4 · The Coconut Telegraph · September 2021 September 2021 · The Coconut Telegraph · 5







LOCALS' FAVORITE 305-453-3153 45 Garden Cove Drive MM 106

American Legion Post 333 - Key Largo

Happy Hour 3 to 6 pm

Tuesdays: Karaoke with Michael at 6 p.m.

Please wear a mask when not seated.



Come by & see Dee! Wednesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

2 Seagate Blvd. MM 99.6 • Key Largo • 305-451-0307 • www.legionpost333.org

Artist of the Month: Carol Ellis: Photographer - Artist - Fashion Designer

We are proud to feature Carol Ellis of Key Largo as Artist of the Month. Ellis is the official photographer for the Ocean Reef Club, and a multi-award-winning artist who is celebrating her recently-launched clothing line. The collection is an extension of her creative artistry and unique talent. Ellis' designs are a reflection of her combined love for the Keys, and her keen eye for vibrant tropical color and detail. Her subjects include the natural environment, the Southern landscape, the Florida Keys and Everglades, and tropical flora and fauna.



The photos she takes from her heart almost never have any evidence of human involvement; rather she is inspired by the interplay of the elements of nature with light, motion, and color.



Carol seeks places that are wild and serene, usually at the water's edge or native woods. She revisits the place at different times of day, and weather conditions, often my gear; one to carry the enough to get a sense of place... to really get to know it. Carol takes about 50 photos each visit, varying the exposure, focus and vantage

The magic comes when the mechanical settings of the camera and the environmental conditions come together.

"My photography is a form of photosynthesis: I find my subject, savor the scene, take in the light and the photograph is my interpretation. So equally my ART IS LIFE, produced by my synthesis, my camera and my point of view. Photography has been my passion for my entire life. My mentors have been master printers and accomplished artists.

"I've studied at home and across the globe, at the prestigious Maine Media Workshops, Santa Fe Photography Center, and L'atelier de Saint-Rémy in France. While in residency at Vermont Studio Center I worked beside artists of all persuasions. I continue to be inspired by the time we live it, a modern-day renaissance of new photo materials and processes."

Her vibrant shirts and tunics are made of the softest and lightest 95% polyester and 5% spandex. They are affordable and make a cherished gift.

"While it seems minor now, during November 2018, brain surgery for a subdermal hematoma changed my life. As I recovered, I could not lift objects more than 10 pounds, or for that matter

provide any stress which would cause further bleeding. I wanted to be creative, but to use my camera would require I make two trips with tripod and a second to carry the camera.

"My first effort was the photo of sparkle lights on the lily pond New Years Eve 2019. In planning a shot, I scout at different times of day to get it just right. This shot was no exception. One evening I arrived, the lights were not on.

"Another morning, all is good, I set up, and the timer activates and turns them off just as I was ready to shoot. Third time was the charm. The lights were on



Contact Carol Ellis at 305-451-7778 or carol@carolellis.com. Website for clothing line: www.legaleriste.com/en/carol. ellis. Photography website: www.carolellis.com



LOCAL AWARDS:

Green Living and **Environmental Education** Individual Award for Monroe County/Florida Keys 2009

Dale Carnegie Award for **Highest Achievement**

Lipstick and Loaded Top Shot 2014 and 2015

Ocean Reef Art League Best of Show and First Place Awards

Florida 24/7 Finalist

and so were the sprinklers... a bonus... which created a cool misty effect."

Private and group instruction in photography is available. Carol has offered hands-on workshops at the Ocean Reef Art League since 2000. Students have learned to make the best use of their cameras' incredible capabilities and to see the photo opportunities that await. Private and group sessions are available.



Open 7 Days a Week, Noon 'til 10pm

Serving Dinner: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.