Nora’s Back and They’re Not Happy.
The Award-Winning “A DOLL’S HOUSE PART TWO” Opens at Waterfront Playhouse!
Candidate Criteria

BY ROGER C. KOSTMAYER

If you were responsible for hiring someone for an important and highly sensitive job, and you’d be responsible for their results, how would you go about it? Professional consultants whose careers are spent trying to perfect the answer, would tell you there must be an objective, rational and disciplined selection plan that begins with determining the criteria and characteristics you believe are required to do the difficult job effectively. Then, using that model, selecting a candidate that best meets those requirements is doable.

Just 60 days ago we held the 2018 elections and, incredibly, candidates for the 2020 Presidential election are already preparing to jump into the primaries - of both parties. Your job as a citizen is to evaluate and select candidates for President, Congress and other offices, and one way to do that is to pick criteria that you think are important. Though it’s not easy to determine, you want two things: the best candidate for the country who can win. Each of us, over the next 18 months, should develop their own criteria by which to judge candidates, but here are a few sample presidential criteria:

- Capable of winning regardless of opponent
- Authentic & Open, which implies humility
- Empathic - able to understand and share the feelings of all they serve
- Strong & Resilient - Grace under pressure
- Smart, Thoughtful and Committed to our constitutional democracy
- Effective - implies a principled “doer” who’s politically astute
- Pragmatic - not an ideologue. A practical realist who wants to solve problems & produce results that benefit all Americans.
- A good Leader
- A good Communicator
- Relevant Experience
- Miscellaneous Benefits - i.e. position on issues, geographic advantages, diversity, etc.

It’s unclear whether man makes history, history makes the man, or both. But there’s no denying that electing the right leaders for the right times is essential to the survival of our democracy, and that’s up to us.

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Key West takes aim at predatory cosmetic store sales practices

BY PRU SOWERS
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER

Trying to stop a perceived rise in complaints against aggressive sales techniques at Duval Street cosmetics stores, Key West City Commissioners passed on first reading new restrictions and penalties.

But an attorney for the six Key West cosmetics shops threatened a lawsuit if the amended ordinance passes. And Commissioner Sam Kaufman worried about possible anti-Semitism behind some of the protests and warned about violence against store employees and customers.

The Key West Rip-Off Rapid Response Team has staged several peaceful protests over the past year outside Duval Street cosmetic stores that it believes are taking advantage of customers with aggressive sales tactics, expensive products and refusals to issue refunds. There have been stories of elderly men and women who are enticed into a store with promises of free samples, then sold hundreds and thousands of dollars’ worth of cosmetic products. In some incidents, a store has refused to issue a refund when the customer requested one.

Kaufman circulated a short cell phone video showing a recent fight between a young store customer and one of the Rapid Response protestors outside a Duval Street cosmetic store. The video shows the protestor has backed the customer up against a wall and is grappling with him. As the customer’s mother and sister rush to separate the two, the protestor kicks the customer and shoves his head back as the young man tries to pick up his purchase from where it dropped on the sidewalk. It is unclear what happened before the video begins that started the fight.

“I understand that the young man was a teenager with his mother and sister (shown in the video as well) who purchased a product from a cosmetic store on Duval Street. I am told that the young man touched one or grabbed one of the [protest] leader’s signs and then this occurred,” Kaufman said in an email about the video. “There is no place for violence on Duval Street inclusive of these protests.”

Kaufman also questioned city officials about the actual number of complaints against the cosmetic stores. Code enforcement officials were not at the Jan. 2 city commission meeting to respond, but Kaufman said he was told • COHIBA • ROMEO Y JULIETA • MONTECRISTO
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Continued on page 4
Key West takes...
► Continued from page 3

there were only three complaints filed with police in 2018 against the stores.

All six of the Key West cosmetic stores are owned and operated by Israeli Jews. Kaufman, who is Jewish, warned against possible discrimination and “categorization” from some of the sidewalk protestors.

“I’m not here to defend cosmetic shops. But I also don’t want to feed into the frenzy. And I certainly don’t want Israelis to be the punching bag of this town,” Kaufman said. “Let’s know what the facts are.”

Several residents went to the podium at the Jan. 2 meeting urging commissioners to take action against aggressive sales techniques. They were also worried about possible health issues from unlicensed salespeople applying product samples to customers’ faces.

“This isn’t an argument about good guys versus bad guys,” said Tavis Wernicoff, a Rapid Response protest organizer. “This is a public health issue… The key thing is touching. When you’re touching someone’s face, there is a transfer of germs. There is a transfer of public infection.”

Brigham Thompson, a local resident who has picketed outside a cosmetic store three times in the past week, read a news article warning tourists about the local cosmetic shops.

“An article like this is optically really bad for Key West, especially since we’re an island that is run on tourism,” he said. “It feels to me that Duval has turned a bit into a midway that [is] inhabited by carnival hucksters.”

The proposed ordinance, which passed 5-1 on first reading with Kaufman voting against, incorporates existing state law that says only state-licensed cosmetologists can touch a customer and apply cosmetic products such as makeup to their face or neck. If passed, the ordinance would preclude local cosmetic store employees from applying the free samples that are a big part of their sales pitch unless licensed as a cosmetologist. Violations include a $500 fine or up to 60 days in jail. And city Attorney Sean Smith said he is working on additional legislation that would increase those penalties.

“We have the ability to regulate, just not prohibit it, something that the state allows,” Smith said. “It goes on to require as part of our own ordinance that if you touch an individual, you must be licensed.”

But Lowell Kuvin, an attorney representing the six Key West cosmetic stores, said he believes there is a very serious pre-emption issue with the proposed ordinance, meaning the city is overstepping its legal authority by restricting legal businesses. He warned that his clients would have no choice but to close or file a lawsuit against the city if the ordinance passes on second reading.

“From what I am hearing tonight, this particular ordinance is more aimed at putting these people out of business and to address some type of issue where people believe they’re being harassed on the street,” Kuvin said. “We have kids who are face painting. Are we going to require that person be a cosmetologist, as well, to do face painting?”

Several commissioners protested that their support of the proposed ordinance had nothing to do with the cultural and religious beliefs of the store owners and employees. More worrisome, they said, was the potential damage to Key West’s reputation if it becomes known as a town where tourists are victimized.

“Many people don’t file formal complaints. But they do tell others,” said Commissioner Clayton Lopez.

“The activity that goes on Duval Street today is a disgrace, to say the least,” said Commissioner Jimmy Weekley. “It’s not only the cosmetic shops that are ripping people off. At one time we had the same issue with some of the tee-shirt shops. We addressed that issue through ordinances.”

Bahamian culture celebration on Jan 22

The Key West Art & Historical Society and Isle Cook Key West have teamed up to present a picnic-style Bahamian heritage dinner prepared by acclaimed chefs Martha Hubbard and Dave Furman on Wednesday, January 22 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm on the grounds of the Key West Lighthouse & Keeper’s Quarters. This year’s Conch Revival Picnic celebrates the island’s Bahamian culture and complements the Society’s “The Bahamas/Key West Connection” exhibit at the Custom House Museum opening Friday, January 18.

Visit KWAHS.ORG to purchase your ticket—$45 for Members and $55 for Non-members. Kids under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact Society Event Coordinator Dani Hollday at 305-295-6616 extension 114.
New location selected for Key West homeless shelter

BY PRU SOWERS
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER

After who knows how many hours of discussions, missed deadlines, reversed decisions, lawsuits and repeated kicking of the can down the road, Key West City officials have finally agreed where to move the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS), the city’s homeless shelter.

A few feet forward from its current location on College Road.

Assistant City Manager Greg Veliz announced at the Jan. 2 city commission meeting that an agreement had been reached between the city, Monroe County and county Sheriff Rick Ramsey to essentially leave KOTS where it is on College Road, next to the sheriff’s department offices. The city had been ordered to move the shelter in 2013 after a judge ruled in favor of the neighboring Sunset Marina condominium owner’s association, which had filed a lawsuit against the city charging it with ignoring its own building permit regulations when it turned an existing sheriff’s department building on Stock Island into an overnight shelter for homeless men and women.

Adding to the pressure to move the shelter was Sheriff Ramsey himself, who increasingly made it clear he wanted to use that site, which is owned by Monroe County, to build affordable housing for his employees.

But after trying several options, including moving the shelter across the street to city-owned property housing the former Easter Seals building and the pet shelter – and a trial balloon quickly shot down that proposed taking over the Bayshore Manor senior assisted living facility – city officials said they simply couldn’t find another suitable location for KOTS. So, they cut a deal with Ramsey giving him a

Continued on page 6
Minimum of 30 apartments in the soon-to-be-built, 104-unit workforce rental housing development across the street from the Sheriff’s office on College Road, the same site where commissioners had previously voted to move KOTS. The move satisfies Ramsey’s wish for staff housing, plus moving the KOTS footprint site a few feet further towards College Road will allow more landscaping between the sheriff’s department and the shelter. In addition, the move will create room to build a “place for holding,” an enclosed space hidden from the road where KOTS clients can wait until the shelter is open for the evening. One of the complaints from residents in the area was that shelter clients often meandered up and down College Road waiting to be admitted into the shelter.

Ramsey’s allocation of 30 apartments in the new housing development is a minimum, but could go higher or lower, Veliz said.

“They may occupy 25 units, they may occupy 40, depending on who qualifies and what the need is. So, I don’t see 30 as being a sticking number for anything,” he said, adding, “I think it’s a good trade-off for us.”

Left out of the agreement, a draft of which is currently circulating among the involved parties, is the Sunset Marina Residences of Key West Condominium Association, which filed the 2012 lawsuit alleging the city ignored its own building permit regulations when it built the shelter. Key West City Attorney Sean Smith said that after the court ruling in 2013 the city worked out a settlement with the condo association, where it agreed to use “due diligence in its best efforts” to relocate KOTS. No promises were made to actually move the shelter, though, and after extensive due diligence, Smith said the shelter has to stay where it is.

“We’ve exhausted our efforts to find an alternative location that fits for everybody involved. So, the lawsuit involves basically a nuisance and a permitting question. As it stands, now, that particular zoning district allows a homeless safe zone as a conditional use,” Smith said. “So, as long as we follow our [building] code in locating the homeless shelter, we should be good to go in that area.”

Reached by telephone, condo association Manager Gary Grant said, “oh, my gosh,” when informed of the agreement. He then referred the issue to association President Bernard Ranellone, who said he did not want to comment on the matter.

As for the 104-unit workforce housing development where sheriff’s department employees will get first dibs on 30 units, Veliz said that an architect will be selected at the beginning of February. With an anticipated six months for blueprints to be completed, “we believe by the end of 2019 we can have shovels in the ground,” Veliz said.

“The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK) is now accepting applications for its 2019 Leadership Success Academy (LSA) board training program. CFFK’s signature program provides national best practices in leadership development and governance skills and is for anyone working with or serving in an advisory capacity with a nonprofit organization or other community group.

The three hands-on training sessions will be held at the Hyatt Place Faro Blanco Resort in Marathon on February 28, March 14, and March 28. All sessions will be held from 1 to 5 p.m., with graduation immediately following the last session. The cost of the program is $100, which includes all three sessions and all course materials. Application forms are available at www.cffk.org.

“This year’s program includes updated material in brand-new, interactive sessions to provide the most current best practices in nonprofit management,” said Dianna Sutton, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys.

“We’ve heard from many nonprofits who have been through the LSA program how effective it is in helping them achieve their goals, build stability, and meet community needs.”

Returning to lead the 2019 LSA Program is nationally-known facilitator/presenter Debbie Mason of Strategists, Inc. Debbie helped develop LSA and led the program for nearly 10 years. This year’s sessions include “how to” activities in fundraising, communications, financial management and strategic planning, along with presentations on servant leadership and CEO/board members roles and responsibilities. Those who participate in all three sessions will be presented with a Certificate of Completion.

The Community Foundation has trained more than 400 board members from over 100 nonprofits throughout the Keys since the program began 10 years ago. More information and application forms are available at www.cffk.org or by calling 305-292-1502.
Lower Keys Medical Center receives ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation

Key West, Jan 3

The American College of Cardiology has recognized Lower Keys Medical Center for its demonstrated experience and commitment in treating patients with chest pain. Lower Keys Medical Center was awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation in November 2018, based on rigorous evaluation of the staff’s ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 730,000 Americans suffer a heart attack every year. The most common symptom of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain or discomfort. However, women are more likely to have atypical symptoms. Other heart attack symptoms include, but are not limited to, tingling or discomfort in one or both arms, back, shoulder, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, cold sweat, unusual tiredness, heartburn-like feeling, nausea or vomiting, sudden dizziness and fainting.

Hospitals that have earned ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation have proven exceptional competency in treating patients with heart attack symptoms. They have streamlined their systems from admission to evaluation to diagnosis and treatment all the way through to appropriate post-discharge care and recommendations and assistance in patient lifestyle changes.

“Lower Keys Medical Center has demonstrated its commitment to providing Key West and the lower Keys with excellent heart care,” said Phillip D. Levy, MD, FACC, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. “ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award Lower Keys Medical Center with Chest Pain Center Accreditation.”

Hospitals receiving Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the ACC must take part in a multi-faceted clinical process that involves: completing a gap analysis, examining variances of care, developing an action plan, a rigorous onsite review, and monitoring for sustained success. Improved methods and strategies of caring for patients include streamlining processes, implementing guidelines and standards, and adopting best practices in the care of patients ex-

Continued on page 8
Ninth Annual Dr. King Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

The Interfaith Ministerial Alliance has announced the Ninth Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Prayer Breakfast for Monday, January 21 (Dr. King Holiday) 8-10am at the Doubletree Resort in Key West.

The Rev. Dr. Gatson E. Smith, of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Miami will be the main speaker.

An always-compelling children’s presentation is also part of the program.

Tickets for the breakfast, at $35 each, can be purchased from any member of the Interfaith Ministerial Alliance or by contacting IMA Treasurer Carl Schutze, carlschutze@yahoo.com. No tickets will be sold at the door. The ticket price includes the breakfast and a contribution to the IMA’s Dr. King Scholarship Fund.

Since the inception of the breakfast nine years ago, the Interfaith Ministerial Alliance has awarded more than $20,000 in scholarships to local students to attend college, usually being students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

Our team at Lower Keys Medical Center is committed to helping to support a healthier community. I congratulate them on the preparation and dedication necessary to achieve Chest Pain Center Accreditation,” said David Clay, CEO of Lower Keys Medical Center. “This accreditation is part of our continuing efforts to ensure that quality healthcare is available for our patients in the Keys.”

Lower Keys Medical...

Continued from page 7

periencing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack. Facilities that achieve accreditation meet or exceed an array of stringent criteria and have an organized team of doctors, nurses, clinicians, and other administrative staff that earnestly support the efforts leading to better patient education and improved patient outcomes.

“...
2019 Tennessee Williams Poetry and Short-story Writing Contests call for poets and writers

**Key West, Jan 2**

Key West Art & Historical Society invites poets and writers to submit works for the 2019 Tennessee Williams Poetry and Short-story Writing Contests - components of the upcoming Key West Tennessee Williams Birthday Celebration. Submission cost is $20.00; deadline is March 1. For complete details, guidelines, prize descriptions, and entry upload link visit kwahs.org/events. For more information on these and other Tennessee Williams Birthday Celebration events contact Society Event Coordinator Dani Holliday at dholiday@kwahs.org or 305-295-6616 extension 114. Sponsored in part by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys and The Studios of Key West. (Photo Credit: Ida Woodward Barron Collection / Monroe County Public Library).

Fred Johnson of the Hemingway Look-Alike Society Scholarship Chair delivered the Keynote Speech at the Fall Class of 2018 58th FKCC Commencement. The Society has contributed many scholarships to FKCC students since its founding in 1997. The Look Alike Contest is held each year during the Key West Hemmingway Days in July. Photo by Pete Arnow.
A Positive Step Monroe County Launches new Southernmost Fatherhood Initiative program

A Positive Step Monroe County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Monroe County’s highest risk kids and their families since 1999, has announced the launch of a new program that provides cost-free parenting skill coaching for dads aged 18-30 years old. Called the Southernmost Fatherhood Initiative, the program consists of twelve two-hour sessions and is available to dads throughout the Florida Keys.

According to APSMC founder Billy Davis, the curriculum, which helps dads develop new skills in parent, co-parent and child relationships, anger management, health, and substance abuse awareness among other topics, has been developed for closed groups of six to ten dads, and is “evidence based,” meaning that it has been tested and validated through educational and social service organizations.

One group has already launched in Key West, “and more will be added throughout the Keys, based on the needs of participating dads,” said Davis. “The whole idea is to break the cycle of absentee dads, and this is partly accomplished through teaching parenting skills to men who might not have had a role model—or a good role model—on which to base their own behavior,” he said.

According to Davis, in addition to parenting-skill building, the program has also been designed to offer crucial support in the form of introduction to 12-step programs if needed, GED referrals, OSHA training, job coaching, construction job referrals, and case management. “We are also providing pre and post program testing, so that dads can evaluate their progress from start to finish,” he said.

A similar, though not identical, program is also available to dads currently in detention situations.

To register for the Southernmost Fatherhood Initiative, which is funded in part by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, contact Billy Davis at 305-304-1969 or at apsmccrp@aol.com. For more information about A Positive Step of Monroe County and its programs visit apsmc.org.

New York Times Best-Selling Novelist Madeline Miller at Friends of the Key West Library Lecture Series January 14

On Monday, January 14th, the Friends of the Key West Library will present Madeline Miller as the first speaker in its popular Monday evening lecture series. The talk will be at the Old City Hall, 510 Greene Street. Miller’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of the Key West Literary Seminar.

Ms. Miller’ second novel, Circe, was a Number One New York Times bestseller and was at the top of many Best of 2018 lists.

Access to the Meeting Room at Old City Hall at 510 Green Street is at the front of the building by foot up a flight of stairs or by elevator located at the rear of the building. The Duval Loop bus has two nearby stops.

Admission is free. The talk begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. Seating starts at 5:30 on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, go to http://friendsofkeywestlibrary.org and click on lecture series.

36th Annual Wesley House Valentine’s Day Gala

On Thursday, February 14, 2019, the 36th Annual Valentine’s Day Gala at the beautiful Curry Mansion Inn. Enjoy live music by one of Key West’s most popular performing groups - Howard Livingston & the Mile Marker 24 Band.

Included with your ticket price is the island’s largest silent auction, OPEN bar, dancing, and an elegant dinner designed and prepared by Great Events Catering.

This signature event is sponsored in part by Curry Mansion Inn, Rick’s/Durty Harry’s, Sloppy Joe’s, Turtle Kraals and the Key West Parrot Head Club. Proceeds will go directly to Wesley House Family Services benefiting Inez Martin Child Development Center and other programs.

VIP Admission includes reserved table seating close to the entertainment, premium bars and early entry to the event.

Tickets to this event will make fabulous gifts! Tickets can be found at www.keystix.com. For more information and a ticket service link visit: www.wesleyhouse.org.
Sheriff’s Office Aviation Division targets aggressive driving

Florida Keys, Jan 3

Sheriff Rick Ramsay ordered the agency’s Aviation Division to address aggressive driving specifically along U.S. 1 in Islamorada last week, one of the busiest travel weeks of the year in the Florida Keys.

On Friday, the Sheriff’s Office launched its small helicopter along with a law enforcement officer.

The helicopter patrol focused on aggressive drivers in the Islamorada area along the stretch between roughly Mile Marker 74 to 84, where the Sheriff’s Office often sees illegal passing. The helicopter patrol teamed up with marked and unmarked traffic enforcement cars strategically located throughout the area. The helicopter spotted violators and followed the violators while radioing ahead to waiting patrol cars.

“Holiday traffic on U.S. 1 remains congested every year and this year was no different,” Sheriff Ramsay said. “I remain committed to maximizing our enforcement efforts by targeting problem areas, such as this stretch in Islamorada. I know heavy traffic is frustrating for residents and I heard from many of you in the last five days. As Sheriff, I am committed to keeping traffic flowing normally on U.S. 1. It isn’t always possible, but enforcement efforts such as this one with the Aviation Division, helps those efforts.”

Sometimes fame in a family can be like a match in a gas can.

I’M GONNA PRAY FOR YOU SO HARD

by Halley Feiffer

Starring Bob Bowersox
Melody G. Moore

Directed by Carole MacCartee

January 22 - February 2, 2019 / 8 pm
Helmerich Theatre, The Studios of Key West
538 Eaton Street / Tickets: 305-296-0458
Deborah Koch named Executive Director of The Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter of The American Red Cross

Miami, Jan 4

The American Red Cross has named Deborah Koch as the new executive director of the Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter.

Previously, Koch served as marketing director for J.P. Morgan Private Bank, covering the east coast of the U.S. She joined J.P. Morgan following a decade at Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust where she helped grow the bank from four to seven offices and nearly doubled deposits to over $1 billion. She began her banking career in 1997 at BankUnited, rebranding the bank from a small local company to a statewide institution. Her previous experience was in marketing and public relations for nonprofit arts organizations.

Koch also serves as the president of the Junior League of Miami, an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. In her 10 years with the League, she previously served as executive vice president, vice president of community and in several chair positions.

She is active in the community, serving as a member of the United Way Financial Stability Impact Council and Women United, as well as a volunteer with Breakthrough Miami and Branches. An art lover, she is active as a Friend of the Pérez Art Museum Miami and serves on the Prizm Art Fair Advisory Board.

Koch received her MBA from Nova Southeastern University and a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Florida.

“'We are thrilled to have Deborah enter this leadership role on our South Florida team,'” said Joanne Nowlin, Regional CEO of the South Florida Region. “Her experience and deep understanding of the philanthropic landscape make her an asset to our organization.”

Monroe County Commission to Hold Special Workshop About Rate of Growth Ordinance (Rogo) on Jan 30 in Marathon

Marathon, Jan 4

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special workshop on January 30, 2019 at the Marathon Government Center at 10 a.m. to discuss preliminary ideas regarding the current and future status of the Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO) for unincorporated Monroe County.

In 2012, based on modeling, the State of Florida concluded that in order for unincorporated Monroe County to meet the required 24-hour hurricane evacuation clearance time it could be issued 1,970 new ROGO (building) permits. As 2023 approaches, the County is developing strategies to address the number of vacant parcels that potentially exceed the total number of ROGO permits that the State will allow the County to award. Currently, there are approximately 1,059 ROGOs (630 market rate and 429 affordable) left to be awarded in unincorporated Monroe County and significantly more than 1,059 vacant lots remaining.

Public comment will be held during the first 30 minutes of the workshop. More public meetings will be held on this important and complex issue.
Organist Chaz Bowers to give Impromptu Classical Concerts performance at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on Jan. 13

Classical organist and improvisational artist Chaz Bowers will visit Key West for an Impromptu Classical Concert performance at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 401 Duval St. The concert is the first of the 2019 Impromptu Classical Concerts season, and forms part of the re-dedication of the magnificent St. Paul’s Church organ after 30 years of additions and renovations.

Thanks to a special grant from The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, the audience will be able to better view the complexities of today’s performance by way of closed circuit television so that we can observe more closely our organist’s dexterity in the manipulation of keyboards, stops and pedals.

A charismatic performer, Bowers has delighted audiences from his native Western Pennsylvania to the shores of Bermuda with masterful performances of pieces from the canon of great organ literature. Drawing on his own experience as a church organist and the rich traditions of church music, Bowers presents programs designed to inspire.

In addition to his many recitals, including St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh and Wesley United Methodist Church in Hamilton, Bermuda, Bowers has dedicated numerous organs in Western Pennsylvania region.

He also frequently appears as guest organist with some of Pittsburgh’s premier choral ensembles, most recently performing Benjamin Britten’s “Rejoice in the Lamb” with “Voices Solis,” an all-professional choir, and Maurice Duruflé’s “Requiem, Opus 9,” with the St. Vincent Camerata and Academy Chamber Orchestra.

Bowers is also a respected composer of sacred music; his setting of “O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God,” was released by GIA Publications in early 2017.

Since 2014, Bowers has served as Director of Music and Principal Organist at St. Bernard Parish in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. He is also Coordinator of Sacred Music and University Organist at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa.

Prior to his appointment to St. Bernard’s, he served for five years as Director of Music at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Irwin and Assistant Organist at Greensburg’s Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

Bowers holds his Master’s Degree from Duquesne University, studying organ and improvisation with Dr. Ann Labounsky. His undergraduate studies were completed at Seton Hall University, where he studied organ and service playing with Edgar Highberger and organ improvisation with J. Christopher Pardini.

As part of a 2013 mini study-abroad trip with the organ studio of Duquesne University, he had the opportunity to perform on many of the great organs of Paris, at Notre Dame Cathedral, the Basilica of Saint Clotilde, the Church of Saint Sulpice, the Madeleine Church and others.

At his Key West concert, Bowers will perform “Intrada for Organ,” by Grayston Ives; “Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major Op. 65, No. 6, by Johann Sebastian Bach; “Nimrod” from “Enigma Variations,” by Edward Elgar; “Organ Sonata No. 6 in D Minor, Op. 65, No. 6,” by Felix Mendelssohn; and “Recessional Opus 96, No. 4,” by William Mathias.

Following a short intermission, Bowers will conclude his program with “Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 42,” by Alexandre Guilmant; “The Peace May Be Exchanged,” by Dan Locklair; an improvisation he composed himself; and “Carillon de Westminster,” by Louis Vierne.

The next concert of the season will be Canadian violinist Timothy Chooi, on Jan. 27.

Tickets for the concert cost $20, and are available at www.keystix.com, or at the door on the afternoon of the event. Cash, checks, or credit/debit cards accepted. Students will be admitted free. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit www.keywestimpromptu.org.
Schooner Wharf Bar
202 Williams St., (305) 292-3302
SchoonerWharf.com

Thursday 01/10
Michael McCloud
Noon - 5:00 pm
Cool Duo with Sam Ramos and Chris Case
6:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Detroit funk, Motown and reggae

Monday 01/14
Raven Cooper
Noon - 5:00 pm
Black & Skabuddah
6:30 - 11:00 pm
Acoustic classic rock and current favorites with an edge

Friday 01/11
Michael McCloud & Friends
Noon - 5:00 pm
Biscuit Miller and the Mix
6:30 pm - 11:30 pm

Tuesday 01/15
Gary Hempsey
Noon - 5 pm.
Classic acoustic Rock with a twist.

Saturday 01/12
Michael McCloud & Friends
Noon - 5:00 pm
Biscuit Miller and the Mix
6:30 pm - 11:30 pm
His magnetic, funky, high tempo style won him the BMA 2012 & 2017 Bass Player of the Year. Good Time Party Music!

Wednesday 01/16
Raven Cooper
6:30 - 11:00 pm
Melodic mix of country, blues, pop favorites, originals and more. Humorous audience interaction!

Jeff Clark
Noon - 5:00 pm
Soul, pop, funk, reggae and some classic acoustic strumming are his fortes

The Smokin’ Tuna
4 Charles St., (305) 517-6350
smokintunasaloon.com

Thursday 01/10
Gabriel Donahue 5pm
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

Friday 01/11
Gabriel Donahue 5pm
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

Saturday 01/12
Gabriel Donahue 5pm
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm
WHAT'S HAPPENING

Continued from page 14

Sunday 01/13
E Andy Westcott & The Local Boyz 9pm

Monday 01/14
Scott Kirby 5pm
Blu Monday w Caffeine
Carl & The Buzz 9pm

Tuesday 01/15
Scott Kirby 5pm

Wednesday 01/16
Scott Kirby 5pm

Hog's Breath Saloon
400 Front St., (305) 296-4222
hogsbreath.com

Tropical Soul
January 10 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
January 11 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
January 12 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
January 13 @ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tim Carter Band
January 10 @ 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm
January 11 @ 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm
January 12 @ 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm
January 13 @ 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm

Joel Nelson
January 10 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
January 15 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
January 16 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Kenny Fradley & Barry Cuda
January 11 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
January 12 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sunday NFL
January 13 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Zack Seemiller
January 14 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

TBA
January 14 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
January 15 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
January 16 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Mike Veal
January 14 @ 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
January 15 @ 9:00 pm - 1:00 am
January 16 @ 9:00 pm - 1:00 am

Hog's Breath Saloon
400 Front St., (305) 296-4222
hogsbreath.com
The Psychadelia of Roma and Easy Rider

Thinking of the past and present, there are two films “Roma” (2018) and “Easy Rider” (1969) that appear to become parallel and align. Though the two works are disparate in tone and technique, they share striking elements in common. Both are existential and profound works that highlight the movement of nature and emphasize the individual as a struggling being, thrown about by the whim of society. “Easy Rider” in particular is a grim yet colorful warning of what awaits when one chooses to strike out on his or her own with spontaneity.

Directed by Dennis Hopper, “Easy Rider” is a road epic, featuring two bohemians: the reserved Wyatt (Peter Fonda) and the childlike Billy (Dennis Hopper) who make money selling cocaine and then ride on motorcycles, in the hopes of reaching New Orleans. Wyatt picks up a quiet hippie named Jesus (Antonio Mendoza). Jesus warns the giggling Billy that “the people this place belongs to are buried right under you.” Billy laughs in disbelief and confusion. The three enter a desert commune where noise abounds. Kids play with toy guns, the first real sign of aggression. Billy reacts as if all things are a game. After dinner there is an excellent revolving pan showing all of the commune members posed as in a religious painting by Titian or Caravaggio. Hopper is revolutionary here, saying outright that the individual is God, full of spiritual import.

The bright and florid representation of the Western sky is a Earthly LSD trip. There is no need for hallucinogens. Despite the dated dialogue and ubiquitous tittering, Hopper is telling us that the cinema is IT and all we need. While “Easy Rider” blazes with vivid color, “Roma” is in glorious black and white. The film by Alfonso Cuaron tells the story of a housekeeper, Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), who struggles to be spontaneous and appreciated as a human being. Cleo’s environment, in contrast to Billy of “Easy Rider” is one of windows and doors, soap suds and yelling children. Cleo is sequestered by domestic duties, but once outside the walls of the house, her view is as vast as anything seen in the previously mentioned film. In “Roma” there is also a toy gun scene. Cleo observes the doctor’s big chrome car with fascination in much the same way as a motorcycle. Both vehicles in the two films symbolize escape and transendence, a launch on the open highway. Where Wyatt and Billy see threatening sheriffs, Cleo faces an aggressive disrespectful boyfriend Fermin (Jorge Antonio Guerrero) who is just as malevolent as any law enforcement. A car is the only freedom.

Both films illustrate incidents of violence while a crystal clear sky with mountains and hills reflects a natural splendor, disinterested and without a care. Cleo is in the midst of a gun battle. Billy’s friend is murdered in front of him. The clouds slip along in these two films without any harbinger or omen. Easy Rider’s snarl faced, racist and homophobic men (as grotesque as any Hieronymus Bosch painting) have given way to unfeeling boyfriends and nurses who utter platitudes and have little concern for privacy and death.

Instead of pot-smoking chats there is talk of husband infidelity but both films feature clutter and confusion, rendered with hyper clarity. The scary masks of Mardi Gras become broken dolls. An acid trip transforms into claustrophobia in black and white. Dennis Hopper’s propulsive parade in red white and blue becomes Alfonso Cuaron’s monochrome march of civil unrest.

Cuaron and Hopper highlight characters that propel themselves automatically—players on the stage of life. Wyatt and Billy observe events under the filter of pot smoke, looking and laughing. Cleo walks from one event to the next, her eyes perpetually open. She might watch her boyfriend yell

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**The Green Room**
501 Greene St., 741-7300
greenroomkeywest.com

**Thursday 01/10**
MARGARY LEE
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

JASON LAMSON
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

KEN FAIRBROTHER
10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Friday 01/11**
ROSS BROWN
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

OREN POLAK
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

DJ KYD
10:00 pm - 3:00 am

**Saturday 01/12**
DREW GUNNING
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

DJ GYVER
10:00 pm - 3:00 am

**Sunday 01/13**
SHELDON MCELLELAN
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

MARGARY LEE
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

ROSS BROWN
10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Monday 01/14**
SHASTINA CHILES
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

DREW GUNNING
10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Tuesday 01/15**
MARGARY LEE
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

TURNER HARRISON
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Wednesday 01/16**
OREN POLAK
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

TURNER HARRISON
10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Bottlecap / Blue Room**
1128 Simonton St., (305) 296-2807
bottlecapkeywest.com

**Thursdays-Fridays 7:30pm**
Professional Standup Comedy—
doors open 7:30pm.

*Blue Room available for private parties*

**The Salty Angler**
1114 Duval St., (305) 741-7071
thesaltyangler.com

**Thursday 01/10**
Roger Jokela
1pm – 5pm

**Friday 01/11**
Ben Taddiken
12pm – 4pm
Zack Seemiller & Lightning Boy
8pm – 11pm

**Saturday 01/12**
Eric Paul (Levy)
12pm – 4pm

**Sunday 01/13**
Ben Taddiken
10:00am – 1:30pm
The Salty Sessions w/ Keith Snyder, Jeremy Tucker and Guests
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Charlie Miller
8pm – 11pm

**Monday 01/14**
Dani Hoy
12pm – 4pm
Wavy Dave
7:30pm – 10:30pm

**Tuesday 01/15**
Roger Jokela
12pm – 4pm

**Tuesday 01/16**
Rachel Grace
7:30pm – 10:30pm

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**Havana Nights**

**ロランド・ロハス&&&**

The Florida Keys
& Key West

**January 12th**

*Doors at 7*
*Show at 8*

Key West Theater - 512 Eaton

www.thekkeywesttheater.com for tickets
And Why is This Your Business?

Dear Short Answers:
I have a friend who is 28 years old and she recently told me she been dating a man who is 52 years old, has two daughters older than her and has been married three times. She also found out that he cheated on all three of his wives and may have a 5-year old and an 8-year old, by two other women. Should I tell her to get out of this relationship? I don’t want her to think that I am jealous or anything but I don’t want her to get hurt. Word around town is that she moved in with him after only being with him for three months.
A Friend

Dear Friend:
Although we share your concern about this relationship, from your account, your friend walked into it with her eyes wide open. Unless she specifically asks for your advice, we think there is no point in telling her what she already knows.

Seasonal Woe

Dear Short Answers:
Recently I was at a party where the host greeted everybody with a hug and a kiss. I thought this was sweet until I later overheard her say how sick she was and that she probably had the flu!!! I didn’t say anything to her at the time, but now I’m thinking that I should call or send her a note and ask her to NEVER do that again. What the heck was she thinking? She might have infected all her friends!!!

Offended

Dear Offended:
This is why we get flu shots. Forget it.

Food Bullies

Dear Short Answers:
I recently decided to become a vegetarian. It’s been something that I’ve been considering for a long time and when friends ask me about it, I am honest about it and tell them that I just decided that it was the right thing to do both ethically and health-wise. Apparently, if you’re not a real activist about it, people don’t take you seriously. Friends still invite me for dinner and serve meat and expect me to eat it. More than one friend has said that since I ate meat for over 40 years, a little more won’t kill me. Should I start bringing my own food to dinner parties? Or just decline every invitation unless I get a guarantee that a vegetarian option will be available?

Meatless

Dear Meat:
No one should be pushed into eating or drinking anything they do not wish. On the other hand, we have said often that it is not the host’s responsibility to cater to your choices. Can’t you just skip the meat and eat the sides and salad and thank them very much?

Irreplaceable

Dear Short Answers:
What do you do when your best friend starts to really annoy you? I’m not sure whether she has changed or I have. But we’ve been friends for 40 years and it’s getting to the point where I can’t stand to be around her. She whines and complains about everything and nothing anybody does for her is good enough. I know that I’ll never have another 40-year relationship with anybody. But is “old” friendship really worth it?

Old Friend

Dear Old:
In a word, YES, it’s worth it. Tell her she’s gotten to be a whiner and suggest you go out together and have some laughs! (As only really old friends can do.)

Equal Rights

Dear Short Answers:
Can dogs and cats be gay?

Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring:
Yes they can!

Life is complicated. “Short Answers” isn’t.
Fringe Theater presents Collected Stories, a Pulitzer Prize nominated drama written by Donald Margulies. The play has enjoyed three New York revivals since it premiered in 1997 featuring actors like Uta Hagen, Helen Mirren, and Debra Messing. It was most recently produced on Broadway with Linda Lavin and Sara Paulson.

The play takes place in the Greenwich Village apartment of author Ruth Steiner. She is in need of an assistant, and her student, Lisa Morrison, seems perfect for the job. Over the next six years, their relationship (and their work) will evolve until they are forced to confront the changing nature of their relationship and to answer the riveting question, “Is the ownership of a story in its living or in its telling?”

The New York Times praised the show as a “tightly focused play that digs into its tale of aesthetics and ethics with intelligence and sharp literate humor.” In keeping with Fringe’s commitment to take you places, the production will be staged at the Key West Woman’s Club, located at 319 Duval Street. This intimate setting will quite literally keep audience members at the very edge of the play’s six scenes.

Playing Ruth Steiner is Glenda Donovan, a retired drama teacher and director who remains theatrically active in both Key West and the Boston area. Lisa Morrison is played by Lisa Elena Mona, who is both a graduate of the Stella Adler acting studio in NY and a local boat captain. The production is directed by Annie Miners, a veteran of Key West theater who is a popular actor, director, and stage manager in town.

Collected Stories runs Jan 22 – Feb 2 at 7pm at the Key West Woman's Club, located at 319 Duval Street. Tickets are $35 general admission and $45 reserved seating. Seating is limited so advanced ticket purchase is encouraged. Tickets are available online at www.fringetheater.org or by calling 305-731-0581.

Questions about this release? Contact Rebecca at rebecca@fringetheater.org or 305-587-8961.
Rescue Tails

“Ransom”

BY TAMMY FOX-ROYER
Executive Director Florida Keys SPCA

Recently, a local handyman called our Marathon campus to let us know about a dog left at a home where he was working. He told us the owner was away for at least several days: he had just been taken to the Monroe County jail.

Apparently, like many Middle Keys residents, the dog’s owner had been having a rough time coping after Hurricane Irma. In this instance, however, the Sheriff’s department’s intervention was needed.

Knowing that the gentleman would be away for at least the weekend and discovering that the generator running the air conditioning at the home had stopped working, we decided that the best place for the animal would be at the Florida Keys SPCA. A sheriff’s deputy soon arrived to supervise the transfer of the dog.

The dog, whose name turned out to be Ransom, was incredibly friendly and more than eager to jump into the truck -- which was awesome because Ransom is a Doberman weighing 99.2 lbs!

Ransom turned out to be a wonderful guest at the shelter and a pleasure to have around. After contacting the owner and his family in San Diego, we ultimately concluded that Ransom needed a much more stable, calm environment than his current one provided.

We quickly called a Doberman rescue group that we had worked with before, and they were happy to find Ransom a new home.

We sincerely hope that Ransom’s former owner is able to get back on his feet again very soon and that perhaps another pet is in his future. But for now, Ransom is where he belongs.

If you would like to help us create more happy endings for dogs like Ransom, please contact me at tammy@fkspca.org.

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Monday - Friday
Two Course Menu

Pick One Starter and One Entree
+ Half off Desserts
$24.00 | 5 to 7 PM
*Not valid on holidays

Free Parking
Throughout its storied 39-year history, the Red Barn Theatre in Key West has always found a way during a season to deliver something a little further left of center than normal... something eclectic, with unexpected turns and crazy characters the audience never expects.

And they are very good at such theater. Case in point: this year’s rendition of the Red Barn’s signature Short Attention Span Theatre, due to open this Tuesday, January 15th for a four-week run. Sub-titled “Enjoy the Ride”, the fast-paced show will feature seven playwrights, six actors, and six directors, who will deliver some of the funniest, off-the-wall short plays they’ve ever brought to their stage.

“We called it ‘Enjoy the Ride’ because we want the audience to take the ride with us, like a Disneyland ride,” said Mimi McDonald, managing director of the Red Barn and one of the directors of the show. “We want them to experience all the crazy shows we’ve chosen like they are on a theme park dark ride.”

How crazy, you ask?

“Well,” McDonald said, “without revealing too much, let’s just say there will be animal costumes, a seductive plant, a pushy cat, an overly-helpful, intellectual penguin, and a look into the dark corners of the minds of Disney characters on a break. And that’s just for starters.”

The show will feature short plays culled from many sources, McDonald said. Two playwrights – Mike McKeever and Rich Orloff – are associated with Miami’s City Theatre, probably the top short play venue in the country. One of the plays won the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway 41st Festival competition. Another is an original piece penned by local actress/dancer (and now playwright) Carolyn Cooper. And, of course, there’s a Shel Silverstein piece – the late, celebrated playwright and author was always a friend of the Red Barn and of Gary McDonald, one of the theater’s founders.

The actor ensemble features a Who’s Who of top local talent: Don Bearden, Vanessa McCaffrey, John Reynolds, Carolyn Cooper, Erin McKenna, and New York import Jeremy Zoma. The directors include Mimi, Gary, and Jack McDonald, Amber McDonald-Good, Richard Grusin, and Dave Bootle. The playwrights who provided the short plays are Mike McKeever, Rich Orloff, Shel Silverstein, Carolyn Cooper, Mark Harvey Levine, Scott Gibson, and Andrew Leeds and Lindsey Kraft.

“These are all people who have worked together before, who enjoy working together, and most of them have done one of our Short Attention Span shows,” McDonald said. “That basically ensures that it’s loose, it’s fun, it’s lively, and these shows have always been some of our most popular. Come ready to laugh and have a good time.”

“Short Attention Span Theatre: Enjoy the Ride” will run Tuesdays through Saturdays through February 9th. All curtains are at 8 pm. There will be an Opening Night party on January 15th – ticketholders for that performance are invited to join the cast and crew in the Opening Night celebration.

Tickets for the show can be had by visiting redbarntheatre.com/tickets or by calling the Box Office at 305-296-9911. Sponsored in part by The Smith Law Firm and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.
Key West Art & Historical Society celebrates local Bahamian culture in upcoming exhibit

Key West, Jan 3

Key West Art & Historical Society invites the public to celebrate the island’s Bahamian heritage and culture in their upcoming exhibit “The Key West/Bahamas Connection,” which opens with a special reception on Friday, January 18 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Bryan Gallery at the Custom House Museum. The exhibit will reveal both the historical and contemporary connections between the two locations, demonstrating how much of Key West’s culture and community is deeply rooted in the Bahamas.

“Our island is routinely associated with a Cuban influence, but, in fact, the Bahamians inhabited the Keys much earlier and most definitely shaped our resulting history,” says Society Curator Cori Convertito, Ph.D.

Florida Keys settlers came from a variety of places, including Cuba, New England, the mid-Atlantic and Europe, but the most influential of the initial settlers were of Bahamian descent. Driven by the poor economic situation in the Bahamas and the ability to start afresh in an area that provided a number of opportunities in trades they were readily proficient in (salvaging shipwrecks, fishing, and sponging), Bahamians moved to the Florida Keys and settled along the length of the island chain.

“Once it was established that Key West could be prosperous, Bahamians moved to the island in large numbers, sometimes bringing everything they owned, including their homes, with them,” says Convertito. “The result was that Key West effectively became an extension of the Bahamas; the food, the architecture, the industries, the music and the families all were closely aligned with their former lives.”

The exhibit will highlight many aspects of local Bahamian culture and history and will include objects and photographs generously from the Society's permanent collection and objects loaned by members of the community. Visitors can learn about the Bahamian influence on Key West's development from the 1820s – 1930s; Bahamian settlers and the architecture of Key West houses, featuring a model of Tuggy Roberts House/Bahama House created by Ronny Bailey; Bahamian industries with artifacts from the shipbuilding, wrecking, sponging and turtle industries; Junkanoo groups featuring an authentic Junkanoo costume and spotlights on musicians to include Coffee Butler, the Lopez family, Harry Chipchase and Edwar Weech; the Goombay and Island Roots Festivals; and prominent Key West citizens of Bahamian ancestry. There will also be a selection of prints created by Winslow Homer in 1899 when he visited both Key West and the Bahamas.

“Homer’s beautiful watercolors are nearly interchangeable, location-wise, demonstrating how he possibly viewed our island an extension of the Bahamas,” says Convertito.

In addition, the Society’s annual Conch Revival Picnic at Key West Lighthouse celebrates the island’s Bahamian culture with a picnic-style dinner that celebrates the island’s Bahamian culture, prepared by acclaimed Isle Cook Key West chefs Martha Hubbard and Dave Furman on Tuesday, January 22 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

“By focusing an exhibition on the connection between our island and the Bahamas, we pay homage to our rich heritage and celebrate what makes Key West special.”

“The Key West/Bahamas Connection” will run through April 7. For more information call Cori Convertito, Ph.D., at 305-295-6616 x112, email her at cconvertitofarrar@kwahs.org, or visit kwahs.org.
A Doll’s House Part Two Comes to The Waterfront Playhouse

As one of the first theaters in the country to be granted the rights, The Waterfront Playhouse will present the critically acclaimed, Tony Award nominated A Doll’s House, Part Two.

At the end of Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House, which premiered in 1879, Nora, the principal character slams the door and leaves behind her husband, children and life in search of her own voice. This play, which in 2006 had the distinction of being the world’s most performed play, is significant in the awakening of middle-class women, mothers and their treatment during this time.

Speed forward to 2017, when young playwright (also represented at the Waterfront this season with Red Speedo), Lucas Hnath, takes the play 15 years later, with A Doll’s House Part Two. Examining the rules of society and gender, Nora’s entrance asks why she has returned and what will it mean to the people she left behind. Far from being dry or stuffy, ADH, PT. 2, is hilariously funny, whip-smart and resonant to our current gender politics.

Directed by Murphy Davis, last represented at the Waterfront by Hand To God, the cast features Maribeth Graham (seen in the Red Barn’s I Do! I Do! and the Waterfront’s It’s Only A Play) as Nora; David Black last seen as John Adams in 1776 will play her husband Torvald, Joy Hawkins last seen at the Waterfront in The Trip to Bountiful will play the housemaid, Anne Marie and Jessica Miano Kruel, last seen in Hand to God, will play daughter Emmy.

Set design will be by Michael Boyer, with lighting design by Kim Hanson. A Doll’s House Part Two will open on January 24 and play through February 9. Performances are at 8pm. Discounted preview performances are at 8pm January 22 and 23. For additional information as well as tickets, please call 305-294-5015 or visit waterfrontplayhouse.org.
CoffeeMill Dance Studio expands class offerings for adults and children: Registration now open

Key West, Jan 2

CoffeeMill Dance Studio, Key West’s premier instructional dance studio for over 35 years, kicks off their Winter/Spring season with a new, expanded class schedule of professional and recreational children’s and adult dance and fitness classes at their two state-of-the-art studios—‘By the Bay’ at 3340 North Roosevelt Blvd. #2 and ‘The Annex’ at 804 White Street, their new location that offers two dance spaces.

“We are accepting new students and have welcoming, no stress, new, drop-in classes available for everyone of all ages, levels, and abilities,” says CoffeeMill Director Penny Leto.

A cultural haven in the dance community, the Coffee Mill offers professional dance and fitness instruction to all ages and skill levels with a wide array of weekly class offerings: Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, Tap, Lyrical, HipHop, Towards Ballet and Hip-pity Hop for our tiniest dancers, Musical Theatre, Bellydance, African Dance, Capoeira, Yoga, Zumba®, Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Yoga, Jazzercise®, Lambada, Latin Dance, Essentrics, Gymnastics, and new Aerial Yoga classes with Monica Matroci and Pole Fitness classes with Joseph Goodman. They are home to Young Dance Collective (YDC), CoffeeMill’s newly-formed non-profit dance company comprised of student dancers ages 8-17 that have already garnered numerous awards at NUVO Dance Competition in Orlando. And CoffeeMill instructors also offer private lessons, dance workshops, choreography services, performance opportunities, and wedding dance instruction.

“The CoffeeMill Dance Studio has been teaching all styles of dance to Key Westers and visitors since 1983 and strives to provide a fun and encouraging learning environment through quality instruction and a varied class schedule,” says Leto. “Whether you’ve been dancing for years, are just starting out, are looking to get back into it, or are just looking for a fun alternative to your normal workout routine, there is a class for you.”

Register now or drop in for a class to explore or continue the development of dance in you or your child’s world with experienced teachers in a nurturing, supportive, and professional dance studio. For more information, call the CoffeeMill Dance Studio at 305-296-9982, email coffeemilldance@aol.com, or visit coffeemilldance.com for a full schedule.
Seven Toxic Words That Kill Tourism

BY JT THOMPSON

“I was ripped off in Key West.”

Those words can destroy decades of work making our island a successful family destination. Though said about just one store, all the listener remembers is “I was ripped off in Key West.”

And that’s what they tell other travelers. None of them - our potential visitors - know that it was just ONE bad store. They heard the island is a ripoff. Don’t go there.

And each time there is another ripoff in the news, the undeserved reputation grows. Ripoffs damage ALL of Key West today (and for years to come) because it’s next to impossible to un-do a bad reputation.

I applaud the protesters who warn about fraud, but that can be a double-edged sword. People see a “Ripoff Business” sign and then two blocks down, they see another. So everyone - not just potential victims - sees multiple ripoff complaints. That changes how they view our city, how much money they spend here - and if they will ever return.

We have a beautiful, inclusive island with Caribbean charm, fascinating history, wonderful weather and friendly locals. We shouldn’t need a team of protesters to protect our visitors! What we DO need is decisive action by the City to prevent proven scammers from doing it again. And again. And again. And again.

Why don’t we have a “Ripoff Again, You’re Gone!” policy? One proven ripoff - and if you do it again - your business license is gone, and you won’t get another.

Key West’s reputation as an honest place to visit is absolutely critical as destinations compete. We are at the end of the road and not easy to get to. We cannot afford to scare away ANY visitors.

Please don’t: the damage is happening TODAY. If we don’t completely STOP fraudulent practices NOW, we all will be damaged by their crimes - and we’ll all pay a heavy price with long-term decreases in tourism.

Call your elected officials today. Tell them to do something now, because we CANNOT afford to have those seven toxic words said about Key West again. And again. And again.

Open House • Sat. & Sun. 1-4PM

1208 PINE STREET • KEY WEST
2 BEDS 1 BATHS 1,794 SQFT

This Key West historic home is located in the highly desirable Meadows. Off street parking for two cars, indoor & foot deep solar heated swimming pool, soaring high ceiling w/skylights, outside Jacuzzi, dual outside showers & cabana with washer and dryer and plenty of storage, propane flash water heater & emergency propane electronic generator. 2 central AC units, stunning stained glass, gorgeous hardwood floors, large front and rear porches. X zone location.

$1,200,000

Adam Melanson
(516) 543-2100
adam@keysprimshomes.com
adam@buythekeys.com

IN COMMUNITY

Comedy Key West at BottleCap

Mark Normand

Comedy Key West presents professional standup comedians Patrick Garrity and Mark Normand. They will be performing after talented local comics warm up the stage at The BottleCap.

Patrick Garrity performs on Thursday and Friday, January 10th and 11th. Mark has appeared on NBC & CBS Comedy Night School with his fresh & original style. Through characters, cutting-edge impressions and real-life situations, Patrick tells energized stories about being in the military, growing up a younger brother & why Irish don’t trash talk. Starting comedy at an early age, Garrity has developed into a veteran of the road appearing in top clubs all over the US.

Mark Normand performs on Thursday and Friday, January 17th and 18th. Mark is a NY comedian who has done 2 Comedy Central specials, has appeared at comedy clubs and colleges across the country and has been involved in many festivals.

Comedy Key West at BottleCap is at 1128 Simonton Street in Key West.

The Psychadelia of Roma...

Continued from page 16

and slice the air. She might be in the middle of a fire, a shootout or a violent protest. Any event is given equal neutrality, just as in George’s Easy Rider stabbing. Billy has a luxurious dinner and life rolls on. “Easy Rider” depicts a natural world that is pacific and grand, while “Roma” symbolizes a nature that is hostile and threatening: waves overwhelm children and fires rage.

Though these directors are different, Cuaron and Hopper share the same philosophy. Freedom of action is the way. “Easy Rider” is a classic portrait of 1960s America which jarringly highlights a toxic culture clash that still exists today, while “Roma” creates the life of a working woman which unfolds in episodes of terror and tranquility, without warning as in an opium dream.

Write Ian at ianfree1@yahoo.com
Enjoy the sheer luxury of Cudjoe Gardens’ Oceanfront Masterpiece

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE WRITER

If you’ve been searching for a superbly designed luxury home, this three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath Spanish hacienda-style estate with an office, sweeping water views and access, will feel like it was created just for you.

Cudjoe Gardens is an exclusive and elegant enclave, located at Mile Marker 21.5.

Sprawling over the corner lot at 20728 Sixth Ave.West, this amazing, 2,750 square-foot luxury property boasts a veritable palace, carefully created and crafted in 2000 with a vision - and the finest materials - to include all the extras you could want in your own home: Hand-painted ceilings; sturdy custom wooden doors; with exclusive built-ins, and lighting virtually everywhere.

Situated on a vast and desirable cul-de-sac lot, with 75 feet of superb boating access, single level living, a custom heated pool, and outdoor dining/entertaining area, Old World charm meets Florida Keys luxury at its finest here. This solidly built and storm-resistant property was designed for our Keys’ weather (good and bad), and was affectionately named “Ojala,” a Spanish/Arabic word which, loosely translated, means Hope, Wish, Prayer and interpreted as “May it be this way.”

The sole owners custom-built this lovely home to suit their own taste, but it is a house anyone could call a dream home.

The structure features intricate tile-work throughout, rows of French-styled imported Mexican doors leading from the exposed beamed “great room”. The master bedroom has built-ins constructed from the rare wood of a 16th Century Flemish armoire. This is a very unique property indeed.

No expense has been spared, from the elaborate hand wrought chandelier in the truly gourmet kitchen, to a huge walk-in closet in the master suite, all amenities that give this home a special character not often found in the Keys.

But make no mistake: For all its resemblance to the fine older homes of Europe and Mexico, this is a modern house in every sense of the word.

Top-of-the-line appliances grace the kitchen, and a modern irrigation system keeps the mature landscaping lush and beautiful. A two car garage (plus driveway) provides ample off-street parking, as well as the entrance to a workshop/fishing prep room, with easy access to the broad stretch of its well-protected docks, minutes from

Ficus vines climb the Old World columns on the shaded lanai, overlooking the custom pool and lushly landscaped grounds. Photo contributed
This desirable point lot provides privacy, and protected, deep-draft dockage for watercraft up to 50 feet in length. Photo contributed

The immense Great Room is the home’s central gathering place, with an authentic, wood-burning fireplace, and dining and entertaining options galore! Photo contributed

some of the best fishing the Florida Keys have to offer. The 270 feet of total water frontage looks out to an ocean panorama on the other side of this “house on the point,” featuring unbeatable views of the surrounding waters, and magical sunsets. The entire 18,000 foot lot, which is elevated 10 feet above the water, is well-protected by a line of mangrove “barrier islands” that don’t impede the sensational views.

A separate guest suite has outdoor private access. A state-of-the-art, three-zone central air-conditioning system keeps all the rooms cool, but is often not necessary, as the open the french doors easily capture the sea breeze.

Located about 30 minutes from all the fun and buzz of Key West, this Lower Keys neighborhood, with lots entirely above required flood elevation, has weathered numerous storms intact. Cudjoe Gardens is a great location for outdoorsy people, especially those with a passion for fishing. With

Enjoy your own private, sandy beach area, overlooking the docks. Photo contributed

“Ojala” boasts spectacular sunsets, easy deep water access, and 10 feet of elevation above the water. Photo contributed

▶ Continued on next page
**KONK LIFE’S FEATURED HOMES**

1. **Casa Ojala**
   - Cudjoe Gardens’ Oceanfront Masterpiece
   - 20728 W. 6th Ave, Cudjoe Key
   - Mediterranean Charm meets Florida Keys Luxury
   - Custom-designed casually elegant Hacienda-Style home, situated on a prime open-water point in exclusive Cudjoe Gardens, with expansive views (and deep draft boating access) to the Atlantic. 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 baths, Office, 75’ dock. 2,748 sq ft. of upscale finishes...$2,300,000
   - Chellle Be Blades
   - (305) 394-4750

2. **HURRICANE SHUTTERS OF KEY WEST**
   - Great Business Opportunity
   - Hurricane Shutters of Key West is a great business opportunity. Nearly 30 years in business with same owner/operator who is retiring. Residential and commercial shutter sales from Key West to Marathon. Licensed to install flood barriers in Monroe County & City of Key West. Gross income increased after Irma and expected to grow as demand for professional shutter installation remains strong. Equally important is the money saved on windstorm insurance with rated storm shutters. Owner leases workshop at 5003 3rd Ave on Stock Island. $1350/mo 1200 sq feet. Not much equipment is required but included. Owner will stay on to train and offer on-going consultation.
   - Michelle Clauson Kirby
   - PA 305-849-1276
   - Price $250,000

3. **“Thank You to our Loyal Trusted Clients for a Successful 2018”**
   - 618 Catholic Lane $1,234,000
   - 2601 S. Roosevelt #114C $459,000
   - 3612 Northside Drive $450,000
   - 6800 Maloney #6 $242,000
   - 3930 S. Roosevelt #309 $307,000
   - 1001 United $645,000
   - 44 Spoonbill Way #2 $545,000
   - 409 Margaret #B $399,000
   - 1111 Watson “A” $860,000
   - 75 Golf Club Drive $352,500
   - 916 White Street PENDING
   - Jon Seibert 305-433-0552
   - Janine Seibert, CRS 305-433-1911
   - jjseiberts@gmail.com
   - Our Sales have exceeded our listing inventory and we need properties to sell! Our listings averaged 39 days on the market. We have the knowledge and tools, plus a wealth of experience to sell your home quickly!

4. **Florida Living Elegant**
   - KEY WEST BUSINESS BROKERS
   - 1010 Kennedy Drive, Suite 201 • Key West, FL 33040
   - Erik J. Lemon 305-395-1067
   - KeysPropertyListings.com
   - 259 Golf Club Drive is located next to the 17th tee box on an extra large fenced lot. Beautiful 3BR/2.5BA home with pool and deck, off street parking for 2 cars. Master suite has a large porch with beautiful view overlooking the fairway and nature ponds. Stainless steel appliances new in 2017, and new wood look ceramic tile in the kitchen. Very private neighborhood with gated entry and 24 hour security. Located near the Key West Golf Course Club house. Minutes from downtown Key West. $779,000

---

**Century 21 Schwartz Realty**

Each office independently owned and operated.
its deep draft channels, it is perfect for sailing and fishing craft. A neighborhood marina provides the appreciated convenience of fast re-fueling.

If you’ve had a Hope, Wish, or Prayer to find a luxurious estate-like property to call your Keys home, look no further . . . “May it be this way.”

“Ojala” is being offered for $2,300,000.

For more information, or to schedule a showing, call Listing Agent ChelleBe Blades, of Realty Executives Key West, at 305-394-4750, email kwrealtyexec@gmail.com keysscribe@aol.com
## Featured Homes – Viewed by Appointment

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### Key West Association of REALTORS®

**Phone (305) 296-8259  Fax (305) 296-2701**

Based on information from the KWAR MLS for December 3rd, 2018 thru December 19th, 2018

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BEST of Key West 2019

BEST: Arts & Entertainment, BEST Food & Drinks
BEST Shopping & Services, BEST Sports & Recreation