOSER 7-11
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\$5 Captain Morgan Drinks Captain Morgan Girls

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November 2013 • The Coconut Telegraph • 7

Couple of the Month

Bartender and Server

Danny and Yolanda Neris



Danny and Yolanda Neris have a lot in common. Danny was born in New Jersey and and his wife Yolanda was born in Philadelphia but they both grew up in Peurto Rico. Each has 3 children and 6 grandchildren and they all get along happily.

their customers happy. When asked what they like about the Big Chill, Yolanda didn't hesitate to reply "We love everyone! The owners are wonderful people and the food is delicious! We can't wait to see our regular customers and the ones that come back here every year. We have the best location on the water for sunset and you can't beat the happy hour specials." So true!

You can get a Big Chill small pizza (4 big slices) for only \$3.50 or 1/2 lb. large peel and eat shrimp for \$5. They have \$1.50 drafts, and don't forget Ladies Night every Tuesday from 6 to 7; ladies drink free.

Every night enjoy the finest entertainment the island has to offer. Alan Truesdell on Thursday, Fridays it's Jimmy Ray and Derrick, Sundays it's Stereo Underground, on Monday Luke Sommer Glen, Tuesday Jimmy Ray and on Wednesday, Derrick Herring.

The Coconut Telegraph has voted the Big Chill pizza the best in the state of Florida and maybe the world! It definitely is "pizza worth fighting for". Stop by and say hi to Danny and Yolanda and tell them the Coconut Telegraph sent you.



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Ⓐ ON THE MAP

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Ⓑ AND Ⓒ ON THE MAP

Key Largo

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- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Boat Ramp
- Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins



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Ⓔ ON THE MAP



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Ⓓ AND Ⓔ ON THE MAP

BOB'S CHIPPERS

MAKE A GIFT TO OUR WOUNDED SERVICEMEN & WOMEN

Bob's Chippers are delicious, chocolate-covered potato chips, lovingly hand-made right here in Key Largo!

Donate a half-pound box to our sick or wounded soldiers, made by Key Largo Chocolates, and delivered by the Red Cross!

Each box will be delivered at the specially reduced price of \$8.50, along with a "Chipper Greeting," bearing your name.

Order now! We will ship your boxes in November, in time to arrive for the holiday season.

Support this cause and bring cheer and chocolate to our servicemen and women!

American Red Cross

STOP BY...ORDER ONLINE... OR CALL 305-453-6613

KEY LARGO CHOCOLATES

MM 100 1/2 BAYSIDE
KEYLARGOCHOCOLATES.COM

Ⓕ ON THE MAP

November is Home Care and Hospice Month

VNA/HOSPICE RECOGNIZED BY MONROE COUNTY

Recently, the Monroe County Commission presented Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys (VNA/Hospice) a proclamation recognizing the agency for its unique services to our community. VNA/Hospice is the only nonprofit agency in Monroe County providing home health and hospice care.

VNA/Hospice services have grown to be the choice of many families for providing home health and hospice care for their loved ones. The latest data from the Department of Labor shows that the demand for home care services continues to grow as America ages and baby boomers begin entering their golden years. Registered nurses, home health aides and personal care aides are among

the top five occupations projected to see the largest increase in jobs by 2020 as more people need their services than ever before.

"While home health and hospice care each provide different services at different points in a patient's life, they both are designed to give state-of-the-art medical care in the comfort of a patient's own home," said VNA/Hospice Chief Operating Officer Kathleen Ryzoc. "Home health services can help a patient recover from surgery or other illnesses and get a person back on the road to recovery. Hospice care can add more life to someone's remaining days through symptom control. We celebrate November as an opportunity to be thankful for our 30

Mayor George Neugent presents VNA/Hospice CEO Jody Gross and Board Chairman Richard Grusin the County's proclamation announcing November as VNA/Hospice month.



years of service to all residents in Monroe County and look forward to many more years of offering these special services to those in need." It is important to note that VNA/Hospice provided a total of \$455,000 in unfunded charity care to Monroe County residents

during fiscal years 2012 and 2013. If you would like to honor VNA/Hospice during the month of November, tax deductible donations can be made at vnahospicekeys.org or mailed to 92001 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Now taking reservations for holiday parties! **HAPPY HOUR 4 - 7**

Join us for Thanksgiving day!

Thursday, November 28th



Happy Thanksgiving



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on 17 large flat screens. Listen to your game on your smart phone. Free ear buds while they last.



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13 Seagate Blvd., Key Largo, MM 99.6, 305-451-3142

www.pilothousemarina.com  fb.com/pilothousekeylargo

Tree Removal Shady

Property located at 2 North Blackwater (directly behind the Winn Dixie) that has been earmarked to become low income housing for 47 units may not be environmentally sound. This particular property, located at the entrance to Stillwright Point, MM 106, has a history. About 10 years ago, the owners tried to lease the property to Onyx as a waste transfer station (garbage dump) for hauling garbage from Islamorada to Miami. Stillwright Point residents fought against this land use on zoning violations and health and safety regulations and won. The Miami Herald ran a story on it.

At least as far back as 2005, the property was investigated (code enforcement) for illegally clearing land. See photos.

When the sewerage of Key Largo began, the owners of the parcel contracted (and sub contracted) with the sewerage companies (Rickman, Niko, Fountain, Redlands, C&W) as a staging area and a place to dump fill. The fill was supposed to be transferred to larger trucks and hauled away. This was dirty fill from trenching asphalt to lay the sewer pipes beneath Key Largo streets.

As more of the 2 North Blackwater property became cleared, neighbors reported seeing backhoes and bulldozers working nights and weekends, spreading the fill on the property.

In 2008, the property was red tagged by code enforcement officer Alan White for zoning violations and illegal fill and clearing of the property. An attorney serving on the KLWTD Sewer Board had previously represented the owners. He intervened on their behalf saying the County cannot red tag the County. The property owners never had a contract with Monroe County. They had a contract with a contractor who also had a contract with the County. The attorney said not allowing fill to be put on the property would hold up the sewer project. Alan White resigned from Monroe County Code Enforcement over this because he could not get anywhere on the obvious violations.

Twice this was supposed to go before the Special Magistrate (aka Code Enforcement Court) around 2009 and it was continually postponed. Code Enforcement required the fill to be hauled out in order for the property to be brought into compliance. The fill was spread at night and on weekends when County Code Enforcement officers were not working.

More protected mangroves and trees were cleared. As all the sewer pipe laying was finished and the trenching ended, the site ceased being used as a place to dump fill.

No permits for land clearing were ever issued. No permits for fill were ever issued. On tax records, this property was classified "environmentally sensitive." No action was ever taken by the County against the owners for the blatant code violations. No action has ever been taken by the County to force the owners to restore the hammock and wetlands. God only knows what kind of toxic cocktail is in that fill!

The Gorman company is trying to purchase the property listed for \$1.8 million and use HUD funding to develop it into 47 low income units. If Monroe County makes them restore it, there will not be enough acreage to build the enormous housing complex.

Concerned citizens please call to request a public discussion: Townsley Schwab 305-453-8800



Building to the right is the Winn Dixie and behind it is the proposed site for low income housing, previously used to dump toxic trenching fill. Sometime in 2007 the land was illegally cleared. Source: Google Earth and <http://gis.mcpafl.org/monroe/home/ZoomtoParcel?alternateKey=1092916>.



The property at 2 N. Blackwater Lane is locked and hidden.



Behind the fence you can see it has been cleared.

Who would want to live on top of toxic fill? Would you want your family near it? Should these people be allowed to profit from intentionally violating County rules, that are meant to protect us, at the expense of our environment? Who will be held responsible if people become sick from living on top of or near a dump?

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: Concerned Citizens of Monroe County



Aretta Warren is a member of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles. She has been painting for over 30 years, even though she has not had any formal training. She has surrounded herself with great artists and great instructors who have guided her throughout the years.

The Art Box Artist of the Month: Aretta Warren

One such instructor who became a friend was Mildred Semler, a retired art school teacher who gathered a group of artists in Pennsauken, NJ. This group of artists painted one night a week for years, which was a most beneficial experience for Aretta's artistic development.

Aretta's preferred art form is painting and her preferred medium is oils. Though her time with her painting group taught her many things, such as how to paint faster and enjoy the freedom of her art, she feels she has more

learning ahead of her and desires to continue her art training in the years to come.

If you come into The Art Box you will see Aretta's work on display throughout the month of November. Aretta's two most notable pieces are Woman in the Red Dress, and a painting of Johnny Depp.

Aretta has been living in Pennsylvania but spending time in the Florida Keys for years. She is finally in the process of moving to the Keys to become a full-time resident and is looking forward to spending her days painting the local and lush island life.

Take an opportunity to meet Aretta at the Morada Way Art Walk on The Third Thursday of November (the 21st), where she will be available to discuss her work. Or you may contact her at aretta3112@aol.com



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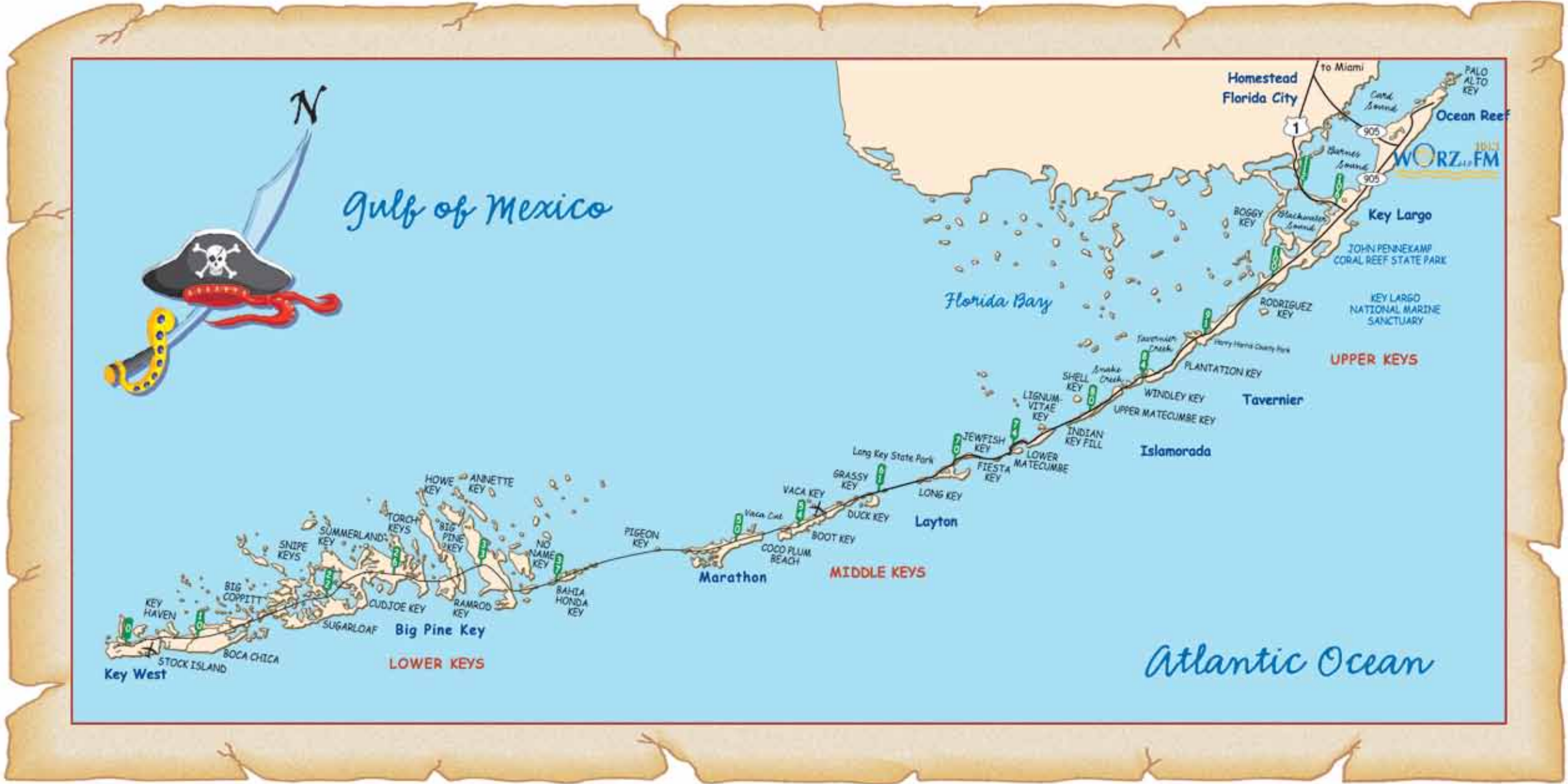
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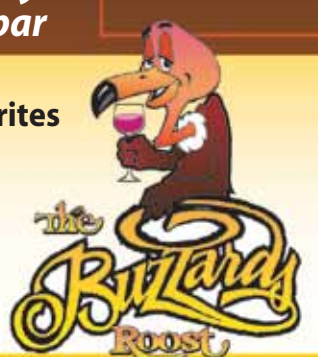


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The Benefits of Not Smoking Cigarettes

As of this issue it will be 4 months I have gone without smoking cigarettes. There benefits are many.

We all know that:

As well as reducing the risk of developing lung cancer and heart disease you also cut the chances of a loved one developing any health conditions due to your 2nd hand smoke. Smoking increases the risk of at least 50 health conditions including dementia, respiratory and digestive problems. It is a proven fact that non-smokers live longer.

Here are some reason you may not be aware of:

- Smoking can cause problems with fertility, so if you are planning to start a family, now is a great time to quit.

- Smoking also increases the risk of impotence as it affects the blood supply to the penis.
- You will have a better sex life as you are more physically able to perform (being out of breath too soon will be a thing of the past!)
- You will feel much fitter and more able to enjoy sports and physical activity.
- You will enjoy food more, as smoking reduces your sense of taste and smell.
- You will save money! Many people don't realize just how much they spend on cigarettes. Ditch the cancer sticks and you could enjoy less financial stress, and spend more money on the things you

like. Think of it! A new car, new wardrobe, or vacation!

- Giving up smoking could also benefit your relationships. If smoking is causing tension at home because your partner, friend or family member wants you to give up, then finally ditching the cigarettes could make life less stressful all around.
- You'll look much better if you give up. Smoking prematurely ages your skin, and don't even mention the stained tongue and yellowing fingernails.

- Your house will be free of ashes, yellow walls and stale air.

- You'll smell better too! Cigarette smoke clings to your hair and clothes, and hangs on your breath. Don't want to smell like an ash-tray? You know what to do!

Quitting smoking has never been easier with the help of Keys Vapors. Stop by the little black camper next to the Dollar Tree at MM 101 or call 305-731-5118 for more information. A starter kit is \$50. To date (in just 4 months) I have saved \$1,200!



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For the last 12 years Cindy Smith and Jane Wasmund have been spreading some very special Christmas cheer to needy families in the Upper Keys with what has come to be known as Operation Cindy Claus.


Jane and Cindy connected years ago through letters to Santa Claus and have been working to make Christmas happen in a very special way for folks who might not otherwise have a Christmas at all.

Although there are many organizations that raise money and give to families in need, the distinct difference in this project is that it targets families who might not qualify for other programs.

Jane and Cindy need your help to try to spread the spirit to families this year.

They accept monetary donations and gift certificates.

Call Jane at 305-451-2214 or email jwasmund@bellsouth.net if you can help make a happier holiday for families in need.



The Post needs your support!

American Legion Post 333 - Key Largo

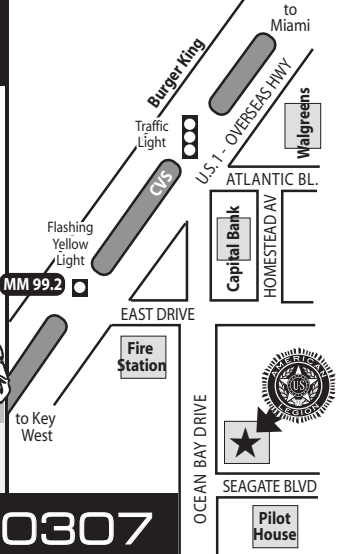
Nov. 10th - 6pm
Marine Corps Birthday Party

Nov. 11th - Veterans Day
(After Ceremony at Bank)
Chicken and Pork BBQ Dinner

Nov. 28th: **Thanksgiving Dinner**
(Check with Post for time)

Happy Hour 4-7pm daily

Sunday Breakfast 8-11am \$6



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NEW!

It's Stone Crab Season!



photo courtesy of Ballyhoo's

Key Largo poet Barbara Mungovan was so taken with our "Dead Man in a Bottle" article that she wrote a poem about it.

Skinny

Skinny wasn't skinny...
he was pretty much a heavy guy
And Skinny loved to travel
So this is the reason why...

When Skinny died his wife put some of his ashes
In a bottle with a note
With all her love and memories she wanted
Skinny to go afloat.

She tossed the bottle in the ocean
At Big Pine Key
She waved and yelled
Bon Voyage my love Skinny.



He landed in Islamorada and was found
Seems like Skinny just wanted
to hang around.

Tossed again back in the sea, seems
he was hardly gone...
When he was found by Judi Gluntz
At her hotel beach in Marathon.

Judi and friends gathered to celebrate his life
Put his ashes and notes in a rum bottle
Hoped it would be ok with his wife.

Like the usual Keys happy hour
They toasted him and threw the bottle in
And as the bottle floated out
They yelled
Skinny come back and visit again.

Barbara Mungovan
Key Largo, FL



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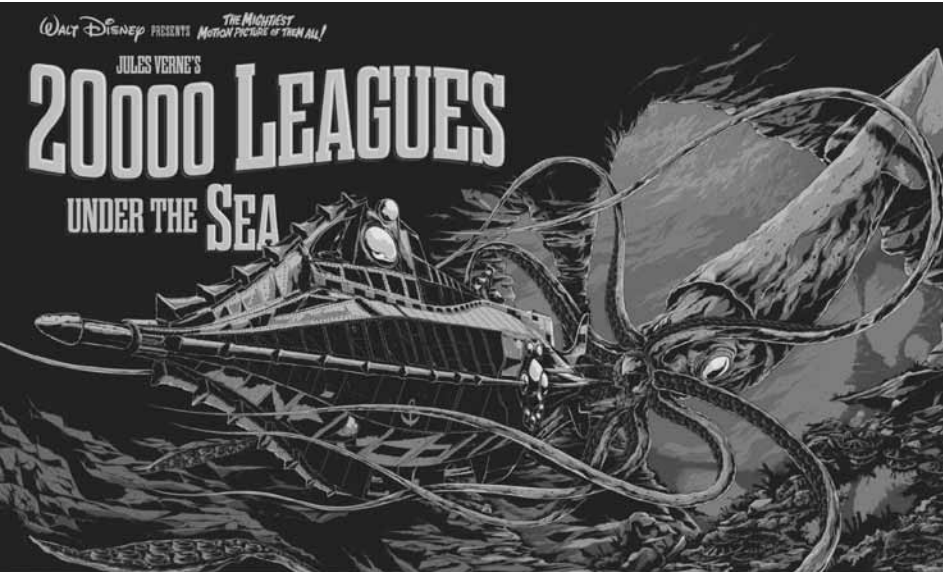
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For more information, contact Linda Kaplan at linda@fiu.edu or (305) 396-7000, or visit seas.fiu.edu.




Featuring
Michael Gillespie, Ph.D.
Professor, FIU Department of English
Director, FIU Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment

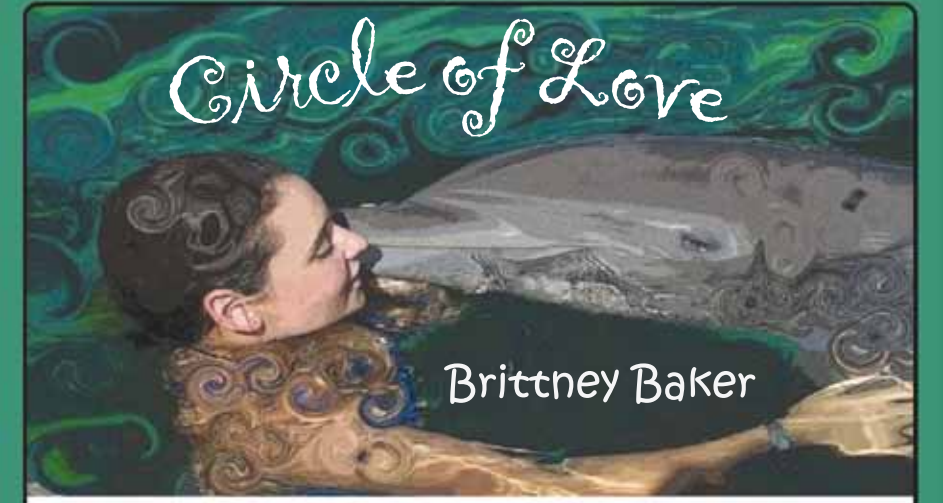
Friday, Nov. 15, 2013
6:00 p.m. - Meet and Greet
7:00 p.m. - Lecture

Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center
102050 Overseas Hwy. - MM102
Key Largo, FL 33037

This event is free and open to the public.



Circle of Love



Brittney Baker

Just when 23-year-old Coral Shores graduate Brittney Baker's dream of becoming a dolphin trainer was about to come true, she had a tragic car accident.

Brittney has been in a coma in ICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for over 2 months. She is being treated for massive head injuries and multiple broken bones. As soon as she is stable enough she will need to have spinal surgery to repair a broken back. Brittney was tossed about in that car like a rag doll and her recovery is going to be a very slow process, if she recovers at all.

The accident happened April 7th at MM 100. Most people would not have survived such a horrific accident but Brittney has youth and strength to her advantage and that is what has kept her alive and got her this far.


Brittney is the child of John and Jennifer Baker of Key Largo. Jennifer Baker is the manager of Dolphin Cove and her husband John is only employed part time. They are doing all they can

to ensure Brittney's survival, but the cost of daily hospital visits and medical expenses is astronomical.

Over the years the Baker family has been active in many community benefits and events - and now they need our help.

Visit Facebook "Britt's Battle" where you can donate money to help with Brittney's medical expenses, or give a donation for one of these Good Karma bracelets to be worn as a "constant reminder to keep the circle positive and loving."

Suggested donation is \$10 each. Available at Dolphins Plus.



Good Karma Bracelet
Wear as a constant reminder to keep the circle positive and loving.

MORE INFO: DENISE MALEYFYT 305-304-2837 OR JUDY CURTIS 305-394-0249

Remembering Rosie Biskar



Rosie was our featured Artist of the Month at The Art Box in February 2013.

For a full article on her and her work, go to <http://theconchtelegraph.com/issues/2013/february/page8-9.pdf>

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Memories of the Soul Past Life Regression

The effects of a past life can manifest in your current life in many ways but should be used as a tool, not an excuse.

Inside our subconscious lie our memories from past lives. Though we seldom remember even having lived these past lives, the experiences we had living them have had a hand in shaping who we are today. The effects of a past life can manifest in a later lifetime in many ways - phobias, self-limiting beliefs, physical problems, or innate creative abilities.

Violence, death, and trauma in a past life may show up as fear, uncontrollable anger, or low self-esteem in this one, while positive experiences from an earlier lifetime may cause you to feel strongly drawn to certain people, places, or objects without knowing why.

Many people turn to past life regression therapists to revisit their past lives. Past life regression allows you to recall the memories and emotions associated with a past life that continue to exert an influence over your present reality. You may not have even been aware that these

experiences are still affecting you today. Past life regression therapy can offer you a unique opportunity to reconnect with these memories so you can understand them and free yourself.

To discover more about your past lives, consider keeping a notebook where you can record anything that could be a memory from a different lifetime. You may also feel drawn to a particular period in history, a seemingly unfamiliar locale, or a new person you've met who seems oddly familiar.

Pick a time and choose a place where you can relax. Envision your body being filled with healing white light. Remember that nothing you see or hear will harm you. Ask yourself what you hope to achieve through regression and connect with your inner vision. Observe what you see without judgment.

When you are done, think about how what you experienced relates to your present life. There may be beliefs from a past life that you are still operating under but are now ready to let go of. The significance of your past life memory may not be immediately obvious until much later. You can make the most of your past lives by learning from them.

While past life regression can be an exciting journey, it is not a substitute for living in the present where we are most needed right here and now.



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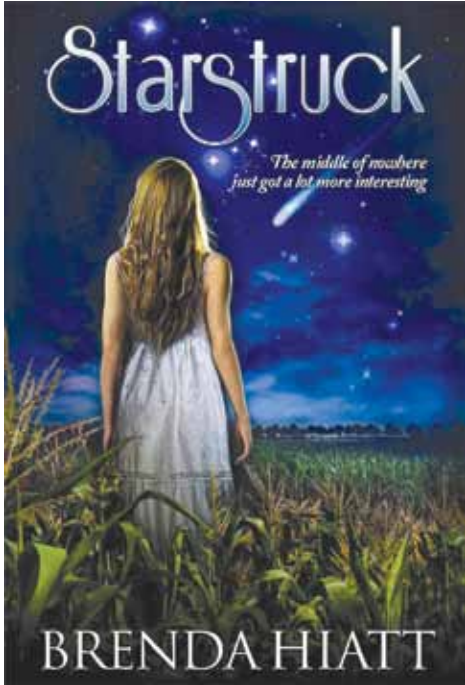
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Key Largo Author Pens
Young Adult Science Fiction Romance
Starstruck by Brenda Hiatt

Key Largo based author Brenda Hiatt has enjoyed great success publishing sixteen novels including Regency romances, time travel romance, historical novels and a humorous mystery novel, but she has struck new ground with her September, 2013 release, a science fiction themed young adult novel. Anyone who felt unpopular in high school will love this story of an awkward girl destined for more excitement, danger and heartbreak than she ever dreamed—and she dreamed a lot!

Nerdy astronomy geek Marsha ("M"), has never been anybody special. Orphaned as an infant and reluctantly raised by an overly-strict "aunt," she's not even sure who she is. M's dream of someday escaping tiny Jewel, Indiana and making her mark in the world seems impossibly distant until hot new quarterback Rigel inexplicably befriends her. As Rigel turns his back on fawning cheerleaders to spend time with M, strange things start to happen: her acne clears up, her eyesight improves to the point she can ditch her thick glasses, and when they touch, sparks fly—literally! When M digs for a reason, she discovers deep secrets that will change her formerly humdrum life forever . . . and expose her to perils she never dreamed of. Yes, the middle of nowhere just got a lot more interesting.

Brenda hints that Starstruck is the first in a series that in time will take readers



far away from the fictitious town of Jewel, Indiana. About the Author: In addition to writing, Brenda is passionate about embracing life to the fullest, including Taekwondo (where she achieved her 2nd degree black belt in 2012 and recently competed in the USA Taekwondo National Championship tournament) and scuba diving (with over 60 dives to her credit). In March Brenda released Out of Her Depth from Bell Bridge Books, featuring a scuba diving heroine, and plans to write a sequel set in Key Largo.

She is an active member of Romance Writers of America, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and a past president of Novelists, Inc, an international organization of multipublished novelists. Learn more at brendahiatt.com, Contact Brenda at 317-496-0562 or brendahb@gmail.com. And watch for a book signing coming in December!

The Mangrove Galley
by Sandi Mieszczeni

Sandi's recipes are featured monthly in the Coconut Telegraph. For previous issues go to <http://www.theconchtelegraph.com>.



It's November and that means turkey!

This year Thanksgiving is November 28th. On one of our most beloved holidays, when family and friends will join together to feast. My husband and I have spent many Thanksgivings on our 28-ft. sailboat. Preparing the traditional meal in tight quarters is a challenge and we have tried numerous ways... but one year I decided to cook turkey cutlets on the stove top. It was a delicious meal without the fuss of a whole bird. If you are looking for something different and easy, try this recipe. Enjoy, and happy holidays!

TURKEY CUTLETS MARSALA

- 2 large leeks- halved lengthwise and sliced
- 1/3 cup chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon dried sage
- 1/4 cup sweet Marsala
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 1 pound turkey cutlets
- 1/2 teaspoon minced orange peel



Soak the raisins in the 1/4 cup Marsala. Combine the leeks (be sure to clean the leeks well and use only the white and light green part of the vegetable), chicken stock, sugar, bay leaf, thyme, and sage in a skillet. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook until tender, about 25 minutes. Uncover and cook until the leeks are golden brown. Remove from the skillet. Discard the bay leaf. Season the cutlets with salt and pepper and saute in the same pan until cooked through. Transfer the cutlets to a plate and cover to keep warm.

Return the sauce to the pan, add the Marsala with the raisins and the orange peel. Cook the sauce until it slightly thickens (about 2 minutes.) Spoon over the turkey and serve.

Conch Characters



Bobbe Brown at the Big Chill.



Wounded Warriors came to Key Largo for a little Depththerapy! Getting on and in the water, and visiting the Key Largo Conch House for a fabulous lunch were both on their agenda.



The 2014 Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and special guests of Black Caesar.



Great benefit for Mike Vaughan at the Whistle Stop!



Richard and Mona Champagne enjoy the music at the Pilot House during Downtown Key Largo Songfest.



Alexis Matson meets her great grandfather Dennis Bogan at Snook's Bayside Restaurant.



Next Luau & Pig Roast Party at Snooks Bayside-Sat. Nov 30th!



American Legion bartender Carla is always happy to serve you.



Brandon at Num Thai is the best! Stop by for their early specials, best in town!



Doc's Diner's "Doc" Jim Bolini attends the Sysco Food Show (Doc's on the right!)



Ashlee Howard & Stephanie Felton, lovely Pilot House hostesses.



Professor Louie and Commander Cody's Band rocked at the Bayside Grille!

Coco‘Nut’ Funnies

Drinks and Personalities

Bartenders in the Keys were asked if they could nail a person’s personality based on their drink of choice. Though interviewed separately, they concurred on almost all counts.

The Holidays are upon us. Have fun and be careful. Remember Mom’s Taxi is cheaper than a lawyer! Call 852-6000.

Alcohol & the Female Personality:

Drink: Beer
Personality: Casual, low-maintenance, down to earth.
Your Approach: Challenge her to a game of pool.

Drink: Blender Drinks
Personality: Flaky, whiny, annoying, a pain in the butt.
Your Approach: Avoid her, unless you want to be her cabin boy.

Drink: Mixed Drinks
Personality: Older, refined, high maintenance, picky, knows it all.
Your Approach: You won’t have to approach her, if she is interested she will send you a drink.

Drink: Wine (does not include White Zinfandel, see below)
Personality: Conservative and classy, sophisticated yet giggles.
Your Approach: Tell her you love to travel and spend quiet evenings with friends.

Drink: White Zinfandel
Personality: Easy, thinks she is sophisticated but has no clue.
Your Approach: Make her feel smarter

than she is, this should be an easy target.
Drink: Shots
Personality: Likes to hang out with toothless guys and is looking to get totally drunk.... and naked.
Your Approach: Easiest hit in the joint. You have been blessed this evening. Nothing to do but wait. However, be careful not to make her mad!

Alcohol and the Male Personality:

Domestic Beer: He’s poor, has bad teeth, and wants to get laid.

Imported Beer: He likes good beer, might have a job, and wants to get laid.

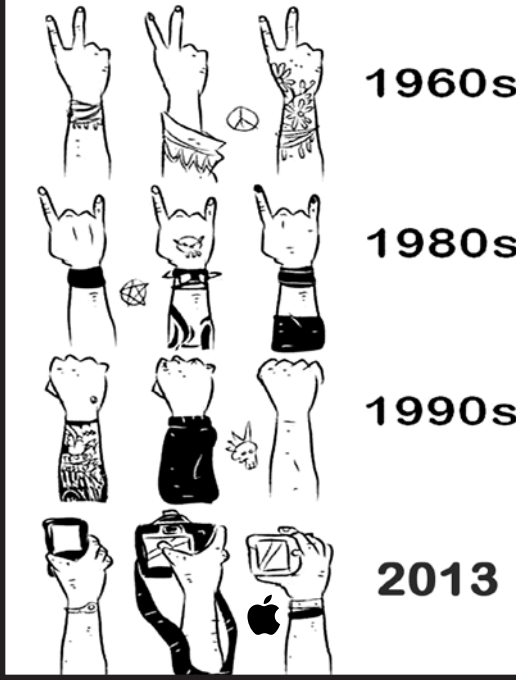
Wine: He’s hoping that the wine thing will make him look sophisticated and help him get laid.

Whiskey: He doesn’t give a hoot about anything but getting laid.
Tequila: He thinks he has a chance with the toothless waitress.

White Zinfandel: He’s gay (and looking to get laid).

“I think it is just terrible and disgusting how everyone has treated Lance Armstrong, especially after what he achieved, winning seven Tour de France races while on drugs. When I was on drugs, I couldn’t even find my bike.” — *Willie Nelson*

The Evolution of Rock



The four stages of Life.

Left Field by J.S. McKinna



Medical Experts Weigh In on Obama Care

Courtesy of Doug Myers

The American Medical Association has weighed in on Obama's new health care package.

The Allergists were in favor of scratching it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter".

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in Washington.



The wrong email

A Minnesota couple decided to vacation to Florida during the winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday. His wife would fly down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and without realizing his error, he sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile.... somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband’s funeral. He was a minister of many years who was called home to glory following a sudden heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she fainted.

The widow’s son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I’ve Arrived

Date: 16 May 2013

I know you’re surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I’ve just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is not as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!



“It’s a taser. It’s for your snoring.”

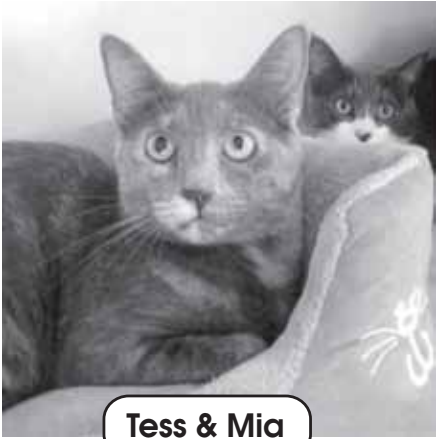


Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



Nemo



Tess & Mia



Princess



Bear



Iris



Clifford



GiGi



Beau



Farrah

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Contact Jim Mahley **305-849-1962** jim@williamabecker.com

OWNER FINANCED CANALFRONT MOBILES IN KEY LARGO...



CANALFRONT MOBILE - OWNER FINANCING 2 bedrooms, fenced yard, 60 foot dock. Call for financing details. Won't last long!



3-BEDROOM CANAL FRONT MOBILE OWNER FINANCING Fenced yard on a 60' lot. Updates to the interior. Great room for a family. Call for the financing details.



4/2 OWNER FINANCING CANALFRONT MOBILE Fenced, davits and nice seawall. Nicely furnished and ready to move into. 20% down.



CANALFRONT IN TROPICAL ATLANTIC SHORES - TAVERNIER STRAIGHT OUT TO THE OCEANFRONT. Updated kitchen. 2 bdrm up and an apartment down, plus workshop. Porches on street side and canal side. Concrete roof. Beautifully landscaped. Fenced. Very close to schools... Call for an appointment.



SEASONAL RENTAL ON A CANAL Key Largo rental - 2/1 on a nice canal bayside. Furnished. Fenced. Good dockage. Call for rates.



PRIVATE OCEANSIDE ESTATE HOME - Located on a very private ocean side Key Largo street. Concrete home, with a concrete roof... plus a connecting upstairs added living space. OCEAN VIEWS, and 120 feet of canal front. —DEEP WATER —DIRECT OCEAN ACCESS... downstairs apartment, and a separate workshop area. Unique! Call today!

SOLD IN 15 DAYS!



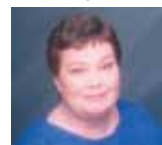
3/2 CBS CANAL FRONT HOME

Ocean side. Fenced. Clean, clear canal. Spacious living space. Open plan. Big patio overlooks canal. Will not last long!!!

LIST WITH US!



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Jane: **305-451-2214**
CRS, GRI, Short Sale Specialist

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