



Page
5



Page
9



Page
12

For updated news, events and more, visit www.TheParkPress.com

Rollins Student Documents War In Ukraine

Photographs taken by Rollins College junior Benjamin Mack-Jackson are on display as part of "Relentless Courage: Ukraine and the World at War," an exhibit at the Orlando Museum of Art running now through March 19. Nineteen of Mack-Jackson's photos are featured in conjunction with photos from world-class photographers that capture the humanity, perseverance, and determination of Ukraine's fight for freedom and independence against all odds.

Mack-Jackson, majoring in international relations at Rollins College, never imagined he'd find himself in the position to document a modern war firsthand, especially one in Europe. But that changed when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Last summer, the 20-year-old filmmaker, author, visual storyteller, and founder of the nonprofit WWII Veteran's History Project, traveled to Ukraine to capture stories from soldiers and civilians whose lives have been upturned by Russian aggression.

"I went to Ukraine as part of a mission to



preserve the past and document its current relevance. I hope these photographs will inspire and educate my generation and future generations about the horrors of war so that we will have a more peaceful future," said Mack-Jackson.

The exhibition is presented by the Ginsburg Family Foundation. "We are honored to be a part of bringing this powerful exhibit to the Orlando community," said Alan H. Ginsburg, chair of the



Benjamin Mack-Jackson's photographs of Ukraine are on display at the Orlando Museum of Art until March 19, 2023.

foundation and a Rollins Trustee. "It is a sobering reminder of our shared humanity when freedom and human rights are under siege by a tyrannical government."

All proceeds from an opening reception held on January 20 benefited Ukrainian charities. For museum hours and admission information, visit <https://omart.org/visit/tickets/>.

12th Annual Chili For Charity Event

The Rotary Club of Winter Park is holding the 12th annual Chili for Charity event on Friday, February 24, 2023, from 5 p.m. - 9p.m. at the Winter Park Events Center located at 1050 W Morse Blvd, Winter Park, FL 32789. Enjoy Winter Park chefs' unique chilis and fixings, live entertainment, and bid on amazing silent auction items from local venues and events, to vacations from around the world. Funds raised support the Rotary Club of Winter Park Charitable Foundation's grants to local charities and non-profits.

Tickets are available on-line now and the on-line auction opens February 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. Auction

items will feature luxury trips, vacation get-a-ways, local attractions, restaurants, theater tickets and so much more. Tickets start at \$75/person for general admission. Register on-line to get tickets, make donations, and view auction items at <https://winterparkchiliforcharity.amfundvip.org/#/index>

Rotary has partnered with The American Fundraising Foundation (AmFund) to offer international trips with a full three-year travel window. Each trip is for two, most includes airfare, deluxe accommodations, no blackout dates, and a travel specialist to book your trip. A portion of all trip proceeds will go to support local chari-

ties and nonprofits through grants from the Rotary Club of Winter Park Charitable Foundation. Invest in Rotary Club's mission, while investing in your next vacation.

The Rotary Club of Winter Park mission is, "Service Above Self." Funds raised during their annual "Chili for Charity" event go to the club's charitable foundation and to support over 30 local nonprofits. In 2022 The Foundation distributed

Continued on page 5

INSIDE THE PARK PRESS

News	1	Protection & Service	4
Publisher's Message	2	Pop Culture	11
City Commissioner's Message	3	Health	11
Winter Park Mayor's Message	4	In The Garden	12

The Park Press™

PUBLISHER RICK CABLE
rick@theparkpress.com

ART DIRECTOR JILL SHARGAA

ADVERTISING SALES
advertising@theparkpress.com
407-252-2382

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND WRITERS

Janna McGowan, Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, George McGowan, Stephen and Kristin Pategas, Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A., Mayor Phil Anderson, MPO James Whitman, and Ron Frechette.

The Park Press, LLC, Winter Park, Florida
Office: 407-252-2382
E-mail: info@TheParkPress.com

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.TheParkPress.com

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Publisher's Message



Rick Cable

Central Florida lost one of its greatest community champions recently as long-time Winter Park resident Harvey L. Massey passed on January 24 at the age of 81.

Most in Central Florida know that he was CEO of Massey

Services, and that he was an exceptional business leader. So much so, that since founding this company in 1985, it has grown to become a \$350 million business.

But what most may not know is that Mr. Massey was very generous with his time, talent, and treasure. He served on many boards including Board of Governors for Stetson University, Board of Directors of Pontifical Irish College of Rome, Italy, Board of Directors for Florida Citrus Sports, Orlando Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Florida, and Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation.

In recognition for his outstanding contributions, Harvey received countless awards included Mennello Museum's Distinguished service award, Laureate in Junior Achievement Hall of Fame, Orlando's Most Influential Citizen, Economic Development Commission's James B. Greene Award, the H. Clifford Lee Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Profes-



Photo from masseyservices.com

sionals, and the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2016, he received the prestigious Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Award in Washington D.C.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carol Massey; their three children, Angela Rignanese (husband Shane), Tony Massey (wife Jann) and Andrea Massey-Farrell (husband James); and 10 grandchildren (Kallie, Sean, Ashley, Ryan, Colin, Bryan, Jackson, Aidan, Ethan, and Edward).

My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the Massey family, and as a Central Floridian, I'm so glad Harvey L. Massey was one of us, and I'm thankful for the legacy he's left for us all.

As always, thank you for reading *The Park Press*, and we look forward to the great things to come!

Rick
Rick Cable
Founder/Owner



City Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



Robert F. Stuart

The month of February is a great time to live in the City of Orlando as it brings many annual events to our community! Please continue reading for fun activities happening this month.

The City of Orlando has some unique ways to celebrate Valentine's Day. Of course, there are the numerous restaurants that can make any evening special. However, there are also a few other options in case you are looking for something a little different. Leu Gardens hosts their annual Valentine's Day Date Night on Tuesday, February 14th with the movie "As Good As It Gets." For more information on how to buy tickets please visit leugardens.org

"Voices of Freedom: An Evening of Spoken Word" could also make a great outing. The experience will conclude a weeklong spoken word residency by Shawn Welcome, the City of Orlando's Poet Laureate, who has facilitated performance poetry workshops for local high school students, introducing the intricacies of performance, spoken word technique, and presentation. The concluding show on February 10th will amplify creative voices as it relates to justice, self-identity, and other social issues worthy of an artistic response. Please visit drphilliscenter.org

for your free ticket.

Another great way to celebrate our neighborhoods is by joining the city's monthly Community Connections Workshop on February 11th. This month the conversation will be about best practices for neighborhood organizations. Leaders will share their learned knowledge and best practices on a wide variety of subjects, from opening a bank account and getting a Tax ID, to successfully securing city and county grant funding, and hosting the kind of events neighbors want to come out to. Visit Orlando.gov/events for more information.



Leu Gardens will host their annual Valentine's Day Date Night on Tuesday, February 14 with the movie "As Good As It Gets."

gov/events for more information.

On February 11th celebrate philanthropy and our city's sense of humor by joining Cupid's Undie Run. This is a "brief" fun run that takes place in

the middle of a big downtown party, while raising money to find a cure for Neurofibromatosis! Visit cupid.org for details.

The Wetlands Festival will be back on February 18th at the Orlando Wetlands Park! Enjoy a free event for all ages, explore environmental exhibits, guided hikes and tours, live animals and presentations, demonstration trucks and equipment, kids' activities, native plant give-away, door prizes and more! For more information, please visit Orlando.gov/events

The Orlando Science Center has a new spring exhibit- Earth Matters. Visitors can explore our changing planet through a different lens, get immersed in incredible ecosystems, and learn how the smallest actions can impact our natural world! Please visit osc.org for more information.

We also celebrate Black History Month in February. Join in the celebration on February 18th at the 8th annual MLK Concert. This concert is produced and directed by Grammy Award Winner, Dr. Jeffrey Redding. The admission fee will be a non-perishable food donation, for more information visit Orlando.gov/events

I hope you have the opportunity to take advantage of some of the great amenities and events that our community has to offer this month and thanks for your role in keeping Orlando a great city!

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The Winter Park Playhouse

Nunsense A-Men!

January 20 - February 18, 2023

Hallelujah! This side-splitting musical comedy is the original Off-Broadway musical Nunsense with a twist... all of the nuns are portrayed by men! You will fall off your seat laughing when the Little Sisters of Hoboken start their zany antics! Think of "Mrs. Doubtfire enters the convent!"

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Winter Park Mayor's Message

Mayor Phil Anderson



Phil Anderson

Winter Park in "Winter"

When I lived in Chicago, the ground was covered in snow in February and it was "chilly" to say the least. We knew there was beautiful green grass and landscape out there, but we had to wait to enjoy picnics again. We

also knew that it was a great season to spend time in museums- climate controlled and full of color!

Of course in Winter Park, we have always been a city of parks, it is in our name! But one of our parks is "hibernating" this year. Eighteen months ago, the city embarked on creating one of our newest parks on Orange Avenue at the corner of Denning Drive. We planned the park to last for generations and planted awesome live oaks to create the framework.

We are proud to present the vision of our new park!

When the snow melts (figuratively speaking) in winter of 2024, we will have an amazing place for families and tired pickleball and tennis players to picnic. And it will center one of our important business corridors that already includes great designer row shopping, financial and medical services, as well as coffee, cake and other treats.

But while we are waiting, Winter Park's reputation as the City of Arts and Culture is full of color... and climate control! Our city's cultural roots go deep and are part of the history that makes us special. For almost 140 years, our city has blended the deep financial support of residents and arts patrons with the imagination and intensity of local artists and performers, and also with the venues of our well-established institutions. In fact, it is this amazing combination of beautiful homes, higher education, commerce,



Architect rendering.

and the arts that makes our community so diverse, financially strong and culturally exciting.

More about the city's creative and inspiring arts and culture experiences can be accessed at wpinspires.org. Just a few of the many visual and performing arts opportunities include:

- As one of the top ranked drama programs in the state, Rollins College hosts the historic Annie Russell Theatre.
- The Knowles Chapel at Rollins where you can hear the voices of the beautiful Bach Festival Society of Winter Park perform at various times of the year.
- Other theatrical and musical performances and venues in the city include the Winter Park Playhouse, Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts and even outdoor music festivals at Mead Botanical Garden.

• Of course, there is the "museum and gallery trail" through the city running all the way from the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art on the north end of Park Avenue, south to the Rollins Museum of Art on their campus and east to the Polasek Museum and the collection at the Alford Inn.

• Outside of the historic Park Avenue District, we have the exhibits and hands on experiences at the Crealdé School of Art and the city's recently opened Library & Events Center that is home to most of the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival's Best of Show collection. Additional pieces of the collection can be found at the Welcome Center and City Hall.

Winter Park is a special place to live, work and visit. I hope you really enjoy the winter... with anticipation for our newest park to emerge and with an eye for the color in all our arts offerings.

The 150th Silver Spurs Rodeo

They're fierce. They're feisty. They're bred to buck! The 12th annual Monster Bulls on February 11 is a one-night-only event featuring the biggest and baddest Silver Spurs bulls as they go head-to-head with local cowboys hoping for a big payout. In addition, on the morning of February 11th, the Silver Spurs Riding Club will host the Silver Spurs Rodeo Parade in downtown St. Cloud.

Then the following weekend, the Silver Spurs Riding Club will host the 150th Silver Spurs Rodeo on February 17-19! For the second year, fans can now experience all Silver Spurs Rodeo events with an annual pass. Fans don't have to miss a single buck while saving their bucks, with a savings of \$45 in admission per person. Annual passes are available for purchase online at www.SilverSpursRodeo.com.

During the performances, rodeo fans will watch contestants from all over the nation compete in rodeo's seven traditional events: bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, women's barrel racing, steer wrestling, and team roping for an entire year of bragging rights and \$52,500 in cash. Plus, rodeo fans will be entertained by the rodeo clown and the talented Silver Spurs Quadrille team, who perform a square dance on horseback, something the club has performed since its inception over 79 years ago.

"I couldn't be more honored to be the Big Boss as we celebrate our 150th Silver Spurs Rodeo. For over 79 years, we have been providing family-friendly entertainment while simultaneously supporting our local community and I'm very proud to be a part of that," said Clifton Chapman of the Silver Spurs Riding Club. "Help us do more for Osceola



Yee-haw! The Silver Spurs Rodeo returns February 17-19 at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee.

County by coming to support the 12th annual Monster Bulls and end the week with the big 1-5-0 as we close out with the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi River."

For more information, including guidelines for a safe rodeo and to purchase tickets, go to www.silverspursrodeo.com.

From Page 1.

more than \$100,000 in grants to local charities and non-profits to help them achieve their mission and goals to support underserved children, families and residents. For more information about the Rotary Club of Winter Park visit <http://www.winterparkrotary.com/>.

The Rotary Club of Winter Park Charitable Foundation is an independent 501(c) (3)

organization. The foundation tax number is 57-0923231 The Rotary Club of Winter Park would like to thank sponsors: The Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation, Brandywine Square, South State Bank, The Mayflower Retirement Community, Quest Company Commercial Real Estate, The Walker/Van Son Charitable Fund, P&A Roofing & Sheet Metal, MSH,

CPA's, Clayton Construction, Jeffrey & Caroline Blydenburgh, Bryan Thomas and Jim and Peen Hardy.

In addition, thanks to Winter Park's community-minded restaurants and caterers: Allegro, Rollins College Dining, Sonny's, The Mayflower, 4Rivers, Puff n Stuff, and Publix Catering.



protection and service by Jim Whitman, Winter Park Police Department

Three Days...Applies To Fish And Relatives

So, the holidays are over and all of your interactions with those distant relatives is in the rearview mirror. You kissed your aunt goodbye, patted your nephew on the head and extended your hand to your uncle as you held your front door open. But wait, that uncle hasn't let go. Good ole Uncle Sam! He pulls you in and says that you will be dealing with him in just a few months. And he is right as Tax Season is right around the corner. Now that you have begun receiving all of your end of year paperwork, it is time to get to work on filing those taxes.

Every year, thousands of people across the United States report that they have fallen victim to tax fraud schemes. According to the Internal Revenue Service, telephone scams will become increasingly common over the next few months. They would like to remind you that The IRS will never:

- 1.) Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- 2.) Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- 3.) Demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- 4.) Call unexpectedly about a tax refund.

Tax payers who receive these calls should:

- Record the number and then hang up the phone immediately.
- Report the call to TIGTA (Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration) using their IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting form or by calling 800-366-4484 or report the number to phishing@irs.gov and be sure to put "IRS Phone Scam" in the subject line.

The IRS would also like to alert you about a scam which has starting showing up the last few years wherein scammers claim to be able to suspend or cancel the victim's social security number. It's yet another attempt by con artists to frighten people into returning 'robocall' voicemails. As always, never give anyone your full social security number over the phone or Internet.

This year, many Floridians suffered a loss due to the storms that ravaged our state. The IRS wants to help protect you from scammers looking to capitalize on those of us that were fortunate enough to have escaped mother nature's wrath. Some thieves will pretend they are from a charity benefiting disaster victims. They do this to get money or private information from well-intentioned taxpayers. Bogus websites use names like legitimate charities. Scammers even claim to be working for - or on behalf of - the IRS. The thieves say they can help victims file casualty loss claims and get tax refunds. Disaster victims can call the IRS toll-free disaster assistance line at 866-562-5227. Phone assistants will answer questions about tax relief or disaster-related tax issues.

Taxpayers who want to make donations can get information to help them on IRS.gov. The "Tax-Exempt Organization" search helps users find or verify qualified charities. Donors should not give out personal financial information to anyone who solicits a contribution. This includes things like social security numbers or credit card and bank account numbers and passwords.

Much of the information contained in this article was supplied by the Internal Revenue Service. If you would like more information on filing your taxes and how to protect yourself from IRS related scams, please visit their website at irs.gov. In the meantime, relish the fact that warmer weather will be here soon and that should give you some reprieve from those distant relative visits until next winter.

Stay Safe!

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Celebrate A Special Valentine's Day At The Courthouse

Engaged and ready to "tie the knot"? Consider saying "I do" with the Orange County Clerk of Courts. Clerk Tiffany Moore Russell will perform a special group wedding ceremony on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14, in front of the steps of the Orange County Courthouse in downtown Orlando at 1:00 p.m.

The ceremony will be held outside in front of the beautiful courtyard steps outside the iconic Orange County Courthouse in downtown Orlando for up to

30 couples. "I want to provide a special day for couples getting married at the courthouse, and this is a nice way to do this," said Clerk Russell.

Participation in the group event will cost \$70. The cost includes the wedding ceremony fee, a commemorative certificate, wedding photos, a delicious treat, and a special gift. In the event of inclement

weather, the location of the ceremony will be held inside the courthouse.

If you'd like to participate in the wedding event,

you and your future spouse can register by going to our website at www.myorangeclerk.com. Please note you need to obtain your marriage license first for an additional fee before registering for the event. For Florida residents, there are a few requirements that may require a three-day waiting period to be married. Visit the marriage section of our website for more details on the requirements.

For those looking for a more intimate and private setting, individual wedding ceremonies can be performed in the courthouse ceremony room and at any of our branch locations on Valentine's Day or any other date we are open for business.



Winter Park Mayor Annual State Of The City Address

Mayor Phil Anderson will present the annual State of the City Address Friday February 17 at the Winter Park Events Center located at 1050 W. Morse Blvd. The community is invited to arrive at 8:30 a.m. to mingle with fellow neighbors and visit with city department representative at various displays to learn more about the services the city provides. The official program begins at 9 a.m. with the Mayor's Address that will highlight upcoming projects and recent accomplishments. He will also make a special presentation of the Mayor's Founders' Award and recognize the city's Employees of the Year.

"Serving as the city's 55th mayor is a true honor. I am eager to share the exceptional successes we have achieved this past year and also generate excitement for the projects we have planned for 2023. Our city is loved and respected for the extraordinary services we provide. This is our community's opportunity to learn more about our achievements and celebrate our devoted city staff," said Mayor Anderson. Immediately following the address, Vice Mayor Todd Weaver and Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Sheila DeCiccio, and Kris Cruzada will share their perspectives on a variety of city topics. This free event is for Winter Park residents and the community it serves.

Please RSVP to MayorsMessage@cityofwinterpark.org by 5 p.m., Friday, February 10. Light breakfast bites and beverages will be offered for all attendees to enjoy.

In addition, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual State of the City Luncheon Friday, February 24. Tickets will be available for the luncheon at winterpark.org beginning Monday, January 30, 2023.

Hot Topics Series Spotlights Black Resistance


The League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida, one of the nation's largest League chapters, honors Black History month with its Hot Topics program on February 8. The theme is "Black Resistance," at 11:30 am at the Winter Park Events Center, 1050 Morse Blvd. in Winter Park.

"Black Resistance" is the 2023 Annual Black History Theme set forth by the Association for The Study of African American Life And History (ASALH), founders of Black History Month, with panelists from the Central Florida-Dorothy Turner Johnson branch. The theme focusses on how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, to advocate for a dignified self-determined life in a just democratic society in the United States and beyond. (For more information see: <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>).


Central Florida author, historian, and poet Valada Flewellyn will moderate the program, which includes three parts: "The Historical Resistance of Black Women," presented by Prof. Patricia A. Broussard of the Florida A&M University College of Law; "Voting as Resistance," presented by Prof. Carmen Laguer Diaz, co-director of the Proyecto Arqueológico del Suroeste (PASO); and "Using the Arts as a Form of Resistance," presented by Prof. Donald Harrell, CEO and president of African Diasporic Arts and Education Inc.

The League's Hot Topics luncheons feature speakers and panelists discussing the issues of concern to Central Floridians. Tickets are \$30 for League members and \$37 for others. Programs take place at the Winter Park Events Center and include a catered lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.). Each Hot Topics is streamed live on the Orange County League's Facebook page and available on the League's YouTube channel. Sponsor is Climate First Bank.

To learn more about the League of Women Voters of Orange County Florida and the theme, please visit www.lwvoc.org.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH HOT TOPICS



2023 BLACK HISTORY THEME: BLACK RESISTANCE

FEB 8 11:30 AM
WINTER PARK EVENTS CENTER
1050 W MORSE BLVD
\$30/MEMBERS \$37/GUESTS
<https://bit.ly/3GzrPtI>

In partnership with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Dorothy Turner Johnson Branch (asalhdtj.org), join us at the Hot Topics to discuss Black History Month.

To advertise in

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Contact us 407-252-2382
or email info@theparkpress.com
for more information.

10th Annual Walk A Mile In Her Shoes

For the 10th year, Harbor House of Central Florida will host the annual domestic abuse awareness event, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Orlando (WAM), with key community leaders and community advocates. The event will take place February 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the streets of downtown Orlando where men and women, friends, family members, and colleagues will strap on their high heels – as teams or individuals – in the west courtyard steps of the Orange County Courthouse and walk nearly one mile down Orange Avenue to the Orlando City Hall courtyard.

Prizes will be awarded for most creative shoe, largest team, largest team fundraiser, and largest individual fundraiser. Music and vendors will greet participants at the start line to get revved up to walk on behalf

of domestic violence survivors – and victims – across the City of Orlando and Orange County.

During the past fiscal year (July 2021-June 2022), Harbor House has seen a record 59% increase in calls to its hotline. Last year (between January – October 2022), the organization recorded a nearly 25% increase in women and children having come into shelter and more than

Orlando
Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

Harbor House
of Central Florida

16% increase in outreach services (courthouse, early victim engagement

and other programs). Additionally, 99.9% of those helped through the organization survive an abusive

relationship.

The cost is \$35 for individual registration and a tee shirt; or \$25 individual registration only.

For more information and registration, please visit <https://www.harborhousefl.com/walkamile>.



Crossing the finish line in style. Photo courtesy of Harbor House.

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sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org or 407-599-3364

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The Winter Park Playhouse 2023-2024 Series Of Professional Musicals

The Winter Park Playhouse, Central Florida's professional musical theatre, announces their 2023-2024 Mainstage Series of musical productions! This new line up of productions boasts a wide variety of Broadway and Off-Broadway hits and regional premieres for the Central Florida area.

Honky Tonk Laundry August 4 - 27, 2023

Wash your cares away with this musical comedy full of country favorites from Carrie Underwood, Trisha Yearwood, Reba McEntire, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, and more! When Lana Mae Hopkins, owner of the Wishy Washy Washateria, hires Katie to help out, they soon find themselves up to their elbows in soap, suds and cheatin' hearts and turn their good ol' laundromat into a boot scootin' honky tonk!



Ruthless! September 22 - October 15, 2023

This outrageous hit musical comedy garnered rave reviews during its long Off-Broadway run. Meet Judy, a naive 1950s housewife, and her adorable eight-year-old daughter Tina. Encouraged by her manager, Sylvia, Tina will do ANYTHING to get the lead role in her school play "including murdering the leading lady!" This fun spoof has its twists, turns and killer laughs!



A Swingin' Christmas: The Holiday Music of Tony Bennett November 10 - December 16, 2023

Southeastern Regional Premiere! Ring in the holidays with this unforgettable evening of quintessential Tony Bennett songs! Featuring eighteen classic holiday tunes plus the standards that made Bennett famous like "I Wanna Be Around," "The Good Life," "Rags to Riches" and of course Tony's signature song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Grab your friends and family and celebrate the season Tony Bennett style!



Breaking Up is Hard to Do January 19 - February 17, 2024

This nostalgic musical comedy celebrates the timeless songwriting magic of the legendary Neil Sedaka! Set at a Catskills resort in 1960, this humorous and heartwarming musical follows two friends from Brooklyn in search of good times and romance over one wild Labor Day weekend. Featuring twenty of Sedaka's most popular songs including "Laughter in the Rain," "Where the Boys Are," "Sweet Sixteen," "Calendar Girl," "Love Will Keep Us Together" and the chart-topping title song!



Five Guys Named Moe March 15 - April 20, 2024

Jump into this swinging, high-energy Broadway musical set to Louis Jordan's iconic rhythm and blues/jazz score! Nomax's world has been turned upside down and all he needs is the right music—and the right guys—to get him through. Enter five guys named Moe, stepping out through his radio to cajole and comfort him with dozens of whimsical hit songs from the extraordinary Louis Jordan. An international sensation, *Five Guys Named Moe* is a musical that delivers sheer joy and exuberant entertainment!



George M. Cohan Tonight! May 10 - June 9, 2024

Southeastern Regional Premiere! Meet "The Yankee Doodle Boy" himself in this high energy, one-man journey through the life, music, and artistry of this legendary entertainer. This Off-Broadway musical is a delightful salute to the man who almost single-handedly invented the American musical comedy! Featuring tons of tap dancing and hit songs including "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Over There," "You're A Grand Old Flag" and "All Aboard for Broadway!"



In an ongoing effort to serve the community, accommodate demand and make the popular musicals accessible, The Playhouse will offer two preview performances -one evening and one matinee prior to opening night- at a reduced \$23 per ticket price for all seats.

Subscriptions for the 2023-2024 annual Six-Show Series of musicals are on sale by calling the Box Office at 407-645-0145. All mini-subscriptions and single tickets to the new season are available online at winterparkplayhouse.org on March 21, 2023. Current production tickets are also on sale on the theatre website.

The Winter Park Playhouse is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and proudly affiliated with Actors' Equity Association and The National Alliance for Musical Theatre.



The Winter Park Playhouse is located at 711 N Orange Ave, Winter Park, FL 32789.

The 29th Annual "Paws In The Park" Pet Festival

Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando invites all pet lovers to join together at Orlando's largest pet festival, "Paws in the Park," returning to beautiful Lake Eola Park on Saturday, February 11. Kicking off at 10a.m. is the signature Pet Costume Contest with celebrity judges and cash prizes (themes: Stars of Film & TV, Favorite Food, Dogs with Jobs). Participants and their furry family members can register online and invite their friends and family to join them for the special award ceremony, costume

contest and festivities. Then, all attendees and their fur pals will enjoy a full day of both human and canine activities until 4pm. Activities include the famous dock diving for dogs, lure courses, beer garden, a variety of food trucks and shopping, pet products and more, plus plenty of pet adoption opportunities. Pet Alliance's mobile vet unit will also be on site and providing free vaccines.

"We cannot wait to join together with our amazing animal loving community and

celebrate the deep love we have for our furry family members at our hugely popular Paws in the Park festival," says the Pet Alliance Associate Director of Development, Amanda Henry. "This year's event has all the favorite festivities like the adorable Pet Costume Contest and always entertaining dock diving for dogs. Whether it's folks' first time attending or an annual tradition, we guarantee a fun-filled and unforgettable day for everyone."

Paws in the Park supports the mission of Pet

Continued on page 9.

Orange County Library System Lending Wi-Fi Hotspots To Cardholders

Orange County Library System has secured funds from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to establish a Wi-Fi hotspot lending program, to provide wireless internet to customers who do not otherwise have access.

Wi-Fi hotspots are now available for checkout with a library card from any library location, while supplies last. Hotspots may be checked out for up to 30 days at a time. Renewals are not

permitted. They can be returned to any Orange County Library System location or book drop when the loan period has concluded. Late fees will not accrue for items that are not returned on time, but if the hotspot is not returned within 14 days of the due date, the customer's account will be charged \$25, and a block will be put on the account until the item is returned to the library.

Wi-Fi hotspots can be placed on hold and

picked up at any Orange County Library System location.

Per ECF requirements, customers who check out a Wi-Fi hotspot must sign a form stating that they have an educational need for internet service and do not have internet where they reside.

For more information, call 407-835-7323 or visit ocls.info/hotspotguide



From Page 8.

Alliance, the region's oldest and largest animal welfare agency, to educate, shelter, place and heal pets and their families with compassionate, responsible care. Funds raised from the hugely popular event will help Pet Alliance save over 4,000 dogs and cats this year by providing shelter, care

and love until they find their forever home.

For more information on Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando and to register and fundraise for Paws in the Park, visit www.petallianceorlando.org and www.pawsinthepark.org.



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Volunteers Gather Together To Fight Suicide

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, yet suicide can be prevented. Volunteers from Orlando are joining the thousands of people gathering in towns across the United States to promote suicide prevention. The 16th annual Orlando Out of the Darkness Community Walk, hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Central Florida Chapter, is Saturday February 4 at 8:00 a.m., at Baldwin Park in Orlando. www.afsp.org/Orlando

This gathering will support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education, research and survivor support programs. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

"Suicide touches one in five American families. We hope that by connecting with one another, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss. Our ultimate goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide," said Danyel Lieberman, AFSP Central Florida Chapter board chair.

The Orlando Out of the Darkness Community Walk is one of hundreds of events being held nationwide this year.

"This year we want people to join us in walking to create a world without suicide," said AFSP CEO Robert Gebbia. "By walking you are helping us make progress through research, advocacy, education and support to those affected by suicide. And you are improving our understanding of mental health, and how to be there for each other when someone is struggling. I'm in awe of



**American Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



our courageous volunteers who are lifting their voices to inform local and national leaders of the support needed to reduce suicide and save lives."

Local sponsors for the Orlando Out of the Darkness Community Walk include Florida Retina Institute, Crossman Career Builders, Meeks Capital, Crossmarc Services, LLC, Dunkin', Matt Shenk, Balloons by Renee, Target, The Love Bug Photography, Molina Healthcare, Patrick C. Crowell Attorney at Law, Health Care Support, Millenia Partners, Latino Professionals Walgreens Boots Alliance, Avant Healthcare Professionals, University Behavioral Center, La Amistad, Palm Point Behavioral Health, Central Florida Behavioral Hospital. To donate or join this event, visit afsp.org/Orlando.

Polasek Museum Upcoming Exhibition And Concert

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens presents a Spring Concert with The Pegasus String Quartet, UCF's Graduate String Quartet, featuring internationally acclaimed violin/viola player Dr. Ayako Yonetani. They will perform on March 5th from 2-4 p.m. at The Capen House adjacent to the museum. Limited to 45 seats, concertgoers will experience acoustic performances in an intimate setting, followed by a private reception. Pieces performed range from composers Rachmaninov, Britten, Handel, and Bach.



Dr. Ayako Yonetani will perform at the Albin Polasek Museum on March 5.

Dr. Ayako Yonetani, a world-renowned violinist, began playing at the age of five and made her solo debut at the age of ten. Later, she made her United States debut as a concertmaster with the New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Yonetani received her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School. Currently, she is a professor of violin/viola at the University of Central Florida and travels the world as a guest soloist. She is a member of Japan's premier chamber ensemble in Tokyo.

For ticket details, please visit <http://polasek.org/events-venue/>.

pop culture detours by George McGowan

A Mishmash Of Musical Thoughts For Your February

Did you know that YouTube is full of videos of various music lovers and even one former opera singer who watch and listen to rock/pop music and comment on what they are hearing/experiencing? Open the YouTube page and just enter these search terms: "music reactions first time hearing." If you love music and people who talk intelligently about music, you will lose many, many hours of your time to these videos. It is fascinating to experience through these music lovers the wonders of a first-time listen to some of music's most famous tunes. Do it. You'll thank me later.

Since we last interacted, I have again fallen in love with some music and musicians new to me. I thank the universe's great algorithm in the sky for somehow, somehow introducing me to these

artists. I wish I could add a little button here on this paper that would whisk you away to special place where I am your personal DJ and I am spinning tunes from these artists for you. Of course, this happens in my house quite a lot, but I don't have enough room for all of you to join me when the mood strikes me.

I have sung the praises of Dori Freeman on several occasions on these pages, and I found another voice that reminds me of her. Her name is Erin Rae McKaskle, and she records under the shortened name Erin Rae. Her wonderful voice is perfect for the simple arrangements of her music. Her latest album "Lighten Up" is a great showcase for both her voice and her musicianship. Take a listen and I bet you'll agree.

Plains is the musical partnership of Jess Williamson and Katie Crutchfield. Katie has been releasing music under the moniker Waxahatchee for several years and gotten wonderful reviews for

her unique voice. Her voice is a perfect companion with her band partner in Plains and their album "I Walked With You A Ways" is a revelation. The title tune helped me through the loss of a loved one with the following wonderful chorus: "On the winding path of life, sometimes you walk alone, 'cause people come and go. There is a season for each one, they change your heart, and then it's done. Well I'll be better all my days, 'cause I walked with you a ways, I walked with you a ways."

S.G. Goodman has an album "Teeth Marks" that I can also recommend. Grayson Currin in Pitchfork sums it up perfectly: "Religious hypocrisy, financial ruin, systemic addiction, ruinous love, devotion so intense it begins to burn like hatred: Goodman finds space for it all in these 11 tracks, which glide between breathtaking a cappella eulogies and dive-bar R&B, between gnarled rock and plaintive ballads." (P.S. I wish I could write like that!) It sounds morose but it's not! Give it a listen.

Finally, a short list of names for you to discover for yourself: Madison Cunningham, Margo Price, Cate LeBon. And while you are at it, just listen to Linda Ronstadt sing "Blue Bayou" and approach the listen as if it is your first listen ever. You may even want to post your reaction to YouTube and monetize the experience.



live meaningfully by Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A.

Clean Slate February...

So, I just learned that February comes from the Latin word februa which means "to cleanse."

Despite many years of Latin in my childhood I either never learned this or it just didn't have quite the same meaning or impact it does now. Apparently February was a month long celebration of purification and atonement in Rome.

I guess after the merriment of the holidays, we're probably due.

(Even if it's ironic that the month to cleanse is the shortest of the year)

Nonetheless, this seems well timed as the decorations are now down, and perhaps the "holiday hangover" of gifts and celebration is now passed.

February is as good a month as any to check in on our intentions for the year and double down on our commitment to health and wellbeing on all fronts.

People's obvious resolution always seems to be about exercise or food. This stands to reason given the exorbitance and indulgence of October through January. However, there is more (and more important) wellness that extends beyond the gym or what's in your refrigerator. There is the wellness to which you attend in your mind, your body, your spiritual life, your psyche, your relationships, etc.

I used to do juice cleanses every so often. They're kind of amazing but also pretty brutal. The physiological response your body goes through almost immediately in the absence of

caffeine, processed foods, etc. is remarkable. It's like, even though what you were putting into your body wasn't necessarily optimal for you, the discomfort of change (albeit healthy change) feels overwhelming and creates a significant deterrent. Within even one day of a juice cleanse, it feels way easier to go back to the things that weren't necessarily good for you, but caused less disruption to your life. The allure of staying where you were is

pretty strong and your mind can play tricks on you justifying and rationalizing the return to old habits.

Change is hard. Change feels really uncomfortable. Doing what's healthy and right for you feels like a Herculean effort at times and isn't necessarily immediate in its relief or seeming improvement. 'Cleansing' is not for the faint of heart.

(I'm no longer talking about the juice cleanse here, for those of you keeping score.)

There are a number of things, perhaps in any given snapshot of life, that we know we do out of ease, convenience, familiarity, fear of the alternative, etc...

We accept the unacceptable, we stay in relationships too long, we abuse our bodies, we numb our minds, we choose the "easy" way instead of wiping the decks clean and

starting fresh. We do so because the fear of the unknown, or of perceived discomfort in the interim, feels like more than we can bear sometimes.

It's not.

It's temporary.

It brings great reward.

It's worth it.

Whatever is calling to you, as you read this... Whatever habits or issues or

relationships you know in your heart need attention. Take a deep breath, find the strength to make the change and cleanse it from your life. It is not bigger than you. I can assure you, on the other side of the discomfort, relief, improved self-esteem, empowerment, health, congruence and wellness are waiting. They are yours for the taking, you just need to

move through the inertia and take the first step.

May this Feburua bring you the opportunity and the strength to cleanse that which is holding you back or keeping you unwell in your life.

With my gratitude 'til the next time,
Be Well; Live Meaningfully.
Ayesha



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Orange County Designated As Tree City USA For 16th Consecutive Year

In celebration of State Arbor Day, Orange County is sharing its recent designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for its 16th consecutive year. The Tree City USA program celebrates communities and their growing commitment to increasing their urban tree canopy.

"Trees provide effective and low-cost solutions to many urban challenges, including reducing pollution, removing carbon dioxide from the air and reducing energy costs for homeowners," said Mayor Jerry L. Demings of Orange County. "Most importantly, residents and visitors alike enjoy being in an aesthetically pleasing environment with tree cover as a measure of quality of life."

The Tree City USA designation, led by the Arbor Day Foundation with partners at USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, allows the necessary framework for communities to manage and expand their tree cover.

In 2022, Orange County planted more than 2,500 trees and distributed another 1,000 Florida-friendly trees to homeowners. The county continues the work in 2023 with ambitious goals to increase and protect tree canopies outlined in the County's Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan. This will be coupled with a tree ordinance that will support the conservation of pre-existing trees in new developments.

"Trees are critical to reducing air pollution and urban heat island effect," said Carrie Black, Chief Sustainability and Resiliency Officer. "We are committed to maintaining and increasing the tree canopy on County property, in addition to updating the Tree Preservation Ordinance to provide increased protections, particularly for specimen and heritage trees, because the importance of our urban forest and environmentally sensitive lands will only continue to increase as our community grows."





in the garden

by Stephen and Kristin Pategas

Hortus Oasis Interviews Themselves 1.0

We interviewed each other to discover and share a selection of our favorites...Answers: K = Kristin/S = Stephen

The most inspirational garden visited:

K - This is a no brainer – Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA! The use of color, plants with textural foliage, and unusual plants that cross many growing zones is truly amazing and inspirational. The Teacup Garden is way cool and changes every season. A visit to the Philadelphia area without visiting this open to the public garden should be a crime.

S - There are so many but Villa Noailles in Grasse in the south of France showed me the importance of the patina that comes with age. And the twenty water features showcase the many ways to delight the senses with the use of water. Oh, there was lots of fragrance too.

Must have equipment:

K - Our yard cart with bicycle sized tires seemed like a big expense about 20 years ago. Well, it's still cranking and has kept us out of physical therapy. It may be the best investment for our garden.

S - Hand trucks move tons of weight in our garden. We call one the monster hand truck and it totes hundreds of pounds if we both provide leverage.

S - The power reciprocating saw is used almost every week for tasks such as trimming roots when planting, cutting the rootballs of overgrown plants out of planters, cutting rebar, trimming off palm fronds. There are corded and battery styles and blades for every task.

Garden ornaments that jazz me:

K - Farnley planters from Campania International are lightweight in square and rectangular shapes with a range of sizes and contemporary colors. As reps, we can order them directly and expedite their delivery.

S - Tuteurs create exclamation point-like focal points that can bring the color from blooming vines up to eye level. Arbors and arches with climbers also help ramp up the color.

S - Aspara planters with the Angkor finishes from Campania International, have textures and a range of colors that take the garden in an organically primeval direction. They appear to have been fired in a volcano.

What I love to do in our garden:

S - Put a pair of hand pruners, pruning saw, or loppers within ten feet of me and I will grab them and get into my pruning Zen zone.

K - I love to propagate from seed. I order vegetable seeds from Tomato Growers Supply and Park Seed. Park Seed and Burpees are good for annuals and perennials. In a pinch, I pick up vegetable sets from nurseries.

K & S - We enjoy drinks and meals in any of our six garden seating areas while watching birds and pollinators flit about.



1. Campania International's Aspara planter with Angkor Red finish. 2 Chanticleer Garden's Tea Cup Garden awaits. 3. The Farnley planter in rust finish from Campania International. 4. A striking water feature at Villa Noailles in Grasse, France. 5. Our recirculating birdbath was inspired by one in the Villa Noailles garden.

Hortus Oasis (FL0001090) in Winter Park is a boutique garden design company specializing in residential, commercial, and specialty gardens. Stephen is a registered landscape architect and Kristin is a certified landscape designer. Contact them at 407-622-4886/ garden@hortusoasis.com and visit www.houzz.com/pro/hortusoasis/_public. All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis unless otherwise noted.



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