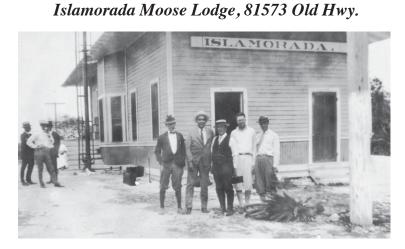
## Matecumbe Historical Trust

presents

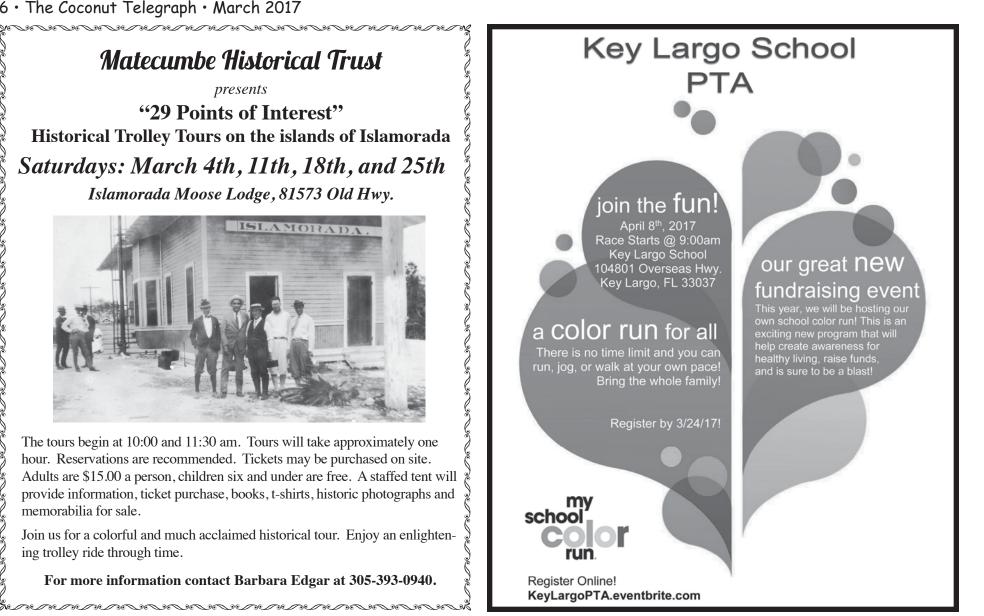
"29 Points of Interest" Historical Trolley Tours on the islands of Islamorada Saturdays: March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th



The tours begin at 10:00 and 11:30 am. Tours will take approximately one hour. Reservations are recommended. Tickets may be purchased on site. Adults are \$15.00 a person, children six and under are free. A staffed tent will provide information, ticket purchase, books, t-shirts, historic photographs and

Join us for a colorful and much acclaimed historical tour. Enjoy an enlightening trolley ride through time.

For more information contact Barbara Edgar at 305-393-0940.





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# The Evil Eye



This pendant is a bright blue taliman. Look for talismans like this at local flea markets.

the evil eye?

Nothing seems to be going right ... your spouse is disdainful, the kids disrespectful and even your grandchildren don't want to be around you? Problems at work? Are you are starting to realize that people you thought liked and respected you really don't? Do you strike back by throwing angry fits and threatening those around you? Even your dog seems to hate you? Your prostate has begun to itch and tingle? Perhaps the evil eye has been cast upon you.

The evil eye is a facial expression, a look that many cultures believe able to cause injury, misfortune or even death to the individual at whom it is directed for reasons of envy or dislike.

Is it mystical, superstition or psychological? Have you ever sat in a crowded room and something made you turn around only to look directly in the eyes of someit is one that increases with age. My mother was a firm believer in the evil eye. She

truly believed that she could slap someone with some bad mojo just by squinting her eye at them. Her ancestors came from Scotland where the term for the "evil eye" is droch shuil, mean-

ina "overlooking," it implies that a gaze has remained t00 long on the coveted object or person. In Italian it is called the maloccio and in Spanish the malojo, but the evil eye is also known worldwide.

This superstition may have some merit in psychology as it is thought that one animal can dominate or be aggressive to another by simply staring it down for too glass ornament to jewelry long. Don't try this with a rabid crocodile.

Diagnosing the evil eye. In Eastern Europe the evil is diagnosed by dropping charcoal, coal, or a burnt match head into a bowl of water near the affected person. If the items float you are indeed cursed with the ominous evil

malady? Apparently so.

If you go to any flea market you will most likely find several vendors that carry talismans to ward off the evil eye. Disc's or balls, consisting of blue and white circles with an eye in the center are called repellent talismans or apotropaic (Greek for "protective") charms that are believed to have the power to bend the malicious eye back toward

the sorcerer that sent it. They can be anything from a bearing glass beaded eyeballs. The sheer abundance of these talismans provoke thoughts that there just may be something to all of this.

Most bartenders and servers in Key Largo and Islamorada have possession of evil eye powers. To be on the safe side we recommend tipping 20% or more.

Here in the Keys we also have a thing called the "Hairy Eyeball." You walk into a local's club and see some poor guy propped up in a corner nodding his head and barely able to keep one watery jaundiced bloodshot eye open and it is looking right at you, gasp! What ever you do, DO NOT LOOK AT HIM! Eye contact only encourages conversation and gives him the opportunity to ask you if he can bum a cigarette or beg you buy him a drink and give him a ride. Before you know it the Is there a cure for such a offensive person will slither into the chair next to you and then you're trapped and royally screwed.

For when they are persistent I keep a collection of business cards from people that I don't like, specifically for this type of situation. Pull one out, hand it to him, wink and say in a throaty sultry voice "call me later" as you quickly walk out the door and head to the nearest flea market.



A blue or green eye can also be found on some forms of the hamsa hand, an apotropaic hand-shaped talisman against the evil eye found in West Asia. The word hamsa, also spelled khamsa and hamesh, means "five" referring to the fingers of the hand. In Jewish culture, the hamsa is called the Hand of Miriam; in some Muslim cultures, the Hand of Fatima.)

The Hamsa, a charm made to ward off the evil eye.