

# KONK Life

DECEMBER 26  
thru  
JANUARY 1,  
2020



**“PRIME TIME,”**  
**by Blake Hunter and Charles Lindberg,**  
**Kicks Off a Fantastic Season of Theater**  
**at The Studios of Key West!**

Florida Keys 3-8 • Cover Story 9 • Upper Keys 10-12 • What's Happening 14 • Real Estate 26

Photo: Larry Blackburn • Cover: JT Thompson

# America Deserves A Full and Fair Senate Trial

By Roger C. Kostmayer

A full and fair Senate impeachment trial requires hearing from important fact witnesses and reviewing relevant documents. Failure to do so makes it impossible for Senators, and the nation, to act as impartial jurors - which each Senator must swear to do.

But what if Senate Leader McConnell and other Republican Senators defy their oath and the Constitution in order to protect their dangerously flawed Republican president? Only roughly equal leverage can produce a bipartisan negotiated compromise, and the Democrats have only one lever.

At this moment, the House has passed impeachment charges against the President, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, BUT it has not been, and need not be, delivered to the

Senate for a trial to convict. If the House refuses to transmit the charges to the Senate, unless or until there are good faith negotiations about a fair trial, this roadblock would prevent the Senate from absolving Trump from any wrongdoing, and prevent President Trump from claiming all his treasonous and unconstitutional acts were "perfect" and he and all future presidents are above the law.

Unless Senate Leader McConnell reached a bipartisan agreement, the House would be free to continue impeachment investigations, produce more condemning evidence, testimony and charges - all while the President tries to campaign for reelection.

The price our democracy would pay if the Democrats ignored their duty and simply submitted to a phony unconstitutional Senate trial, is too high not to resist by all legal means. ■

# Historic Florida Keys Foundation Preservation Awards applications open

The Historic Florida Keys Foundation is accepting applications for its 39th annual Preservation Awards through January 17th, 2020. A panel experienced in evaluating historic properties will start judging in February.

Awards are given in March for the categories of preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and new construction that maintains the integrity of the historic neighborhood.

Properties throughout Monroe County are eligible, but those previously entered may not participate unless significant new work has been accomplished.

For information and an application visit [historicfloridakeys.org](http://historicfloridakeys.org) or call 305-292-6718. ■

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# KONK Life

## Craig Cates prepares for a new chapter in his political life following governor's appointment to District 1 seat

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER



**N**ew District 1 Commissioner Craig Cates has plenty to be happy about this holiday season.

The five-term Key West mayor has his health, his beloved wife Cheryl and other family members, and a new chapter in his post-retirement career in public service: He's now the sitting District 1 county commissioner, after being appointed to the post by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Cates has been to his office a few times as he prepares for what's certain to be a hectic session of county government in the new year.

"The governor's office called me the day of the announcement," Cates said. "And we talked a lot about the Keys, and how much he likes it here. He asked me a few questions about what my goals on the commission would be, and then he offered me the job."

The posting wasn't a total surprise however. Cates was one of a handful of locals to indicate their interest in taking over the seat, previously held by Danny Kolhage. It turns out, however, that



**Craig Cates**

Cates' experience as a five-term mayor of Key West pushed him past the finish line ahead of several others, who had also expressed interest in the position.

It's yet another feather in the political cap of Craig Cates, whose family has been involved in local governance for generations.

"My uncle Bill Cates was on the board and a director of Keys Energy Services for a number of years," Cates said. "And my mother, Emma Cates, was a city commissioner. The Emma Cates Pier, at the south end of Duval Street, is named after her. And, of course, my Great Uncle Berlin Sawyer was Monroe County Sheriff, so I guess you could say politics is in my blood."

A mechanic by trade, Cates once owned the eponymous automotive business at the edge of Old Town, and after that the local franchise of Napa Auto Parts. In retirement, with the businesses sold, Cates turned his attention to public service, successfully grasping the brass ring of Key West mayor, on his first try. Four more election wins later Cates has arrived at the end of his time as mayor (2009-18) barred by term-limits from running again. Cates' District 1 boundaries, however, includes parts of Key West and Stock Island that are of special concern, and where Cates hopes to be able to continue working to address some of

the town's biggest problems.

Cates will serve out the remainder of Kolhage's term, which ends on Nov. 17, 2020.

"Obviously, affordable housing in Key West remains one of our biggest challenges," Cates said. "And so the projects on Stock Island are going to be an important part of the solution. Then, there's the issue of sea level rise, which affects us all and will become even more important as time goes on. We have to start taking this very seriously to stave off the worst, and to transition smoothly to a sustainable future."

► Continued on page 11

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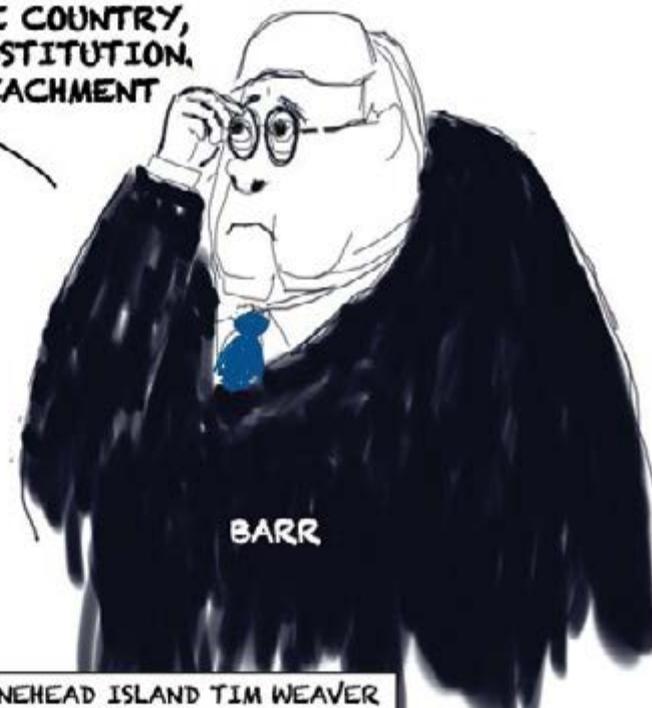
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## Cannabis as Medicine Education Series Starting Soon

The Key West Yoga Sanctuary launches their winter education series on January 4 with Donna Shields, MS, RDN, co-founder of the Holistic Cannabis Academy. Donna will host a 4 week program, meeting every Saturday in January at 3:15pm, as a practical guide to understanding the basics of cannabis medicine. Topics will include how to use cannabis for insomnia, anxiety and pain management. Take-home print materials, an online module for each topic and CBD products for sampling round out the program. Class size is limited so register early. The Sanctuary has a new location at 612 Fleming St. For more program details, contact Donna directly at [shieldsdonna12@gmail.com](mailto:shieldsdonna12@gmail.com). ■



# Glee Club Gets Going at KWHS

BY ELLA HALL  
KONK LIFE STUDENT WRITER

**A** Glee Club has started at Key West High School (KWHS), directed by James Carter, the chorus teacher. Even though he is the director, he plans on either hiring professional choreographers to make their routines or having the students do it themselves.

Glee Clubs are a national activity, not just seen on the TV show Glee. “As chorus programs have difficulty competing with the push for technology and professional certification classes in other places and beyond, Glee Clubs are the only chorus activities in school,” says Carter.



Key West High School chorus teacher James Carter is smiling with glee for his club to start at the school in January. Photo by Ella Hall

As the chorus teacher at KWHS, Carter certainly has the background knowledge to lead a Glee Club. Carter was himself involved in the chorus for about two years in high school while also being selected to the All-State Reading Chorus for both of those years.

In addition to his high school choir years, he took it a step further in college, “I majored in voice and French horn at Stetson University and earned a Master’s degree in French horn. In 2003, I was selected from an international audition to work with the Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall, and performed with a 100 voice chorus there.”

Since everyone is not a professional

singer, Glee Club is a way to get people singing and dancing, even if you are not phenomenal at it. “The inspiration of the Glee Club was to reach out to those who enjoy singing but are not particularly interested to read music and sing competitively,” notes Carter.

When it comes to what Glee Clubs do, it can be a range from acapella groups to singing and dancing along to a track. You do not have to be the best at singing to join Glee Club; you just have to try hard, and soon enough, it will all come together.

Even though Glee Club has not officially started yet, they are promoting it right now at KWHS. “The club begins meeting in January,” says Carter, and he encourages students to join in the fun. ■

## OIRF House Tours on December 27 and 28



The Watkins Group at Keller Williams Key West is putting the finishing touches on the Christmas Tree at 724 Eaton Street, in preparations for opening the doors of this community treasure for the Old Old Island Restoration Foundation’s House Tours on December 27 and 28. Tickets still available by calling 305-294-9501 or online at OIRF.org. Come see 724 Eaton Street, along with all the other historic homes on Tour, and help Old Island Restoration Foundation Celebrate 60 amazing years in Key West!

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# Island Pride Gets A Free Ride



The Key West Parrothead Club helping clean up Key West!

The City of Key West Utilities Department and Transit Department are teaming up to bring some island pride to the City of Key West through a program called Trash for Transit. The City hosts local cleanups throughout the City each month, anyone who shows up at these cleanups and participates will receive a 24-Hour City bus pass.

Plogging the Keys is a Keep Key West Beautiful program funded through the City's Utility Department. Every Friday morning volunteers meet our Solid Waste Coordinator Dee Dee Green at different locations from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. and help clean up that area by picking up litter and targeting cigarette butts for a special recycling program.

Some upcoming dates include:

December 27th: Duval Street at corner of Front and Duval 8 a.m.

January 3rd: White Street Pier 8 a.m.

January 10th: Eaton Street, in front of Restaurant Store 8 a.m.

For more information browse to the Plogging the Keys Facebook page or contact Dee Dee Green at 305-809-3776/ [dgreen@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:dgreen@cityofkeywest-fl.gov) ■

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Photo: DarrellParks.com

# Tibetan Monks to Arrive in Key West for Sacred Art Tour featuring week-long celebration of culture and Buddhist teachings



On Sunday, January 19 through Saturday, January 25, 2020, sponsor Tara Mandala Key West meditation group and host St. Paul's Episcopal Church invite the public to help celebrate the "2020 Sacred Arts Tour" at the church's 401 Duval Street location on the corner of Eaton Street. The seven-day Tibetan festival will be led by eight visiting Tibetan monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery—students of H.H. Dalai Lama—and includes noontime dharma talks, a Tibetan Marketplace, classes in the Tibetan Arts, varying music and dance demonstrations of Tibetan culture, and morning and afternoon blessings

for the monk's week-long creation of a Medicine Buddha sand mandala for world healing, which will conclude with a procession down Simonton Street to the bayside ocean for a closing ceremony.

The tour aims to spread the message of peace, loving kindness, wisdom, and compassion while sharing their traditional Tibetan arts and culture, and to raise support for their monastery in south India, where their traditions and culture are preserved. Community and personal arranged blessings by the monks are available. For more information, visit [keywesttaramandala.org](http://keywesttaramandala.org) or email [kwtaramandala@aol.com](mailto:kwtaramandala@aol.com). ■

# Choral Feast Celebrates Season

By Harry Schroeder

The Keys Choral Arts, a group of sixty-odd singers under the direction of Timothy Peterson, gave a concert, "A Christmas Choral Feast," on Tuesday evening at St. Paul's. It offered a wide range of music, with lyrics from the Latin, from American Romantic poets, and translations from French and German. The concert was enthusiastically received, with, at the end, a standing ovation.

The choice of program was quite original, without calling undue attention to itself. There were no Christmas clichés—nothing anywhere near Rudolph—and the melodies of the respective pieces, while mostly simple harmonically and so entirely appropriate to Christmas, were a good deal more interesting than the usual hymns. Of the twelve composers represented, only two were familiar: it was a pleasure to make the acquaintance of the other ten.

Accompanying on piano was Lou Ann Steely, accurately and within the rhythms set by the conductor and singers. On organ, briefly, was Tom Scheck. There was one soloist, the baritone Dean Warden, whose singing was strong enough to balance against the chorus.

This was the group's second concert since its reorganization as a nonprofit last year. It is the descendant of the chorale formed by Emily Boyd Lowe thirty years ago, a legendary chorus which started with nine members and grew to more than a hundred, meanwhile becoming a center of local musical energy which spun off into such other organizations as the Key West Pops, the

Island Opera Company, and the Paradise Big Band. The group survived many years of an uncomfortable relationship with the community college, until it was dropped from the curriculum two years ago as part of the school's abandonment of music generally. Now, from the evidence of the other night, it is prospering.

For those of us who can remember Emily's Chorale, it is impossible to avoid comparisons. This group definitely does not suffer by them. Emily taught her singers the two major and opposing virtues of choral performance: to be responsible to musical precision, and to sing honestly and with open hearts and full feeling. Mr. Peterson's people do both, excellently. A singing group's measure of precision is whether its lyrics can be clearly understood: one singer off rhythm will muddy every phrase. That was not a problem the other night: lyrics were usually clear, even in the resonant but imprecise acoustics of St. Paul's.

As to expression of intensity of feeling, this group is quite capable of opening up, with real power. It did very little of that Tuesday night—the choice of music precluded it—but when it did, it was quite convincing. And it excels at expressing the profound intensity which can come from singing softly.

This is all the result of their disciplined approach to the music—the Keys Choral Arts does what its conductor tells it to do. Given Mr. Peterson's obviously superb taste, there is no limit to the musical eloquence these people can achieve. It's very rewarding to have that happening here again. ■

# Tennessee Williams Museum to offer monthly first Sunday curator tours; free entry for locals

The Tennessee Williams Museum, located at 513 Truman Avenue, will offer a series of tours led by Museum Curator Dennis Beaver starting Sunday, January 5 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm. The January tour will focus on the premiere of “The Rose Tattoo,” Williams’ classic film based on his Tony Award-winning Broadway play of the same name and which debuted at the San Carlos Institute on January 19, 1956.

“Williams wrote both the play and the screenplay and oversaw the making of the film in Key West while living at his home on Duncan Street in the early

1950s,” says Beaver. “He said he could write anywhere but he could write best in Key West.”

The award-winning museum is already a destination for Tennessee Williams enthusiasts and scholars, with an impressive collection of Williams’ memorabilia and literary artifacts that help keep alive the importance of his legacy and the impact of the literary icon who made Key West his home from 1949 until his death in 1983.

Displays include artist Jane Rohrschneider-Carper’s model of the playwright’s Duncan Street home, first edition plays and books, imag-



Tennessee Williams Museum curator Dennis Beaver, left, will be leading a curator tour once a month beginning on Sunday, January 5 at the museum located at 513 Truman Avenue.

es from the late local photographer Don Pinder, and a new collection of photographs featuring Williams and celebrities of his era, many of whom were featured in his film and theater productions.

“We especially hope to raise awareness in our local community of the many contributions made by this literary giant to the city of Key West and Monroe County,” says Beaver. “His choice of having a home in our city on Duncan Street for thirty-four years helped to make Key West the cultural and literary destination it is today.”

Key West Art & Historical Society honors locals the first Sunday of every month with free admission to the museum and three other properties under its stewardship—the Custom

House Museum, Key West Lighthouse & Keeper’s Quarters, and Fort East Martello Museum. A merger with the Society in 2017 supports the exhibit and a continuing full roster of writing and painting contests, film forums, and the annual Tennessee Williams Birthday Celebration every March.

Subsequent Tennessee Williams Museum curator tours will be Sunday, February 2 and Sunday, March 1, both from 2:00pm – 3:00pm.

The Tennessee Williams Museum on 513 Truman Avenue is open daily for self-guided tours 9:30am-4:30pm daily. For more information, contact Key West Art & Historical Society at 305-295-6616 or visit WWW.KWAHS.ORG. *Your Museums. Your Community. It Takes an Island.* ■

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# The Studios of Key West's 2020 theatrical season wows with vibrant stories, dynamic characters, original music, and plenty of laughs

Continuing its mission support the creation of new work and present the type of shows you just can't see anywhere else, The Studios of Key West is thrilled to announce a dazzling lineup of theatrical productions for the 2020 season.

From January 28 through February 8, The Studios presents "Prime Time," the latest creative venture by Blake Hunter and Charles Lindberg. Back after a successful run at The Studios last season, the musical follows Diana Cherry (Maribeth Graham), a female television executive in the 1970s who fights to keep her variety show afloat, her star husband in check and temptation at bay. Under the direction of Murphy Davis, and with the help of musical director Debra Barsha and choreographer Kyla Piscopink, the script takes off, propelled by commanding performances and a whiff of classic TV nostalgia.

*Konk Life* theater reviewer Joanna Brady says "Prime Time" is "...a witty, urbane musical with dialogue that's tight, snappy, and crisp; the whole combination is wildly entertaining."

From February 19-29, The Studios presents "Anna in the Tropics" by Nilo Cruz, directed by Denis Zacek.



From April 1-3, Tony-nominated Broadway star Bryce Pinkham appears in "Dignity, Always Dignity: A Post-Apocalyptic Cabaret at The Studios. Photo courtesy the artist.

The play is set in Ybor City (Tampa), but the story is familiar to anyone interested in Key West history. The Pulitzer Prize winning script recounts the tradition of the lector, a person hired to read to cigar factory workers as they hand rolled cigars, in the early 1900s. The play celebrates the cultural history of Cuban immigrants, who brought their traditions to Florida, sparking an era of sultry tropical nights shrouded in cigar smoke.

From May 14-23, The Studios

presents local playwright and actor Neal Ruchman's brand new play "The Pickpocket's Daughter," which was first introduced to audiences as a table reading in the Helmerich Theater last year. The play was so well-received, with audience members calling it "nothing short of wonderful" and "a first class thriller with loads of laughs," that it returns to The Studios as a full production this spring. Directed by Murphy Davis and based on the life and times of

the playwright's mother, "Pickpocket's Daughter" follows the brave and inimitable Matzy Moses as she navigates the corruption and gang warfare of 1930's New York City.

In a special three-night only engagement from April 1-3, Tony-nominated Broadway star Bryce Pinkham appears in "Dignity, Always Dignity: A Post-Apocalyptic Cabaret." Devised by Pinkham and Zachary Fine, "Dignity" is an original one-man production. The show follows Pinkham, who, on his way to his first day of rehearsal for the highly anticipated Broadway revival of "Singin' in the Rain," was swept away (along with everyone else) by the great flood of 2022. Now stranded on an island not far from Key West, having floated on the back of a baby grand piano, Bryce carries with him his script, his tap shoes, his cellphone, and some snacks. Alone and coming to terms with his fate and the fate of humanity, Bryce passes the time attempting to perform the entirety of "Singin' in the Rain" all by himself, determined to 'make em laugh' all the way to the end.

Tickets for all productions can be purchased at [tskw.org](http://tskw.org) or by calling the box office at 305-296-0458. ■

## Keys Audubon Christmas bird Count

The Florida Keys Audubon Society will hold its Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual event in which groups around the country spend a day sur-

veying birds in their region, thus creating a snapshot of the health of bird populations. It is also a great way to learn about Keys birds and the environment.

Birders of all experiences and abil-

ities are welcome at the count, but space is limited and the organizers ask those interested to contact them by December 30 (preferably sooner) at [keysaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:keysaudubon@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail at 305-771-5807. ■



A Great Blue Heron in flight. Credit: Mark Hedden

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# Judith Clarke Receives "Years of Service" Award for her 15 Years at Monroe County



The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners recently presented a "Years of Service" award to Judith

Clarke for her fifteen years of service to the County. Clarke is the Director of Engineering/Roads & Bridges. ■

## New Year's Safe Ride Shuttle

Why stress about parking and traffic to celebrate New Year's Eve this year when you can ride the shuttle? Let Key West Transit's Safe Ride do the driving! The shuttle begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 31st and runs continuously until 1:45 a.m. Fare is just \$2 per trip on the local route and \$4 per trip for the Lower Keys Shuttle.

Be sure to plan ahead, as the last City bus shuttle pickup is at 1:45 a.m. and the final Lower Keys shuttle departs Key West at 1:45 a.m. as well.

Buses will not provide service west of Simonton Street after 11 a.m. on Tuesday, except for the Duval Loop. After 5 p.m., all service will be from Fausto's.

The Safe Ride shuttles cover Key West and Stock Island, as well as the Lower Keys Shuttle between Marathon and Key West. The downtown drop-off and pickup point is Fausto's on Fleming Street, right in the heart of the action.

There will be no bus service on New Year's Day. Normal schedules will resume on Thursday, January 2nd.

Additional details are available on the city's web site at <http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov> and [www.kwtransit.com](http://www.kwtransit.com). ■

# Nursing Home Residents Enjoy Performance by On Your Toes Dance Studio

ISLAMORADA, FL – Nearly 75 dancers from On Your Toes Dance Studio spread holiday cheer recently at Crystal Health & Rehab Center, Plantation Key Nursing Center in Islamorada. Dancers, led by Studio Owner/Director Stephanie Zlockie, performed a variety of numbers including ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop, from their holiday program Christmas Vacation. Residents of the nursing center watched the hour-long performance in the cafeteria of the center. In the attached photo, Zlockie and instructor Bernice Dionne (left) pose with dancers and residents of the nursing home.

On Your Toes, located in Tavernier, offers dance classes for all ages with highly-trained instructors. Classes include ballet, tap, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop and acrobatics. ■



## Island Roots Green Turtle Cay Bahamas Relief Fundraiser Feast & Celebration at El Meson de Pepe at Mallory Square on Jan. 4

Enjoy an enchanted evening under the stars and celebrate the deep ties that bind Key West and Green Turtle Cay, two tiny island communities that share common history and ancestors, at El Meson de Pepe's Island Roots Bahamas Relief Fundraiser at Mallory Square on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

Sponsored by El Meson de Pepe and Historic Tours of America, festivities include a Key West First Legal Rum Distillery complimentary

welcome cocktail, dancing to the island sounds of Caribe (5:30-9pm), silent auction (5:30-8pm) and Caribbean Cuban roast pork buffet with all the trimmings and delectable desserts provided by Kermit's Key Lime Pie Shoppe (6-8pm).

Cost is \$40 per person. VIP Ambassadors for GTC Sculpture Garden tickets, which include a private reception (5-6pm) and dinner seating in the Sculpture Garden are \$500 per couple. Seating limited, and tick-

ets are available at Island Roots Bahamas Relief on EventBrite.com.

100% of all proceeds raised support Key West Cares Green Turtle Cay Bahamas Flagship WOLF Relief Voyage, departing on Feb. 5; and \$200 of each VIP Ambassador ticket helps fund restoration of the GTC Sculpture Garden. For more information, contact El Meson de Pepe at 305.295.2620 or visit Island Roots Bahamas Fundraiser at EventBrite.com. ■

### Craig Cates prepares...

► Continued from page 3

So far, Cates has yet to be fully debriefed by his predecessor, Danny Kolhage on the political lay of the land, but is planning to be soon in the new year.

"I've stopped by the office a few times, but we're still setting up shop," he said. "My assistant arrives on Jan. 2, and that's when we'll get to work on 2020!"

Though the former mayor was ready to move on to something new, Cates said he'll always cherish the memories of his time as mayor of his hometown.

"I can't say that I'd really do anything differently," he said. "Because it was all a learning curve for me, but I guess I'm most proud of the construction of the Vietnam War memorial, and the new City Hall. The Truman Waterfront and Key West Amphitheater are great too, but the Vietnam memorial is what I'm most proud of. That, and the way we in Key West work together to solve our problems, and make this a better place to live. We can show the world how it's done." ■

*keysscribe@aol.com*

# Court Dismisses Grinder Pump Case Against Monroe County and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority



**K**EY WEST, FL – Acting Circuit Judge Mark Wilson dismissed a lawsuit over the placement of sewer technology in resident’s yards in the Lower Keys. On Dec. 17, the Court dismissed the latest challenge, brought earlier this year by a group of property owners against Monroe County and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.

The property owner’s case claimed the defendants did not follow the County’s ordinance’s standards for wastewater connections. In April 2019, the County substantially revised its ordinance to clarify the wording. The Court found that the plaintiff’s claims regarding the old ordinance were moot. The Court dismissed the case and concluded there was no pending controversy because the prior ordinance had been

repealed and replaced.

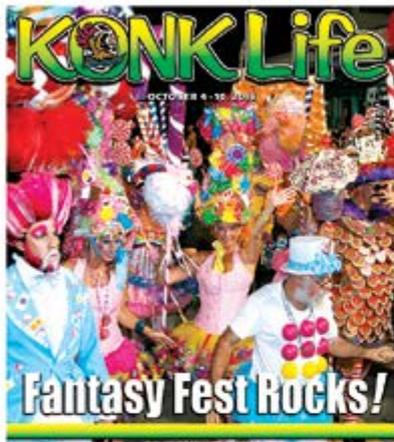
This is the second time a grinder pump claim has been dismissed. A prior suit was dismissed earlier this year.

“The majority of property owners have already hooked up to the Cudjoe wastewater system, which is significant to improving the Florida Keys environment and nearshore waters,” said Cynthia Hall, Assistant Monroe County Attorney. “This court order is a step forward for those who have not

yet abandoned their septic tanks to connect to the sewer system. We hope and expect this will encourage the remaining homeowners to connect to the system.”

The Cudjoe Regional system serves from Mile Marker 17 on Sugarloaf Key to Mile Marker 33 on Big Pine Key in unincorporated Monroe County. As of December 2019, about 77 percent of the 7,500 homes and business have hooked into the system. ■

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## Fringe Theater Key West

# An Evening Lost With Lillian Baxter

Show Dates: Dec 26-31 2019

These Two Guys Create A Stellar One-Woman Show!



John Vessels



Jay Schwandt



Fringe Theater presents John Vessels and Jay Schwandt in the musical memoir of the greatest singer you've never heard of -- Lillian Baxter! *An Evening Lost with Lillian Baxter* is presented December 26-31 at 7pm in the Little Room Jazz Club on Duval Street.

"Key West has been a part of our professional journey for several years now," explains John Vessels, the show's writer and lead performer. "Our first show was such a hit in 2016, that Fringe asked us to bring our second show down the following year. When Fringe invited us back this year, it only took us a moment to remember the big Midwest blizzard of 2018, so we started developing the next show, right away!"

The third installment of the fictional Lillian Baxter's "climb to the middle" focuses on the years right after her TV variety show was cancelled in the 1960s. What's a girl to do? Whatever it takes! For Lillian that meant she had to sing-sing-sing her way through commercials, sitcoms, and even an industrial musical or two. The stories are fun and the music is just divine.

"Lillian's voice has always been able to take her places that her looks, perhaps, could not," John jokes, but then he clarifies. "Lillian isn't a drag act, beyond the obvious fact that I'm wearing a frock or two. Lillian is a fully realized human being living in a comedy format." In fact, more than one guest has left the show to google Lillian Baxter, believing her to be based on a real-life character!

The two men who created this one-woman show are John Vessels, who holds a BA in Music, and Jay Schwandt, who has degrees in music composition.

Both men perform professional and teach in their respective fields. "John is the upfront performer, and I arrange the music for the show," explains Jay.

Critics have written of the Lillian Baxter performances, "John Vessels has a masterful level of vocal control which he pairs with a pitch perfect portrayal of Lillian as a super star that never was. And Jay Schwandt shines with his impressive piano skills and arrangements."

*An Evening Lost with Lillian Baxter* runs Dec 26-31 at 7pm at the Little Room Jazz Club which is located at 821 Duval Street. Doors will open nightly at 6pm so

patrons can enjoy the Little Room's tasty menu and full bar. The Little Room's music schedule resumes nightly at 9pm.

Tickets are available online at [www.fringetheater.org](http://www.fringetheater.org) or by calling 305-731-0581. Seating is limited so advanced ticket purchase is encouraged.

Fringe Theater is Key West's community-focused theater which offers unique opportunities for people to see and do theater. Fringe is a 501c3 nonprofit with a vibrant and inclusive outreach and education program. For more information about Fringe, contact [info@fringetheater.org](mailto:info@fringetheater.org). ■

FRINGE theater key west

An Evening  
lost With  
**Lillian  
Baxter**  
starring John Vessels  
and Jay Schwandt

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Little Room Jazz Club  
821 DUVAL STREET

fringetheater.org | 305-731-0581

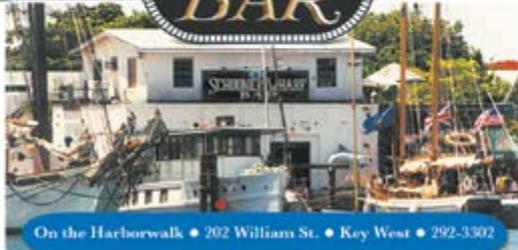
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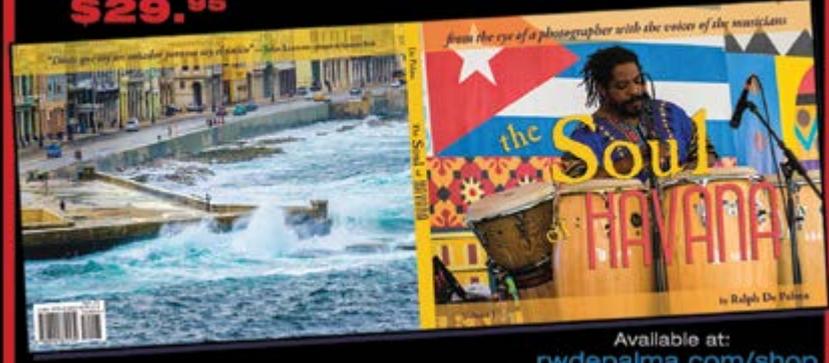
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**Schooner Wharf Bar**  
202 Williams St., (305) 292-3302  
[SchoonerWharf.com](http://SchoonerWharf.com)

**Thursday 12/26**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD  
noon - 5pm



ISLAND TIME DUO  
6:45 - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am



**Friday 12/27**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 6pm

CAYO RITMO BAND  
6:45 - midnight

MAGIC OF FRANK  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Saturday 12/28**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

SUSHI ROLL BAND  
6:45 - midnight



MAGIC OF FRANK  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Sunday 12/29**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

SUSHI ROLL BAND  
6:45 - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Monday 12/30**  
Raven Cooper  
Noon - 5:00 pm



SUSHI ROLL BAND  
6:45 - 11pm

**Tuesday 12/31**  
GARY HEMPSEY  
noon - 5pm



LAST MANGO TRIO  
5 - 8pm

SUSHI ROLL BAND  
9pm - LATE  
New Year's Eve Celebration

**Whats Happening**

► Continued from page 14

**The Smokin' Tuna**

4 Charles St., (305) 517-6350  
smokintunasaloon.com

**Thursday 12/26**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

**Friday 12/27**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

**Saturday 12/28**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

**Saturday 12/29**

Nick Brownell 5pm  
Sheldon Benton 9pm

**Saturday 12/30**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Myles Mancuso & Friends 9pm

**Saturday 12/31**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Caffeine Carl & THE NYE TUNA  
DROP 9PM

**Saturday 01/01**

Scott Kirby & Gabriel Donahue 5pm  
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

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littleroomjazzclub.com

**Thursday 12/26**

The Fringe Theater with  
Lillian Baxter  
Chris Burchard Trio 8-11

**Friday 12/27**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Lillian  
Baxter 5:30-7:30  
Ericson Holt 8-11

**Saturday 12/28**

Piano Bar Happy Hour  
Lillian Baxter 5:30-7:30  
Carmen Rodriguez 8-11

**Sunday 12/29**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Lillian  
Baxter 5:30-7:30  
Barry Cuda & The Sharks 8-11

**Monday 12/30**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Lillian  
Baxter 5:30-7:30  
Larry Smith and Christine  
Cordone 8-11

**Tuesday 12/31**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Lillian  
Baxter 5:30-7:30  
Christine Cordone, Larry Smith and  
Friends News Year's Eve

**Wednesday 01/01**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Karen  
Heins 5:30-7:30  
Victoria Horne 8-11

# Reggie Sullivan Band Hog's Breath Saloon



The Reggie Sullivan Band plays the late-night gig, 9 pm – 1 am, Dec. 30 – January 5, 2020, at the Hog's Breath Saloon.

Reggie Sullivan received his Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies from the University of South Carolina in 2006 and has since become one of the most-requested musicians in Columbia, SC.

He has performed with musical legends such as Marian McPartland, Olivia Newton-John, Wycliffe Gordon, Herlin Riley, Chris Potter, Yuseef Latif, Ron McCurdy, Howard Hewitt, Randy Crawford, Joe Sample.

The band has been influenced by many musical genres and it delivers a high-energy show that promises to give you a good feeling. ■

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## Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker



Nothing beats the sound of the iconic music from John Williams or the words “A long time ago from a galaxy far, far away...” Yet again, I admit that when I heard the echoing notes from the theme accompanied by the roaring whine of a tie-fighter, my heart raced. I am speaking of the latest chapter of Star Wars, titled “The Rise of Skywalker” directed by J.J. Abrams (The Force Awakens).

Right from the get go, we are plunged in a family drama where the second episode left us. Rey (Daisy Ridley) is in a kind of existential crisis and dark prince Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) is occupied with bringing back the energy of his grandfather Darth Vader, but is in actuality, only out for himself.

The galaxy is receiving a strange signal believed to be from the dead Sith lord Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid). The light and dark sides are all in a tizzy and Rey wants to go to the Sith hotbed of Exegol, to make sure nothing really dark happens before it is too late.

General Leia (Carrie Fisher) warns of something like the Apocalypse if

Rey proceeds. All the cues are in place and the tone is apprehensive.

So begins what is the finale of the Star Wars “Skywalker” saga.

We have some solid opening dog-fights reminiscent of Lucas himself.

Cocky Poe (Oscar Isaac) recalling Han Solo is here along with Finn (John Boyega). Ridley has good dramatic force and you can see it in her face.

The main energy of the film (once more) goes to Adam Driver and his dour looks, embodying both something spoiled and in torment. Driver is the soul of the film.

On the light side of the force, there are numerous subplots. The resistance goes to an alien Puja festival and Poe falls for the mercenary Zorri Bliss (Kerri Russell). It feels as if the light side is running around a bit, while the dark side deals with the heavy drama. In the preceding episode there were pushes and pulls on both sides which gave the story appeal. Too much time is spent with the Jedi gang running here and there, worrying about C-3PO’s memory banks. We see Lando (Billy Dee Williams) once more but he feels like a flat cameo image rather than a living character.

But just when you think all is lost dramatically, Kylo Ren is on the scene to give the film a shot in the armor. He lays a heavy guilt trip on Rey.

Like Dracula, Ren can materialize from anywhere and there is a spooky yet somewhat reckless air of mystery about him. He is fun to watch.

There are some wondrous light saber scenes, with Ren fighting as if he is carrying a great lumbering weight and he makes you feel it. The anvil of Evil is a heavy load. When they are both out at sea, there is something of Edmund Burke’s Theory of the Sublime. The duels are the best portions of the film.

Palpatine for all his darkness is less exciting. Here he seems a manikin more than anything genuinely scary.

All becomes bolts of lightning and milked-over cataracts of the eye.

Three-fourths of the way through there is a grand ship battle with everyone yelling “Whoo Hoo” derivative exclamations from other films, multiple explosions and “Ahhhs!!”

While it is good to see an ethereal Luke (Mark Hamill) give wise advice and even more satisfying to hear Han (Harrison Ford) say “Hey Kid!” in comforting his lost offspring, the real emotion belongs solely to Driver who has an aura of scary happenstance about him. His last moments contain a flavor of Romeo and Juliet.

As a thoroughly gripping finale, however, (though it will please audiences) “The Rise of Skywalker” feels a bit on autopilot, rushed and lacking in surprise. While I am still a Jedi, I feel a bit slighted by Abrams conventional Force powers in this, the apparent final chapter. ■

## Bombshell



Jay Roach (Game Change, Meet the Parents) directs a film about Fox News, focusing on the unsavory dealings of Roger Ailes and his sexual harassment while running the network. Scores of hopeful newswomen were targets including Gretchen Carlson and Megyn Kelly. The film is well acted and produced but suffers from a routine narrative and a lack of emotional tone.

Megyn Kelly (Charlize Theron) is a top journalist on Fox News. Trump is gaining in popularity despite the base comments that he makes, usually at someone’s expense, with great bluster and bombast. Kelly is assigned to

moderate the Republican Presidential Debate. She opens with a hard hitting question, challenging Trump’s misogynistic comments on women. Trump is taken aback and disparages Kelly online and later on air, mentioning her menstruation.

Soon the media is at her doorstep and an understandably fearful Kelly goes to Ailes (John Lithgow) for help. The sedentary Ailes, while at first making a show of boosting her, is merely patronizing.

Kelly’s problems only get worse.

Gretchen Carlson (Nicole Kidman) does a segment on the importance of women, stating that makeup is superficial.

Ailes goes ballistic.

Carlson won’t apologize. She meditates and decides to bring a lawsuit against Ailes.

Theron in particular as Kelly is perfection. She excels in Kelly’s low register along with her quickness of cadence. She becomes Megyn Kelly right before our eyes and is a true chameleon.

Ditto for Kidman as Carlson, Margot Robbie as hopeful anchor Kayla and the ubiquitous John Lithgow who does a fine job as the man you love to hate, jowls and all.

The cult actor Malcolm McDowell (A Clockwork Orange) has a solid outing as the uber-powerful Rupert Murdoch, and comedian Kate McKinnon does handily as a covertly outspoken staffer, despite her employment of aghast expressions from other comedic roles.

The only fault in the film is its uninspiring tone and lack of charge. Ailes is a personally disgusting man with all his salivary talk on the importance of female legs, oral sex and kissing, not to mention his commandment that job candidates spin the news.

► Continued on page 20

# Waterfront Playhouse Takes Audiences on An Amazing Race!

*AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* – Final Weekend!



The story starts in London on Wednesday, October 2nd 1872.

Phileas Fogg is a rich British gentleman living in solitude. Despite his wealth, Fogg lives a modest life with habits carried out with mathematical precision. Very little can be said about his social life other than that he is a member of the Reform Club, where he spends much of every day.

At the Reform Club, Fogg gets involved in an argument over an article in The Daily Telegraph stating that with the opening of a new railway section in India, it is now possible to travel around the world in 80 days. He accepts a wager for half of his total fortune, from his fellow club members to complete such a journey within this time period. Joanna Brady reviews, “Nate Washburn plays the lead role brilliantly, with suitable British aplomb and disdain. His matinee idol good looks hint at a future romantic bent in the play, but that is the farthest thing from his mind when he seals the bet”

She continues, “We meet all the usual suspects in this show—about 39

characters—played by 6 frantic actors who change costumes with bewildering speed. The lovely Aouda (played charmingly by the talented Erin McKenna) is not just a pretty face. She’s smart, and can match Fogg’s cool even as she takes on a party of angry Apaches with a rifle in the wild west leg of the adventure.

Incredibly versatile are Steve Miller and Don Bartolone, who take on at least twenty characters between them. Playing a variety of roles, they pop up in places we’ve only imagined by ship, by elephant, by trains and any other conveyance they can find as the party is besieged by oriental opium pushers, an elephant owner, and typhoons.

Michael Boyer’s magical set—a huge map with pin lights to mark off each stop—helps us trace their dizzying route.

Directed by John McDonald, the cast features Nate Washburn, as Phileas Fogg with Ross Pipkin as Detective Fix. Aaron Duclos, along with Erin McKenna, Steve Miller and Don Bartolone play a multitude of characters.

*Tickets for all Waterfront productions can be obtained on-line at [Waterfront-playhouse.org](http://Waterfront-playhouse.org) or by calling the box office, 305-294-5015. ■*



Photo credit: Larry Blackburn

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BY TARA MCFARLAND

Florida Keys SPCA Director of Operations  
(Marathon Campus)

“Aw he’s so cute!” “He sure is but don’t touch his.... \*Grrrrroooow-wwlllll Bark Bark!\* ...Face.”

Found wandering the streets as an unaltered male, this stray (later named Muppet) was a severely matted mess. He had tangles, burrs and dirt packed tightly to his skin. The discomfort was evident and the little stray was not accustomed to being groomed. We knew it would make him feel so much more comfortable, if only we could get the matts out.

Through kindness and patience of staff at our Marathon Campus we were able to slowly and gently begin shaving away his dirty fur, revealing fleas and raw skin. He gave very clear body language and warnings when it was time to stop. For some, the growl can be a reason they shy away from a dog, or



pass on adoption. However, a dog that growls is a dog that is communicating and is often simply showing discomfort! Growling gets a bad reputation, but the dog is just trying to say “please stop doing whatever you are doing to me right now because it is making me

so uncomfortable.” Muppet let us know when it was time to stop, and we spent days cleaning and bathing the Shih Tzu mix until he was fresh and clean!

Despite his adorable features and funny personality, it was because of the growl that many adopters passed

on adoption. We watched as family after family lost interest when we explained that his new family would have to go slowly, pay attention to his communication, and probably hire a professional groomer!

When Katie and her husband met Muppet, they listened to our adoption counselors and took their time when meeting him. They acknowledged the adjustment period, and put no pressure on Muppet. They knew they would love him, and he would learn to trust and love them back. Now they’re a happy family of three and we couldn’t be happier for Muppet! When bringing any new animal into your home, expect there to be an adjustment period which can last anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks to a few months. With love, patience and good communication, if you provide your love, support, and guidance, they will soon realize they really have found their “furrever home.”

The Florida Keys SPCA has well-trained adoption counselors to help make lifetime matches between families and pets. Our mission is to promote lifelong bonds between people and animals and help pets remain in their homes. To support this goal, we offer free support and education to our community. For more information visit us at [fkspca.org](http://fkspca.org). ■

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Photo: Lanny Blackburn

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## Robert Douglas Plays the Hog's Breath Saloon

Robert Douglas may look like a sweet, burly bear, but he might also be the best musician to go see if you're out on a date in Key West. He plays the Hog's Breath Saloon for four afternoons, 4:30 – 8:30 pm, Dec. 26 – 29.

His voice is sure to soothe, relax and put one in the mood. His nomenclature preference is "Southern-fried classic rock and blues," which he certainly is and does, but he's also much more than that. It's easy to listen to him, from his soulful Bill Withers, to his crooning David Bowie, to the best rendition of Kenny Wayne Shepherd's "Blue on Black" you've ever heard outside the original.

"I'm a bit of a chameleon with what I play," he said. "I do a variety show." ■

## Josh Gallagher Band Plays the Hog's Breath Saloon

Josh Gallagher was Season 11 contestant on NBC's The Voice who finished in 4th place in the competition. He has a couple of original singles called "We Always Had" and "Ain't No Angels."

Gallagher will play the Hog's Breath Saloon's late-shift, 9 pm – 1 am, Dec. 23 -29.

He released a couple of acoustic CDs and was performing at local Nashville establishments before his time on The Voice. He even performed at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Originally from Cresson, Pennsylvania, he would move to Nashville, Tennessee. ■

### Bombshell...

► Continued from page 16

Carlson and Kelley are direct forthright and brave but there is no dramatic push. The film is flat and monotone. Aside from the wondrous acting of Theron, Kidman, Lithgow and Robbie, "Bombshell" is tepid and incidental, feeling like a macabre circle of rogues, a mere drooling wax museum.

This is not to say that the Ailes scandal was not important. It was, it is and always will be. The toxicity continues on in other settings and goes far deeper than the comic book graphics of Fox News. This event changed our perspective, birthed METOO and made these celebrity women vocal and right as human beings, regardless of political beliefs. ■

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# Schooner Wharf "Rigging" in The New Year!

Join your friends and make new ones at the Schooner Wharf Bar New Year's Eve Celebration.

The popular waterfront watering hole once again will present its nautical New Year's Eve tradition with "The Lowering of the Pirate Wench" from the towering mast of the tall ship America 2.0 docked in front of the bar in the Key West Bight.

Everyone's favorite pirate wench and co-owner of Schooner Wharf Bar, Evalena Worthington, will descend dramatically against large, illuminated countdown numbers. The stroke of midnight will signal the start of 2020 with cannon fire and the jubilant sound of horns and noisemakers from the crowd against a backdrop of the ship's crew dressed as pirates.



Evalena Worthington and Frank Everhart toasting a new year at the unique Schooner Wharf New Year's Eve Lowering of the Pirate Wench.

Schooner Wharf has complimentary hats, party favors and horns for everyone to feel festive while enjoying holiday drink specials and live music throughout the day and night. The bash was rated by AOL as the No. 2 New Year's party in the nation – second only to the Times Square madness in New York City.

The Schooner Wharf event made the Huffington Post's 13 Amazing New Year's 2014 Photos From Around the World. Rob O'Neal's photo of Evalena at Schooner Wharf in Key West was the only photo chosen from this continent!

The festivities start early with singer/guitarist Gary Hempsey taking the stage from 11:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Gary plays acoustic rock with a twist and has fun audience interaction. Then enjoy the Caribbean vibe of the steel pan Last Mango Trio from 4:30 - 8:30 pm. Taking the stage at 9:00 'til late is the dynamic sound of Sushi Roll, a musical act that brings the crowd on a high energy, dance driven pop overdrive with over-the-top theatrical verve! It's a unique blend of dance music and rock 'n' roll swagger guar-

anteed to get you groovin' and dancin' into the New Year!

As the midnight hour approaches, a popular local DJ will play party favorites in anticipation of the Auld Lang Syne. Hoist your drink – and your eyes – toward the top of the towering mast as the countdown begins and another year ends.

But the end of the year isn't the end of the party – the Schooner New Year rocks until 4 a.m. All this and No Cover Charge.

Have a safe and exciting New Year, from your friends at Schooner Wharf Bar, "A Last Little Piece of Old Key West."

For more information, please call Schooner Wharf at (305)-292-9520, visit [Schoonerwharf.com](http://Schoonerwharf.com) or check us out on Facebook. ■

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See our ad in the Konk Life Restaurant Guide.

# 293 Prizes Worth \$16,350.....and Counting Half Year Report from <Monroe /> COMPUTE\$

**M**ONROE COUNTY, Fla. – Key West High School seniors Alejandro Booher and Cooper Holcomb, and sophomore Alexander Duran are among the first nine students in Monroe County to earn the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification for the 2019-2020 school year. “They completed Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel” explained their teacher Mr. Ebenson Michelin. “These three components are required to earn the MOS certificate.”

“Each of the nine students earned three college credits, plus \$250 from <Monroe /> COMPUTE\$,” according to Theresa Axford, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. “Studying at their own pace, each student can proceed with further certifications this school year.”

“Studying at her own pace, Key Largo 8th grader Valerie Randall has completed both the MOS certificate, plus the more difficult MOS Master certification this school year,” said Sibba



Key West High School computer science students (l to r) Alejandro Booher, Cooper Holcomb, and Alexander Duran, pictured with their instructor, Ebenson Michelin, proudly display their \$250 awards from Monroe Computes for earning their Microsoft Office Specialist certifications. In addition to the cash incentives, the students also earned three college credits. <Monroe /> COMPUTE\$ has pledged over \$100,000 in incentives for Monroe County School District students earning computer science certifications.

Mira, Career and Technical Education Coordinator. “She has already received \$500 from <Monroe /> COMPUTE\$ and she’s aiming to accumulate more

certificates before June.

“A total of 293 prizes worth \$16,350 have been earned by our students so far this year,” Superintendent Mark Porter said. “Participating schools are Key Largo, Coral Shores, Plantation Key, Treasure Village Montessori, Stanley Switlik, Marathon Middle High, Sugarloaf, Sigsbee Charter, Horace O’Bryant, and Key West High. The youngest winner was 5th grader Ava Gallo, Key Largo, who received \$50 for earning the IC3 Spark certificate.”

“I expect over 1000 certificates will be completed before June 2020,” explained John Padget, founder of the Golden Fleece Foundation that supports <Monroe /> COMPUTE\$. “The pace of completion will accelerate as we move into 2020. I hope all the winners so far will complete at least one more certificate.” The mission of the Golden Fleece Foundation, founded by Padget and Jacob Dekker, is to “enable transformations” in education. ■

## Key West Parrothead Award Community Non Profits at their Curry Mansion Events

**E**ach year the Key West Parrothead Club selects 12 nonprofits that are recipients of their Party with a Purpose events.

In the past 10 years the Key West Parrothead Club, a recognized 501 -C -3 has awarded nearly 100,000.00 to nonprofits in Monroe County.

This years’ recipients included: Wesley House Family Services, Jose Wejebe

Foundation, Bahama Village Music Program, Samuel House, MARC House, Southernmost Boys and Girls Club, SPCA, SNIP, Key West Navy League, Key West Community Sailing, Literacy Volunteers of America, and Key Deer Protection Alliance.

To find out more go to [www.keywest-parrotheadclub.com](http://www.keywest-parrotheadclub.com). ■



# Key West Women of Soul at Key West Theater

*Key West Theater and Ralph DePalma proudly presents Key West Women of Soul accompanied by the Soul of Key West Band on Sunday, December 29th.*



On March 6th 2014 PBS sponsored a musical celebration with the great “foremothers” of American music, billed as “Women of Soul: In Performance at the White House”. It was the 52nd musical production and the first featuring an all-female line-up including the Queen

of Soul, Aretha Franklin and many other stars. The evening paid homage to great female artists and their memorable music.

On December 29th the Key West Women of Soul – Terri White, Michelle Dravis, Victoria Horne, and Mina Lopez-Martin will take the stage and pay equal homage to the great women across our music culture with particular emphasis on Soul. These la-

## Maryland musician Oren Polak at the Hog's Breath Saloon

Maryland musician Oren Polak plays at the Hog's Breath Saloon, 400 Front St., mid-shift gig – 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 30 – January 5, 2020.

Polak is touring clubs along the

Southeastern United States and is looking forward to his gig at the Hog's Breath Saloon.

Come in for happy hour and give Polak a return welcome to Key West greeting. ■

dies have selected some wonderful music and will be using their spectacular talents to present a very special performance. Former Broadway star, Terri White has packed huge venues from coast to coast. The amazing voices of Michelle Dravis and Victoria Horne could be heard from coast to coast. The fantastic Mina Lopez-Martin born and raised in Key West and will try not to break any windows in the theater.

It's impossible to do this genre justice in one night but these artists are determined. They will showcase the music of Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, the Staple Sisters, Nina Simone, Jack-

ie Wilson, Prince, Chaka Kahn, with a touch of Etta James and Stevie Wonder. They will be accompanied by the Soul of Key West band, the same group that has performed with Coffee Butler in the past, led by Larry Baeder, Clayton Lopez, Larry Smith, Bubba Lownotes, Dave Langett, and others. ■

*Key West Women of Soul at Key West Theater, December 29th, 2019*

*Doors: 7:00PM // Show: 8:00PM*

*512 Eaton Street*

*Tickets: [www.thekeywesttheater.com](http://www.thekeywesttheater.com)*

*Visit: Key West Theater's box office*

*Wednesday - Saturday from 12-6PM*

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# Mayor Johnston Visits Coast Guard Sector Key West

This morning, Mayor Teri Johnston was invited to tour the United States Coast Guard Sector Key West. During the tour Mayor Johnston was briefed on the many services the U.S Coast Guards provides for the Keys including maintaining proper shipping lanes for cruise ships, rescuing distressed boaters and maintaining a secure border for the citizens of the Florida Keys.

In addition to the briefing, Mayor Johnston also received a special tour of the USCG Cutter Charles Sexton and USCG Small Station Key West. The Charles Sexton is a fast response Cutter of 154 feet in length with three officers and 20 enlisted crew members.

The Small Boat Station of Key West has approximately 50 personnel.



Pictured left to right in front of the USCGS Charles Sexton: Master Chief Petty Officer Henry Audette, Mayor Teri Johnston, Captain Adam Chamie and Lieutenant Nick Olmstead

“We would like to thank Mayor Johnston for visiting Sector Key West. We look forward to continuing to grow our partnership with the City of Key West to serve the community and those who visit the Keys” stated Lieutenant Nick Olmstead. ■

# KWFD Elves Hard at Work



Members of the Key West Fire Department are feeling the season spirit, playing Santa's elves for Toys for Tots. Station #1 is a virtual Santa's workshop as the crew gets ready to make some children very happy this year!

# American Legion Post 168 Receives \$15,000 Grant



Pictured (from left): Michael Ingram, Sarah Fowler and Joan Higgs from the Marion Stevens Fund Board of Directors; Jennifer McComb, CFFK President/CEO; Commander Glenwood Lopez, Vice Commander Bernice Hill, and Finance Officer Terry Thompson from the William Weech American Legion Post 168. (Photo by Peter Arnow)

Congratulations to the American Legion Post 168 in Bahama Village, which recently received a matching grant of \$15,000 from the Mari-

on Stevens Fund at the Community Foundation for the Florida Keys. The grant will be used to purchase and install air conditioning and windows. ■



The Reverend Steve Torrence performed a blessing of the animals Saturday morning, kicking off the annual Parade of Paws fundraiser for the Florida Keys SPCA, which took place at the Higgs Beach Dog Park. Event proceeds directly benefit the Animal Care Fund, a program that provides food, vaccinations, medical care, enrichment and other needs for the care of animals served by the Florida Keys SPCA. The Parade of Paws & Holiday Bazaar is one of numerous events happening during Key West Holiday Fest, which runs through the month of December and is presented in part by the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. For more information visit [KeyWestHolidayFest.com](http://KeyWestHolidayFest.com). (Photo Carol Tedesco/KeyWestHolidayFest.com)

# 14th Annual Key West Dachshund Walk is Monday, December 31

On Monday, December 31, Dachshund's, Dachshund impersonators, and their human companions will parade through downtown streets lined with adoring fans during the 14th Annual Key West Dachshund Walk.

People and pets are invited to gather Monday at noon at the corner of Fleming and Whitehead Streets before undertaking a three-block journey which will proceed down Fleming Street to Duval Street to Appelrouth Lane and back to Whitehead Street. Registration is not required. Costumes

are encouraged, as are donations of dog and cat food for the Community Pet Pantry.

The annual Key West Dachshund Walk is one of the final events of the island-wide Key West Holiday Fest, which runs through the month of December and is presented in part by the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys & Key West and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

For more Holiday Fest information visit [KeyWestHolidayFest.com](http://KeyWestHolidayFest.com). (Photo courtesy KeyWestHolidayFest.com). ■



## Calling All Singers

Keys Choral Arts, the area's premier choral group, is pleased to announce the beginning of rehearsals for its 2020 Spring Concert.

All singers are welcome and auditions are not required, according to Tim Peterson, Artistic Director. Keys Choral Arts is a community choir and open to anyone interested in singing high quality choral music. "All our members need," Peterson says, "is a sincere desire to make beautiful music and a willingness to learn excellent singing techniques in a professional and fun atmosphere."

Membership sign-up, music distribution and dues payment of \$135 will take place on Saturday, January 4, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Parish Hall) at 11:30 am (Some scholarships are available.) The rehearsal will follow from noon to 2 pm.

The KCA second rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, at 6:15 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2713 Flagler Ave, Key West. New membership sign-up will continue.

A third rehearsal will take place on Saturday, January 11 from noon to 2 pm at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Subsequent weekly rehearsals will continue each Tuesday evening at 7 pm. Alto/Soprano and Bass/Tenor sectional rehearsal schedules will be announced as necessary.

Paul Hayes, KCA president, is pleased with the progress of this new non-profit organization. "On March 29," Hayes states, "we will present our third official concert as Keys Choral Arts following the very successful spring inaugural beautiful and fun music chosen by Director Peterson."

Visit [keyschoralarts.org](http://keyschoralarts.org) for more information about this community singing group. KCA is a non-profit and donations are tax deductible.

For more information, please contact Tim Peterson at 561-445-1709 or visit [keyschoralarts.org](http://keyschoralarts.org). ■

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# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS

## A rare 'Old Florida' vacation rental property right on the open Atlantic Ocean

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR  
*Photos Contributed*

**T**here are open water properties – and then there is the Old Florida-style vacation rental home at 100 Sacarma Dr., on Cudjoe Key. With its sweeping vistas of the Atlantic Ocean from two sides of the open-concept living/dining room, the rear deck, and the master bedroom, the effect is similar to being aboard a deluxe cruise ship tied up at water's edge.

It's the perfect place for a weekend or week-long Florida Keys party, tucked away in a small cluster of similar vacation homes a short minute from U.S. 1 on Cudjoe Key. And this residence also presents a great investment opportunity for someone looking to turn the available seller financing and rare Transient Rental (daily-weekly) license into a net profit, that's been providing a 6 to 8 percent Return On Investment – and still enjoy a little time to themselves in the sunny Lower Keys.

Set among over 10,000 square feet of open water land, including sandy upland beach, a dock, and a spa pool on an elevated deck, this 1,200 square-foot, two-bedroom, two 1/2-bath elevated home has never flooded since construction in 1982.

Anchored by the central living room area, the home has been sleeping up to six guests per-stay over the course of a successful 15 year rental program. And there's a professional



The extra large lot, of over 10,000 square feet, provides an enclave of privacy, while adjoining other vacation rental properties, creating the opportunity for larger "retreat-type" vacations rentals.

management agency is in place with bookings well into 2020, which will be conveyed to the buyer upon closing. A guest bedroom is located off the main entrance, and a full bath located nearby. The master suite includes an extra sitting/sleeping room and private bath, and with an easy re-design, could even create a third bedroom.

Offering the best of the Keys in one place, this vacation home/investment

is being sold turn-key. There's lots of room below the sturdy home for storage of bikes, kayaks, and toys (which are all included in the purchase price,) as well as a place for cleaning fish, etc.

With great boat access, this property is a fishing enthusiast's dream!

On the sunset deck of this home is a water feature that's midway between a spa and a pool, with the best features of both, and a perfect view out over the water. It's the perfect center-

piece to the patio which, like the large Florida room immediately adjacent to the deck and roomy living area, provides plenty of indoor/outdoor entertaining space.

Central air-conditioning, stainless steel appliances, and a full-sized washer and dryer are additional features of this dream-come-true Florida beach house, which also has plenty of parking.

With immediate cash-flow from pending reservations through 2020,

# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS



The double-sized master suite, with ensuite bath, is the size of two rooms, and could be modified to create a 3-bedroom home.



Beautiful views are everywhere from the open living and dining areas.



Just steps from the living area is the breezy open deck with swim/spa-type pool.

and yearly averages of approximately 40 weeks of rentals, this is a great investment opportunity that provides the owner with some time to themselves at this retreat, in between rentals.

There is no "for sale" sign on this property and no trespassing is permitted. So book a private showing today – and don't forget your sunglasses!

*100 Sacarma Dr., on Cudjoe Key is being offered at \$1,275,000.*

*To schedule a showing, or for any other information, call Realtor/Broker ChelleBe Blades of Realty Executives Florida Keys at 305-394-4750, email [Blades@RealtyExecutives.com](mailto:Blades@RealtyExecutives.com), or contact Realtor/Executive Amy Hanson, who is also the home's Property Manager at 305-745-4030 or [AmyHanson@RealtyExecutives.com](mailto:AmyHanson@RealtyExecutives.com). ■*

[keysscribe@aol.com](mailto:keysscribe@aol.com)

# KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

## Oceanfront Vacation Rental "Tropical Paradise"

100 Sacarma Drive, Cudjoe Key

### JUST LISTED...RARELY AVAILABLE

daily/weekly vacation rental property. Situated on over 10,000 ft Cudjoe Bay Open Water lot, this 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, fully appointed vacation home has a great rental history, with bookings into 2020 and an experienced management team. With Dock, Pool, Sandy Upland Beach, and all the toys included! Seller financing available and Flood Insurance waived!

OFFERED @ \$1,275,000



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See Map

1

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

1000 Eaton Street, Key West FL 33040

High visibility on the corner of Eaton St & Grinnell St in Key West. Home of popular Bien(also known as Paseo) Restaurant. Building has been operated as successful cafe/ restaurant/take out for decades. Fully equipped for turn key continuing food service business. Building has been updated since 2010. 14 licensed restaurant seats, covered patio creates garden setting for outdoor dining with misting system in place. Several OSP parking spaces on 4020 sq foot lot in old town.



Price \$1,350,000

Affordable 2bed/1bath on canal. Good condition on large lot. 245 Geiger Road



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SEE  
MAP

2

Tucked away at the end of a quiet, walking Old Town lane sits this beautifully renovated jewel of a historic home. Twice on the OIRF tour, this lovely home has it all. Beautiful finishes highlight this wonderful property with fabulous vaulted ceiling, chef's kitchen and open floor plan making this a true gem. Lovely master suite with loft and ensuite bathroom, bamboo floors and decorator finishes. Granite floors add elegance, stained glass accents and Rick Worth painted doors add Key West charm. Newly constructed rear deck provides perfect outside peace and quiet. Make this historic oasis your own Piece of Paradise. \$799,000



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See Map

3

*Thank you to our clients  
for a wonderful year!*

### OUR 2019 TRANSACTIONS

728 Ashe St. - Seller & Buyer  
315 Amelia - Seller & Buyer  
2317 Flagler Ave. - Buyer  
1112 Florida St. Rear - Buyer  
1324 Seminary St. A - Seller  
2318 Staples Ave. - Buyer  
2016 Patterson Ave. - Buyer  
29859 Overseas Hwy. - Seller  
105 Key Haven Rd. - Seller  
58 Palm Ave. - Seller  
1405 Petronia St. - Buyer  
1119 Whitehead St. - Buyer & Seller  
1016 Varela St. Rear - Pending

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DerekAndJenna@KeysRealEstate.com  
www.KeyWestRealEstate.info



The enclosed patio with windows, doors, and screens, provides an outdoor living room, Florida-style.



This is a tranquil oceanfront setting for the whole family to enjoy. There's a dock for boating, and a sandy kayak launch too. (All the toys are included in the purchase price.) Cudjoe Bay offers great boat access to the local reefs, and a super "swimming hole" right off the beach and dock!



With its private beach and dock this home is a watersports lovers' dream.

# FEATURED HOMES

## Providing Answers for Key West Property Owners and Buyers

• <http://www.parcerealestatekeywest.com>

- Christmas in Key West
- Old Town November Home Sales Power Forward
- Optimize Your 1031 Tax Deferred Exchange with a Tax Straddle
- The Cost of GREEN Part 2 - A/C, SEER, Insulation and R-value

• <https://www.facebook.com/ParceRealEstateKeyWest>

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## 1215 Newton St, Key West, FL 33040

Excellent Meadows location! Charming Key West 3 bedroom, 2 bath conch house with many recent updates. An open kitchen and living area lead through French doors to a covered porch for outdoor living and entertainment. The porch overlooks the landscaped patio garden and beautiful old coral rock wall. Lush vegetation with mature gumbo limbo and palm trees span the property. The luxurious kitchen, bathrooms, and entryway were remodeled in 2018. Kitchen features new cabinets, marble tile floors, quartz countertops, all new stainless Bosch appliances, Kohler fixtures and farm sink with beautiful wall tile and custom walnut shelving. Both bathrooms feature new marble tile walls and floors with walk-in glass showers. Kohler and Toto fixtures throughout. Upstairs you will find access to a large private roof deck, with new Trex decking, which is a great way to enjoy the property. The deck also provides a private outdoor shower. There have been so many recent upgrades and improvements that I would like to share with you. Definitely worth your own private viewing. \$899,000



**\$899,000**



**Tina M Masters**  
305-923-0062  
[tina@yourkeywestagent.com](mailto:tina@yourkeywestagent.com)  
<http://www.yourkeywestagent.com>

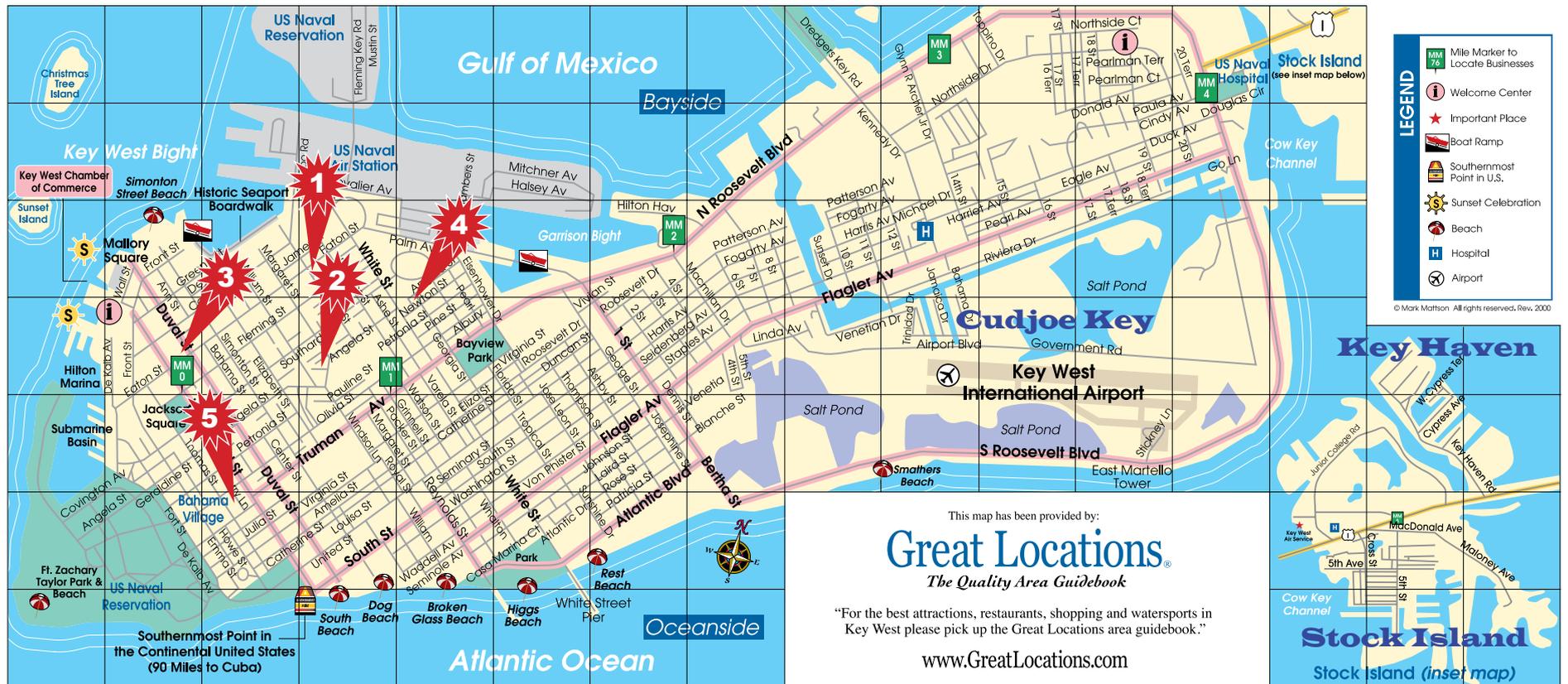
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# KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

## Featured Home Locations



### Featured Homes — Viewed by Appointment

Map #	Address	#BR/BA	Listing Agent	Phone Number
	1000 Eaton Street, Key West FL 33040		Michelle Clauson Kirby, ReMax Keys Connection	305-849-1276
	720 Passover Lane, Key West		Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
	336 Duval St, Key West, FL		Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
	1215 Newton St. Key West, FL 33040		Tina M Masters Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. (KW)	305-923-0062
	904 Terry Ln., Unit A Key West, FL 33040		Tina M Masters Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. (KW)	305-923-0062



# Key West Association of REALTORS®

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Listing Office	Selling Office	Sold Date	List Price	Sold Price	Street #	Street Name	Year Built	Style	Total Beds	Wtrfrnt	MM
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	BHHS Keys Real Estate	11/25/2019	\$ 595,000	\$ 560,000	3519	Flagler Ave	1953	Single Fam	3	No	4
Bascom Grooms Real Estate	Coastal Collection	11/27/2019	\$ 549,000	\$ 525,000	1325	20th St	1963	Single Fam	3	No	4
Keller Williams KW Compass	Keller Williams KW Compass	11/25/2019	\$ 500,000	\$ 436,800	2905	Venetian Dr	1972	Single Fam	3	Yes	3
Truman & Co.	Ocean Sotheby's International	11/25/2019	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,150,000	1220	2nd St	1950	Multi-Unit	8	No	3
Ocean Sotheby's International	Vacasa Florida	11/26/2019	\$ 235,000	\$ 220,000	3312	Northside Dr, #412	1980	Condo	1	No	3
Preferred Properties	Preferred Properties	12/3/2019	\$ 575,000	\$ 550,000	2601	Roosevelt Blvd, #202A	1967	Condo	2	Yes	3
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coastal Collection	12/3/2019	\$ 288,000	\$ 275,000	3312	Northside Dr, #608	1980	Condo	2	No	3
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	11/26/2019	\$ 529,900	\$ 515,000	1800	Atlantic Blvd, C219	1987	Condo	2	Yes	2
Royal Palms Realty	Lokation Real Estate	11/27/2019	\$ 845,000	\$ 825,000	1901	Roosevelt Blvd, #302S	1995	Condo	2	No	2
Preferred Properties	Preferred Properties	11/29/2019	\$ 1,395,000	\$ 1,200,000	1525	Von Phister St	1947	Single Fam	3	No	2
Keller Williams KW Compass	Coastal Collection	11/25/2019	\$ 620,000	\$ 620,000	904	Truman Ave	1933	Multi-Unit	3	No	1
Truman & Co.	Preferred Properties	11/27/2019	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	1100	Flagler Ave	1958	Single Fam	5	No	1
Truman & Co.	Coastal Collection	12/2/2019	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 1,100,000	904	Olivia St	1968	Single Fam	2	No	1

Based on information found in the Key West Association of Realtors® MLS from November 25th, 2019 to December 3rd, 2019.

## KONKLife OPEN HOUSE ADS

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