

# What Brings \$521,300,000 to Tampa Bay?

**T**ourism...the Port...Phosphate... Citrus...Construction...These are some of the industries that come to mind when we think about the ones that contribute significantly to our local economy.

It is time to add a new industry to that list, an industry that brings over \$521.3 million annually to our region. Not only does this industry pump a significant amount of money into our local economy, it provides a diversity of benefits to add to the quality of life in Tampa Bay.

This major industry is THE ARTS. The Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. ("TBBCA") recently announced the results of a professional study of the economic impact of the arts in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. This is the first measure of arts impact on the two counties since the original joint study conducted in 1999. The report was sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, and conducted by the PwC Sports, Convention and Leisure Practice.

The findings were presented to government and business leaders and the press on January 31st at Tampa International Airport. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers, including partner David Zimmerman, Rob Canton (Project Director) and Nilgun Kamp (Project Manager), presented the details of the study results. Executive directors of the region's arts and cultural institutions, as well as representatives of local government were present to respond to the findings.

The study quantified the arts as an industry and determined that they are certainly not a drain on the economy; they are in fact a key component of economic development. The arts are clearly a major contributor to the economic and social health of the entire region.

Key findings include the fact that not only do the arts have an economic impact of \$521.3 million annually; they also provide 7,800 jobs and \$147 million in payroll. In terms of attendance, the study found that 5.6 million visits were made to non-profit arts and cultural institutions in a single year. To put this number in perspective, for the same year, the attendance figure for the area's sports events (including the Buccaneers, Devil Rays, Lightning, Mutiny, USF Football and Basketball, and the Outback Bowl) is 3.3 million! The Super Bowl Task Force predicted an economic impact of the Super Bowl at \$250 million. Experts have debated whether the true impact was that high. Yet there is a more important thing to note. The arts have a much greater impact on the economy EVERY year, not just one of the rare years that a big football game is played here.

*Continued on page 6*



Brittany Snow (right) was presented with "Temptation Eyes", a portrait of herself by Chad Cardoza (left).



Miss Gasparilla of 2008, Lisa Noury



Gasparilla-featured screenwriter Adam Sigal and his lovely wife Jeanie

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Screenwriter Adam Sigal (right) and Executive Producer Warren Meyer (left) were awarded at the Gasparilla Film Festival.

## Hometown Boy & Girl Make Good in Tinseltown

**H**ave you ever heard, "I always wanted to be an actor, writer or producer but my parents convinced me to pursue a real career"? As the tacit agreement of "got to have a real job" sets in, you hand over your hard earned cash to the ticket master to watch the latest blockbuster. Hmm... I think there is more to the story.

Fortunately, Clearwater High School graduate turned film writer, Adam Sigal and now actress, Brittany Snow

from Carrollwood, have parents and groups in the community like The Gasparilla Film Festival (GFF) who see the importance of nurturing the vision of artists.

Twenty-five-year-old Sigal, son of Clearwater's Joanie & Steve Sigal, left for Hollywood just after graduating from Clearwater High School. He recently returned home for the (GFF) screening of his film "Daydreamer",

*Continued on page 2*



## Local Artist Spotlight for March ANA LIVINGSTON



Ana Livingston in her Clearwater art studio

**A**na Livingston is a fine artist, muralist and poet in addition to being the new Art Director for the Tampa Bay Informer newspaper. She is this month's Featured Artist.

Ana was born and raised on an island in western Washington State. She started demonstrating her native talent at the age of five and completed her

first painting at six. Her grandmother was a professional artist so Ana was afforded access to this studio and its supplies at a young age. Over the next decade she exhibited in numerous fairs, festivals, banks and galleries in addition to one-person showings.

After leaving home at 18, she traveled for several years and then returned to settle in downtown Seattle. It was during this period that she also collaborated on 3 large exterior murals in that city.

"With my fine art on canvas I paint in the realistic style reminiscent of the Masters of the High Renaissance. With each piece I strive to uplift and to bring elegant and noble artwork to my clients. My current series highlights and immortalizes the great ancient cultures of Italy and Greece; these augment my personal mission of bringing about a rebirth of classical technique which will, in

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Gasparilla-featured screenwriter Adam Sigal; his mother, Joanie; his father, Steve; and his brother, Brian.

### Hometown Boy & Girl Make Good in Tinseltown

*Continued from front page*

a romantic drama, filmed on location in downtown L.A. and at a friend's apartment.

The film refreshingly defies convention and keeps the audience on edge with suspense. Adam says it is only the first of many to come. He already has two lined up for production within the next 6 months. The festival is a chance to get someone to buy his first-ever feature film.

During an interview with TV reporter Kathryn Simmons who asked if he could liken this experience to a daydream, he replied, "Yeah, it's a dream. I don't want to say it's a daydream because I would like for it to be happening more often."

What role does the independent film festival have? "It does a couple things," Sigal said. "It gets my name out there to some extent. I meet a lot of people who are in the industry: investors, producers and directors and all that kind of stuff. It's kind of a promotional thing for me." It also gives him time to spend with his parents.

Adam's mother Joanie Sigal said on a Bay News 9 interview, "You have to push your kids to achieve their goals and their dreams. I mean, it's part of what you do, and him achieving his goals is just as good as me achieving mine. It really is. I'm just looking forward to the Academy Awards; next step Oscars."

You can link to the news interview of Joanie and Adam and the trailer of this excellent film at [www.tampabayinformer.com](http://www.tampabayinformer.com).

Also brought back home was Tampa-grown and now L.A. actress, Brittany Snow, who was awarded with The Gasparilla Film Festival's "Rising Star Award". From the age of six Brittany knew she wanted to be in the movies. Her acting debut was on Guiding Light in 1998, and since then the nearly 22-year-old actress has also worked with Oscar winner Christopher Walken in addition to playing Michelle Pfeiffer's daughter, both in the 2007 summer hit Hairspray.

During the closing night ceremony Brittany expressed immense appreciation and gratitude to her parents and grandparents for their support. To Brittany's surprise, at the close of the ceremony she was presented with "Temptation Eyes", a portrait of herself by fine artist Chad Cardoza. The artwork was commissioned by The Gasparilla Film Festival.

The Gasparilla Film Festival, Tampa Bay's largest independent film festival, is operated by the Tampa Film Institute. It is a 501 (C) 3 organization dedicated to advancing film education and community involvement in film in the Tampa Bay area. The GFF made its debut in 2007; and has become Tampa Bay's largest independent film festival, hosting close to 3,000 participants. The event attracts film lovers in addition to a variety of film and media-related professionals looking to network and learn more about film. This year's event took place at the following venues: historic Tampa Theatre, Channelside Theatres, Ybor City, and the Florida Aquarium.

- The Editor



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**SCIENTOLOGY**  
IN THE NEWS AGAIN!

The Church of Scientology has launched the Scientology Video Channel, at [www.Scientology.org](http://www.Scientology.org). The channel contains 82 broadcast-quality videos. These videos provide an overview of the beliefs and practices of the religion, as well as information on the many humanitarian programs sponsored by the Church - programs addressing drug abuse, illiteracy, human rights and disaster relief. The videos give accurate information straight from the source.

This Public Service Announcement was brought to you by the Tampa Bay Informer - The "GOOD NEWS" Newspaper. As the format of our publication is "GOOD NEWS" we give recognition and support to various religious and non-religious groups involved in activities that better the community.

I am certain that when we advance enough as a society to respect the religious beliefs of others we will be able to achieve a world without war and chaos.

-The Editor

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## TAMPA BAY INFORMER

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www.tampabayinformer.com

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## TAMPA BAY INFORMER'S PURPOSE

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

*We are achieving this purpose by publishing informative articles related to issues in the community which include community activities sponsored by non-profit and civic groups. Our articles invite members of the community to get involved and take action to help improve our community.*

*Our advertisers help fund our purpose and in turn, our marketing department is continuously expanding our circulation and increasing the exposure of our advertisers, resulting in expansion of their businesses."*



Editor  
Angela LeMay



## From the Desk of Sheriff Jim Coats

In light of some recent occurrences around the Tampa Bay area I find it necessary to once again remind Pinellas County residents of the need to be vigilant against distraction type thefts. Over the past few years several different versions of this crime have occurred in our area, but all involve a suspect creating some type of diversion as an accomplice enters a residence to commit a theft.

Common diversions include a suspect who poses as a utility worker or private contractor who arrives at a residence without an appointment to test water quality, water pressure, the condition of sewer lines, or to verify the accuracy of property lines. In reality this person is responsible for luring the victim outside, or to keep them distracted in a specific location within their home as another suspect surreptitiously enters. Once inside the home the second suspect searches quickly for cash, jewelry, or

other valuables and leaves before being noticed. When the theft is complete, the first suspect concludes the "test" being performed, or makes an excuse that allows him or her to leave the scene and is never heard from again. In some cases the theft is detected minutes after it has occurred, however in most cases it is not discovered for an extended period of time.

Historically suspects who commit this type of crime have targeted the elderly when selecting a victim. The reasons for this vary, but our elderly residents are not the only people susceptible to becoming a victim of this type of crime. As Sheriff, I would like to remind everyone to use caution when approached by a stranger, and I strongly suggest that no one of any age should allow a stranger to enter his or her home for any reason without verifying a legitimate need for them to do so. It is very important to remember that once a stranger has made it inside, neither you nor your belongings are safe.

If a repairman or utility employee arrives unexpectedly at your door ask to show their identification and then have them wait outside while you verify that they

are who they say they are. If you are still not satisfied that the person is legitimately who they say they are do not let them inside your home and tell them that you will call to make an appointment for another time. If they do not want to come inside but instead ask you to accompany them outside, lock your door behind you and make sure doors and windows that are out of your view are also secure.

Remember, if you believe someone is acting suspiciously you should notify the Sheriff's Office communication center or your local police department and report your concerns right away. If possible write down a description of the person you are reporting as well as any companion and include a description of any vehicle they might be using for transportation.

Crime prevention begins with simple suggestions like these, but only you can make them work. As always it is our goal to improve the quality of life and to ensure the safety of our citizens by "Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas."



## PEACE MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, APRIL 13 at 3 pm

**WHAT:** The Clearwater High School choral department presents AMERICA SINGING: GLOBAL RHYTHMS AND CELEBRATED POEMS.

This concert will be the inaugural performance for the new World Music Choir and will also feature the Concert and Treble Choirs singing settings of celebrated poets Langston Hughes, James Whitcomb Riley and William

Butler Yeats. Fill your hearts with song as you enjoy these talented young choral groups under the baton of their new director, Dr. Peter J. Durow.

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

**CHARGE:** No tickets needed and seating is first come, first served. A free will offering will be taken. Doors open at 2:30.

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

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

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

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## Staff Photographer Simaen Skolfield

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

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

You can contact him at  
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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30th	31st	April 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Fairies Inc., 2pm, Largo Cultural Center 6th Annual Downtown Sarasota Craft Festival in Sarasota at 10am	<i>Problems in Life? Get Your Basics Today!</i> (727) 422-5488	<b>April Fool's Day</b>	<b>Children's Book Day</b>	<i>Advertise in the Tampa Bay Informer!</i>	The Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg at 8:00 am "Chicago City Limits" at 8m, Tarpon Springs	IronGirlClearwaterWomen's 10K Run, 5K Run And 5K Walk at 7:30am in Coachman Park The Honda Grand Prix of St. Pete at 8:00 am Ocean Blvd Art & Wine Fair in Siesta Key, Sarasota at 10am Largo Art Hop - 4:00 to 10:30pm
6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Ocean Blvd Art & Wine Fair in Siesta Key, Sarasota at 10am Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival in Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, 3pm The Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg at 8am	<b>World Health Day</b> Horse Rides & Family Fun Day at Pinellas Park 1-4pm	<i>Find Out What the Basics Are!</i> (727) 422-5488	<i>Support Green Peace - Recycle!</i>	<i>Help Your Neighbor!</i>	2008 "Fishing for Charities" Kingfish Tournament at Coachman Park Brooker Creek Preserve Family Night Hike, Tarpon Springs, 6:30pm	2008 "Fishing for Charities" Kingfish Tournament at Coachman Park The 42nd Annual Dunedin Highland Games And Spring Clan Gathering at 12pm 5th Annual St Pete Beach Craft Festival at 10am
13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th
5th Annual St Pete Beach Craft Festival at 10am Tampa Bay Blues Festival At Vinoy Waterfront Park in St. Pete 5th Annual St Pete Beach Craft Festival at 10am	Opera Tampa presents "A Prelude to Tosca" at Clearwater Main Library, 6pm	Brooker Creek Preserve family Creek Adventure, Tarpon Springs, 1pm	<i>Get Your Neighborhood on the Basics!</i>	<i>Support Good News!</i> <i>Advertise in the Tampa Bay Informer!</i>	Tampa Bay WSJT Smooth Jazz Fest at Coachman Park	Downtown Clearwater Poetry Walk, 1pm Tampa Bay WSJT Smooth Jazz Fest at Coachman Park Mike Alstott Celebrity Softball Challenge at Bright House Field, 12pm 33rd Annual Mainsail Arts Festival in St. Pete, 9am Fun N Sun Disc Golf Tournament, 10am Coachman Park Island Earth Days, Honeymoon State Park, 10am
20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
Island Earth Days, Honeymoon State Park, 10am Target Pops in the Park at Coachman Park, 7:45pm Fun N Sun Disc Golf Tournament, 10am Coachman Park 33rd Annual Mainsail Arts Festival in St. Pete, 10am	<b>Patriot's Day</b> Beach to Bayou Run, Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs, 8am	<b>Earth Day</b> 3rd Annual Spring Pet Fair, Downtown Clearwater at 10am	<b>Secretary's Day</b>	<i>Be True to Your Own Goals</i>	<b>Arbor Day</b> Qfest Rocks the Park at Coachman Park New Century Opera's The Valkyries at 7pm, Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center 5th Annual Charity Softball Game, Bright House Field, 4:30pm	Fun N' Sun Country Concert at Coachman Park Arbor Day Celebration & Tree Giveaway, Clearwater Public Works Complex, 9am



# HUMAN RIGHTS Walkathon 2008

## Youth Walk, Dance and Drum for Human Rights!

Young and old alike joined forces with the Tampa Bay Chapter of "Youth for Human Rights Int'l" (YFHR), and the "Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking" to raise funds and awareness of what our human rights are and make those rights a reality.

Nearly 400 youth and adults comprising 60 community leaders, celebrities and speakers of various faiths gathered this month at Straub Park in St. Petersburg, Florida for the 2nd annual Youth for Human Rights Walkathon.

Among others, Mary Shuttleworth, President of YFHR and Ms. Catherine Bell, the famed star of "Jag", spoke in support of Youth for Human Rights and the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT) whose director, Anna Rodriguez is a tireless fighter for the children and women and men who are being enslaved by the millions all over the world and right here in the US.

Lively entertainment was provided by Founder and CEO of Life Force Cultural Arts Academy—Jai Hinson's group, The Dundu Dole Urban African Ballet and Drummers (www.liforceculturalarts.com) Salsa Ole! and the Dixie Chaps, a New Orleans-style jazz band.

The event was the strongest march to date and exemplified YFHR's motto:

"In these dangerous times people of all faiths must come together to educate ourselves and our youth in basic human rights. These



Famed actress Catherine Bell (left) alongside President of Youth for Human Rights International, Mary Shuttleworth spoke at the event.

rights were set forth by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our purpose with the Human Rights Walkathon 2008 is to unite all people in these rights and to make them a reality. Through education we can end war, discrimination and intolerance.

You CAN Make A Difference!"

To find out more about Youth for Human Rights visit: [www.youthforhumanrights.org](http://www.youthforhumanrights.org)



The Dundu Dole Urban African Ballet

*"One of the ways we bring human rights to the awareness of particularly those who influence millions, is through summits and festivals, where we bring youth from many nations together and so eradicate ethnic barriers where they exist. If we want to change society, we need to start with the children of this world."*

Mary Shuttleworth  
President, Youth for Human Rights International



Nearly 400 people participated at this event.



The Dundu Dole Urban African Drummers

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Aflac Iron Girl Event Series

TAKE THE IRON GIRL CHALLENGE!

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

Unique features include performance shirts sized just-for-women, personalized race bibs, IPICO Sports timing, custom finisher medals and much more. Celebrate your accomplishment at the post-race catered Breakfast Café and awards ceremony as we recognize the top three finishers in each division, acknowledge participants of all fitness levels and showcase inspirational athlete stories. Fundraising efforts will benefit the Ulman Cancer Fund to help support young adults living with and recovering from cancer.

To learn more about the Aflac Iron Girl 10K and 5K Run/Walk, as well as Iron Girl's nine other events nationwide, visit: [www.IronGirl.com](http://www.IronGirl.com)

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**What Brings \$521,300,000 to Tampa Bay?**

*Continued from front page*

Ninety-two arts and cultural institutions participated in the study, up from the sixty-seven, which completed surveys for the 1999 study. The earlier study found an economic impact of \$402.2 million — so the impact of the arts has definitely grown tremendously during the last few years. The multipliers used in the most recent study are much more conservative, which makes the results of this study even more impressive.

What do the results of this economic impact study mean? Money invested in the arts does not merely provide cultural enrichment, increased SAT scores, and the myriad of other benefits typically associated with arts and culture. Now it has been systematically proven that the arts have a tremendous, quantifiable,

economic benefit for the community. Money is not given to the arts; money is invested in the arts, an investment that yields valuable dividends in terms of economic growth and development to the region.

The arts reach millions of people and profoundly impact our local economy. They attract conventions and relocating companies to our area, as well as a talented workforce and tourists. It may seem crass to put a monetary value on an industry that enriches our lives in so many ways that cannot be measured by dollars and cents. Yet the arts have now been proven to be an engine for economic growth and development, and we must now view the arts as a vital agent for economic progress.

—Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts  
www.tbbca.org

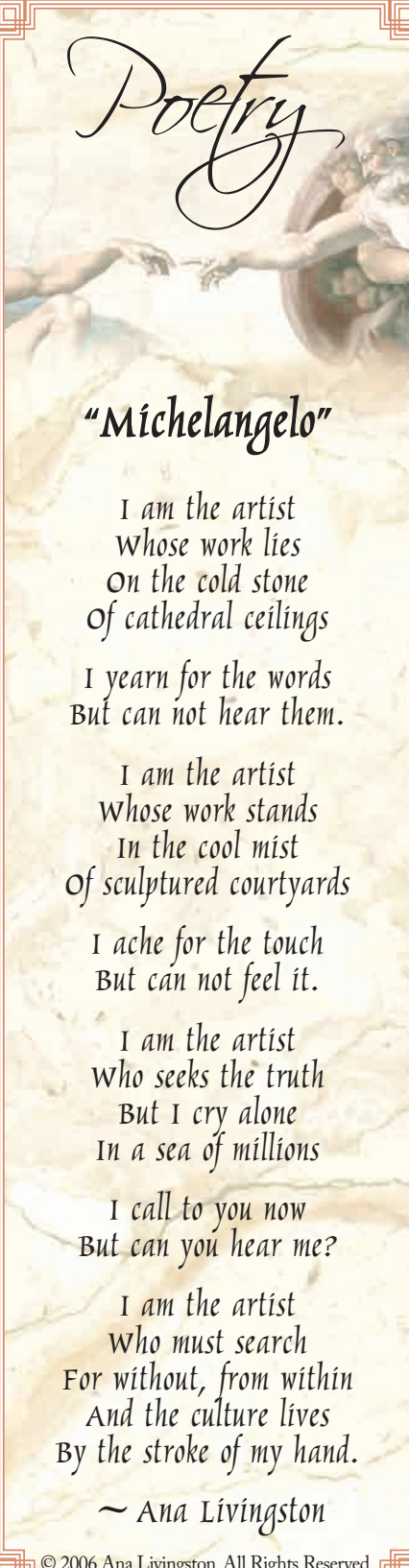


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*Poetry*

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Whose work lies  
On the cold stone  
Of cathedral ceilings

I yearn for the words  
But can not hear them.

I am the artist  
Whose work stands  
In the cool mist  
Of sculptured courtyards

I ache for the touch  
But can not feel it.

I am the artist  
Who seeks the truth  
But I cry alone  
In a sea of millions

I call to you now  
But can you hear me?

I am the artist  
Who must search  
For without, from within  
And the culture lives  
By the stroke of my hand.

~ Ana Livingston

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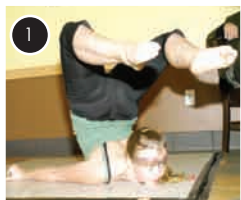


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# Artists Inject Culture Into Downtown Clearwater!



1. Circus arts performed by Hailey Haugen; 2. Jack Potter, President of Artists in Action International with Starbucks manager Bridget; 3. L. D. Sledge reading poetry at the Café des Arts held in Starbucks; 4. Musicians performing at the Cleveland Street Mission Beautification Art Gallery; 5. Artists Jasmine Marie and Mariah June dressed up for Mardi Gras; 6. Artwork such as this piece by Jim Warren were displayed at the Cafe.



National trends are seeing businesses and residents once exiled to the “burbs” returning to downtowns as their venues of choice to live, work and shop. It is time for Clearwater to strike while the iron is hot!

We have the Memorial Causeway Bridge, an elaborately restored Main Public Library and the beautiful Cleveland StreetScape. Let’s not stop there.

What’s missing? People.

One group that is taking advantage of this trend by focusing on having events to attract the public downtown is “Artists In Action International, Inc.” (AIAI) is comprised of dedicated members who volunteer their time to imbuing communities with the arts. Some of their recent events and activities include:

- Cleveland Street Mission Beautification Art Gallery and Art Windows
- Clearwater Galactics Soccer Club Summer Art Showcase and Fundraiser
- Artists in Action Choir performed at Winter Wonderland
- Hosted Café Des Arts at Starbucks
- Sponsored the Human Rights Walkathon
- Promoting Art and Cultural Events in Tampa Bay on the weekly “People Are Talking” Radio Show on WTAN 1340 AM

The purpose of these events is to continue the revitalizing of Downtown Clearwater through Creativity, Commerce and Culture. Events like these continue to reinforce the migration back to downtown on

a grassroots level by encouraging the community and businesses to work & play together, resulting in a thriving Downtown Clearwater.

An upcoming event, hosted by AIAI and the Clearwater Main Street Program is: “The Downtown Clearwater Poetry Walk”

- **Date:** Saturday April 19th 2008
- **Time:** 1:00pm - 5:00pm
- **Where:** Cleveland Street - Clearwater
- **Admission:** FREE

The Downtown Poetry Walk will commence at Jamba Juice on the corner of Cleveland and Fort Harrison, where visitors will receive a program with a map listing the participating businesses. Poetry readings will be held throughout the day at various indoor and outdoor venues along Cleveland

Street in downtown Clearwater where visitors can view artwork and listen to poetry readings.

“The Little Book of Cleveland Street Poetry” release reading will be scheduled as a featured event during The Downtown Clearwater Poetry Walk. Copies will be available for sale. Contributors will receive complimentary copies of the pocket-sized chapbook (a small book or pamphlet of popular tales, ballads, etc., formerly sold by chapmen: British: a peddler)

\*for more info on the Event or Participation contact Shelley Jaffe shelley@lgjaffe.com 727-641-4285

To find out more about Artists in Action International, visit [www.artistsinactionint.org](http://www.artistsinactionint.org)

— The Editor





# Attention Parents!

## Want Confident, Responsible and Successful Kids?

by Joe Yazbeck



The answer is to just allow them on stage and let them perform! Whether by singing, acting, performing music, dancing or otherwise, a well-trained and creatively supported child or teen stands a better chance - as he or she grows into adulthood - of living a highly accomplished and remarkable life.

Why? Well think about this: all art forms, be it performing, visual or literary, embody all the elements of envisioning an idea or concept and making it show up in the real world. This starts with imagination and brought into being for all people to contribute to and enjoy as an audience or recipient. Its goal: to uplift well being and increase awareness of a truth.

The fundamental elements of singing,

dancing, acting, playing a musical instrument, writing or painting, because of mastering the basic discipline of that art form, opens a path for the young person to learn, develop and apply the building blocks of how to create and build an accomplished life. These building blocks comprise creating concepts, making them come to life with practice and discipline, presenting them with the highest level of communication to evoke emotional response and understanding (no matter if it's a stage, a film, a canvas, or cd,) resulting in a positive mark or difference on the world around them through the created product or performance.

What a wonderful lesson learning experience for a young person to have

as a fundamental principle in living life! Our community has a highly valuable responsibility to ensure we provide our children with opportunities to create through their chosen art forms and thus help them learn how to build a creative and constructive life in their future years.

Beth Brier, owner of BB's Dance Factory in Clearwater who has been successfully providing dance and theater training to kids for many years and who is on the verge of doubling her facility space says, "We need to teach kids according to their talent and not just teaching subjects. Our children are our future and any training in the arts helps them appreciate and open their eyes to life and become more aware. Dance helps them learn how to work as a team."

Beth's kids will be featured in Fairies Inc., a dance and circus arts production to be held at the Largo Cultural Center on Mar 29 at 7pm, & Mar 30 at 2pm.

For tickets call 587-6793.

Chip Marshall, a Broadway veteran and local children's theater coach says, "I have been consistently told by parents and have seen this personally that a child's work

and improvement in the performing arts has a direct positive effect on their ability to effectively present themselves to a group. I have no doubt this greatly influences their chances of success later in life". Chip currently operates The Broadway Bootcamp in association with Heartbeat Productions. His studio is located in Safety Harbor and is now taking auditions for children's shows.

Parents can call 727 712 7240 for audition appointments.

I write through the certainty of my own personal experience having the fortune of my own 2 very talented kids who were given the opportunity to practice and use their artistic abilities early in their life and have themselves made a responsible and accomplished life of their own. My son is currently enjoying a successful Broadway career and my daughter enjoys multiple achievements in performing as well as running two successful businesses.

We, as parents, owe to our children and consequently the future of our civilization to keep the arts fully alive in our kids. The marvelous result is that the arts, in turn, keep our kids fully alive.



Broadway veteran, Chip Marshall, holding auditions for upcoming Broadway Bootcamp

Joe Yazbeck

Arts Reporter & Editorial Writer

Tampa Bay Informer

[jjazbeck@heartbeatproductionsinc.com](mailto:jjazbeck@heartbeatproductionsinc.com)

727-489-2349



Beth Brier with aerialists/dancers Catie Brier and Oceane Vincent

### Local Artist Spotlight for February – Ana Livingston

(Continued from front page)

turn, bring about positive change in our present day culture.

"It is my viewpoint that since art has such a unique and key role in our society that this responsibility can not be abused or ignored or left for someone else to address.



"Sovereign" by Ana Livingston

solutions or at least a ray of hope and understanding offered into that area of life. Artists of any field have an undeniable responsibility with regard to the state of mankind as their voice is broad and impacts all peoples of Earth. Art is, in essence, communication. As an artist, your true greatness lies only in what you choose to communicate or to bring to life.

"My driving basic purpose in life is to advocate and support the alliance of great artists, creators, and educators of Earth, all being united in the common purpose of propelling Mankind to greater heights and thereby heralding in a New Cultural Renaissance. I welcome your assistance."

~ Ana Livingston

Ana currently resides in Clearwater, Florida and is the owner of LIVINGART. She invites your comments and inquires.

Website: [www.livingart.org](http://www.livingart.org)

Email: [ana@livingart.org](mailto:ana@livingart.org)

My goal with not only my art, but with all my upcoming artistic projects involving others, is to enrich the society – to raise one person at a time and as an end result, the civilization as a whole. I see this as the higher intrinsic responsibility of artists." She adds, "This is reflected in a very applicable quote from Michelangelo: 'The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark'.

"There is nothing wrong with art that expresses one's feelings or brings awareness to issues, but I also feel there must be



"Purity" by Ana Livingston

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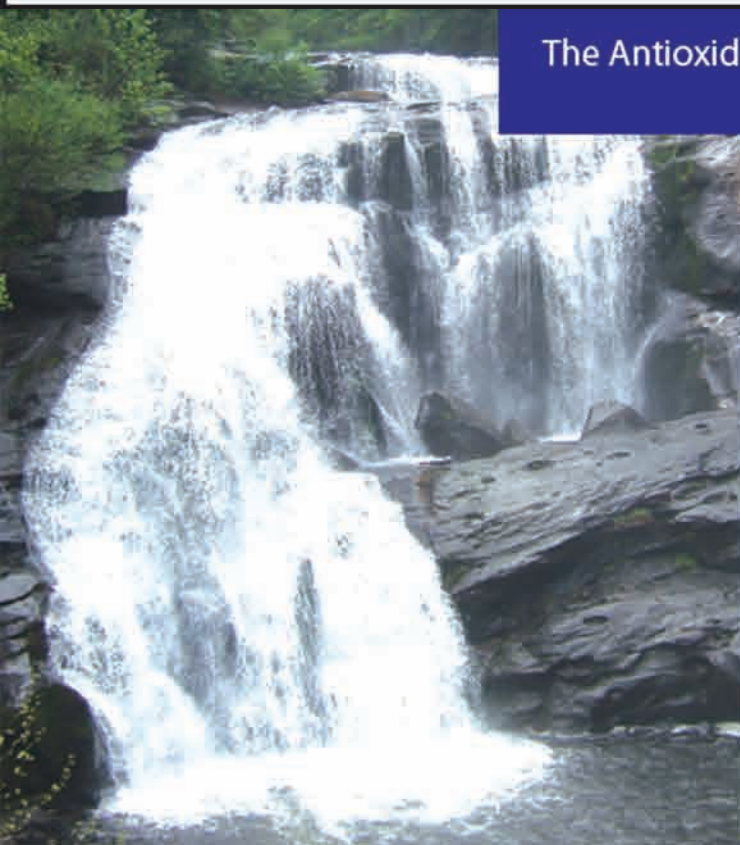
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# Florida's Foster Care

## Questionable "Care"



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

**T**axpayers' dollars are allocated for the care of Florida's Foster Care children. Yet, what type of care are they receiving? Some would have us think that these children are prime candidates for mental health care, which translates to diagnosing, labeling and drugging.

In a 2002 article by Carole Marbin Miller of the Miami Herald, she reported "About 650 Florida foster children, including some not under the care of a pediatrician, have been given mind-altering drugs...Infants and toddlers were being administered the drugs, most of which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not found to be safe or effective for children's use..."

Again, in 2005, Ms. Miller reported that, "Nearly 1900 children under the care of Florida's child welfare system are taking antidepressant drugs, despite a strong federal warning that such medications are linked to an increased risk of suicidal thinking among children.... Nearly 2100 children in care are taking powerful antipsychotic drugs."

Florida Department of Children and Families is entrusted with the task of protecting Florida's Foster Care children. We need to question the use of psychiatric drugs as a means of caring for children who have been removed from their homes. The nation's newspapers, leading authorities, and even parents are questioning the use of these drugs.

On Feb. 26th, 2008, numerous news articles were published that focused the public's eye towards the fact that antidepressants do not work. MSNBC published its news article, titled, Antidepressants may not help many patients: Researchers find placebos work just as well, except in severe cases. This article states, "Researchers reviewed published and unpublished U.S. Food and Drug Administration studies of the four of the most commonly prescribed new generation antidepressants to learn whether patients' response depended on how depressed they were to begin with. The studied drugs included Prozac, Effexor, Paxil and Serzone, which are all so-called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs. About 118 million antidepressant

prescriptions were issued in 2005 in the U.S., according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The researchers found that compared with placebo, the antidepressant medications did not yield clinically significant improvements in depression in patients who initially had moderate or even very severe depression."

David Barlow, founder and Director Emeritus for the Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders at Boston University is quoted as saying "The take-home message is there are probably too many people on medications who might not need to be on these medications...Patients taking the drugs should not stop without consulting a doctor", Barlow cautioned, "but they might consider non-medical therapies before beginning or continuing the medication"

The Guardian published an article titled, Prozac, used by 40m people, does not work say scientists: Analysis of unseen trials and other data concludes it is no better than placebo. In this report it states "Prozac, the bestselling antidepressant taken by 40 million people worldwide, does not work and nor do similar drugs in the same class, according to a major review released today."

It is up to the taxpayers to question this practice of administering psychiatric drugs to the children under custody of the state. It is up to us to ask our legislators what they are going to do about monitoring the escalating use of these drugs on children who are removed from their parents. Every resident of Florida has the ability to question this and help to protect these children.

The Annual Report to the Senate Committee on Children and Families, entitled Ensuring Appropriate and Informed Use of Psychotherapeutic Medications for Florida's Children in the Department of Children and Families Care and Custody, May 2007, was submitted to the Senate Committee on Children and Families. This was a follow-up to a 2005 update. For some, this may appear as though the use of psychotropic drugs on Florida's Foster children is being monitored.

Yet, when you look further into this report, it clearly states that the report only covers the periods of September-November of the years 2004-2006.

Looking at the Annual Report to the Senate Committee, it states that "11.3 percent of all children (ages 0-17) in the Department's care and custody were prescribed one or more psychotherapeutic medications... Two percent of children ages 0-5 were prescribed one or more psychotherapeutic medications during the same three-month period in 2006." This is only for a 3-month period, as noted above. Antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs, anti-convulsants and anti-psychotics are being administered to our Florida's Foster Care children without bona-fide evidence of workability. With the latest news on Antidepressants not being effective, with the FDA warnings on all psychotropic drugs, we have to ask ourselves, "How are we going to actually protect our Foster Care children?" Every tax-paying Florida resident has the responsibility to ask themselves and their legislators that question. Infants less than a year old are included in this category of children who are being put on mind-altering drugs that carry heavy FDA warnings, some of which are, suicidal thoughts, mania, hallucinations, aggression, diabetes, heart trouble and sudden death.

In the Philadelphia Inquirer, on Feb. 17, 2008, Karl Stark wrote an in-depth report titled Tarnished View of Wonder Drug. This article tells the story of several children who were placed on anti-psychotics and the adverse reactions they experienced. He reports "Tammy Wandling of West Virginia hired legal counsel in Philadelphia after son Austin developed a growth in his breast while taking Risperdal for autism..." John Huff of Pleasantville, N.J., required surgery to remove the female-size breasts he developed at 14 while on Risperdal".

A Daytona Beach News Journal Report, by Mary Moewe, Florida Undecided As State Sues Over Costly Drug Problem, Jan. 10, 2008 states, "Another Sanford parent, Richard Davis, said he watched in horror as his daughter Ciara, then 6, gained 40 pounds, developed breasts

and had uncontrollable tongue and facial movements. "Those drugs were killing her," Davis said. Over his objections, he said Ciara was given anti-psychotics by her mother and while in foster care."

In examining each category of drug, and in examining the FDA warnings for each drug in each category, we still have to ask ourselves, "How are we going to protect these children?" The Report to the Senate Committee, dated October 2006, states that "An estimated 40 percent of the child welfare population meets criteria for a serious emotional disturbance." These drugs are being administered in an arena that does not have an adequate monitoring system and it admits "A panel of 25 experts was convened from June 9-11, 2006 in Tampa, Florida to formulate specific guidelines for the use of different classes of psychotherapeutic medications among children in Florida. The panel included national experts, representatives from the three academic Departments of Child Psychiatry in Florida, state public and private child psychiatrists, pediatricians with a particular interest in behavioral health, medical directors of prepaid public mental health plans in Florida and representatives from the state Medicaid Program." This is an obvious coup of those who have vested interests in the drugging of Florida's foster children. Psychiatry admits to no science behind the drugging of our population, no medical tests, and no chemical imbalance tests to prove that any one of these behavioral, mental or emotional "disorders" actually exist. Yet, a panel full of psychiatrists and Medicaid representatives can decide the "guidelines" for drugging Medicaid eligible children.

Florida's Foster Care children deserve care that will help prepare them for a safe and prosperous future. The adverse side effects of these drugs may inhibit or prevent that future.

Laurie Anspach can be reached at CCHR Florida's toll free Hotline 1-800-782-2878. CCHR Florida, 1217 N. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clearwater, Florida, 33755

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Chrissy McLarty, from Clearwater—a junior at Lakewood High School, Center for Advanced Technology

Sarah Brodie, from Seminole—a sophomore at Largo High School

Ryanne Brown, from St. Petersburg—a sophomore at Gibbs High School, Beta Program

Kristen Conchiglia, from Dunedin—a junior at Dunedin High School

Christine Jameson, from Largo—a senior at Osceola High School

Christopher Mertens, from Safety Harbor—a junior at Palm Harbor University High School

Kayla Oldenburg, from Pinellas Park—a sophomore at Pinellas Park High School

Megan Smith, from Tampa—a student at Middleton Magnet High School

Christopher Fernandez—home-schooled student from Riverview

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Favorite recipes are encouraged from teachers, firemen, local government officials, celebrities, homemakers, kids, grandparents... you name it. All types of recipes are encouraged - the only requirement is that they are delicious!

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# What is the Primary Cause of Aging?

by Winston W. J. Kao

What kind of internal environment does cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and any other old age disease desire? An **ACID** internal environment! How many of us are too acidic, suffering from acid reflux, indigestion, and other acidic problems?

**Did you know that most bottled waters are Reverse Osmosis water, which is highly acidic water and can set up the ideal environmental conditions for Candida?**

Ideal water should have a pH of 7.0 to 7.5. Reverse Osmosis water is in the range of 5.5 to 6.4. The pH

scale is a logarithmic scale (an exponential scale) meaning that Reverse Osmosis water that has a pH of 5.5 when compared to ideal water with a pH of 7.5 is **100 times too acid!**

When you drink most bottled waters, you are setting up an internal acidic condition - the ideal environment for Candida and other diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, etc! This gets worse when you drink carbonated drinks! A soda or sparkling water is close to a thousand times more acid than ideal water! Is it any wonder that today's American society is one of the most unhealthy, obese, diabetic, heart-diseased and cancerous nations on Earth? Consider that it was among the healthier nations half a century ago. Those who profit from these diseases created these conditions.

There are probably a hundred different things that Americans do in order to create their various diseases. All diseases excluding contagious diseases (those caused by bacteria or virus) are caused by over acidity, which in turn dissolves the bones - the calcium and magnesium deposits in some organ causing poor circulation and disease. An example of this is osteoporosis and arthritis.

Of course, the main problem with bottled water is the methods used to process it - distillation and later reverse osmosis. Many doctors and health practitioners tell people how healthy distilled water is and I always ask which one of the four types of distilled waters are they referring to? You see there are two distilled waters that are extremely good for you, and two that are extremely detrimental to health.

The first of the two beneficial distilled waters is rainwater, which is very soft and contains very little minerals. As you can tell after a good rain all the trees and grasses turn extra green with a vibrant look to them even if they were previously watered. This should tell you how good rainwater really is.

Then there is the health detrimental commonly available distilled water sold in stores, which is

high surface tensioned water with a relatively low pH (acid). This water has the ability to leach the minerals from your body and of course the plastic from the bottle. This may be the reason that most Americans have plastic in their blood.

Some very negative things happen when we consume water that has been stripped of its minerals. First, when the water is de-mineralized it contains more hydrogen, thus becomes more acid. When the body's internal environment becomes more acid, it will pull minerals first from our bones and then our teeth to produce bicarbonate in order to neutralize the acid. When our body fluids become more acid, the production of free radicals increase to cause an increased probability of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other disease.

It is obvious that it is necessary to remove the many contaminants in our water. These include naturally occurring contaminations, unintentional industrial contaminations, human waste water contaminations (this is where pharmaceutical drugs enter) and the deliberate toxic waste being poured into the water (under the name of chloramines and fluoridation). But we must also evaluate the process that we use.

The truth: the fluoride that is placed into the water is not natural calcium fluoride, but a chemical soup from heavy metal plating industries and the Florida phosphate mining industry's combined waste product. This material is called hydrofluorosilicic acid. It is highly acidic, as its name implies and is detrimental to the body. It hardens the teeth and bones, is detrimental to the thyroid, among other things. Have you ever heard of an older person falling and breaking their hip? This is due to drinking tap water that has been fluoridated with hydrofluorosilicic acid.

What about soft water? Many people use a water softener. Then they wonder where their high blood pressure problems come from. **When you bombard the body with 10-20 TIMES excess salt, it damages the kidneys and raises the blood pressure.** For those who say you don't drink the soft water, how many showers or baths do you take? The salt is absorbed through the skin. Another thing to remember is that the salt that is used in water softeners is industrial waste! It doesn't have anything but sodium chloride and aluminum in it!

There are other ways to soften water without damaging your health. Call me today for more information!

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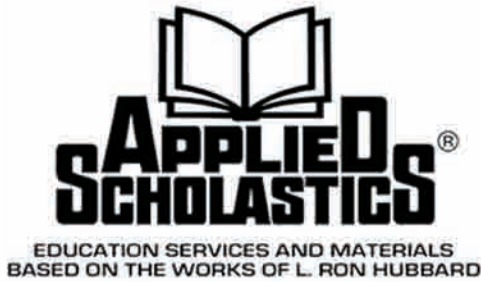
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"Another thing Life Basics has helped me with is initiative. Now I love to study and often times I'll occupy myself with a book rather than relaxing. I even study every night instead of hanging out with my friends. I also have a lot more confidence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



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

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

Tiffany Koch  
Student, 13 years old.



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