

# Martinis & Matisse

*What Do the Two Have in Common?*

by Angela LeMay



Honorary chairpersons 2008 Fred and Aleta Fisher with fine artist Sophie Matisse

Well... if you drink too many of the first you get a "hang over", and the latter is a masterpiece to "hang on" the wall...

...or to win in an Art Lottery to benefit the Clearwater Free Clinic, which is why over 460 art patrons and philanthropists flocked to the FrankCrum™ building for their chance at a Matisse as well as 120 other fabulous works of art. But let's not forget the delicious food, and of course the famous martinis provided by Bonefish Grill. This event was sponsored by many of Clearwater's elite and served to bring the community together to raise much-needed funds.

On a blustery January evening with a little over a week to go until the Pinellas County Municipal and Primary election day, the 5th Annual "Martinis and Matisse: An Art Lottery" was the buzz of Clearwater. Cars filled with purposed guests patiently lined North Missouri just outside the entrance to the FrankCrum™ building to attend this grand event benefiting the Clearwater Free Clinic.

While making our way into the shelter of the gala's entrance, my art director, Ana and I (huddled under one umbrella) glanced back to see if the line of cars had subsided; it had not, with the long procession inching along towards something great to come. Making our way inside, we met with another line of guests who were busily signing reception books and buying their art lottery tickets. Excitement was in the air!

Contriving my interview questions - as we were ushered through to the next "turnstile-like" checkpoint - and hoping we would soon discover a less inhabited area were we could spot my photographer Simaen to regroup and strategize our venue reporting. My plot was suddenly diverted to the site of

the event space. Much to my jaw-dropping amazement it was already overflowing and bustling with guests.

While urgently looking around for my photographer, I spotted Frank Hibbard gallantly standing with an entourage of supporters. I gave the mayor a quick glance of admiration and confidence toward his re-election.

Next, discovering Simaen clicking away paparazzi-style and capturing the essence of...

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Participating artist Raquel Egosi displays her work, "Gold Mine".

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# Firehouse Subs Donates Lifesaving Rescue Jacks

*Local Restaurant Owners Present Life-Saving Devices to Palm Harbor Fire Department*



Representatives of Firehouse Subs and the Palm Harbor Fire Department with donated rescue jacks.

On Jan 31st the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, along with Bill and Carolyn Schaefer, owners of the Firehouse Subs restaurant in Palm Harbor, presented a pair of rescue jacks, an essential tool used to stabilize and secure vehicles during extrication, to the Palm Harbor Fire Department.

Bill and Carolyn Schaefer, franchise owners of the Palm Harbor location and Mike Kelly and Richard Taylor, area representatives for the Central

Florida area, and Leslie Wildes, director of community programs were there representing Firehouse Subs. Additionally, James Angle, Fire Chief, Mark Snow, deputy chief of support services, Craig Maciuba, deputy chief of operations, Bob Markford, chief of EMS, Tim Pilson, chief of training and Dan Zinge, district chief and extrication team captain from the Palm Harbor Fire Department were in attendance.

"We appreciate the tremendous support..."

*Continued on page 11*



## Local Artist Spotlight for February OFRA FRIEDMAN



Ofra and Congressman Gus Bilirakis next to her work, "Contemporary Dance I"

Ofra Friedman creates original art using metal wire mesh. Ofra grew up in Israel. After serving two years in the Israeli Army, she moved to the U.S. in 1985, and lived 7 years in Long Island, NY, 3 years in Washington D.C. and one year in New Jersey.

From 1992-1995 she studied visual Arts at SCC College, in Long Island, New York, and completed her A.S. degree in Studio Arts with distinction. She also studied figurative sculpture in

the New York academy of Art and the Northern New Jersey Art Center.

Ofra has worked with different art media such as clay, stone, plaster and resin, and experimented with sculpture casting.

In 1997 Ofra moved to Clearwater, Florida. In 1998 she studied wire mesh sculpture at the studio of renowned artist Shulamit Hartal in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Inspired with this medium...

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## TAMPA BAY INFORMER

*The Good News Newspaper*  
www.tampabayinformer.com

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LeMay & Associates, Inc.

### Editor

Angela LeMay

### Contributing Writers

Laurie Anspach  
Joe Yazbeck  
Sheriff Jim Coats  
Valerie Harding  
Cary Goulston  
Austin Ryder

### Staff Photographer

Simaen Skolfield

### Letters to Editor

editor@tampabayinformer.com

### Press Releases

pr@tampabayinformer.com

### Advertising

sales@tampabayinformer.com  
(727) 230-9691

### Design & Layout

Ian Phoenix

### Technical Director

Uwe Stern

### VP of Operations

Ana Livingston

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### Staff Photographer Simaen Skolfield

With a passion for the arts, Simaen Skolfield has won the prestigious Grammy Award with his keen ears for capturing the realism of music and sound. In photography, he brings his uncanny skills to the visual world by framing life in its fullest senses. In photographic moments of all kinds; weddings to family, to portraits, Simaen possesses certain, rare abilities with which to capture our private world. As Simaen puts it, "I want to capture the full beauty of every special moment so our lives will be cherished again and again, the world over."

Mr. Skolfield is an independent professional digital-image-capture photographer, 'writing with light', at home here in Clearwater, Florida.

You can contact him at 727-557-6407

## Little Book of Cleveland Street Poetry - Call for Submissions



In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, Artists in Action International and the Clearwater Main Street Program will co-sponsor the Cleveland Street Poetry Walk on Saturday, April 19, 2008. This event will feature the release reading of the Little Book of Cleveland Street Poetry with copies available for sale.

### Guidelines:

1. Poems must relate to Cleveland Street, downtown Clearwater past or present, or life on the Florida Gulf Coast.
2. Poem length is limited to 36 lines (not including title line)
3. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2008.
4. Include name, address, phone and/or email address, and a brief bio.

Acceptance notification will be sent to each contributor no later than April 10, 2008.

5. Please mail submissions to:

**Stazja McFadyen**  
100 Waverly Way, #310, Clearwater, Florida 33756  
or email to [stazja@yahoo.com](mailto:stazja@yahoo.com)

All contributors will receive complimentary copies of the book.

For additional submission info, contact Stazja at [stazja@yahoo.com](mailto:stazja@yahoo.com). For more info regarding the Cleveland Street Poetry Walk, contact Shelley at [shelley@lgjaffe.com](mailto:shelley@lgjaffe.com). For more information about Artists in Action International, visit [www.artistsinactionint.org](http://www.artistsinactionint.org). For more info about the Clearwater Main Street Program, contact Anne Fogarty at (727) 562-4044.

## TAMPA BAY INFORMER PURPOSE

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**Editor**  
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# Go for Baroque EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** March 9 at 3 pm

**WHAT:** Concert by Piffaro, an internationally known Renaissance ensemble. Based in Philadelphia, Piffaro is known for its highly polished and energetic performances of late medieval and Renaissance composers. This group plays an interesting combination of ancient instruments including shawms, sackbuts, dulcians, recorders, krumphorns, bagpipes, lutes, guitars and percussion. This is the final event in the three day Go For Baroque Festival. For more info visit the festival website at: [www.goforbaroque.us](http://www.goforbaroque.us).

**WHERE:** Peace Memorial Presb. Church (the pink church downtown) 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clwr. (corner of Pierce and Ft. Harrison)

**CHARGE:** No tickets needed and seating is first come, first served. A free will offering will be taken.

**RECEPTION:** After the concert, there will be a light reception in the fellowship hall so you can meet, greet and thank the musicians.

**PARKING:** There are four places to park: behind the church off of Pierce; directly east across Ft. Harrison in large County lot; just north of the church's fellowship hall, and west in the Clearwater City Hall lot.

**INFO:** For more info, contact the church office at (727) 446-3001 or Music Committee Chair, Beth Daniels at (727) 461-1818.

## From the Desk of Sheriff Jim Coats



Frequently I am approached by citizens who are curious about the operation of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Often times these same people are interested

in getting involved, but they are unsure how they can do so. My response almost always includes an invitation to consider becoming a member of the Sheriff's Advisory Board.

The Sheriff's Advisory Board is a not-for-profit organization that has been in existence for almost fifty years and currently has more than 300 members. The group was formed in 1961 by Sheriff Don Genung and was originally known as the Junior Deputy League. At that time members had an interest in promoting the general welfare of our residents by providing services and instruction for the youth of Pinellas County. Their desire included providing programs and activities for children that allowed them to achieve recognition, build self confidence and responsibility as they developed into good citizens who obeyed the law and showed respect for individual rights.

Over the years membership grew and became known as the Sheriff's Advisory Board but the mission remained the same. The group has continued to consistently support the outreach of the Sheriff's Office in

promoting safety through education to the children of Pinellas County. This mission has been accomplished by supporting programs within the Youth Education and Services Division of the Sheriff's Office like the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, Explorer Post 900, in addition to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches, the Police Athletic League and a variety of other youth organizations.

Members also enjoy a breakfast meeting held each Thursday of the month in one of four different locations across Pinellas County. As Sheriff I greet the members as they arrive by 8:00 AM after which the breakfast commences. Following a brief business meeting, a special speaker provides a presentation in his or her area of expertise as a member of the Sheriff's Office. Through this interaction with members of the Sheriff's Office, the Advisory Board has been exposed to information about crime prevention, personal safety, the new technology being used within the Sheriff's Office, new services being provided to the community, new opportunities available to citizens, and much more.

To join the Sheriff's Advisory Board you must be an adult resident of Pinellas or an adjacent county, who is of good moral character, and you must be interested in good government and advancing the purposes of the organization. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Advisory Board is invited to contact Deputy Joni Holstein at (727) 464-6133 or the Youth Education and Services Division at (727) 464-8037.



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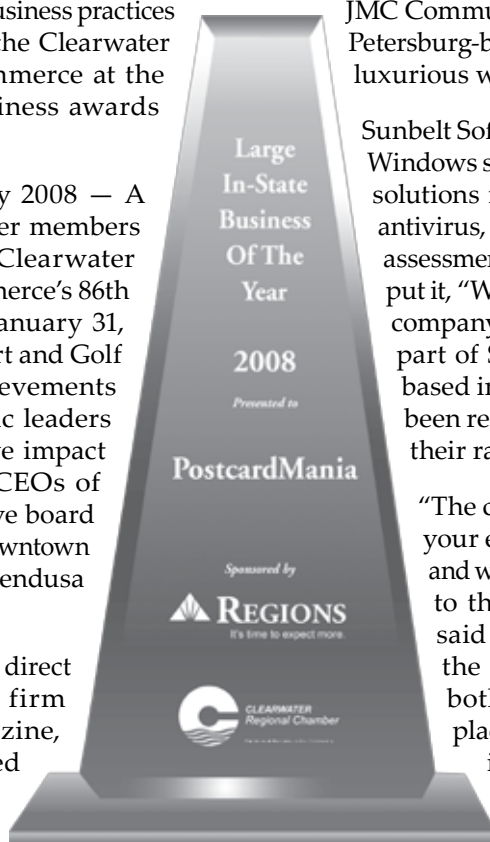
This ad paid for by supporters of freedom

## Clearwater Downtown Partnership Celebrates the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business of the Year Awards

PostcardMania and Sunbelt Software Founders achieve recognition for best business practices and exemplary growth by the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual business awards dinner.

Clearwater, FL, 4 February 2008 — A crowd of about 500 chamber members and guests attended The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce's 86th Annual Meeting held on January 31, 2008 at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club to celebrate the achievements of many business and civic leaders whom have made a positive impact on the community. Two CEOs of the 5 winners were executive board members of the Clearwater Downtown Partnership (CDP) — Joy Gendusa and Stu Sjouwerman.

Hailed as the fastest-growing direct mail postcard marketing firm in the nation by Inc Magazine, PostcardMania was honored as the 2008 Large In-State Business of the Year.



PostcardMania tied this year with the prestigious JMC Communities, an award-winning St. Petersburg-based developer specializing in luxurious waterfront communities.

Sunbelt Software is a leading provider of Windows security software with product solutions in the areas of antispam and antivirus, antispymware, and vulnerability assessment. As Stu Sjouwerman so aptly put it, "We keep the bad guys out!" The company was founded in 1994 and is part of Sunbelt International Group, based in Paris, France. They too have been recognized by Inc magazine for their rapid growth.

"The commitment you both have to your employees, business practices and world class products were evident to those making the selections," said Bob Clifford, who serves as the Chamber's Treasurer. "You both make Clearwater a better place to live and work." Clifford is also the Vice President for Business Banking at Synovis Bank in Clearwater.

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# Recession

Whether it comes or not YOU CAN BE SAFE instead of sorry...

by Austin Ryder

Most economists define a recession as the time when business activity has reached its peak and starts to fall until the time when business activity bottoms out. When the business activity starts to rise again it's called an expansion. You may be more familiar with the media's over-simplified definition such as when the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) show two or more consecutive months of downturn. Economists examine several principal indicators of business activity in the economy: employment, industrial production, real income and wholesale-retail sales.

The financial world got nervous on January 4th when one of their major indicator unemployment went up to 5 percent. This is not a serious amount because the average unemployment calculated over the last several years has been 6% but, the sudden rise was an unsettling weight against the other negative economic reports that came out in the last few weeks.

There is an old joke economists use to define the difference between recession and a depression. A recession is when your neighbor loses his job. A depression is when you lose your job. Neither scenario is funny but, it does point out the serious impact of a possible recession will have

on an individual and their family.

How can one protect against a financial calamity? First, try not to lose your job. Second, if you do lose your job you can draw the necessary funds to pay your monthly bills from the massive funds from your savings and even dip into your 401K and IRAs. You say, you have not accumulated a sufficient nest egg in order to prepare for such a situation? You don't have any retirement funds and even if you did you would be faced with large early withdraw penalties and taxed on top of that?

Well there is one source you can draw from. That's the equity from your house. Your equity is like having your own money tree. How can you prepare for a dramatic effect on your family such as losing your job? You could wait to see if you do lose your job and than ask a lending institute for a loan. Unfortunately banks and every mortgage house I know do not lend money to individuals who have no resources to pay back the loan. Even if

you have an excellent payment history and even pay extra monthly payments. Though I could never understand the concept of asking a lending institution for permission to access your own money (your equity) and then they require you to pay it back (the loan) and the worse part is the bank requires that you pay them interest (the fee for having your own money).

A solution to this problem is to "withdraw" the equity from your house now while things are good.

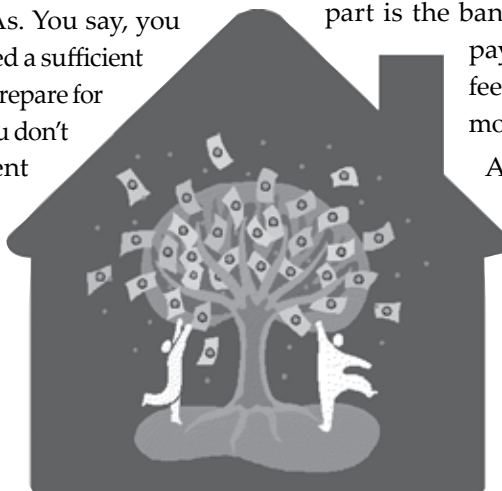
Once you have your equity separated from your house you could then put it into a safe, liquid

account that even gives you a rate of return. The funds would be there if you need them. Many individuals believe that separating your equity from your house as an unnerving situation. However, it shouldn't be and it is the only way you can have it assessible when times are hard. The average home owner refinances his house every 3 to 5 years and according


to the National Association of Realtors, property values doubles every ten years. One only needs to stop and think of the powerful source of wealth that your home generates. Unfortunately, most home owners trap their equity in their homes. Homes that are destroyed by natural disasters and not covered by Homeowner's insurance. Think of the loss of homes and their equity lost to Katrina in New Orleans and Mississippi. Think of all those homeowners facing foreclosure whose equity is lost to the banks. It doesn't matter if you own 10% or 90% of your house if you miss several mortgage payments your lender has the legal right to foreclose. Why give your bank your house and thousands of dollars in equity as a gift? We may go into a recession or the current stimulus programs that the government are trying to enact may divert this direction.

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## What is “The Natural Health Association”?

by Cary Goulston

The Natural Health Association is a group of natural health practitioners and professionals aligned and working together to provide natural health solutions to the public as an alternative to needless drugs and surgery.

We are here to provide information and resources to help people live happier, healthier lives. Our website is one source for you. Go to [www.thenaturalhealthassociation.com](http://www.thenaturalhealthassociation.com) and check out our member directory, where you meet all manner of natural health practitioners and professionals offering a wide range of natural services and products.

While on our website, listen to our radio shows or read articles from our members, which will further enlighten

and educate you on the natural solutions available to you.

You can also join the Natural Health Association. We have many benefits to our members and more are coming. Just go to our website:

[www.thenaturalhealthassociation.com](http://www.thenaturalhealthassociation.com)

It is possible to live a healthier and happier existence without taking desperate and destructive measures, or putting harmful toxins in one's body.

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## Rule by Fear

### To Vaccinate Or Not To Vaccinate, Part V

by Valerie J.

How would you like to be summoned to report at the local court house with your children and hold them still while they were forcibly vaccinated? And how would you act, if on arriving, you were herded into the courthouse with 1,600 other “non-compliant parents” by armed guards and attack dogs? Would the “choice” of up to ten days in jail or a fifty dollar fine for every day your child was out of compliance silence any thought of protest or would you demand evidence that you were breaking the law? Would you dare argue that your sobbing child was allergic to ethylene glycol, a vaccine ingredient, and a main ingredient in antifreeze? Would you insist that you should be permitted to call your attorney? Would you back-up your neighbor's complaint that her eldest daughter's autism was caused by her first vaccination? Relax! These are not loaded questions from the latest psychiatric parent-screen quiz but important questions you should ask of organizations such as The National Vaccine Information Center, ([www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org)), 703-938-0342, Vaccine Liberation, ([www.vaclib.org](http://www.vaclib.org)) and Parents Requesting Open Vaccine Education, ([www.vaccineinfo.org](http://www.vaccineinfo.org)). For more information documented by scientific research go to ([www.NMAseminars.com](http://www.NMAseminars.com)), 440-239-3438.

Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, author, lecturer and foremost authority on vaccinations says, “A growing number of parents are reconsidering and questioning, not only if vaccines are safe but if they are even necessary...The International Mortality Statistics

Report documents that the number of diseases we vaccinate against--Polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, DPT and measles – had dramatically declined prior to the implementation of any of these vaccines. In recent years, major outbreaks of measles and pertussis have occurred in fully-vaccinated populations of children.

You will be relieved to discover that you don't have to subject your child to the possibility of the very real dangers that have occurred by the thousands throughout the world: ADHD, violently aggressive behavior, serious allergies, autism, brain damage and death.

Dr. J. Decuyper reports: In one study parents were asked to specifically observe any changes in their child's behavior or physical condition after a vaccination. Only 7% stated ‘no reactions at all’, from which one can deduce that 93% of the children had some reaction to the shot.

“It is vital”, she says, “to study your state's exemptions and to seek out natural

alternatives.” Call 727- 449-8080 for this data in volume 11, issue 1, Vaccinations – Help or Harm?

To reduce lawsuits, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 was a landmark vaccine safety and compensation law passed by Congress after 5 years of effort by the National Vaccine Information Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and several vaccine manufacturers. Then on November 13 2002, the Homeland Security Bill was passed. The last four sections of the bill (1714-1717) shielded the pharmaceutical industry from lawsuits caused by FDA approved vaccines, such as mercury containing pediatric vaccines associated with the development of autism.

Seeking fewer lawsuits, Physician organizations and vaccine manufacturers asserted this would help ensure the availability of vaccines and result in reduced prices. Parents fought hard to have to have safety provisions as part of the law in an effort to prevent other children from suffering a vaccine injury or death.

In an effort to help parents make better informed decisions doctors are required to provide parents with written information prior to delivering vaccinations. The Federal Government is required to promote the improvement of existing vaccines and the development of safer vaccines; so fewer children would suffer adverse effects..

In the past 10 years autism has increased by 500% in most states, and some parents associate their child's autism with an MMR vaccine reaction or with Thimerosal, a preservative used in some vaccines for many years. Thimerosal is a mercury derivative (a known neurotoxin which kills braincells) used in killed and recombinant vaccines to prevent the growth of bacteria in multi-dose vials.

Why do we need to preserve the right to bring a lawsuit?

Vaccination is a medical procedure that carries a risk of injury or death and is performed on a healthy individual. It would be the greatest injustice to require vaccination by law, knowing that some children will be permanently brain-damaged or even die as a result, and then to single out these children and their parents by taking away their right to common law protection and the right to go to court. That is hardly real justice. Indeed! Wouldn't you consider it a clear violation of Human Rights?

Why would we, the People, tolerate this violation of our rights? Or in the Maryland case – tolerate such a violation of parental consent?

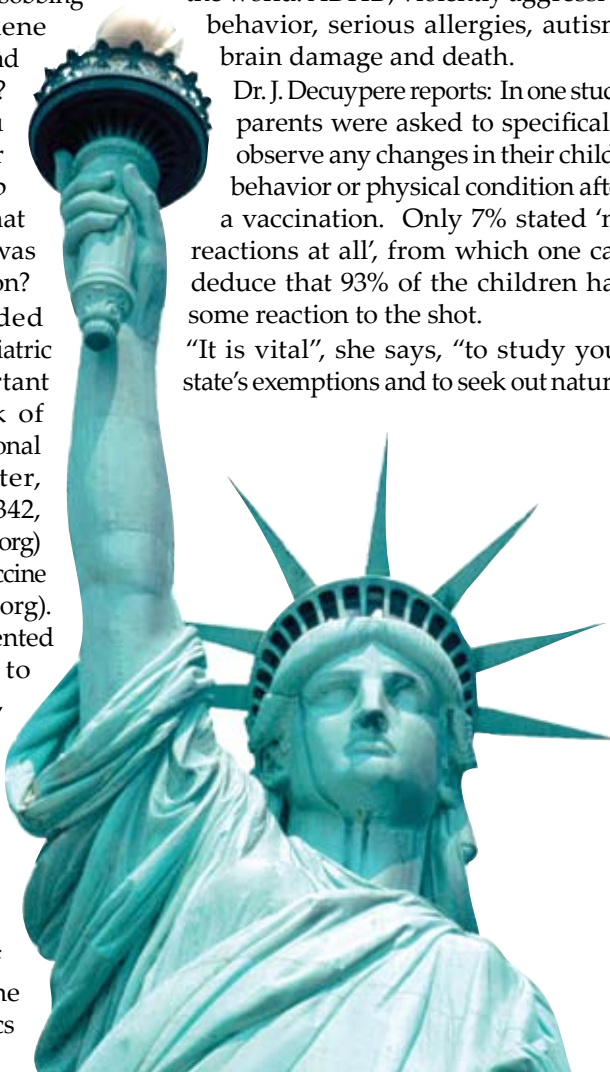
Presidential Candidate Dr. Ron Paul states the reason succinctly.

“The Fear Factor. When people are fearful, they tend to be willing to surrender their rights. Thus Fear is a threat to national liberty. The psychology of fear is an essential component of those who would have us believe we must increasingly rely on the elite who manage the apparatus of central government”.

“The statement, ‘Those who would give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety deserve neither Liberty nor Safety’ has been attributed to Benjamin Franklin. It is clear people seek out safety and security when they are in a state of fear, and it is the result of this psychological state that often leads to the surrender of liberty.”

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### Martinis & Matisse

*Continued from front page*

...the social event, I was finally able to relax. I began to lay aside my journalistic plans allowing myself to get caught up in the enjoyment of the event and report from the experience.



Friendly Bonefish Grill staff during the event

My first order of business was to partake in the refreshment. I was delighted with the wide assortment of tasty food, desserts and beverages provided by the eager and smiling staffs of Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Guppy's on the Beach, E&E Steakout Grill, Marlin Darlin Grill, Salt Rock Grill, Mecca Café, Bella Vino and Incredible Edibles. Momentarily satisfied, I moved on to the next goal; to win a prized piece of art.

Just when I thought my senses couldn't be further delighted, my attention became riveted on the incredible array of artwork donated by the 120 participating artists and galleries. Moving along with the enthusiastic shoulder-to-shoulder crowd that included Congressman Gus Bilirakis, I observed attendees viewing each displayed piece of art and dropping their lottery tickets into the corresponding oversized martini glasses stationed on pedestals. I followed suit and deposited my tickets into my favorites' glasses with much anticipation.

It was with pleasure that I had the opportunity to meet with two of the participants, both from Israel, but excelling in different artistic mediums: Sculptor, Ofra Friedman donated her remarkable piece, "Contemporary Dance I" formed in wire mesh. You can find out more about Ofra in this month's Local Artist Spotlight.

Additionally, long time artist Raquel Egosi donated her painting "Gold Mine". She engaged in painting 15 years ago in Brazil and studied with world-renown painter Tran Tho and stated that throughout the years she's developed a unique method of her own, utilizing pigments and alcohol. Her work features amazing abstract images in vivid colors with pleasing combinations of shades and special effects. To see more of her creations and give thanks to her contribution, visit her website: [www.RaquelEgosi.com](http://www.RaquelEgosi.com).

Sincere thanks and commendations go out to:

- 2008 Honorary Chair Persons, entrepreneur and philanthropist Fred Fisher and lovely wife Aleta Fisher, who care deeply about the community and support the Clearwater Free Clinic.
- Special guest artist Sophie Matisse, the great granddaughter of Henri Matisse.
- The 460 patrons who attended.
- 105 participating artists & 5 galleries.
- Participating restaurants & food vendors.
- Frank and Brenda Crum of the FrankCrum™ family-owned and run staffing agency.

It is my summation that this benefit was a success for all involved and set an example of what can be accomplished when the community unites for a common purpose. Make sure to contact the Jeannie Shapiro at the Clearwater Free Clinic to get involved in next year's event.

– Angela LeMay

# Poetry

## Ballroom of Freedom

*Last night in my dream  
you danced in forever  
ballroom of freedom.*

*You laughed and sang,  
lifting your gypsy wife,  
kissing her into mirth.*

*Onlookers were beguiled.  
Your happiness smiled  
my dream to life.*



Stazja McFadyen

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[www.artistsinactionint.org/artists\\_directory/poets.htm](http://www.artistsinactionint.org/artists_directory/poets.htm)

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# Presenting the Presenters

Association of Performing Artist Presenters (APAP) makes HUGE IMPACT at recent New York City annual convention.

by Joe Yazbeck



This was my first visit to this large gathering of hundreds of agencies, producers, promoters, presenters and schools representing and supporting performing artists across the spectrum of music, theater, dance, comedy, etc. throughout the world. After attending this major event at The New York Hilton Hotel, it inspired me to tell you what I discovered.

And so I begin with what was a remarkable first day of conferences held throughout these spaces that brought hundreds to each conference with articulate and insightful panel discussions on important and timely topics such as, "The Keys To Effective Dialogue with Your City & Local Government", given by the executive producer of "Celebrate Brooklyn" which outlined that locality's key effective points in presenters and artists collaborating in successful relationships to provide communities with what they really need performance-wise.

Hot topics covered in an always needed subject, "Rising To The Challenge: The Future Of Arts Marketing" provided by the Dir. of Marketing & Communications, Performing Arts Center of Maryland, brought fully into view fresh research on audiences and new and better approaches to marketing the arts, resulting in full houses at venues.

The conference which pleasantly surprised me was,

"The Role Of Global Music In Geopolitical Diplomacy" co-hosted by Global Music Group, Ozomatli and an international group called Search For Common Ground which promotes itself with the purpose of "transforming the way the world deals with conflict". It was not surprising in that it was the largest attended. What raised a very agreeable eyebrow was the focus on how music and theater have become a tool of cultural diplomacy where artists reach across the cultural and political divides and synchronize musical and political goals with a nation's foreign policy; in a sense, how the arts become an undeniable tool in reducing struggle, conflict, and strife amongst and between nations.

It was from this conference I began to understand the focus that this convention was promoting and the societal responsibilities that are clearly put on presenters of performing artists.

This convention was abuzz with hundreds of creatively adorned booths with producers, promoters, agents and presenters displaying their rosters of artists and shows from around the globe. Even our Tampa Bay area was represented by the following exhibitors and artist whom I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with:



Craig Hankenson and Christopher Brooks of Producers Inc.

Founder Craig Hankenson of the Tampa-based group, "Producers Inc.", who represents over 1,000 artists culminating over a 27-year period and bringing entertainment to

many venues world-wide. Tampa is fortunate to have him here.

Clearwater resident and 22 Platinum Award-winning Universal Singer/Songwriter David Pomeranz who is currently enjoying a successful concert tour across the US with his new "Charlie Chaplin, A Life In Concert" showing at the Metropolitan Room in New York that weekend.

I highly recommend that you see this concert which in a journey of tremendous imagination, warmth and power, David Pomeranz portrays, through his musical score, the brilliant and complex life story of Charlie Chaplin.

- Next Show Opens: April 10, 2008 -April 13, 2008
- Location: Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts Melbourne, FL 32935
- Tickets & Info: 321-242-2219 www.theatermania.com

Author, actress and producer, Dorothy Leeds, who I met many years ago when I had the fortune of using her bestselling book, "Power Speak" to help create my college curriculums and professional training programs.



Dorothy Leeds and Joe Yazbeck

Dorothy is now enjoying success through her well written and performed one-woman show, "Good Lessons from Bad Women". Tampa Bay hopes to see her perform here soon.

During this 4 day convention, I visited with many other groups representing the wide spectrum of Broadway touring companies, Jazz booking agencies, one person shows, tribute productions, classical music, children's theater, dance companies to world music and theater. Discovering an excitement ignited by purpose with each booth I visited, I felt like an exhilarated kid at an amusement park thirsting for more time to experience all that interested me.

As a catalyst of an artistic renaissance, presenting the presenters at this convention was in itself like an artistic wave that I sincerely expect will continue to build and make its aesthetic mark on the world.

It certainly says to performing artists and writers everywhere to continue creating and performing...you have presenters purposed and prepared to give you audiences!

Joe Yazbeck  
Arts Reporter & Editorial Writer  
Tampa Bay Informer

jyazbeck@heartbeatproductionsinc.com  
727-489-2349

## Local Artist Spotlight for February – Ofra Friedman (Continued from front page)

...and technique, Ofra started working with steel and copper wire mesh in her studio in Florida. She also collaborated with a glass artist to incorporate wire mesh with glass.

In 1999, she exhibited wire mesh sculptures in Indian shores, Florida. Since then she has taken part in various group exhibitions including two solo exhibitions, received multiple commissions and sold over 30 sculptures. Her work was published

in magazines such as The Tampa Bay and The Performing Artist Magazines.

Currently Ofra lives in Florida with her husband and two children, and works out of her studio in Clearwater. She is an active member of the artists' organization "Artist in Action International" whose purpose is "To imbue our culture with life through art".

ofra@thesculptor.org  
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"Leaves and Lives II", wire mesh sculpture by Ofra Friedman

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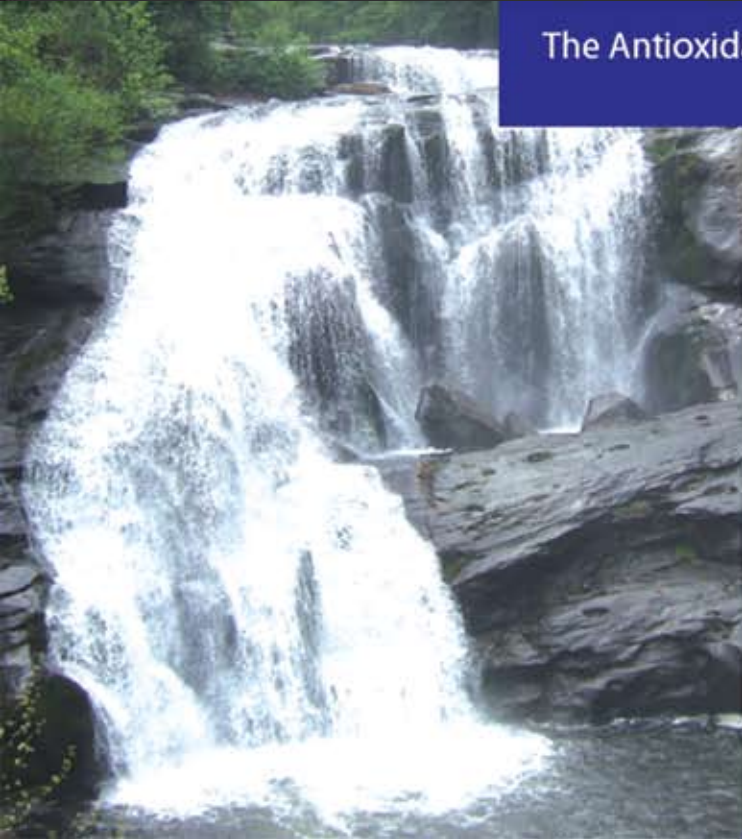
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# *“Special” Education...* Education or Medication?

Guest Editorial by Ms. Laurie Anspach, Mental Health Activist and Executive Director of Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida



Children are being placed in “Special Education” under a number of different categories. The Federal regulation, that determines who gets placed in Special Education classes and what type of education they are entitled to, is the Individuals Disabilities Education Act. (IDEA).

The IDEA was originally enacted by Congress in 1975 to make sure that children with disabilities had the opportunity to receive a free appropriate public education, just like other children. When one thinks of “disabilities”, one may think of a physical handicap or impairment that requires more Teacher/Student supervision in order to ensure a full education for the student. Yet, over the last few decades, “disabilities” has grown to mean a lot more than that.

The definition of a child with a disability is “with mental retardation, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities”. (TITLE 20, CHAPTER 33, SUBCHAPTER I, § 1400 ) Each of the “other health impairments or learning disabilities”, carry with them, a label that is placed on the child; labels that will follow your child into adulthood.

The original intention of IDEA is to help ensure that all children have a good education. This is something that most parents would agree with. Unfortunately, the categories of “other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities” have opened the door to the bogus diagnoses that are voted into existence and itemized in the “Diagnostic Statistical Manual” (psychiatry’s bible).

With the categories of “other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities” we have walked ourselves into an age in which children (as young as toddlers) can be diagnosed, without medical evidence of having any disorder, and labeled and placed in the Special Education classes. Once, a bright, creative, intelligent and independent child, who perhaps is “too much of a handful” for most teachers and school counselors, is now considered “other health impaired”.

Following the diagnosing and labeling of

the child, is the referral to a psychiatrist for the prescribing of psychiatric drugs. These psychiatric drugs are at the height of controversy in the newspapers across the nation. FDA warnings placed on these drugs include side effects of hallucinations, mania, suicidal ideation, aggression, heart attacks and sudden death.

IDEA has been revised many times over the years. The most recent amendments were passed by Congress in December 2004, with final regulations published in August 2006. So, in some senses, the law is very new, even as it has a long, detailed, and powerful history.

The changes that were made in 2004, address the issue of Parental Consent. For any parent who has gotten a “permission slip” from their child, you will understand that these permission slips or parental consent forms, are typically given to you by your child, for a field trip, a special event at school, or for disciplinary reasons, and is something you usually get when you are running around at home, trying to make dinner, get the kids to school, get yourself to work, etc. Permission slips or parental consent forms are something that should be read, thoroughly, and at times, with a magnifying glass. Do not skip through these forms, as often they are a parental consent form for an “intervention program”, mental health questionnaire, or for special education. You, as a parent, need to be fully informed about your child’s education. Your basic human right of being fully informed is vital to the future of your child’s education, their future jobs and their overall well-being. Times have changed, and mental health is a factor in public education.

“There has been no objective criteria established for any disorder listed in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV and the National Institute of Mental Health Consensus Conference on ADHD acknowledged that as of yet there is no diagnostic test that is objective and the conception of this being a neurological entity has not been delineated. However, 6,000,000 American children have received this diagnosis and are given Schedule II amphetamine drugs to ‘treat’ this highly subjective ‘disorder’. There has been the argument that providing parental informed consent will lead to children not being properly ‘diagnosed.’ We should then ask- who is then to assume control over the lives of children? Who intends



to usurp the parental role? In addition, it has often been psychiatric intervention which has actually led to more harm than good.

All psychiatric drugs have serious side effects, and we are now finding that stimulants can lead to psychosis and mania and anti-depressants now carry black box warnings about the potential for suicidal thought. By informed consent, parents can know the necessary information to make an appropriate choice about their children’s well being.” Dan Edmunds, D.ED, Psychologist

If a parent gets a parental consent form, regarding special education, they need to know, per the 2004 changes, that the school needs to make “reasonable” efforts to obtain the parents consent.

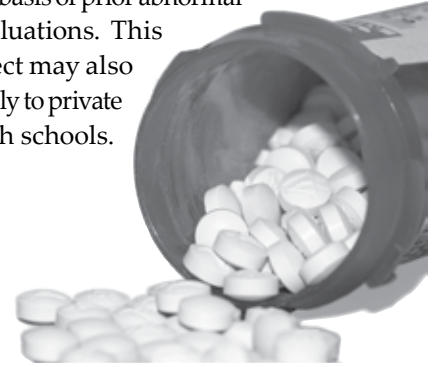
Regarding parental consent for re-evaluations (translated, this means if the school wants to re-evaluate your child for Special Education): “if a parent refuses to consent to a re-evaluation, the public agency may, but is not required to, pursue the re-evaluation by using the consent override procedures”. This emphasizes the reasons why it is important for the parents to take an active role in their child’s education. Stay involved, stay in touch with the teachers and counselors and see how your child is progressing. This will prevent any type of override of your own intentions for your child’s education.

Also, that in order for a school “to meet the reasonable efforts requirement to obtain informed parental consent for an initial evaluation, initial services, or a re-evaluation, a public agency must document its attempts to obtain parental consent...”

The schools have the open door to watch out for disciplinary problems on campus, tardiness, skipped classes, or generally, “insufficient” progress by the student. You, as the parent, can watch over your child’s progress and understand what the school is looking at. For instance, per the 2004 changes in IDEA “...a child has a specific learning disability if the child does not achieve adequately for the child’s age or to meet State-approved grade-level standards in one or more of eight areas (e.g., oral expression, basic reading skill, etc.)”

“From a psychiatric standpoint this labeling

may be permanent and may adversely affect the child’s subsequent academic and social progress. For instance, access to psychiatric diagnoses by college admission departments may result in individuals being rejected for college admission on the basis of prior abnormal evaluations. This effect may also apply to private high schools.



Who is there to protect the information obtained in psychiatric tests, and guarantee confidentiality? Such confidentiality will be very difficult to maintain.

Permanent stigmatization of a child with a psychiatric diagnosis may occur. This label will follow the child throughout his life. Even if the problem is addressed, treated and cured (for example, through physical and medical testing that reveals a bona-fide medical condition), the stigma of the diagnosis is likely to remain indefinitely. Such is the case throughout the world of medicine with diagnoses such as manic depressive disorder, diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, and hypertension.”

Allan Sosin, MD

Florida schools must be required to comply with IDEA and fully inform parents of all of the consequences, risks and alternatives to exceptional student evaluation for emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities and “other impairments”, including the predictable outcome of that evaluation – psychotropic medication.

“Without question the testing will lead to a recommendation or insistence on drug therapy for many children. This would be a dangerous situation. Therefore there is no control whatsoever on the use of drugs for emotional or psychiatric abnormalities. It is well known that children initiated on psychiatric medications are maintained on those medications indefinitely, and children may be subject to such drug use, possibly compelled to such drug use, in adult life.”

Allan Sosin, M.D.

Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Florida is a non-profit watchdog organization dedicated to eradicating psychiatric abuse and raising public awareness of the facts about the field of mental health. For more information about your rights or the harmful effects of psychiatric drugs, call our Hotline at 800-782-2878.



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# FIREHOUSE SUBS

FOUNDED BY FIREMEN



Clayton Miller, owner of Day's Collision Painting & Repair Inc. in Palm Harbor volunteers his work to provide practice vehicles to local fire stations.

## Firehouse Subs Donates Lifesaving Rescue Jacks

*Continued from front page*

...our restaurant has received from residents of Palm Harbor," said Bill Schaefer. "The need for rescue jacks for the fire department provided us with the privileged opportunity to show our gratitude by supporting our local fire department, which will in turn, help save lives and protect the community."

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) is dedicated to improving the life-saving capabilities of emergency services in communities served by Firehouse Subs by providing funding, resources and support to public safety entities.

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Palm Harbor fire fighters demonstrate donated rescue jacks.

The Foundation was created by Robin and Chris Sorensen, Firehouse Subs' founders, in 2005 to make their commitment to public safety a focus for the company.

Firehouse Subs and all who participated in the fundraising Deserve Special Thanks and Commendation for their contribution to the community.

Firehouse Subs, founded in Jacksonville, Fla., is a quick service restaurant chain that specializes in hot subs from the steamer. Firehouse Subs is recognized for serving large portioned subs with premium meats and cheeses, steamed hot and placed atop fresh produce on freshly baked, toasted bread. The restaurant offers a family-oriented atmosphere, complete with an authentic firefighter theme which celebrates the founding family's 200 years of firefighting service. For more information on Firehouse Subs, visit the website, www.firehousesubs.com.

- Staff Reporter

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# HUMAN RIGHTS walkathon 2008

**WALK FOR FREEDOM!**

March 1, 2008 • N. Straub Park • St. Pete, FL  
 Begins at 9:00 AM • Speakers & Entertainment begin at 10:00 AM

Put your best foot forward at the **Second Annual Human Rights Walkathon!** Join Tampa Bay Youth for Human Rights and Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking at this fun filled event for food, entertainment, educational speakers and to walk with like-minded individuals supporting human rights around the world. This event is free. The participation of groups and individuals interested in ending modern slavery and promoting the realization of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is welcome.

To sign up Call (727) 831-9449 or  
 e-mail humanrightswalkathon@gmail.com

Visit www.humanrightswalkathon.org

Receive a FREE T-shirt with a \$50 pledge or more!  
 Download your pledge sheet at www.humanrightswalkathon.org

**Our Purpose:** In these dangerous times people of all faiths must come together to educate ourselves and our youth in basic human rights. These rights were set forth by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our purpose is to unite all people in these rights and to make them a reality. Through education we can end war, slavery, discrimination and intolerance.

The Human Rights Walkathon is a coalition event between YHR and FCAHT organized and presented by the Human Rights Group Inc. [www.stophumantrafficking.org](http://www.stophumantrafficking.org) | [www.youthforhumanrights.org](http://www.youthforhumanrights.org)



## WARNING ALERT for COASTAL HOME OWNERS

Citizens Insurance will drop insurance coverage on your home effective January 1, 2009 unless all openings have approved protection in place under a new Florida State law.

If you wait until hurricane season starts in only 100 days, you could end up with no hurricane protection and no insurance coverage next year. Hurricane protection installers will soon be over-booked, you will pay too much and your choices will be limited.

You must act now to get approved and attractive opening protection installed at an affordable price.

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The Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association, Inc.

# Addicts Cannot Stop Using Drugs

For Two Reasons:  
 Mental and physical cravings caused by drug residues, which remain in the body

40 YEARS OF WORLDWIDE DRUG REHABILITATION





# TAKE THE IRON GIRL CHALLENGE!

**J**oin the Iron Girl Team for the fifth annual Aflac Iron Girl 10K and 5K Run/Walk on April 5, 2008. The longest-standing event in the Aflac Iron Girl National Series will take athletes along a waterfront course in Clearwater, FL, one of the world's most-visited beach destinations. Featuring a picturesque run over the Memorial Causeway and a turn-around point at the well-known Pier 60, this course is the perfect combination of challenge and fun. Seasoned athletes and novices alike will appreciate the scenery and ideal racing conditions.

Unique features include performance shirts sized just-for-women, personalized race bibs, IPICO Sports timing, custom finisher medals and much more. Celebrate your accomplishment at the post-race catered Breakfast Café and awards ceremony as we recognize the top

three finishers in each division, acknowledge participants of all fitness levels and showcase inspirational athlete stories. Fundraising efforts will benefit the Ulman Cancer Fund to help support young adults living with and recovering from cancer.

Since its launch in 2004, Iron Girl has established itself as a premier all-women's event series. Iron Girl has matured from two short-distance events in 2004 to a growing list of events varying in distance from 5K to triathlon and duathlon. The mission of Iron Girl is to empower women toward a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about the Aflac Iron Girl 10K and 5K Run/Walk, as well as Iron Girl's nine other events nationwide, visit:

[www.IronGirl.com](http://www.IronGirl.com)



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"This is by far the most beneficial thing I've ever done for myself in my life!!"

"Mojave Academy's Life Basics™ program has really opened my eyes in life to all the possibilities, most importantly the possibility to be happy and ethical in life. When I first came to Mojave I was unhappy and dark with no willingness to help others as well as myself; success was not an option. Now I enjoy production and I'm really able to do anything I put my mind to. I really understand what it means to be in exchange not only with my parents but also with the school. My life has really improved since I've been in exchange. My ethics level has risen dramatically over my time at Mojave, now I really stick to the morals of the group and I don't have to constantly watch myself to make sure I'm not in the middle of a big mess. I've straightened out my life for good, no more going up and down.

*"I don't have the need to 'fit in' anymore."*

"Another thing Life Basics has helped me with is initiative. Now I love to study and often times I'll occupy myself with a book rather than relaxing. I even study every night instead of hanging out with my friends. I also have a lot more confidence in myself, I'm a lot more outspoken with my opinions and I don't have the need to 'fit in' anymore.



"I am *me*, a happy responsible student.

"I'd like to thank my parents for the opportunity and for always supporting me and of course the staff for helping me even when I acted like I didn't want it!"

Tiffany Koch  
Student, 13 years old.



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