

Egret

December 2016
VOLUME 59 NUMBER 12

Miami Shores | Biscayne Park | El Portal
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Meltz, President, Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce



December wraps up the final month of my tenure as President of the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce. I was flattered to be asked by my board colleagues to serve a second year as your President, something that is a bit unusual, and I was happy to do so. Now my photo goes on the back wall at the Chamber, along with the fifty two individuals who have served before me. It's a distinguished group: former mayors, realtors, dentists, attorneys, university leaders, and shop owners.

I want to thank all of you- Chamber members and community leaders- who have made my two years so memorable and express my appreciation for your support of the Chamber, monetarily and with your attendance at our events. I leave with many fond memories, Green Day, our Annual Dinners, fun Mixers and more. Just one regret, I think, and that is that I didn't serve long enough to see the completion of the downtown water and sewer project and the resultant restaurants, but I know that will happen in 2017. Thanks also to my fellow board members who served alongside me for your unwavering support.

Our next Chamber President will be just our 11th woman leader in over 67 years, and that cheers me as a father of daughters. I want to encourage our next generation of leaders to work as hard as those who came before me have, to keep Miami Shores, Biscayne Park, El Portal, and North Bay Village the great places to live and work that they are. Hope to see you at Chamber events in 2017!

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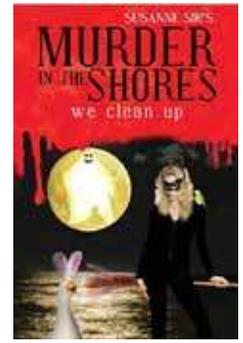
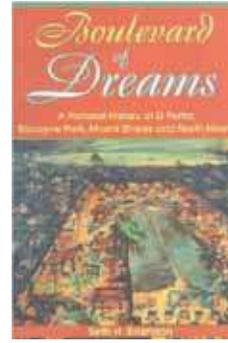
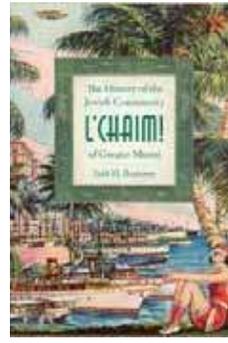
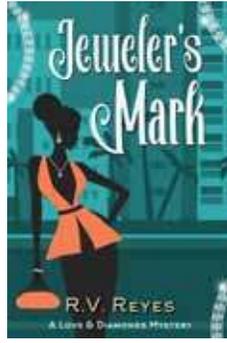
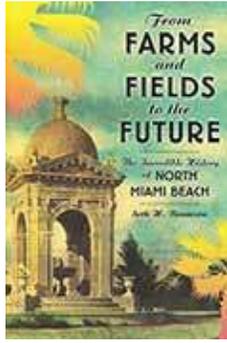
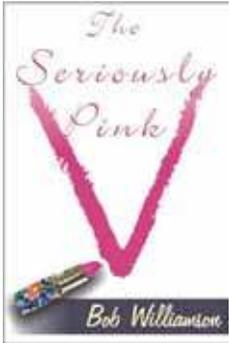


IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Raquel V. Reyes, Senior Columnist



MIAMI SHORES WRITERS MAKE THEIR MARK



Miami Shores despite its small geographic size has a large pool of literary talent. Within our 3.7 square miles, we have quite a few authors. I'm highlighting them in this issue because two of our local authors had book signings at Brockway Library recently. Susanne Sir's was in November and mine was in October.

During the question and answer part of my library talk, I was asked about my writing process. Being as I write both fiction (mystery) and topical articles/essays, the process is different for each. With articles and essays, the subject matter is often decided by the editor or publication, as is the length. But in fiction it all must come from the writer's imagination. There are two kinds of fiction writers—plotters or pantsers. Plotters plan the action, plot twists, and storyline ahead of time. Pantsers, on the other hand, just sit down and write letting the story take them

wherever it may go. I am something of a hybrid, a plantser. My process is to build a plot skeleton with major actions and twists then I let the story and characters lead me into the details.

In my mystery novel, *Jeweler's Mark*, I began the writing process with knowing the setting (Miami), the crime (counterfeiting and a murder), the romance (a handsome police detective), the protagonist (a pair of Latina best friends), the villains (the Russian mob) and the resolution. (Sorry, no spoilers.) The details came as I developed the characters' backgrounds. Case in point, Gigi, jewelry designer and main character, has to run away from danger in one scene. Her pursuer should be able to catch her as she is in high heels but, I needed her to just barely escape. The idea came to me that if she'd been a track star in high school then running fast in heels would be probable. That eureka moment

led me to Gigi having an engraved silver whistle which led to a humorous scene that was not in my original story skeleton.

If you would like to purchase my book, *Jeweler's Mark*, it is available at The Shores Shop. The Chamber's shop has fiction and non-fiction books by other local authors, as well. Susanne Sir has two books in her *Murder in the Shores* mystery series: *The Fortune Cookie* and *We Clean Up*. Bob Williamson's *The Seriously Pink V* is there, too. Our resident and renowned historian, Seth Bramson also has several titles on Florida's unique history.

Books make great gifts. Stop by the Shores Shop for your holiday shopping to pick up a few!

Raquel Reyes is a writer living in Miami Shores. Check out www.rvreyes.com for more information about her.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

From **Brockway Memorial Library**: The Library Film Lecture Series continues! Dan Hudak from Hudak on Hollywood discusses how and why movies are so memorable using classic films as examples. December 1st & 15th: Cinematography and Editing 6-7:30 p.m.. Cost per participant/per session: \$5.00. Registration required. The final lecture of the “Unity 360 - Community Race Dialogues” will take place at Brockway Memorial Library on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.. Dr. Tameka Bradley Hobbs will discuss her new book Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida. Register at <http://unity360.eventbrite.com>

Known as “The Golden Voice,” international entertainer, Lawrence Branchetti will perform holiday and classic songs of Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Henry Mancini in the style of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra at Brockway Library on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.. Free. Refreshments will be served. All ages welcome! Registration preferred. Living with grief and loss is one of life’s most difficult challenges, especially during the holidays. Please join Patti Stauber RN, LCSW as she discusses the main ingredients for healthy grieving for oneself and others. Thursday, December 8th, 6-7:00 p.m. RSVP for this free session at 305-758-8107.

Local actor and historian, Robert Dawson, will perform as Charles Dickens, himself, in “Plum Pudding & the World of Charles Dickens.” Hear how Dickens almost singlehandedly saved Christmas in England with his beloved story, “A Christmas Carol” and other fun facts. Free. Saturday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m. Registration preferred 305-758-8107. Refreshments will be served.

DaVine @ MSPC, a new worship service at **Miami Shores Presbyterian Church (MSPC)**, started on Sun., November 6. They are excited to share this new worship

service with the community. MSPC youth came to Pastor Kim Robles over the summer suggesting a casual youth driven worship service. They wanted something with music that is more relatable and an atmosphere that is less intimidating to people unchurched and unfamiliar with the formalities of traditional worship. Mission is a major focus of this worship service. Worshippers are invited to bring canned goods for Pass It On Ministries.

This service is geared towards youth, young adults, and young families that are just learning about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. After worship, all are invited and encouraged to fellowship over a potluck meal. DaVine takes place in the Fellowship Hall at MSPC (602 NE 96 St.) from 6-8 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call Pastor Kim Robles at 305-754-9541.

Miami Country Day School hosted a mock election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Students from all three divisions: Lower, Middle, and Upper School took part in the day’s festivities. Students range from ages three to 18. Polls were open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in three different areas on campus. Fifth graders made up the “Election Action Team,” which helped lead the charge and organize Election Day.

Three fifth grade students have been assisting the school’s social media and public relations and wrote the following re-cap about the election on campus:

Election Day was successful. The “Election Action Team” did a great job running the voting booths and preparing for the mock election. After hours of voting, the counting began. The results confirmed that Hillary Clinton had won the MCDS Election.

MCDS would like to thank Thomas Greg & Sons who assisted with the election and supported this learning experience for the students.

Your memories, like your relationships, are priceless. The **Pets and People Portrait Studio of D.Y. Rafaeli Photography** is thrilled to have opened their location in Miami Shores, at 212 NE 98th Street, and are welcoming residents to visit the studio and learn more about their services for you and your family. This family owned business specializes in pets and people portraits, family portraits, personal and professional branding and contemporary glamour. Visit www.dyrafaeliphotography.com and www.myperfectpetphotography.com to learn more.

On December 9th & 10th, the studio will host their Signature Families & Pets Holiday Sessions with special offers, packages, and perks. To schedule your appointment call 954-383-7819 or email info@dyrafaeliphotography.com.

D.Y. Rafaeli Photography is very passionate about being involved in the community, being able to contribute and give back. They regularly donate their services and photograph adoptable animals at the Humane Society of Greater Miami, Miami-Dade Animal Services and Abandoned Pet Rescue in Fort Lauderdale. Throughout the month of December, the studio will be donating a portion of every sale to a charity of the client’s choice. “Tis is the Season of Giving!

The Miami Shores Woman’s Club will hold its annual Christmas Gala Ball on Thursday, December 1 at the Miami Shores Country Club beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and include appetizers, a complimentary glass of wine, and a dinner of either salmon or beef tenderloin. Silver Wings will provide the music for dancing. Reservations are requested by calling President Pat Cocchi at 305-754-0258.

Then, the club will stage its annual “Skitsters” Christmas Show at the Country Club, on Tuesday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. Club members will perform holiday music, in costume. The public is welcome at this 3-course luncheon for \$24. To RSVP, call Helen Mendel at 305-751-6885.



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Turn to this page each month for a photo collage of area residents, community events, and Chamber activities. You can wait for our roving photographer to take some snaps or you can send us a selfie!

AROUND THE VILLAGES



GREEN DAY MIAMI SHORES STREET FAIR



This past October, 6,000 area residents and 150+ vendors/activities turned downtown Miami Shores 2nd Avenue into a field of family fun at the Chamber's Green Day Street Fair.



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Each month a Chamber member realtor is given the opportunity to submit a photo of a great home they have for sale. This month's home is listed with Patrick Duffy Realty. This huge, 5 bed/4.5 bath split level home sits on a 0.4 acre lot a block from the bay. Over 5,000 sq. feet and 3-car garage. Salt water pool. Formal dining room. Eat-in kitchen. For a private showing, call Patrick Duffy at 305-904-4803.



Welcome to our new neighbors! These homes were recently sold ...

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10929 NE 8th Ave	\$455,000
461 NE 119th St	\$450,000
11018 NE 8th Ave	\$425,000
1007 NE 115th St	\$399,000
10907 NE 9th Ave	\$360,000
1116 NE 117th St	\$250,000

El Portal:

8855 NW 1st Ave	\$575,000
60 NE 88th St	\$439,950
248 NE 87th St	\$370,000

Miami Shores:

940 NE 95th St	\$1,250,000
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1292 NE 95th St	\$1,160,000
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1183 NE 91st Ter	\$1,100,000
9310 Biscayne Blvd	\$882,000
398 NE 100 St	\$725,000
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water views from your en-suite master balcony. Ideal for avid boaters, the property has a fully renovated state of the art marina which commands wide water views and offers direct ocean access within 8 minutes. Inside, a view of the bay from the living area and master bedroom suite makes you feel like you are on vacation. The splendid living areas, large patio and large pool exclusive to only 18 Bayfront units ideal for entertaining. Reminiscent of vacation resort, this grand waterfront Townhouse, strategically tucked away on magnificent Biscayne Bay as a secret hideaway is a private masterpiece of 34 acres of glorious flowering foliage and amenity-filled community synonymous with luxurious living. Some notable amenities include 24 hour manned security, full health spa, children's playground, gym, two restaurants, doggie park, jogging trails, tennis courts, private marina and much more! Call Vincent Imburgia or Cathy Imburgia with The Imburgia Realty Team to schedule a private tour of the property.



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CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017



CALLI



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Nine community leaders were recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce.



ZELKOWITZ

All were chosen for three year terms that run from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

The Chamber is pleased to welcome back **Gladys Coia** of The Coia Law Group, **John Hornbuckle** of Compass Claim Consultants, **Elaiza Irizarry** of the Miami Theater Center, **Jeffrey Miller** of Jeffrey Miller Family Therapy, **Marc O'Connor** of Marc O'Connor, CPA, and **Mark Piper** of Mark Piper/Northwestern, all re-elected.

Newcomers elected alongside them are **Liangy Calli** of Calli Law, the **Reverend Meg Watson** of the Miami Shores Community Church (UCC), and Miami Shores Vice Mayor **Steven Zelkowitz**.

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GREATER MIAMI SHORES SCHOOLS REPORT



The Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce welcomes submissions for this column by all schools that are members of the Chamber, whether public or private. To find out about submitting information on behalf of your favorite school, please contact Jesse Walters at the Chamber at 305-754-5466.

Miami Country Day School's Taplin Gallery will host Pablo Dono, artist, and his exhibit "Childhood" now through January 3, 2017. In January, an exhibit titled "The Four Elements" will premiere. This exhibit will run from January 9, 2017 until February 10, 2017. "The Four Elements" contains artwork by ten individual artists and is co-curated by Mariavelia Savino.

Congratulations to Miami Country Day School's Thespians for receiving three Superior Ratings at the District Competition in November. The Superior Ratings were awarded in Acting Solo Monologue and Duet Acting. Next up: the State completion in Tampa. The group was also awarded eight "Excellent" ratings and three "Good" ratings in Solo Vocal, Duet Vocal, Playwriting, Make Up, Pantomime, Solo Monologue, and Duet Acting. Senior Sami Habib earned a top rating and was one of ten thespians in District 8 - the largest district in Florida, in winning "college scholarship" with his audition piece; *The Exonerated*.

Miami Shores Community Church School (MSCCS) has brought in the holiday

spirit with a ton of fun filled events. First, MSCCS students celebrated Thanksgiving with their delicious catered Thanksgiving Feast. Students learned the history and importance of the holiday while enjoying a yummy meal. To get into the holiday spirit, MSCCS is participating in a school wide Pajama Drive to ensure that all children can have a cozy and warm holiday season.

MSCCS began their Christmas celebrations with the Christmas Wrapping Party. This annual event gives parents an opportunity to mingle and network while helping prepare for the Christmas Store. MSCCS students had a blast getting in the holiday spirit themselves by choosing gifts for their family and friends. Students also participate in two beautiful showcases during this season. First, MSCCS Pre K students sing their favorite songs during "Breakfast with Santa". A surprise guest may pop in to say hello to all of the great kids. Elementary students will put on a fabulous Christmas program, entertaining with holiday songs, dances, and much more! The MSCCS family will enjoy winter break, and the school will be closed from

December 23rd through January 6th. MSCCS wishes everyone a safe, restful and happy holiday season!

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church School (MSPCS) Parent Association held their Second Annual Arts Festival fundraiser on November 12th to great success. With over forty vendors and hundreds of attendees, the children of the school will benefit from a great turnout and continued community engagement and support. MSPCS thanks everyone who was a part of this fun event and they look forward to an even bigger event next year!

This year, MSPCS is celebrating 50 years of educating children and is proud to offer a Christ-inspired educational experience that empowers students to reach their full potential in life, where academic excellence is nurtured and students are treasured and respected. Now accepting infants, MSPCS enrolls students 6 weeks to 5th grade. All children are encouraged to learn independently and creatively within small class settings. If you have questions regarding registration, contact Luisa Bernal at 305-759-2548 or schools@mspcs.net.

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- Law Offices of Alan S. Bradin
- DL Fields Consultants
- FPL
- Gray Robinson
- Hialeah Park
- Law Offices of John MacDaniel
- South Florida Distributors

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
5:00 P.M.

Downtown Advisory Committee meets at Chamber of Commerce office

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:30 A.M.

Annual Planning Session and December Board of Directors Meeting at Barry University's La Voie Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
4:30 P.M.

Executive Committee meets at the Chamber of Commerce office

CHAMBER FAMILY EVENT
SATURDAY, DEC. 17
9:00 A.M.



Family Breakfast with Miami Shores native Boston Red Sox pitcher Robby Scott at Miami Shores Country Club. Go to miamishores.com for details and to RSVP.



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PAWS, CLAWS & JAWS!



Each month we highlight a photo of an area resident's pet—dog, cat, bird, or hamster—send them in! We just need the photo, the pet's name, and the name of the pet's family and town. Email it to "Pet of the Month" at jessewalters@miamishores.com.

Meet Jenny, a five year-old Canadian born Teacup Yorkie. With infamous Napoleon syndrome, she'll take on the largest of dog or cat with fierce bravado, if only for the moment! When all is said and done, she will just lick you to death! Hours are spent with her retrieving her alligator. Her proud parents are Suzi and Peter Wolfe of Miami Shores.



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HISTORY CORNER

Each month, we feature a question or a photograph here from our Archives. The randomly drawn winner receives a \$25 gift certificate to an area Chamber member restaurant or retail establishment. The winner is drawn on the 15th of the month.

Last month, we featured a great old photo of a long gone but much missed event called “Taste of the Shores”, a sort of precursor to Green Day, that was held on Grand Concourse. We asked who were the two co-organizers of the event. The two names that came up the most were Charlie Kluck and Mike Finkelstein, although there were many more volunteer leaders who worked with them.



This month we feature one of our favorite holiday archive photos from a past Living Nativity at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church.

But here’s this month’s question: What community member in Miami Shores, Biscayne Park, or El Portal most reminds you of Santa Claus—in appearance or just because he is kind and jolly? Any answer counts and will get you entered in the December drawing!

E-mail jessewalters@miamishores.com or call 305-754-5466 with your answer. Please be sure to tell us your name and phone number in case you are the winner!

LAST WORD

Quote of the Month:

“Maybe, Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn’t come from a store.”

Dr. Seuss

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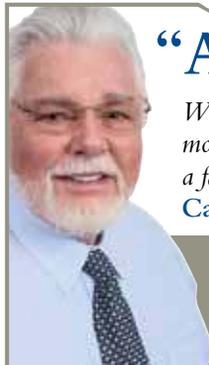
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To Wit: A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, “I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles for Christmas.” “She did,” he replied. “But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?” Courtesy: TheHolidaySpot.com



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