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Attractions

Critters in Our Midst:
West Indian Manatee
How My Parents Met

What's Hot & What's Not

Garden Walk -
an Upper Keys Tradition
Luke Sommer Glenn Blog
Key Largo Library Programs
for February

Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page
Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies
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Willfully Incognizant — A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

A long time ago I realized that life on planet Earth makes no sense. Despite the best efforts of the invisible ruling class, I turned out to be unprogrammable. The effort required to obtain the dangling carrot in front of my face was just too great.

I can live on the grass of the field without so much struggle and besides that, very few ever get a taste of that proverbial carrot, maybe just enough to keep pulling the masters' wagon, chasing that imaginary reward all the way to the grave.

It's all part of the belief system designed to control, not to enlighten. Believe in these characters we made up for you and you'll get a big reward, post mortem... AFTER the ruling class has worked all the usefulness out of you. Yay for the big reward!

In order to be a believer, a soul must surrender logic and reason, then keep its mind closed to any new information that is in conflict with those beliefs. Beliefs have to be protected from facts to the contrary even if it requires the extermination of the source, and that's just one of the things that make beliefs and believers so potentially dangerous, like a loaded gun with the safety off.

I don't watch the news because its intention is not to inform but to instruct you on what you should believe, to instill fear in the masses and keep the people divided by any means necessary, billionaires blasting bullshit out to the general public on the media platforms that they own, in an effort to maintain their dominance, the status quo. Practiced and skilled liars justifying their insatiable

greed by demonizing those
with no power, no money and
no voice, every election an
illusion of choice.

We, the People, are divided into teams by the elite and the masses get to choose between kill us now or kill us later. Have to be damn careful how you empower the religious authority, or you end up with the Taliban, ISIS, Southern Baptist... just like the Catholics of the past bent on converting the world... and sending all the money back to the pope in Rome.

I don't need a god to tell me to treat others like I would want them to treat me. The suggestion that a loving, creator type left humankind with divisive religions is absurd. It is painfully obvious to those not blinded by belief.



It's funny how the believers think it is everyone else that is blind..."I'm saved and you are going to Hell because two people ate the fruit of the kinky tree, also known as the tree of knowledge, the knowledge of good and evil, so the rest of us are condemned to be born into sin because we are the fruit of that original sin, therefore, it stands to reason that we must also be rotten. And if we are therefore pre-condemned, it must be God that punishes us with violent storms and volcanoes

and plagues... unless we are all saved.

Apparently sacrificing goats and virgins or goats that were still virgins to appease God was getting stale so we came up with a guy that was born of a 12-year-old virgin on Christmas so we could blame everything on him and all you have to do is believe in that and you can fly around in your very own private jet, bullshitting the masses, collecting tax-free money from them to buy an even bigger jet so you can avoid a tube full of demons that is also known as commercial air flights. It's difficult to imagine that people in the modern age actually believe that hurricanes, floods, deadly diseases and everything bad that happens, is because of the obstinance of the wicked towards the God(s).

Ancient thinking, superstitions, minds ruled by fear. The fear of something worse than a life on a dangerous planet with thousands of ways to eff you up, and that doesn't include the evil we do to each other. Somehow, we all figure the other person's pain is their responsibility, they are somehow deserving of the punishment that life has been dealing them.

Some of us are empathetic but for the most part, as humans, we are glad that it is not ours to suffer when we see videos and pictures of weather or war ravaged areas. Some people even get jealous if they think somebody else is getting something for free, no matter how devastating the situation is.

We are all instinctively scared of the dark as children, even as adults, the unknown, things that go bump

**Luke Sommer
Glenn is a
local
entertainer
and Conch
Character.**



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in the night... We're either afraid of what's under the bed, or hiding under the bed from what we're afraid of... And some people fear the future. The fear of the mysterious. Death, for example, scares everyone except those who have faced it already. The moment of death - it's then that you realize how ridiculous fear was, along with everything else you ever worried about.

Yes, life on planet Earth is designed to be that complicated... if you let it. It is, after all, up to you. It's all about acceptance.

Some old people used to say that if you want to be happy, accept your lot in life... Dreams are for when you're asleep. But it was dreamers that invented the wheel, the electric guitar and condoms... Put men on the moon, a computer/phone in every pocket with a built-in camera for taking pictures of family gatherings and sexting.

There are those that talk about doing stuff (which is, by far, the greater number) and people that actually accomplish it. Talkers love to drag a doer down, bullshitters will waste your precious, incarnation time. You never know how long you've got, so don't waste time with shit that doesn't make you happy or with people that bring you down. Take the time to do it right the first time because a second chance isn't guaranteed. Just know the older you get, the fewer people that will attend your funeral.

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tion of the publisher. The Coconut Telegraph assumes in good faith that all editorial and advertising material submitted are the original property of the advertiser. The Coconut Telegraph may not be held responsible for errors, omissions, or for circumstances beyond our control that may affect the distribution schedule.



A family of manatees, one with a mutilated tail, forage in an Ocean Reef channel. In 1951 Everglades National Park biologist Joseph Moorea began the now-standard practice of identifying individual manatee by the propeller scars on their backs caused by careless operation of motorboats .

A manatee is a harmless, slow-moving aquatic mammal - not a fish - with a light brown-to-gray hide, often covered with barnacles and algae. Their nickname "sea cow" comes from their diet of seagrasses and aquatic plants found in shallow waters adjacent to tropical shorelines. Fossil records indicate manatees were present in the bays and rivers of Florida about 15 million years ago.



Today it is illegal to pursue, harass or play with a manatee. Man hugging a manatee Miami Seaquarium circa 1987 (Credit: Archives State of Florida)

In 1832 when Audubon visited the Keys he wrote about "those singular animals called Sea Cows or Marratees [sic], and he had conquered hundreds of them...because the flesh and hide bring 'a fair price,' at Havannah [sic]."

The West Indian manatee includes two subspecies: Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*). Florida manatees are found along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of America (formerly Mexico) coasts and in the northern Caribbean, from the Bahamas to Turks and Caicos. They grow to 7 feet and large specimens weigh from 400 pounds to 1 ton.

In 1891, Kirk Monroe wrote that the manatee "abounds" in Biscayne Bay and related an incident in which his Miami neighbors killed one of a "herd" of five, supplying the "settlement of 100 souls with meat for three days."

In 1893, Florida law made it illegal to kill or capture manatees. Despite the law,

the waters of the Keys were akin to the wild west... albeit a wet and wild frontier. In 1919 Zane Grey, renowned author of westerns, and President of the Long Key Fishing Club, wrote: "Who fishes just to kill? At Long Key last winter I met two self-styled sportsmen. They were eager to convert me to what they claimed was the dry-fly class angling of the sea. And it was to jab harpoons and spears into porpoises and manatee and sawfish, and be dragged about in their boat. The height of their achievements that winter had been the harpooning of several sawfish, each of which gave birth to a little one while being fought

on the harpoon! Ye gods! It would never do to record my utterances."

Miami's boom of the 1920s gave rise to greater populations living in South Florida, particularly near the coast. Then came the bust and Floridians resorted to hunting manatee to put food on the table to survive the Great Depression of 1929. Historically, the Seminole Indian Tribe used the manatee for food, traded the skins for essentials, and used the bones in rituals.

Manatees are thermo-regulators, meaning that they attempt to maintain a constant body temperature. In nature, manatees retreat



Manatees search for fresh drinking water, but never feed or water them. This could attract them to dangerous areas, like docks, putting them at greater risk of a boat strike. It is also illegal to feed and water manatees.

to deeper areas where a layer of salty bottom water helps to trap heat and allow for warmer conditions.

Like manatees, Florida was settled by people seeking refuge from the cold. As populations grew, so did the range of the manatees. who were frequently seen in canals and yacht basins, attracted by a new form of warm-water

West Indian Manatee...

CONTINUED Photos by Carol Ellis except as noted.



Indians killed the manatee for food; fried, grilled, or boiled or dehydrated by smoking beside a fire under a chickee hut. They'd trade the hide for coffee, sugar and salt. Bones were used for rituals.

refuge caused by population growth. The advent of large power plants aligns with the manatee's expansion up the Atlantic Coast of Florida. Power plants were constructed in Fort Lauderdale (1926), Palm Beach (1946), and Ft. Pierce (1945), and later up the Gulf Coast to Ft. Myers and St. Petersburg (1958) and Crystal River (1966).

By the early 1970s it became clear that the manatee was struggling with the effects of living close to man. Boat collisions, habitat loss, seagrass decline, coastal development, human interaction, toxic red tide algal blooms and climate change impacts threatened their existence. The Marine Mammal Protection Act was



A Florida "Save the Manatee" license plate is a smart way to support manatee research, rescue, and monitoring efforts.



The Save the Manatee Committee Chairman Jimmy Buffett and Pat Rose, Department of Natural Resources, review a script promoting manatee awareness and education. (Credit: Archives State of Florida)

passed in 1972. In 1975 the manatee was named the "Florida State Marine Mammal," and in 1978 the Florida legislature enacted Florida's Marine Sanctuary Act. The Save the Manatee Committee was established in 1981 by Jimmy Buffett and Gov. Bob Graham to promote awareness and education about the endangered West Indian Manatee.

In 1991, the U.S. Fish and



CAROL ELLIS has lived in South Florida her entire life and Key Largo for 37 years. Currently a Master Gardener volunteer, Carol has a degree in Journalism from the University of Florida and is the resident photographer /artist at Ocean Reef Club.

Wildlife Service (USFWS) aerial survey of the manatee population revealed only 1300 individuals. By 2016 things were improving, and the it was downgraded from endangered status to threatened. In 2019 the USFWS estimate of Florida Manatee was at about 6300.

The 2022-23 USFWS survey estimated Florida Manatee numbered 8,350-11,730. The manatee's history in Florida is linked to population growth and development, and their survival in our era is unclear. The fact that this creature has persisted to this day gives me hope for the future.

Rules for living with Manatees



- **Look for manatees before starting your boat**
- **Use caution when navigating in shallow water. Manatees have greater difficulty diving away from boats in these areas.**
- **Heed "slow speed," "no wake" and manatee warning signs, especially around docks.**
- **Wear polarized sunglasses to reduce glare, making it easier to spot manatees below the surface.**
- **Watch for large swirls in the water, called footprints, that may be caused by manatees diving away from the boat.**
- **Never feed manatees or give them fresh water.**
- **Never pursue, harass, or play with manatees. These actions are also illegal.**
- **Report injured, orphaned, entangled, distressed, or dead manatees to the state's wildlife agency.**

INFO COURTESY OF US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
www.fws.gov

Garden Walk

Saturday, February 15, 2025
Presented by the Garden Club of the Upper Keys
Tour Spectacular Private Gardens
10am – 4pm, rain or shine!



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SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Tickets available at www.GardenClubUpperKeys.org
Tickets on sale at locations listed below until 2/13/25:
MM 106 Key Largo Chamber of Commerce • MM 88 Island Home Garden Center
MM 100 Key Largo Flowers & Gifts • MM 87 Islamorada Chamber of Commerce
Also available the day of the walk at all private garden tour locations & Garden Center

GardenClubUpperKeys@gmail.com



Castoff items that have been re-imagined, colorful ceramics and shady places to relax create a rejuvenating garden.

Garden Walk - an Upper Keys Tradition Since 1981

by Karen Beal, photos by Karen Beal except as noted.

The Garden Club of the Upper Keys has been making the Upper Keys smarter, greener and lush for 70 years! Teaching residents and visitors the value and beauty of native plantings has been key to its mission. This is their 44th Garden Walk event and is the major fundraiser to enable the club to maintain the Francis Tracy Garden Center. This historic property and building is the jewel of the day's offerings. The club site (mile marker 94) will include an art show by the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, food truck refreshments, unique gifts and plants from vendors and the opportunity to stroll the grounds of the club headquarters. Four diverse properties are on the map this year:

Art Meets Landscape: Several barren cap-rock lots have turned into a tropical tapestry of greens and golds with bursts of gem tones scattered throughout. This is not surprising for an accomplished artist is the gardener! You would never guess from the road what wonderful pathways and lush surprises await. The husband and wife team created a Keys-centric landscape with native plants alongside flourishing tropicals that support butterflies and caterpillars along side birds, squirrels, friends and family.

Truly "Old Keys" Charm: The Upper Keys always had a vibe of its own and this expansive property takes advantage of the bay view and the native plants. You will walk through the massive hardwood hammock trees to reach the Red Mangrove transitional landscape then on to the shoreline. The boathouse is utilitarian but with an artful twist - you could live in it and feel like an old-time Conch on the water's edge.

Teaching Ecology to the Future Generation: The Ocean Studies Charter School (mile marker 100.3) uses every excuse to give students an opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn by doing. There are dense hardwood hammocks with impressive learning pods, sawgrass and cypress swamps, native pollinator planters and a edible garden - and a colorful peace garden! Three properties give the school the room it needs and the University of Miami School of Architecture, Pennekamp's Native Plant Nursery and the Upper Keys Garden Club are just a few of the collaborators in this impressive project.



Colorful pathways lead to the water in this Bayside paradise. Photo by Charlene Regenhardt.



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Learning about plant types, choosing and planting, as well as creating colorful signage are all part of a school day at Ocean Studies.

Colorful Modern Paradise: Paths and plantings make the most of the color and textures available when you live in the tropics. If you are moving past the 'all native' landscape look, this property will inspire you. Airplants and orchids vie for attention against the red and green foliage. The gravel and brick paths lead you to the best seat in the house and a fabulous view of the bay.

Tickets are available at four locations in the Upper Keys and online, as well at several locations on the day of the Walk. See the ad on the previous page for full ticket purchase details.



Massive hardwoods create an arch over the entrance to this Old Keys property complete with chickens and an expansive view.



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How My Parents Met

1. "My parents met when my mom and her friend were on a double date with two guys who ended up being total creepers. They ducked into a hotel to escape the guys, and the night desk manager — my dad — hid them behind the front desk."

2. "My dad was a popular high school athlete and my mom was a nerd, so they'd never met until one day my dad accidentally hit my mom with his car. He felt so bad that he pledged to visit her in the hospital every afternoon until she got better. They've been together ever since."

3. "My parents met when my mom won tickets to a Metallica concert, along with a limo ride to and from the arena. My dad was the limo driver."

4. "My parents had arranged to meet their respective dates at the exact same time and location, and they were both stood up. 37 years later, I'd say it was for the best."

5. "My parents both worked at an old movie theater, and my mom had just gotten out of a bad relationship. They met when her ex decided to pay her an unwelcome visit at her job and she asked my dad to pretend to be her new boyfriend so her ex would leave her alone. They've been together for over 40 years."

6. "My dad was a cop, and my mom worked at a donut shop. Boom."

7. "My parents met in their college cafeteria, when he was catapulting peas at her head from across the room because he thought she was pretty."

8. "My dad's identical twin came to my mom's job to visit her coworker, who he was dating. After he left, my mom asked jokingly, 'Hey, he doesn't have a twin, does he?'"

9. "My mom met my stepdad when they bumped into each other while out walking their dogs. She was on her usual route, but he'd never taken that path before. But for some strange reason, his dog pulled him in that direction that day."

10. "My mom taught a step aerobics class in college, and my dad took it one

day because he thought she was cute. They met when he tried to do one of the moves and accidentally smacked another lady in the face."

11. "My mom and her sister worked at a 7-Eleven, and to pass the time, they would rate the butts of customers. My dad got a '10.'"

12. "My mom is from Japan and my dad is from Hong Kong, and they were both traveling through the Silk Road at the same time. My dad accidentally dropped and lost his original train



ticket, so he had to buy a ticket for the next train instead. And his assigned seat was right next to my mom's."

13. "My dad's car broke down and he had to hitchhike. My mom picked him up."

14. "My mom and her best friend sent Christmas cards to soldiers overseas. My dad was the only one who responded."

"They became pen pals for 3 years before making a bet on who would travel to whom. If my mom's football team won the Superbowl, my dad would move to Iowa. If my dad's team won, my mom would move to Oklahoma. My mom's team won."

15. "My dad was a foreign exchange student who fell in love with the daughter of his host family...from her picture. They began to talk on the phone, and when they finally met, my mom thought he was the most handsome man she had ever seen."

16. "My mom and dad were both working in a department store — my mom worked at the counter, while my dad cleaned the windows. They met one day when he was watching her so intently that he accidentally sprayed a customer in the face with glass cleaner."

17. "My aunt and uncle met when he spilled ketchup on her at a football game."

18. "My parents worked at the same place, and my mom had heard about my dad's reputation there — that he would flirt with 'anything in a skirt.' So she called him into her office one day to chastise him for sleeping with so many staff members and making the office environment uncomfortable. But my dad was so smooth that he didn't get written up...he got a date."

19. "My parents met at a town snowball fight, when he broke her nose with an ice ball."

20. "My dad called the wrong number — my mom's. But when she tried to hang up, he kept on talking..."

21. "My parents actually met in a graveyard. They had both taken a shortcut through it on their way home at night. They ended up talking until the early morning."

22. "My mom was a bridesmaid in her cousin's wedding, and my dad was the best man. Well, he kept hitting on another bridesmaid who wasn't interested. So my mom went up to him and said, 'Look, she's not interested, but I'm a real catch.'"

23. "My parents met through the 90s version of a dating app — the singles column in the newspaper."

"He proposed after 6 months, and they've been married for 22 years. So it worked out pretty well."

Disapproving Faces

Not everybody we meet will like us, and it is okay to move into acceptance rather than trying to make somebody like you.



It is not a pleasant experience, but there will be times in our lives when we come across people who do not like us. As we know, like attracts like, so usually they don't like us because we do not share similar characteristics. Rather than taking it personally, we can let them be who they are, accepting that each of us is allowed to have different perspectives and opinions. When we give others that freedom, we claim it for ourselves as well, releasing ourselves from the need for their approval, so we can devote our energy toward more rewarding pursuits. While approval from others is a nice feeling, we can come to depend on it and lose our way on our own path. There are those who will not like us no matter what we do, but that doesn't mean that there is anything wrong with us. Each of us has our own filters built from our experiences over time. They may see in us something that is merely a projection of their understanding, but we have no control over the interpretations of others.

The best we can do is to hope that the role we play in the script of their lives is helpful to them, and follow our own inner guidance with integrity. As we reap the benefits of walking our perfect paths, we grow to appreciate the feeling of fully being ourselves. The need to have everyone like us will be replaced by the exhilaration of discovering that we are attracting like-minded individuals into our lives — people who like us because they understand and appreciate the truth of who we are. We free ourselves from trying to twist into shapes that will fit the spaces provided by others' limited understanding and gain a new sense of freedom, allowing us to expand into exactly who we're meant to be. And in doing what we know to be right for us, we show others that they can do it too. When we co-create our lives with the universe and its energy of pure potential, we transcend limitations and empower ourselves to shine our unique light, fully and freely.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at www.dailyom.com

Here's to the Girlfriends

by Kathy O'Malley



*Elaine's vertigo has never been worse
Kay can't recall where she left her purse
Rhonda's about to replace her knees
Linda's breathing is tinged with a wheeze
Donna's left boob has a troublesome lump
Diane's on her third trip to take a dump
Lorraine's husband can't remember a thing
Nine years a widow, Marge still wears her ring
Marlene is dealing with another UTI
Sally's giving a hearing aid another try
Marie has decided she can't drive at night
Sharon still wears clothes two sizes too tight
They've been through divorces and babies and wakes
They do for each other whatever it takes
They've already buried Marcia and Kate
And truthfully, Lizzie's not looking so great
So whenever they can, they get out to eat
Open bottles of wine and forget their sore feet
There's laughing and crying and letting down guards
And when the bill comes, there's ten credit cards
So here's to the waiters who keep orders straight
And to the places that let lunches run three hours late
And here's to the girlfriends, those near and those far
Here's to the girlfriends, you know who you are!!!*

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Oct. 4 (6pm) | Mateo Jampol |
| Nov. 1 (6pm) | David Feder |
| Dec. 6 (6pm) | Patchouli & Terra Guitarra |
| Jan. 3 (6pm) | Lil' Rev |
| <small>SATURDAY</small>
Jan. 4 *(3pm) | <small>NOTE TIME & DAY!</small>
Hungrytown |
| Feb. 7 (6pm) | Brian Smalley |
| Mar. 7 (6pm) | The Kennedys |
| Apr. 4 (6pm) | Katherine Archer |

Brought to you by the



Friends of Key Largo Library For more information inquire with staff
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We always have something "Elk-citing" going on!
(Members and Their Guests are Welcome)

Monday: Line Dancing Lessons 5 pm (\$5 cost)
Show Me the Money — Fun card game! 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Members Only—Queen of Hearts
Fun Starts at 6 pm • Drawings at 6:30 and 7:30 pm

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WEEKLY EVENTS
Sundays 6pm
"Show Me the Moosebucks"

Mondays 6:30pm
Bingo

Tuesdays 6pm
"Show Me the Moosebucks"

Wednesdays 7pm
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Thursdays 8pm
Karaoke with Jenny & Friends

Fridays 7pm
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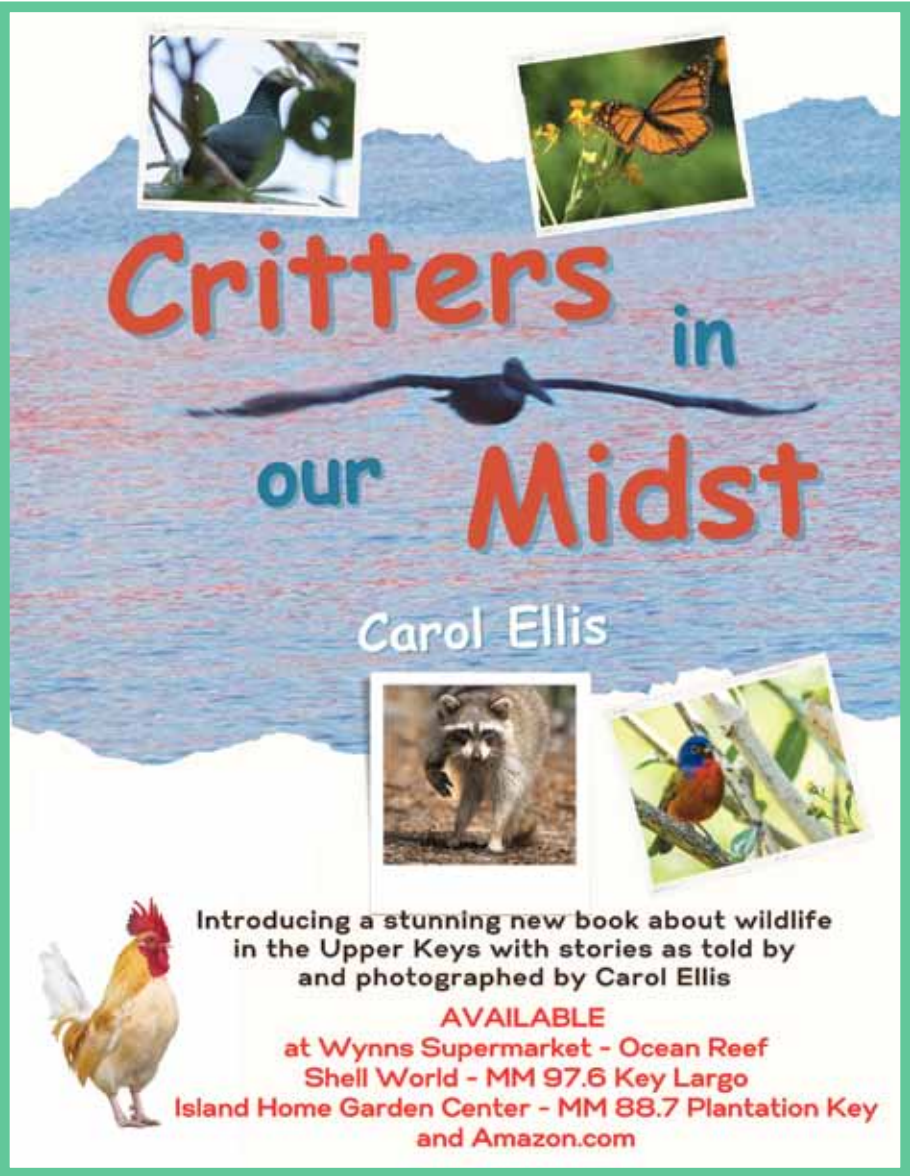
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Leap Years

The earth orbits the sun every 365.24218 days and in order for it to be a leap year, 3 criteria are used

- The year can be evenly divided by 4;
- If the year can be evenly divided by 100, it is NOT a leap year, unless;
- The year is also evenly divisible by 400. Then it is a leap year.

So every 4 years unless the year is divisible by 100, except when divisible by 400. So 2000 was a leap year because it was divisible 4 and 400, but 1900 and 2100 are not leap years because they are divisible by 4 and 100, but not 400.



It's Kitten Season!

Fix Those Felines!

Please help "fix" pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets.

Free spay and neuter clinics at Key Largo Animal Shelter, normally every 2 weeks.

This program is privately funded by Humane Animal Care Coalition for Upper Keys residents.

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm

Mile marker 106 Oceanside • phone 305-451-0088





On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch of Downtown Card Sound Road, a place that doesn't exist on any map... yet was home to a community of free spirits, fishermen and independent thinkers who took up residence there. Located on the west side of the road south of Alabama Jack's, and the toll booth, the shack was originally built by workers who constructed the toll bridge around 1968. In 1972 Ruby moved in and lived there for 27 years. She'd sit on the steps of her shack, with an old Colt 44 daring anyone to throw her off the land. She stayed. Not even the destructive forces of hurricane Andrew and the county's condemnation of the shack could send her from her spot on the bay on Card Sound. She moved to a trailer alongside and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90.

Ruby Stern known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY

Little Salt by Carol Ellis PHOTOGRAPHY

305-451-7778

Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography featuring original artwork of the HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND








SCAN CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO PURCHASE



SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in aqua, limeade and white



Dissatisfied Visitors Complain About their Time in the Keys...



SEE WHAT THE TDC HAS TO DEAL WITH?

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the sandbar. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."

2. "On my visit to the Keys, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served Mahi Mahi and Conch. I don't like food when I don't know what it is."

3. "We went on holiday to South Florida and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Hispanic."

4. "We booked an excursion on a dive boat but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."

5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."


6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your sand was not deep and soft; it was thin and rocky."

7. "It's lazy of the Key West shopkeepers to close for sunset. I needed to buy things during sunset time -- this should be banned."

8. "No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."

9. "Although the airBnB ad said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer."

10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper English beer, like Speckled Hen, nor ginger nuts."



11. "The roads were so slow with traffic, so we read the entire local guide book during the bus ride to Key West. Because of this, we were unprepared financially for the many things that would have made our holiday more fun."

12. "It took us nine hours to fly home to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

14. "The Key West Sheraton Hotel brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

15. "When we were in Keys, there were too many strange people there. The receptionist also sang in the bar, and the food was served by a fishing guide. No one told us that there would be so many strange people."

16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

19. "My fiancée & I requested twin beds at the Key Largo hotel when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

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Key Largo

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ON THE MAP

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ON THE MAP

February Events and Programs at Key Largo Library

The Key Largo Branch of the Monroe County Library System is hosting the following programs this month. All library programs are free and open to the public. Program funding provided by the Friends of the Key Largo Library and the Florida Keys Children's Foundation. Visit KeysLibraries.org for books, streaming movies, ebooks, events and more.

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY • TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Need a date this Valentine season? Try our blind date with a book selection! Each book has been read and carefully selected just for your blind date. Your date will even come with some special treats to help with the enjoyment of your time together.

February Art Exhibit in the Community Room: Florida Keys Quilters Annual Show.

February 4, 4pm - LEGO Club: Build with LOTS of LEGOs (provided) Challenge: Random Pieces Challenge. Ages 6-11.

February 5, 9am-12pm - 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic & "Love Birds" Project. Master Gardeners answer queries. Make a heart-shaped peanut butter & seed feeder! Tips on bird watching and bird-friendly plants. Supplies provided; plant exchange! All ages.

February 6, 2pm - Great Decisions: U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy. Watch a brief video on the topic, then discuss. Sponsored by the Friends.

February 7, 11am - Eco Voices Have you ever visited Marinelab? Join us for an informative talk about their mission to promote ocean conservation through education, research & collaboration.

February 7, 1-4pm - Art Class: Watercolor Octopus Diane Smith teaches watercolor techniques to create a colorful octopus with texture and character. Max 20. Register: KeysLibraries.Org

February 7, 6pm - 1st Friday Concert: Brian Smalley (Americana).

February 10, 11am - Eco Voices: Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Rescue Join us for our last talk in the Eco-Voices series, an informative talk about DPMMR, their rescue efforts & their mission.

February 10, 1-4 pm - Group Mural: This art class will include birds, fish, marine mammals and more as we create an expansive mural with acrylic paints to be included in the March Art Exhibit. Supplies provided. Max 20. Registration: KeysLibraries.Org/Key-Largo

February 12, 10am-12pm - Get Crafty with "Planter Pals" at Key Largo Library. Unleash your creativity. Design and decorate fun clay pots with character! Supplies limited. Register at the library. Adults.

February 12, 3:30-5 pm - Hearts & Crafts: A crafting extravaganza. Spread some love for Valentine's Day! Supplies provided - bring imagination & creativity! Ages 6-11.

February 13, 4 pm - STEM: Domino Discovery Lab Explore basic principles of physics with dominoes. Let's build some epic runs and then get into the real fun: knocking them down! Supplies provided. Ages 6-11.

February 18, 4pm - LEGO Club: Build with LOTS of LEGOs (provided) Challenge: Heart Catapult. Ages 6-11.

February 19, 1-3 pm Home-school Meet and Greet We will be digging into rocks and minerals and how they form. Come dig into some snacks & fun!



February 21, 3pm - Come learn about Florida seafood! Join Sereia Films for a screening of 3 short documentaries on local seafood producers.

February 24, 4pm - Conch Shell Blowing Class presented by Karen Beal & Wavy Davy. Learn to blow the conch shell and enjoy the deep, calming tones it creates. Sponsored by Shell World. Shell provided, max 15. Register at the library.

February 25, 6pm - Books & Bites: Bad Monkey by Carl Hiaasen Num Thai Sushi Bar & Restaurant. Borrow a book from the library or download from the Libby app.

February 26, 10am - 1:30pm - Free Legal Help for low-income residents of Monroe. (866) 686-2760 or register at legalservicesmiami.org. Sponsored by Legal Services of Greater Miami & the Florida Keys.

February 27, 10am-2pm - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Get help with your taxes, with the trained volunteers of the United Way of Collier and the FLKeys. Free tax help for those making \$67,000 or less. Register: 305-563-1470 or email vita@KeysUnitedWay.Org.

February 27, 4 pm - Fiero Coding Club This learn-to-code solution is now available under Resources at keyslibraries.org. Create websites, games, animations, or other programs. Bring your own device or use a library laptop. Ages 8+

The Library will be closed February 17 - Presidents' Day

Monthly Community Group Meetings:
1st Sat.: Florida Keys Quilters
1st Mon.:
Upper Keys Fishing Club 6:30pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Story Time

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 am for ages 0-5.



Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida, Weds. 1pm Counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy. Hosted by AHEC.

Tech Tutor
Weds. 1-4pm, Bring your device and questions for 1-on-1 help.

Creative Tuesday
1-3 pm: An informal creative afternoon with fellow artists connecting to inspire, rejuvenate, and encourage artistic growth. Bring your own painting supplies and finish your own art or do organized activities.

SBDC Weds., 2-5 pm. The Small Business Development Center at FIU offers no-cost consulting at the Library. Reservation: bbarnes@fiu.edu

Sit + Sew
Fri. 9:30am - 1pm. Bring your current project and meet new friends.



KeysLibraries.org/events
Facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary
Instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary

COME TAKE A CLASS!

The Key Largo Library has a variety of offerings, ranging from Book Club and Arts & Crafts for adults to LEGOS to STEM programs. Scan the code to see the complete schedule.



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Position Open

The Key Largo Animal Shelter, operated by Humane Animal Care Coalition, has a full-time position open for an Animal Control Officer or Animal Caretaker.

The applicants must be energetic, flexible with duties and hours. Experience preferred but will accept an applicant that loves animals. HACC will provide the necessary training for the new applicant.

Salary based on experience/skills. Benefits include fully paid retirement program, paid holidays and annual leave; health insurance.

Apply at 105951 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, MM106 or call (305) 451-0088, ask for Marsha, the Shelter Director.

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Help Wanted
Kitchen Assistant/Barback

Apply in person between 3 and 10 pm
at Elks Lodge MM 92.6 Tavernier.
See bartender for application.
\$15 per hour.

Oh, Those Valentine's Kisses!

10 FACTS ABOUT KISSING

- 1) Kissing is a dirty act. Just one kiss with tongue can transmit up to 278 types of bacteria. Boys and girls, watch your oral hygiene please.
- 2) Sensitivity of the lips is 200 times higher than that of the fingers.
- 3) While kissing, your body produce a substance that is 200 times more powerful than morphine in terms of narcotic effect.
- 4) An act of kissing puts 29 facial muscles in motion. Kissing can be used as an effective exercise to prevent the development of wrinkles.
- 5) Onur Guentuerkuen of Ruhr-University Bochum in Bochum, Germany, studied hundreds of couples kissing. In his study, he found that two-thirds of people turn their heads to the right when kissing.
- 6) During a kiss, natural antibiotics are secreted in the saliva. Also, the saliva contains a type of anesthetic that helps relieve pain.
- 7) Those who kiss quite frequently are less likely to suffer from stomach, bladder & blood infections.
- 8) It is possible for awoman to reach an orgasm through kissing
- 9) 92% of women close their eyes for a kiss, but 50% of men keep them open.
- 10) Kissing at the conclusion of a wedding ceremony can be traced to ancient Roman tradition where a kiss was used to sign contract.



TY BURKE

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11 am at the
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Tradewinds Shopping Center

This series features six Upper Keys Eco Organizations presenting interesting topics related to the mission of their organization.

Oct 21 John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
Amazing Mangroves

Nov 18 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
What is a Sanctuary and How Can I Help?

Jan 13 Florida Keys Wild Bird Center
Rescuing our Feathered Friends

Jan 27 Coral Restoration Foundation™
Waves of Change: Coral Reefs & Stewardship

Feb 7 MarineLab
Shaking Up the Sound!

Feb 10 Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Responder
Marine Mammal Care and Our Mission

Brought to you by the **Friends of Key Largo Library**
For more information inquire with staff

Sponsored in part by the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and private donations.

Coco'Nut' Funnies

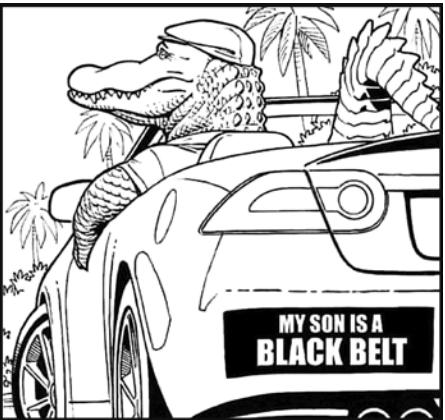
A woman, cranky because her husband was late coming home again, decided to leave a note: “I’ve had enough and have left you... don’t bother coming after me” Then she hid under the bed to see his reaction.

After a short while the husband comes home and she could hear him in the kitchen before he came into the bedroom. She could see him walk towards the dresser and pick up the note... After a few minutes he wrote something on it before picking up the phone and calling someone... “She’s finally gone... yeah I know, about bloody time, I’m coming to see you, put on that sexy French nightie. I love you... can’t wait to see you... we’ll do all the naughty things you like.” He hung up, grabbed his keys and left. She heard the car drive off as she came out from under the bed.

Seething with rage and with tears in her eyes she grabbed the note to see what he wrote... “I can see your feet. We’re outta bread: be back in five minutes.”

I've been single so long someone asked me who I was with and I said Verizon

casual sex implies the existence of ranked competitive sex



I love board games. My favorite one is where people put meat and cheese on a board. Maybe some fruit and crackers. I'm so good at that one.



Last time I was someone's type I was giving blood.

Tried to pull up my sleeve and accidentally punched myself. It's okay I've had it coming for some time now.



I CAN'T AFFORD A VACATION, SO I'M JUST GOING TO DRINK TEQUILA UNTIL I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.



When I have to fill out a form asking who to call in case of an emergency I always write ambulance, because no one in my family is going to answer a call from an unknown number.



I'm in a weird place right now ... not emotionally. I'm in the Keys.



What a rip-off!

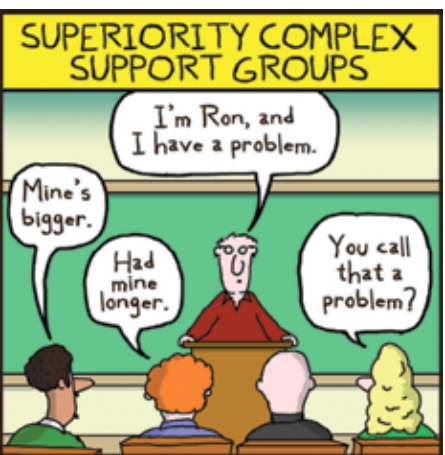
To the person who stole my camouflage jacket and my flip-flops... You can hide, but you can't run!

There I was sitting at the bar starting at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig.

“Well, whatcha’ gonna do about it?”, he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

“This is the worst day of my life,” I say. “I’m a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don’t have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me.”

“So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all, I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how’s your day going?”



I'm starting meetings at my house for people who have OCD. I don't have it. I'm just hoping they'll take a look around and start cleaning.



A panda walks into a bar.

He gobbles some beer nuts, then pulls out a pistol, fires it in the air, and heads for the door.

“Hey!” shouts the bartender, but the panda yells back, “I’m a panda. Google me!”

Sure enough, panda: “A tree-climbing mammal with distinct black-and-white coloring. Eats shoots and leaves.”



HOW MANY TRIPS TO THE FRIDGE BEFORE IT STARTS TO COUNT AS CARDIO?



SARCASM AND STUPIDITY MEET AT THE ELEVATOR.

If you take a social media sabbatical, don't announce it. Just make your last post something fun, like "I wonder if there's a bear in this cave?"



After nearly 50 years of marriage, a couple was lying in bed one evening, when the wife felt her husband, begin to massage her in ways he hadn't in quite sometime.

It almost gave a ticklish sensation as his fingers began at her neck and move down past the small of her back.

He gently stroked her shoulders and neck, gradually working his hand down and stopping just above her stomach.

He then proceeded to place his hand on her left inner arm, working down her side, passing gently over her buttock and down her leg to her calf.

Then, he proceeded up her thigh, stopping just at the uppermost portion of her leg. He continued in the same manner on her right side, then suddenly stopped, rolled over and became silent.

As she had become quite aroused by this caressing, and proceeded to ask in a loving voice, ‘Honey that was wonderful. Why did you stop?’

He responded: ‘I found the remote.’



LOR-E-LEI

Restaurant & Cabana Bar
Look for the Mermaid at MM 82 Islamorada

Open 7 Days A Week
Breakfast 7 am - 10:30 am
Lunch from 11 am
Dinner from 4 pm
Live Music Every Night

WATERFRONT DINING

FREE WIFI PROPERTY WIDE • LOCALS' FAVORITE • LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY!

Breakfast On The Bay

Daily Happy Hour
4-6 pm

Fresh Seafood
Local Specialties
We'll Cook Your Catch
Fishing Guides Available
Amazing Sunsets
Pet Friendly

\$4 Well Drinks
\$1 off Bottle Beers
\$1 off House Wines
\$2 Domestic Drafts
\$3.50 Craft Drafts

COCONUT TELEGRAPH CLASSIFIED ADS

BUYING

Buyers agent is buying
Vintage Costume Jewelry
Call & leave msg.
305-304-2837

CLUBS

Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Key Largo Civic Club at 6:00pm.
Open to the public.
orchidclub@gmail.com

THE KEY PLAYERS

Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes & audition for roles!
thekeyplayers.org

MUSICIANS

Amateur & seasoned musicians wanted!
Keys Community Concert Band begins rehearsals in the fall.
More info call 305-451-4530.

VESSEL SAFETY

The USCG Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks at Blackwater Sound Marina, MM 103.8 Bayside, every third Saturday of the month. Public welcome. 305-998-8400

GET CLASSIFIED

\$10 per col.inch per month!
Bold Listing \$12./inch per mo. MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE
Classified Display Space \$15/inch.
Drop off your ad and payment at
The UPS STORE
101425 Overseas Hwy., by Publix at Tradewinds
Questions? Call 305-304-2837.

Classified ads will not be accepted without payment.

Conch Characters / Around Town

"Wavy Davy" Adamusko demonstrates conch shell blowing technique. See the Library schedule (page 17) for a free (limited space) class on this Keysy skill on February 24.

The Upper Keys community came together on January 20, for a Day of Service honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Participants included members of the Upper Keys League of Women Voters, Upper Keys Women for Democracy, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and Upper Keys Young Democrats, alongside the Civic Pride Organization of Hibiscus Park. Together, they dedicated a Little Community Library, collected canned goods for the SOS Food Pantry, and participated in a US-1 Highway cleanup. The Key Largo Library has installed a story walk in Friendship Park, highlighting the life of Dr. King. The display will be available until the end of the month. Pictured (L-R): Claire Pratt, Dominga Leroy, Pastor Ralph Pratt and Sue Woltanski.

The Key Largo Library, with a grant from the Arts Council of the Florida Keys, winds up the season's free art classes by offering the last two in February (preceded by EcoVoices lectures). Check with the Library to sign up.

Janee Johnson looks pleased with the new Little Community Library.

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.

Pumpkin

Lucy

Peaches

Bart

Chloe

Goldie

ChiChi

Jewel

Coco

Milo

Valentine's Day Tips for Seniors

1. Wear your glasses to make sure your partner is actually in the bed.
2. Set timer for 3 minutes, in case you doze off in the middle.
3. Set the mood with lighting. (Turn them all off!)
4. Make sure you put 911 on your speed dial before you begin.
5. Write partner's name on your hand in case you can't remember..
6. Use extra Polygrip so your teeth don't end up under the bed.
7. Have Tylenol ready in case you actually complete the act...
8. Make all the noise you want... the neighbors are deaf, too.
9. If it works, call everyone you know with the good news!!
10. Don't even think about trying it twice.

February Book Sale

All month long you can take home fabulous books you will fall in love with at the Friends of the Key Largo Library Book Sale.

Choose as many as you like - for a price you can't resist. Just "Make a donation to the Friends." Donate \$10 or more and earn a free book bag. New books will appear each Wednesday - so stop by often.

**Cards & Gift Shop • Large Print Books • Audiobooks
Coffee-table Books • Free Children's Books**

Key Largo Branch Library at the Tradewinds Shopping Center Monday through Saturday
Friends of the Key Largo Library fundraises to supplement and support community programs and concerts at the library.

LOR·E·LEI

Islamorada
Restaurant & Cabana Bar
MM82 at the Mermaid



**Nightly
SUNSET
CELEBRATION!**

**Voted the best sunset
location year after year!**

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Happy Hour 7 days • 4-6pm

- \$4 Well Drinks
- \$1 off Bottle Beers
- \$1 off House Wines
- \$2 Domestic Drafts
- \$3.50 Craft Drafts

Plus a great selection of low-priced munchies!

Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • 7am-10pm
Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water.
Enjoy lunch or dinner on the beach.



The Rockin' Magic of MICHAEL TRIXX
Most MONDAYS • WEDNESDAYS • FRIDAYS at Sunset

This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
"SUNDAY SCHOOL" \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am				<i>Waterfront Dining</i>		1	Uncle Rico 5-9
2 Webb & Davidson 5-9	3 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	4 Micah 5-9	5 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	6 Webb & Davidson 5-9	7 Jade Storm 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	8	Abstract Radio 5-9
9 Webb & Davidson 5-9	10 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	11 Leah Sutter 5-9	12 Webb & Davidson 3-7 Michael Trixx @Sunset	13 Webb & Davidson 5-9	14 Brothers of Others 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	15	John Ciulla 12-3 Alligator Reefers 5-9
16 Webb & Davidson 5-9	17 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	18 Micah 5-9	19 Webb & Davidson 3-7 Michael Trixx @Sunset	20 Webb & Davidson 5-9	21 Uncle Rico 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	22	Chris Bellamy 12-3 Abstract Radio 5-9
23 Webb & Davidson 5-9	24 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	25 Mark Hill 5-9	26 Webb & Davidson 3-7 Michael Trixx @Sunset	27 Webb & Bellamy 5-9	28 Beach Bandits 5-9	LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!	

