

# THE WALK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMUNITY

Read more pg. 6



MC Lyte and Life Force Academy Dancers perform at the 4th Annual Human Rights Walkathon—Photo by David Ziff

ST. PETERSBURG

By Heidi Lux

Supporters of Human Rights convened in North Straub Park on March 6th for the 4th Annual Human Rights Walkathon. They were there to celebrate the thirty human rights delineated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The purpose of the walkathon was to raise awareness for, and to educate about, these universal and essential rights. “People who know and understand their human rights will stand up not only for their own rights, but also for the rights of others,” says creator of the walkathon and human rights advocate Linda Drazkowski.

Anna I. Rodriquez, founder of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking and walkathon speaker, explains that attendees at the walkathon will go home and tell their friends, and those friends will tell their friends, spreading human rights through word of mouth.

The United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. It describes the thirty basic rights we all have simply because we are human, such as “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,” and “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security

*Continued on page 6*

COMMUNITY

Read more pg. 6

A photograph of Rev. Alfredie Johnson, a Black man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and a yellow bow tie, speaking at a wooden podium. A microphone is in front of him. Behind him is a banner that reads 'HUMAN RIGHTS walkathon HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE RIGHTS YOU HAVE SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'RE'.

Rev. Alfredie Johnson—Photo by Brad Kugler

# PHILLIES “PAY BACK” THE YANKEES

CLEARWATER

by Heidi Lux

Charlie Manuel, the manager of the Phillies, remarked earlier this year that the Phillies “owe the Yankees one.” On March 4th, exactly four months to the day the Yankees won the 2009 World Series, the Phillies had a chance to have their “payback” with their first spring training game of the year at Bright House Field in Clearwater.

At a sold-out game, the Phillies got their revenge, beating the Yankees in a 3–2 victory. New pitcher Roy Halliday easily proved himself the star of the game, throwing 24 pitches in two innings, 21 of them being strikes.

Each year, while the northern states have yet to experience the thaw of spring, Major League Baseball heads south, with fifteen teams setting up camp in the Sunshine State, forming The Grapefruit League. The other fifteen Major League Baseball teams train in Arizona, forming The Cactus League.

Perhaps there’s something in the waters of Tampa Bay, because in the past two years, all three teams to compete in the World Series have called the greater Tampa area home, whether it be part time or full time. The Philadelphia Phillies have been training in Clearwater since 1947; the New York Yankees train in Steinbrenner Field in Tampa; and the Tampa Bay Rays trained in St. Pete since the team’s inception until recently when they switched to Port Charlotte. The Rays, however, call Tampa Bay home any time of the year. The Toronto Blue Jays are the additional Major League Baseball team to hold spring training in the Pinellas/Hillsborough area.

The Phillies will play the Yankees on March 8th and again on 26th in Tampa, and on March 17th and 22nd in Clearwater.

For more information and tickets, visit [phillies.mlb.com](http://phillies.mlb.com) ♦

SPORTS

A photograph of New Pitcher Roy Halliday in a red Philadelphia Phillies uniform, captured in the middle of a pitching motion on a baseball field. A large crowd of spectators is visible in the background.

New Pitcher Roy Halliday easily proved himself the star of the game —Photo by [www.belleairimages.com](http://www.belleairimages.com)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Read more pg. 5

A photograph showing Mike Johnson and Sirio Balmelli in a recording studio. They are both looking at a large mixing console. Mike is on the left, pointing at the console, and Sirio is on the right, looking at the console.

Photo by Brad Kugler

Top of the Line Recording Studio Opens

by Heidi Lux

Mike Johnson and Sirio Balmelli work on a fundraising album from the control room of Studio A in Clear Track Productions . . .

Read More pg. 5

COMMUNITY

Read more pg. 7

A photograph of two people dressed as large white bunnies with long ears, sitting in the front of a red car. They are wearing purple shirts and have colorful flower leis around their necks. They are on a city street with buildings in the background.

Photo by Simaen Skolfield

Over 20,000 Easter Eggs Expected . . .

by Heidi Lux

The 18th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. The hunt itself starts at 12:30 p.m. sharp, so be there early! . . .

Read More pg. 7

COMMUNITY

Read more pg. 2

A photograph of Mayor Hibbard, a man in a grey suit, presenting a plaque to Richard O. 'Dick' Jacobson, an older man in a dark suit. They are both smiling. The plaque is a wooden plaque with a gold key and text.

Photo courtesy of JOTO PR

Clearwater for Youth Invests \$1.5 Million...

by Heidi Lux

Mayor Hibbard presents Richard O. “Dick” Jacobson with an acknowledgment for his tremendous generosity over the past 30 years. . . .

Read More pg. 2



# CLEARWATER FOR YOUTH INVESTS \$1.5 MILLION IN OUR CHILDREN’S FUTURE

CLEARWATER

By Heidi Lux

The 37th Annual Celebrity Banquet benefiting Clearwater for Youth took place on February 27th at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort. The event was emceed by former sports anchor and senior advisor to the Tampa Bay Rays, Dick Crippen.

Clearwater for Youth is a non-profit organization dedicated to removing financial barriers which might prevent children from playing sports because they cannot afford to participate. Clearwater for Youth encourages sports in the community by offering scholarship opportunities, grants and matching funds to youth programs and participants in need.

During the Celebrity Banquet, legendary boxing coach Angelo Dundee was honored with the Frederick E. Fisher Humanitarian Award. Throughout his

fascinating career, Dundee has coached some of the top names in boxing, including Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, and George Foreman.

Jamie Moyer and his wife Karen received the J. Warren Hughes Champion for Youth Award. Not only is Moyer an All-Star Major League Baseball pitcher (currently pitching for the Phillies), but he has given back to the community through the Moyer Foundation, which he co-founded with his wife. The Moyer Foundation’s mission is “to offer encouragement, comfort and support to children enduring a time of profound emotional, physical or financial distress.”

In the past year, Clearwater for Youth raised \$1.2 million, which makes 2009 the biggest fundraising year for Clearwater for Youth to date. The year was started out on the right foot with a generous

donation of \$700,000 from Richard O. “Dick” Jacobson made at last year’s Celebrity Banquet. In this year’s banquet over \$50,000 has been raised.

Donations are used to provide hundreds of scholarships, travel grants and equipment for children who would not normally be able to afford it. Because of Clearwater for Youth, thousands of children throughout the Clearwater region have been able to participate in activities such as football, cheerleading, track & field, basketball and swimming.

Clearwater for Youth began in 1967 as a Kiwanis project and was developed into a non-profit in 1972. Clearwater for Youth is dedicated to helping the “community youth reach their fullest potential through enriching and productive activities.” Clearwater for Youth builds the skills that are taught through sports, such as character building, sportsmanship and teamwork, living up to their philosophy, “Building Character Through Sports.”

Sports provide more than just fun and fitness for children. The skills and positive behavior developed at an early age from participating in a sports program can last a lifetime. Children are taught teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship, while forming friendships and improving their self-esteem.

For more information on Clearwater for Youth, visit [www.clearwaterforyouth.org](http://www.clearwaterforyouth.org). ♦



Emcee Dick Crippen with award recipient Angelo Dundee—Photo Courtesy of JOTO PR



Jamie and Karen Moyer with Former Clearwater Mayor Brian Aungst Sr.—Photo Courtesy of JOTO PR



Angelo Dundee receiving his award presented by Chris Hughes—Photo Courtesy of JOTO PR

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*"To improve the community by raising awareness and responsibility and providing solutions to community issues."*

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# FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF JIM COATS

## CLEARWATER

Beginning in March, Pinellas County residents will receive their 2010 Census forms in the mail. The census data are important because they are used in determining congressional and legislative districts as well as determining funding for schools, housing, roads, and more. The form is shorter this year than in 2000, and is comprised of only 10 questions. Residents are asked to fill out the form and return it by U.S. mail. If forms are not received by April 1, 2010, census workers will begin visiting those households that did not return their forms. These visits will occur from April through July, 2010. Federal law mandates that individual responses are confidential.

As simple as this process is, criminals still find ways to victimize members of the public. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, along with Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services and other local law enforcement agencies, are united in their mission to make the public aware

that even the census can be a tool for criminals to engage in identity theft, fraud and burglary.

First of all, census workers are not contacting anyone by email or through the internet. Do not respond to any census-related inquiries online. All forms will be sent by U.S. mail. Look twice at any communication by email or U.S. mail using the word "census" to promote an unrelated event or fund raiser. The official federal census forms do not solicit donations for or promote any organization or cause.

According to investigators with Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services, "Legitimate census workers conducting neighborhood visits will carry an identification badge, a hand-held device, a Census Bureau logo canvas bag and a confidentiality notice." If someone claiming to be a census worker comes to your door, ask for identification and do not allow that person inside. Official census workers are to remain outside to conduct their resident contacts. They will not ask you to "use the bathroom" or "to make a phone call."

Assigned census workers are knocking on doors to verify address information. They might ask for a salary range in the household, but no other financial information will be sought. Be suspicious of any "census" worker who asks for your credit card or banking information, your social security number, or who solicits donations.

Official census workers may make contact by phone, and if you are concerned, you can confirm their identity and affiliation with the Census Bureau by calling 1-800-432-1495.



Florida is part of the United States Census Bureau's Atlanta Regional Census Center, along with Alabama and Georgia. Two Local Census Offices (LCOs) will open in Pinellas County:

St. Petersburg Local Census Office  
6661 49th Street North • 727-290-2020

Clearwater Local Census Office  
2461 North McMullen Booth Rd.  
727-287-9520

Citizens with questions or concerns about the census, or who wish to report any concerns, can contact the following offices or local law enforcement.

Pinellas County Planning Department  
David Walker, Planning Section Manager  
727-464-8200

Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services Office • 727-464-6200

For more information and to actually view the 10-question 2010 Census form, visit [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov). ♦

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*By Pam Ryan Anderson*

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is once again bustling with activity with first-time home buyers, investors, people downsizing, and people moving up to their new, larger home.

If you are paying rent, there are awesome deals around, and it is very possible to purchase a home for less than you are currently paying in rent.

If you'd like to find out how you can take advantage of this incredible market, please call me at 727-442-2822. ♦

## CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL ELECTION PRODUCES NO SURPRISES

### CLEARWATER

*By Heidi Lux*

Clearwater, in a relatively small turnout on March 9th, voted to keep a city council incumbent and reelect a former city council member.

The Seat 4 race proved to be an interesting one, with four men competing for the vacant seat left by Carlen Peterson, who termed out. Three concerned citizens and political newcomers, Wayne Carothers, Joe Paige, and Herb Quintero, ran against the experienced Bill Jonson, with Jonson winning with 54.72% of the vote.

It was an uphill battle for the men who ran against Jonson, in an overcrowded race in which they were outspent and "out-experienced" by Jonson, who had formerly served on the city council. Paul Gibson, who was also

running for office in the current election, had previously replaced Jonson.

Quintero came in second with 16.88%, Joe Paige with 15.44%, and lastly, Wayne Carothers with 12.96% of the vote.

Incumbent Paul Gibson fought to keep Seat 5 against business owner Mike Riordon, someone with fresh and innovative ideas for Clearwater. Ultimately, Gibson won with 57.26% of the vote. Riordon showed possibly the most growth as a candidate throughout the campaign season.

A Charter Amendment on the ballot changing how city auditors would be hired was defeated with 59.77% voting against.

A City Council Oath Session will be held on March 18th at City Hall. ♦



Bill Jonson, Seat 4



Paul Gibson, Seat 5

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# SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS: AVOID THE SPAM BOX BY CHOOSING THE RIGHT EMAIL ADDRESS

TAMPA BAY

By MrWebWiz.com

Choosing the right email address as a small business owner is a vital step in setting up the communication lines for the company. There are several criteria that must be met:

- High availability of the email server. Nobody can afford to not be able to send or receive because the email service is down.
- Ability to receive ALL email (even if it's spam). Email addresses that use too much spam filtering will lose legitimate emails. It's better to filter for spam in your email program than to have your email provider filter for you.
- Ability to be able to send whatever email you choose to send. Some email providers filter outbound email and won't tell you why they deem the email inappropriate.

On top of these vital criteria come other important factors, like the recognition of your email as being connected to your business, ability to send legitimate marketing emails (mass email), etc.

As a small business, we have dealt with all of the issues stated above. Of course, nobody wants spam in his in-box, but the definition of what spam is varies greatly according to whom you ask. As an example, we send an email test to accounts on Yahoo.com, MSN.com, Gmail.com, etc. There was a great variation in where the email ended up. This email contained the word "Test" in the subject line and the words "this is a testy" in the body followed by a signature with the company's address, phone number, etc. Here is what happened with that email:

Yahoo.com	in-box, but delayed two hours
MSN.com	spam box
Gmail.com	in-box
RR.com	never arrived and no bounce message
Verizon.net	spam box, but delayed two hours

This is a rather widespread result and might be different for your email address. We then had to look deeper into it, especially into sending to RR.com email users. So we tested by reducing what's in that test email. After we removed our phone number, the

email to RR.com did go through and was delivered to the spam box.

Now we were wondering why that was?

After a little thinking we came to this conclusion:

We are sending out marketing emails to our mailing list, and to comply with the ICANN spam law we have our phone number in our marketing emails. So RR seems to identify spam by counting emails sent containing a certain phone number. Remember, these are our individual results and we are not claiming anything. However, since then we had two clients who ran into the same snag—with different providers, but same effect.



## Which leads to this advice:

- Get your own domain name like yourcompany.com or whatyou do. com. Use this email solely for 1-to-1 communication with your clients, leads or customers.
- Get another domain like yourcompanymarketing.com or whatyou domarketing.com and set it up on a different hosting provider. Use that email solely for sending marketing emails.

The first one should be the same domain that your website is on and will be used for your day-to-day communication. (If you don't have a website, you should get one fast, seriously—that's a cost-effective way of gaining new clients.)

In addition to spam filters being triggered by content, they can also be triggered at some providers simply by the larger volume of marketing emails sent from one email address alone. So you run the risk of your normal communications being cut off if you use that address for your marketing email. Using a different domain for the marketing emails will most likely keep your main communication untouched.

## What you should never do:

DO NOT USE one of the big companies like RR.com or Yahoo as your email provider. Most likely you will end up as one of our

clients did: "Help, I am not receiving emails.... I lost a big customer because I did not get his email!" We investigated the problem and found out that RR.com was blocking emails sent to the client's RR.com mailbox. Unfortunately that was their main email account.

## What you should do:

USE your own domain and find a reputable hosting company and use that as your main email accounts. We are here to help with this (and also to get you an affordable web site if you don't have one).

And yes, we tried resolving the problems we had with the major providers, but they justified their practices by saying, "In order to fight spam, we know that legitimate email is affected." This does not help you at all, especially since you don't know if you are missing out on emails or not!

## Conclusion

As every big email or internet provider nowadays is trying to keep spam down and therefore taking the risk to target legitimate email as spam, it is advised to NOT use them as the provider for your main business email. It's much better to have the spam AND that important email in your in-box than not getting the spam AND NOT getting that important email.

It only takes the delete key to get rid of the spam but it takes a lot more to repair a customer relationship.

For a Free Consultation contact MrWebWiz at 727-230-0559 or e-mail [angela@MrWebWiz.com](mailto:angela@MrWebWiz.com). ♦

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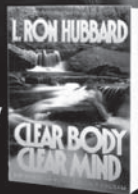
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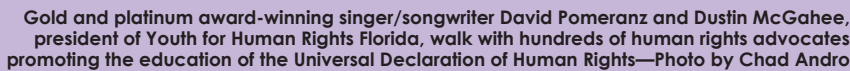


*By Heidi Lux*

*By Heidi Lux*



## Continued from page 1



"Together we have come together as

Sprinkled in between speakers were performances from lively performers such

More information on the walkathon can be found at [humanrightswalkathon.org](http://humanrightswalkathon.org). ♦



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The Easter Bunny rides the CCV's signature trackless choo-choo train—Photo by Simaen Skolfield

# OVER 20,000 EASTER EGGS EXPECTED AT THE 18TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

CLEARWATER

By Heidi Lux

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. The hunt itself starts at 12:30 p.m. sharp, so be there early!

The hardworking men and women of the Clearwater Community Volunteers (CCV) have been preparing for this popular annual event for an entire year. On Easter Sunday (April 4<sup>th</sup>), the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Coachman Park will bear the fruit of their efforts in an Easter egg hunt so massive it can only be described as “ginormous.” Admission is free, and all are welcome however, there is a small fee for some attractions.

Last year’s Easter Egg Hunt drew families from as far away as Brandon for what might be the biggest Easter egg hunt in the tri-county area. Fifteen thousands brightly colored candy-filled Easter eggs were laid out on the soft grass of Coachman Park, and snatched up by zealous children within seconds. This year’s hunt will include 250 of the coveted golden eggs and over 20,000 Easter Eggs.


The hunt will be divided into three categories by age, so that children three years old and under will have the same advantage in finding hidden eggs as the four-to-six-year-olds, as well as ages seven and up. Golden eggs will be hidden around the park in addition to the other colorful eggs. Each child who

finds a golden egg will be able to claim a stuffed Easter bunny waiting for them at Bunny Central.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be a wonderful way for families to spend the day together, and children to be delighted by the entertainment. In addition to the hunt, there will be train rides aboard the bunny express, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, a giant inflatable slide, two bouncy houses, entertainment and much, much more.

The Church of Scientology’s Clearwater Community Volunteers (CCV) was established in 1994 by parishioners of the church with the purpose of helping to create a better community for all citizens of the city of Clearwater and Pinellas County. CCV has raised money, food and toys for family and children’s charities such as the Boys & Girls Club, Everybody’s Tabernacle’s Homeless Emergency Project, the Red Cross, the victims of Katrina, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida® and Winter Wonderland. CCV also adopted a platoon in Iraq of 28 troops and sent them more than 50 packages of necessities and goodies. CCV gets its inspiration from the precept “Love and Help Children,” one of twenty-one precepts found in The Way to Happiness, A Common Sense Guide to Better Living by L. Ron Hubbard. To find out more about CCV’s events visit [www.clearwatercommunityvolunteers.org](http://www.clearwatercommunityvolunteers.org). ♦

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The cast of *Annie Jr.*—Photo by Chris Connell

# CHILDREN SING AND DANCE TO HELP ORPHANS IN HAITI

TAMPA BAY by Chad Andro

## Orphans in Haiti will soon have a place to call home.

Children sang and danced in the heartfelt story of the hopeful but sometimes miserable life of an orphan, in the Broadway production of *Annie Jr.* Their purpose was to raise awareness and raise funds so the orphans in Haiti will see the light of a better life. Produced by International Youth Theatre in coordination with Youth for Human Rights Florida, the show had a one-night showing at the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater.

The story of *Annie Jr.*, the little orphan who teaches how a “better tomorrow is only one day away,” is the perfect inspiration for those families who want

to help one of the many children who have lost their parents in the recent devastation of the earthquake. With help, these children will not be raised as underprivileged. Hopefully, they can be raised in a nurturing, educational environment and grow up to be leaders of tomorrow and change Haiti to a prosperous nation.

As humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard stated, “Save the child and you save the nation.”

International Youth Theater, located in Clearwater, Florida, has the mission assisting the development of young artists while enlightening them on their abilities and responsibilities to help improve human rights around the world. For more information go to [www.internationalyouththeater.com](http://www.internationalyouththeater.com). ♦



A scene from *Annie Jr.* presented by the International Children's Youth Theatre and performed at the Ft. Harrison—Photo by Chris Connell



*Annie Jr.* performer Gabby Durand—Photo by Chris Connell

## HOW DOES THE COUNTYWIDE FERTILIZER ORDINANCE AFFECT YOU?

PINELLAS COUNTY

*The City of Clearwater*

A county-wide fertilizer ordinance recently went into effect to regulate the use of fertilizers in Pinellas County. What does this mean to you, as a Clearwater resident? It's not a fertilizer ban. You can still fertilize your lawn and gardens, but new regulations limit the types of fertilizers used during the summer, rainy months. Since Florida experiences such hot, long summers, this is when most residents water their lawns. It's important to know the new regulations, since they will help to reduce harmful nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorous) found in fertilizers and keep them from polluting our waterways.

This ordinance restricts the amounts of fertilizer used that can run off lawns and drains, which flow into the city's storm drains, ponds, creeks, rivers, canals, and eventually to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Excessive fertilizer use—after it drains to the bay—can cause algae blooms which suffocate fish, endanger marine wildlife, and deteriorate water quality.

If you plan to fertilize, here's what you need to know:

- Clearwater and all county residents may apply fertilizers to their lawns from Oct. 1 through May 31.
- Fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants from June 1 to September 30.
- Don't apply fertilizer if the National Weather Service has issued a weather

advisory in Pinellas County for events like severe thunderstorms, floods, tropical storms, or if rains greater than two inches in a 24-hour period is predicted.

- Fertilizer with nitrogen cannot be applied on newly established lawns or landscape plants for the first 30 days.
- If granular fertilizers containing nitrogen are used, they must contain no less than 50 percent slow-release nitrogen, per guaranteed analysis label.
- Fertilizer cannot be applied or deposited onto any solid surface, such as driveways, sidewalks, and roads, nor can they be washed, swept, or blown off such surfaces into stormwater drains, ditches, roadways, or surface waters. If this occurs, the fertilizer must be immediately removed to the greatest extent possible.
- If using broadcast or rotary fertilizer spreaders, deflector shields must deflect fertilizer granules from all solid surfaces and surface waters.
- A fertilizer-free zone is a 10-foot buffer from a wetland, top of the bank of a surface water, or landward edge of a seawall. Fertilizer cannot be applied within this zone.

If you have questions or to learn more, call the Pinellas County Watershed Management Division at (727) 464-4425.

City of Clearwater Web site—[www.myclclearwater.com](http://www.myclclearwater.com) ♦

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 14th, Peace Memorial Concert Series:** Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Gloria. This is the featured concert of the month-long "Go for Baroque Festival" and the final event for the 2009-10 Peace Concert Series season. Selections will include the beloved "Four Seasons" for chamber orchestra and Vivaldi's choral masterpiece "Gloria," performed by chorus, soloists, and chamber orchestra. Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Ft. Harrison Avenue, Downtown Clearwater. No tickets needed and seating is first come, first served. An offering will be taken (\$5 minimum suggested donation). Doors open at 2:30, concert begins at 3:00 p.m. For more info, visit the website at [www.peacememorial.org](http://www.peacememorial.org) or call the church office at (727) 446-3001.

**March 18th, Wine Tasting and Tapas:** Tempt your palate with a three-course tapas, including smoked salmon fettuccini and lamp chops from Bella Brava chef Domenica Macchia, paired with our favorite wine as you browse the table exhibit. Participants receive a complimentary handmade ceramic plate created by the St. Pete Clay Artist-in-Residence Program. Florida Craftsmen, 501 Central Ave. 7 to 9 p.m. \$75 per person, reserve by March 12 to (727) 821-7391. [www.floridacraftsmen.net](http://www.floridacraftsmen.net)

**March 18th: All About Dolphins:** An Update: Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will continue its free speaker series with "All About Dolphins: An Update." The presentation will explore how dolphins live, feed, breed and get into trouble. It will also showcase how CMA helps rescue, rehabilitate and hopefully eventually release them back into the wild. Guests will also learn what they can do to help dolphins survive in the wild. Snacks and welcome begin at 6:00, and the presentation by CMA's Director of Education Joe Malo and CMA's Manager of Marine Mammal's Abby Stone will take place from 6:30 to 7:30, followed by a question-and-answer session at 7:30. For more information, visit [www.SeeWinter.com](http://www.SeeWinter.com).

**March 18th, Lunchtime Entertainment Series:** Noon to 2 p.m. in Station Square Park, Downtown Clearwater.

**March 18th, Richard Marx:** A solo acoustic evening with the singer/songwriter at the Capitol Theatre. [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

**March 18th-28th, Driving Miss Daisy:** Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize. A rich, sharp-tongued Jewish widow meets her new chauffeur and, over a series of absorbing scenes spanning 25 years, they grow into one of theatre's most memorable odd couples. American Stage, Downtown St. Pete. Call (727) 823-7529 or visit [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org) for more information.

**March 19th, Grand Central Trolley Hop:** Each third Friday of the month, the Grand Central Trolley Hop in Downtown St. Pete offers unlimited rides aboard the Central Avenue Shuttle from 4 p.m. to midnight, via a Hop passport purchase that comes with great discounts from participating pubs and restaurants. Passports are \$10

each and may be purchased at Craftsman House, Beak's Old Florida, Island Seafood or through PayPal. Please visit [www.GrandCentralDistrict.org](http://www.GrandCentralDistrict.org) for a detailed list of discounts.

**March 19th, Leo Kottke:** The acoustic guitarist performs at the Capitol Theatre, Downtown Clearwater. [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

**March 20th, The Kirk of Dunedin Community Church Spring Craft Fair:** Quality local crafters, strawberry festival, food concessions and bake sale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2686 Bayshore Blvd. (Alt 19) Dunedin. Call (727) 733-9305 for any further information.

**March 20th, 18th Annual Mutt Strut:** At dog-friendly Honeymoon Island State Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Benefits Humane Society of Pinellas. Contact Twila at (727) 797-7722, ext 222 for vendor space availability and more information.

**March 20th, Women Want Everything Encore Performance:** 7:00 p.m. at USF College of The Arts, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa. \$20, \$15 for USF students with ID. Tickets are limited and on sale now at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**March 20th and 21st, About Boating Safety:** United Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1. Clearwater is offering "About Boating Safely" at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key, 1001 Gulf Blvd at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Topics include: Boating Emergencies, Know Your Boat, Getting Underway, Navigating, Operating Your Boat Safely, and Legal Requirements. Adult and youth graduates receive a "Florida State Certification Card." For more information and to register contact: Ann Bennett, Staff Officer, Public Education (727) 469-8895.

**March 26th-28th, Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg:** "World's Fastest Spring Break Party" on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg! Rev up your engines as the IRL makes its 2010 U.S. debut in St. Pete! [www.gpstpete.com](http://www.gpstpete.com) or 727-898-INDY for more information.

**March 26th, Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg 5K Run, Walk 'N Wheel-a-Thon:** Don't miss your chance to participate in the first annual 5K Racing to Recovery run, Walk 'N Wheel-a-Thon and party to kick off the "World's Fastest Spring Break Party." Proceeds from the event benefit local spinal cord research and supports local challenged athletes. The first 1,000 people receive a FREE ticket for Friday's race activities. Waterfront and on the racetrack, 6:30 p.m. Registration prior to March 1: \$20; March 1-24: \$25; on race day: \$30 if space available. (727) 898-4639 or [www.grandprix5k.com](http://www.grandprix5k.com) for more info.

**March 26th, 4th Friday Clearwater:** Party in Cleveland Street, 5:30 to 10:00 p.m., Downtown Clearwater.

*If you would like to submit your event to our list, please email [editor@tampabayinformer.com](mailto:editor@tampabayinformer.com)*

*To view the complete listing of upcoming events, visit [www.tampabayinformer.com](http://www.tampabayinformer.com). ♦*

# VITAMINS: THE GOOD AND THE BAD



Peter Gillham's at 533 Cleveland Street.

## NATURAL HEALTH

by Shelley Jaffe

These days everyone is hunting for a bargain. But when it comes to vitamins, do you really know what you're getting?

First, cheap vitamins are usually synthetic. Synthetic vitamins are made from coal tar derivatives and are much cheaper to produce than natural vitamins which come from food and other natural sources. There are mixed feelings about whether or not synthetic vitamins are as good as natural, but my personal opinion is that I want my vitamins to come from a food source, not a fuel source which is known to be carcinogenic (cancer-causing).

When a synthetic vitamin is created, its molecular structure is identical to its natural counterpart. This is why there are people who believe that synthetic is fine. However, there are other components called co-factors that are part of nature, but not part of what is created in the lab. One example of these co-factors is bioflavonoids, which are antioxidants that may help prevent degenerative diseases. When you peel an orange, the white part beneath the peel is rich in this component and usually consumed with the vitamin-C-rich flesh of the orange. Our vitamin C is obtained from natural sources and contains natural bioflavonoids, just like you would find in the foods you eat.

This does not mean to say that the high-

priced vitamins on the market today are all good. Many of them are overpriced and you are paying for fancy packaging and the cost of marketing. It does mean that you should be wary of cheap prices and make sure to do your research on a brand before you start taking it.

In our store we do the research for you. We make sure we don't carry synthetic vitamins. There are a number of vitamin companies today owned by Big Pharma and giant commercial conglomerates which are in it for the profits, not to benefit people's health. We want to make sure that our customers get the highest quality products. This is why we screen our products so carefully and why you don't see many brands on our shelves. If it doesn't meet our standards, we won't carry it.

Now, I have had some people say we are foolish because we might lose a sale for not being willing to carry what we feel is an inferior product. But if we don't watch out for our customer's health and well being, what are we doing in this business anyway?

Shelley Jaffe is the Executive Director of Peter Gillham's Nutrition Center located at 533 Cleveland Street in Downtown Clearwater. For more information please call 727-462-5770 or visit our website at [www.pgncw.com](http://www.pgncw.com). ♦

## Simaen Skolfield, Staff Photographer

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**



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