Holiday Weekend Happenings

Whether you want to spend time alone with your Valentine or bring out the whole family for fun, your Club has the perfect events for you this (double!) holiday weekend.

Valentine’s Day
Start off the afternoon by strolling through the Fishing Village while you enjoy complimentary strawberries and champagne, served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And while you are out, don’t forget to stop by Shoes on Shore to look at jewelry at the Baubles, Bangles, Beads, Bubbly and More Trunk Show today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.!

Today there is also an Anja Designs Trunk Show at The Spa from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring original jewelry designs and an Anatomie Trunk Show at the Member Fitness Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are feeling adventurous this Friday evening, meet at the Pool Desk at 5:30 p.m. for the Full Moon Kayak Tour! Get a closer look at our beautiful and unique surroundings. Drinking water will be provided for you there and bringing water shoes is recommended. For reservations, call 367-6516.

All Charities Weekend: Off the Charts, Again!

by Sarah A. Cart and Jane B. Silverman

Early indications are that when the gavel dropped on the final auction item last Saturday evening All Charities has set a new fundraising record yet again. This was due in no small part to Ocean Reef’s generosity and the challenge from auctioneer David Goodman to engage in “competitive giving.”

The Live Auction item garnering the evening’s highest dollars was its last: Guests were asked simply to raise their paddles to donate additional funds for the All Charities Giving Hearts Fund with no artwork, trip to an exotic locale, or celebrity dinner attached. When the evening ended, the balance in that account was over $500,000.

Six of the other Live Auction items were unique dining opportunities that together garnered over $675,000, and the cumulative total raised by 11 travel-related Live Auction prizes came to $600,000.

A bracelet designed by famed red carpet jeweler Martin Katz with a bejeweled visit to the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles and a two-night stay at the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel brought in $75,000.

Still to be tallied are the totals for the nearly 200 wonderful items that were offered across a wide range of categories from art and antiques and adventures through wines and various indulgences and practicalities in the weekend’s Silent Auction.

A surprise at the Saturday Giving Hearts Ball/Live Auction was the opening welcome from U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who pointed out from the podium that “There is no other country like the United States where 75 percent give to charity. That sets us apart from the rest of the world.”

For resident Vicki Carr Krowe, “Last evening was a first for me, and the auctioneer was every bit as persuasive as I had heard he was. It was wonderful.”

Event Chair Cynthia Lee expressed gratitude that “The hearts of Ocean Reef once again came together to raise the necessary funds to continue making this a very special place to live. The collaboration and support that materializes from all directions is absolutely amazing.” In particular, she noted that:

Chili Cook Off is Saturday, pictured 2013 trophy winner, Gus Hillenbrand.
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that "the 91 Community Trustees were tremendous supporters and believers in the weekends success." And she loved looking over the dance floor to see "the ladies looking beautiful in their ball dresses" as the Jerry Wayne Orchestra performed into the night.

All Charities Weekend began with a Thursday afternoon presentation by Martin Katz on 'Jewels as an Asset,' and continued with opportunities to view and bid at the open Silent Auction Showcase on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. In addition, Saturday's gorgeous weather provided the perfect backdrop for Preferred Partner Netels' midday showcase at the Ocean Reef airport. Just before the evening gala's conclusion and the closing of the Silent Auction bidding, a three-piece set of signature Microbands designed by Martin Katz was awarded to Sarah Cart via a random drawing.

"It is an honor and privilege to be part of a community that embraces charitable giving," noted Gayle Tallardy, who with Nick Lanni will co-chair the 2015 All Charities Weekend. She added, "I am looking forward to the year ahead, 'Because of You,' everyone's generous giving will touch many lives.'

The monies raised over the weekend, the seventh year of the combined fundraising efforts of the All Charities Partners, will benefit The Reef's own Medical Center, Cultural Center, Art League, Academy, ORCAT, and the Ocean Reef Conservation Association as well as the lives of thousands in the cities of Key Largo, Florida City, and Homestead.

The financial totals and additional photos of the All Charities Weekend will be detailed in an upcoming issue of the Ocean Reef Press.

Attention Boaters!
On March 5th U.S. Customs officials will be at OR's Public Safety bldg. from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. to assist with registration for the Local Boater Option (LBO)

Since 2006 when Customs and Border Protection inaugurated the LBO (Local Boater Option), hundreds of Ocean Reef boats have registered for the program. Why? Because the LBO has made the customs process easier for international boaters returning from foreign waters. For example, if you are coming back to Ocean Reef after a short hop to the Bahamas and have a Boater Registration number (BR#), you can clear customs with a phone call.

If you've never enrolled, the process is now a lot simpler using the online automated SVRS (Small Vessel Reporting System). Here's how you get there.

1. Go online to CBP.gov
2. Click on the Travel tab at the top
3. Then click the Pleasure Boats tab on the left
4. And finally Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS) on the right. That will take you to the Small Vessel information pages and enrollment.

Please choose "enroll". Do NOT choose 'select an appointment date'. Just show up at the Public Safety Building on March 5th for verification of information and travel documents (i.e. passport). If you want to avoid reporting for inspection in person, then you must make sure everybody travelling on your boat is enrolled and that you have the travel documents for them, as well as yourself. If you are unable to appear on March 5, you can go into the system and request another appointment (probably in Miami).

If you are current LBO participants but you enrolled the old way rather than online, you will have to go through the above procedures, if you want to take advantage of the online benefits.

Agents will also be able to update your information if anything has changed. For example, expired travel documents have been replaced with new ones, name changes, etc. For every update or change, you will need documentation to verify the information.

Please call Ocean Reef Public Safety at (305) 367-7340 or U.S. Customs at (800) 432-1216 for more information.

Alan Goldstein and Tom Davidson give thanks to All Charities Event Chairwoman Cynthia Lee.