

32963

Vero Beach chefs go "Locavore" **P.42**

# INSIGHT

October 2009, Issue 2

A Product of Vero Beach 32963



## Philanthropy Without Borders

Vero Beach residents Lauren Allik (above) and Dr. Ralph Rosato **P.30**



Dr. Ralph Rosato. Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

# Philanthropy Without Borders

BY MICHELLE GENZ, STAFF WRITER &amp; SANDRA RAWLS, COLUMNIST

**I**t is a theme of so many benefits around town. Right in our own backyard. Next week, the Soup Bowl for the 16<sup>th</sup> year will raise money for the homeless, in our own backyard.

It is indisputably a wonderful event. By selling bowls of soup in various churches, schools, businesses -- even in private homes, a grass-roots effort funds a wonderful program stressing self-sufficiency in relieving homelessness in our community.

Certainly, a community as affluent as Vero Beach should tolerate no suffering of its residents, should not hide its poverty behind well-trimmed hedges, must consider that pockets of poverty in areas like Gifford and Oslo are as much a part of our community's character as gated beachside enclaves.

But consider what plastic surgeon Ralph Rosato faced when he tried to convince his Rotary Club chapter to raise funds to correct cleft palates in South America. He not only faced dissension among several members, one member actually quit.

Imagine: St. Edward's senior Lauren Allik's idea of teenage defiance is to laugh at her parents' "freaking out" when she announced she was spending three weeks of her summer vacation working in schools in Ghana.

Reflect on how her mother, Deborah, sees her daughter, the shy one, the one so moved as a child by the paintings of life in Guatemala by

Winifred Godfrey that she wanted to help others. The daughter who is the family peacemaker, the one who so feels the needs of the world that as a bright-faced teen wants to reach out and make a difference.

How does philanthropy acquire borders? Isn't the suffering of one soul, regardless of where it may reside, as essential a concern as a face we see on our ride to work?

Does such protest as Rosato faced have its roots in provincialism, or patriotism? In neighborly concern, or clannishness?

Conversely, should suffering be put on a sliding scale? Relative to the wealth of the community it finds itself in, is a family living in a car more deserving of our care and support, than a family living in a cardboard box in Peru or Dominican Republic?

Does love begin at home, and slowly expand outward? Or can it leap to arms of a different skin tone, across oceans and political divides?

Which is the better strategy?

It goes without saying that any strategy at all is best. Soup Bowl co-chair Shotsi Lajoie notes that even though the effort provokes an astonishing 5,000 people to participate and give, with another 700 volunteering, that amounts to only five percent of the county's population.

She is right. If 100 percent gave to wherever they perceived need, what an incredible place this would be.

As this week's Vero Beach 32963 was be-

ing developed in the newsroom on the barrier island, we worked with one fewer society writer: Samantha Baita, who spent the week in a remote region of the Dominican Republic, building a house for Habitat for Humanity.

Next week, barrier island residents Adam Bollinger and Johanna Jones head to Haiti for on-going efforts with the Vero Beach-based Haiti Partners, a Christian organization aimed at improving education, strengthening churches and furthering economic growth in the poorest nation in our hemisphere.

Without exception, all of these folks tend to their Vero backyards as well as the fields beyond its borders. Bollinger, for example, has given countless hours to the United Way, Kiwanis and Youth in Action, and currently serves on the board of the Homeless Family Shelter. Others' resumes are just as packed with good works in our hometown.

In the main pages of this week's Vero Beach 32963, we joyfully cover the Soup Bowl and laud its astonishing successes. We wish any family looking to change its intractable circumstance both strength and support, gladly joining in a cup of soup and more. If there were a wall to construct, it would be one that blocks them from our averted eyes, when we meet their blank stare and their cardboard signs, or sense their addiction on a downtown sidewalk, and offer only a scowl.

At the same time, who would possibly stop the scalpel of Ralph Rosato from forever relieving Peruvian children of a facial deformity, a

stigma that costs them education, employment, and acceptance into society? Who could argue

that St. Edward's senior Lauren Allik has better things to think about, as a gorgeous girl of

17 than dark-skinned children fleeing madmen that we will never see? ●

# Ralph Rosato: Transforming lives in Lima

When Ralph Rosato makes time for a weekly 7 a.m. Rotary Club meeting, delaying by an hour the start of his day as a plastic surgeon, it is because he's networking.

"Trust me, I'm not there looking for my next face lift," he says. "Now, if they need one, believe me, I'll tell them. But that's not why I'm there."

Instead, he is looking for the lift that comes from helping others. This summer, his skills were put to far more urgent use than vanity. Rosato and his wife, Kati, who holds a masters degree in

were trying it out on the volunteers, easily recognized in their uniforms of navy blazers and khaki pants. "They would come up to us and say, 'What is your name? My name is George.' And they would remember who we were. One girl passed out sticky-notes with her email address.

The crowds were waiting to be screened for treatment, standing in a cold drizzling rain, children in tow. "Not one of them complained, and some of them were there for eight hours," said Kati Rosato. "They were so polite and respectful and gracious. That's how their parents raised them."

severe. The defect, which Rosato says occurs once in 300 births in Peru, is believed to be caused by nutritional deficiencies or environmental factors in gestation, with genes playing a role as well. The deformity results from a failure of the face's three tissue lobes to fuse early in the development of the fetus. The resulting gap causes not only a jarring wound-like opening, but also can distort speech, with the voice becoming nasally, and articulation distorted.

If the cleft goes through to the nasal passages, food or drink can come through the nose as a child eats.

## Life changing surgery for the poorest of Peru



Little Ava, (after cleft palate repair) and Kati Rosato in the Post-Operative Clinic



Doctors from Operation Smile work on a young patient in a makeshift surgical room



Louisa and Kati in the Recovery Room with a post operative patient.

nursing, saw the culmination of his Rotary club's two-year fund-raising effort when they went to Peru in July as volunteers to surgically correct nearly a hundred cases of cleft lip and cleft palate of that nation's poorest children.

"It was life-changing," says a still-rapturous Kati Rosato, poring over photos of dark-eyed patients as if they were her own children.

Rosato's Rotary chapter, called Sunrise, sponsored the trip, along with a Rotary club in California. Sunrise had to contribute \$40,000 for its portion.

"We raised \$20,000, and Rotary International was supposed to supply matching funds, but they ran out of money due to the financial crisis," he says. "So we invited other clubs in our district to help."

Two other Vero clubs and one in Fort Pierce raised \$5,000. The Sunrise chapter redoubled its efforts, and came up with \$35,000.

An offshoot of Rotary, Rotaplast International supplied the materials for the surgical effort, which would take place in an aging hospital serving the poor in Lima.

A 25-member team, assembled from Miami, California, the Netherlands, and elsewhere, flew to Lima, settled in at a hotel Kati Rosato describes as a "hobbit hole," and rose the next day to head for the hospital.

"There was a mountain of people waiting," says Kati Rosato. "I couldn't believe it."

The children had practiced their English and

Word had reached their remote villages via flyers of a before- and- after photo of a child with a cleft lip, and offering treatment at no cost. Desperate for the surgery that would nor-

**"The nonsense we get stressed about is so insignificant when you look at these people. They live in cardboard boxes, yet they have so much dignity."**

- Kati Rosato

malize their child's tainted life, they mustered unimaginable resources to get to Lima.

"Some of them had spent all the money they had getting there. Some had traveled two days or more. Some walked, some hitched rides," Ralph Rosato says. "We had to collect money for milk so they would have something to eat."

The stigma of cleft lip and palate can be

In the U.S., cleft lip is typically repaired by 10 weeks of age. But in Peru, a child can grow into his teens and beyond. The deformity often brings shame and ridicule to its sufferer. In rural areas, children are often kept out of school rather than have them subjected to teasing. Older sufferers are denied jobs.

The safe, relatively painless procedure can transform lives, returning children to the mainstream virtually overnight.

The problem is that there are not enough doctors in those rural areas to serve the need. For decades, plastic surgeons from the U.S. and Europe have been volunteering to travel to third world countries with programs like Smile Train, Operation Smile, and Rotaplast.

On the Lima end, 16 members of the Rotary Club there welcomed the volunteers, cooked them hot meals every day, and raised \$65 per patient to pay for pre-op testing. All told, Rosato estimates, the procedures would have cost \$440,000 had they been performed in the U.S.

For the next eight days, rising at 5:30 and working until dinner at 8 or 9 at night, the surgeons and staff set about correcting the facial deformities of 92 pre-screened patients.

The altruism seemed limitless. When everything was over, and a few families had no means to get home, the Lima group took up one more collection for bus fare.

"It was exhilarating," said Kati Rosato. "It was never a drain, I never once felt tired. These



were the most grateful people I have ever seen.”

It was Ralph Rosato's second time on a cleft repair mission. The first was in Ecuador in 1992.

After surgery, the children often need training to correct their speech. Rosato says there are only three speech pathologists in Lima. “One of the things we're trying to do with the Rotary club in Lima is to build a clinic where these kids can go to get speech pathology after we're gone.”

Sometimes, though, surgery is enough. At the end of their stay, their hosts threw a dinner party for all the volunteers. The evening's entertainment was a song, sung by a wise-looking

little girl named Eva with whom Kati Rosato had fallen in love, whose cleft lip had just been repaired. In a ruffled white satin dress, she sang “Over the Rainbow.”

On her thank-you note to the doctors, she had written: “Me gusta cantar.” Singing had been beyond her capabilities only days before.

“The nonsense we get stressed about is so insignificant when you look at these people,” says Kati Rosato. “They live in cardboard boxes, yet they have so much dignity. These kids may live in complete poverty, but they have a strong family, and a loving support system. Pride is not a matter of finances; pride for them is being a

good person and raising your family well.”

That the Peruvian poor should be deserving of a Vero couple's good works seems indisputable, given the Rosatos' experience. But convincing others that their fund-raising efforts should benefit those outside the U.S. was a challenge, says Rosato.

“We lost a couple of members because of it,” Rosato says. “But it was one of my big pushes. How best to show people what it's like to be an American, but to go and give and show you're not the ‘ugly American’?”

“The motto of Rotary says it so succinctly: ‘Service above self.’ Stop thinking about yourself.” ●

## Lauren Allik: Making a difference in Ghana

**A** compassionate St. Edward's senior with a bent toward international human rights activism has taken on more than a stressful course load this semester. Lauren Allik, inspired from a summer trip to Ghana, has been speaking to fellow students about the horrific tales of the deprivation of rights and resources of the child victims of the African war criminal Joseph Kony.

The speakers, young California activists with a group called Invisible Children, so moved the audience with their stories that the students reached in their own pockets and spontaneously donated close to \$500 to the cause after an hour-long assembly.

Allik, a lithe blonde senior known for her creativity and unselfconscious leadership style, is on a mission to collect books and funds for African schools and assist the kidnap victims of a notorious war that has reached new heights of atrocity and caused worldwide outrage.

Dashing across the school courtyard wearing thong sandals, a billowy, strapless dress, and loose green sweater, Lauren is the picture of exuberance. Her bouncing stride suggests an athleticism honed of surfing, swimming, and team sports.

The colorful cloth satchel she carries was made by a Ugandan, and is full of photos, CDs, books, and T-shirts, all part of her personal mission.

She takes from her bag a pile of her own photographs, color and black-and-white, taken of schoolchildren from Ghana.

“The schools have dirt floors, but they are proud of their culture,” she says. “They need books, particularly story and picture books to learn English. They pretty much need all the basic supplies, even paper and pencils.”

“Much of what they had was destroyed,” she says. “Schools were burned down. The schools in Uganda have to be rebuilt. They want education there more than anything.”

She organized the recent assembly on her own and hopes to arrange similar events at St. Ed's Middle school and a Vero Beach charter school. She also plans a booth at the downtown Christmas Fair Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> where she will collect donated books for African schools.

Lauren points out a green woven bracelet on her wrist, similar to those offered for sale at the assembly at her school in support of rescued child soldiers.

“This bracelet was made by Grace, an abducted girl who has able to escape and can now support herself by making these,” she says. “I was really proud of how our kids responded,” she says of the St. Ed's assembly. “When the lights went on, everyone was paying attention.”

Three weeks of work in schools in Ghana this summer were part of her quest to experience African cultures and help students. She had gotten interested in Africa traveling with her parents growing up.

“I got interested in the cultures and issues there, and in more than just having fun on vacation. Anthropology, social justice, and global leadership really interest me. I'm sort of an in-

dependent person.”

As a junior she got involved with the school club already begun at St. Ed's to support Invisible Children.

The organization began in 2003, when a group of young filmmakers from California traveled to Uganda for what they imagined as “an adventure.” Instead, they encountered the plight of children and their families forced to fight and kill with Kony.

“My mother totally freaked out when I said I was going to Africa,” she says, almost giggling. “So I knew it had to be Ghana and not Uganda. We had to find a way I could go and help, but not be more risky than my parents could stand.”

Rick Hartley, St. Ed's director of student activities, has observed Lauren's quiet and effective style of leadership, not only with Invisible Children, but as a varsity basketball player, and in other service activities including the Beach Cleanup, the Relay for Life or the Environmental Club. He says: “She is willing to take on challenges.”

Bruce Wachter, associate head of school, was not surprised at the reactions students expressed. “At St. Ed's our students are very sensitive to causes that affect children.”

None of Lauren's efforts surprise her mother, Deborah Allik. “She was very shy growing up because her older brother (Ryan) was so gregarious. But she was always a peace-maker in the family and very inclusive of people. Early on, she wanted to search out needs in the world and try to meet them. She saw the plight of others and wanted to make a difference.” ●

**'DUST FREE' WOOD FLOOR RESTORATION**

Trust the Professionals at  
**DESIGNER'S TOUCH FLOORING**

“WE CAN CHANGE THE COLOR, TOO!”

Visit our Showroom

1715 Old Dixie Hwy, Vero Beach · 772.978.9111



**BATH BUILT/BEYOND EXPECTATIONS**



New Construction | Custom Renovations | Kitchens | Baths | Additions

**BATH CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

772.778.8338 | [www.bathconstruction.com](http://www.bathconstruction.com)



# A new North American union

**C**andidate Barack Obama made the North American Free Trade Agreement an early target. He promised union leaders to force a renegotiation of NAFTA on his terms. Back then, I thought Obama went too far. Now I think he did not go nearly far enough.

Canada, the U.S. and Mexico must form a more perfect economic union to deal with a lingering international financial crisis that drains the U.S. dollar of value and credibility and that fuels rising unemployment. Regional integration is a rare effective response to faltering globalization, dangerously volatile petroleum markets, and U.S. economic and military overextension.

So, yes, Mr. President, renegotiate NAFTA. But move its trade liberalization successes forward into a broad regional pact that more tightly links North America's energy resources, currencies, security policies, and other economic and political assets. Do not move the three nations backward -- toward protectionism -- as you originally proposed.

I visited Canada this month to explore this theme after hearing much about the growing importance of regional integration from officials in Russia and in Western Europe. I had heard Prime Minister Vladimir Putin express hope that Russia's ruble would soon become one of five or six regional reserve currencies that would in ef-

fect replace the U.S. dollar as the primary international means of exchange.

French and British government ministers told me in their capitals that only a rejuvenated European Union can prevent the United States and China from forming a G-2 to dominate international economic policymaking. And the new Japanese government is pushing the notion of an East Asian community.

North America lags behind conceptually in addressing regionalization as the next important global economic cycle, even as NAFTA has led to major changes on the ground.

But that is changing, for good reasons and some not-so-good ones, as I learned at the annual North American Forum meeting here. This group of Canadian, American and Mexican entrepreneurs, politicians and academic experts has been working quietly for five years to identify and advance regional understanding.

In their initial meetings, the Mexican representatives shied away from being identified as "North Americans." That was certainly not the case this year. And Canadian officials who once expressed fears of diluting their special links to the United States by bringing Mexico into security and economic discussions now welcome the triangular dialogue.

What accounts for this psychological change, which has affected U.S. delegates as well?

"Events" is as good an answer as any. Certainly, the shooting drug war in Mexico that is fueled by U.S. cash and guns, the threat of international terrorism, and U.S. addiction to foreign borrowing and foreign oil, which is reintroducing transportation costs as a significant factor in international trade, have drawn bright lines under the need to look closer to home for answers.

"If Mexico has swine flu, we know the U.S. and Canada are also going to be exposed to it," said one Canadian official. "If the U.S. is in the sights of terrorists, Canada is in the sights of terrorists."

Such generalized sentiments were supported by reams of statistics about Canada's significant shale oil deposits; about commercial traffic across the Ambassador Bridge (linking Detroit and Windsor, Ontario) equaling all U.S. exports to Japan; about the 400 million crossings, 1 million arrests and 500 deaths that occur annually on the Mexican-U.S. border.


It was eye- and ear-opening to this foreign reporter who has spent more time in, and studying about, Guinea-Bissau or the Czech Republic than Canada or Mexico. But an aging leopard can change his spots when the times demand.

So can young presidents, I assume. Once in office, Obama quickly said it was not time to mess with NAFTA. Look again, Mr. President. It is time to think about a super-NAFTA. ●



Bring your little ghosts & goblins to our annual Trick-or-Treat on Friday, October 30 from 5-7pm. Then treat yourself to one-of-a-kind deals on all your favorite brand name and designer fashions, accessories and merchandise. No need to waste time looking anywhere else. It's all here! Sweet Savings anyone?

**Trick or Treat**  
with us on Friday, October 30 from 5-7pm



Ann Taylor • Banana Republic  
BCBG MAXAZRIA  
Calvin Klein • Clark's Bostonian  
Dooney & Bourke • Gap Outlet  
Izod • J. Crew • Nautica  
Osh Kosh B'Gosh • Reebok  
Sunglass Hut • Tommy Hilfiger  
and many other fabulous outlets!


Route 60 & I-95, Exit 147 • West of I-95 • 772.770.6097 • [www.verobeachoutlets.com](http://www.verobeachoutlets.com)  
Mon. - Sat. 9 am - 8 pm • Sun. 11 am - 6 pm

After 20 Years on Royal Palm Pointe

**John Michael Matthews**  
FINE JEWELRY

Has Moved to the Beach!  
645 Beachland Boulevard

In celebration, we're giving away a piece of fine jewelry each Saturday in November!



Please come visit our beautiful new showroom, design gallery and complete gemological laboratory. Register for our weekly drawings! Phone: 234-1512 Web: [johnmatthewsjewelry.com](http://johnmatthewsjewelry.com)



# A resilient Baghdad on a day of horror

From the air last Sunday morning, Baghdad looked like a city restored. You could see paddle boats skimming the pond at Zawra Park, and go-karts and waterslides. And in every direction, new schools and soccer fields and bustling warehouses -- all taking shape under the canopy of the new Iraq.

But down below, it turned out to be a morning from hell. Terrorists exploded two massive car bombs at the Justice Ministry and the Baghdad provincial administration, killing more than 100 and wounding more than 500. It was the worst day of violence this year, and it was, as the terrorists intended, a reminder of the fragility of Iraqi security.

Around the time the bombers struck, I was flying over the city in a Black Hawk helicopter with Gen. David Petraeus. As commander of U.S. forces in Iraq from 2007 to 2008, he helped restore stability here.

He was returning last Sunday as Centcom commander, and he decided on his way in from the airport to conduct one of his careening airborne tours of the city, which he used to make so frequently that the helicopter pilots gave them the code name "Purple Rain."

The signs of recovery seemed to be everywhere. "See, the houses are occupied again," Petraeus said, pointing to a neighborhood that several years ago was a virtual ghost town. "Al-

ways good to see a crane," he said, motioning to a new construction site. "Traffic jam, that's good to see."

Petraeus pointed out the evidence of normality -- the schools, the police stations, the sports stadiums, the bus and train stations, the parks and markets and riverside restaurants. And, to be honest, the city, seen in panorama, reminded me of the Baghdad I first visited in 1981, big and burly and, for an Arab city, fairly well organized.

We didn't learn about the horrific bombings until we landed in the Green Zone. I guess that tells you something about the difference between life, close up, and what you see from several hundred feet.

When the bombs exploded, an Iraqi friend told me later, the cellphone system temporarily crashed, as people frantically called to see if their loved ones were safe. Foreigners may forget that, when they see the endless Baghdad carnage on television, Iraqis are people just like everyone else; they love their spouses and children just as much as you and I do. When service went back to normal, my friend said, he had 30 text messages asking if he was all right.

While Petraeus was off visiting officials, I had lunch with two Iraqi friends at the Al-Rashid Hotel. The last time I had eaten there was in October 2003, when I was traveling with Paul Wolfowitz, then deputy secretary of defense.

That was the famous trip when the Al-Rashid was hit by rockets. For many people, that was a day when a new darkness enveloped the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

But my Iraqi friends were surprisingly upbeat about the future, even after Sunday's terrible bombings. "In every sector, Iraq is coming back to its normal mode," said one. "There is no way it will slip back," insisted the other. I wondered at their confidence on such a day, but that is part of the Iraqi toughness.

Rather than talking about the bombings, we talked politics. My friends sharply criticized the incumbent prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki. But as we were debating, one turned to me with a smile: "Here we are talking about who will run the government after the elections. Could you do that in any other country in the Arab world?"

As night fell, Petraeus and his party flew to Camp Victory, near the airport. "Baghdad can be a cruel place," he told me. "You have to keep a grip on your hopes." But as the Black Hawk skimmed over the city, Baghdad seemed to be teeming again, despite the morning's events.

Petraeus surveyed the cityscape at night. "People are back out in the parks," he said. "All the lights are on, cars are driving around." I asked later if he thought Sunday's violence would lead people to request that American troops return to the cities, and he shook his head: "Iraq is a sovereign country. Iraqis will respond to this." ●

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Lifelong Learning Society

Fall 2009 – Courses & Events

Nov. 11 – Dec. 16

(Enroll now to secure your place!)

We provide a forum for intellectual exchange and stimulation for the adult community. Come “sharpen your mind, body and spirit,” and enjoy the rich rewards of learning through FAU LLS!

Regency Park Elegant Senior-Living Community — Vero Beach	Also in Vero Beach
<div><div><div>A Tribute to Veterans: Honoring Those Who Honor Us (Benefit Luncheon, Lecture &amp; Commemorative Event) Wed: Nov. 11 (Veterans’ Day), 1–4 p.m. (Seating is limited)</div><div><div>The Crooners, Divas and Groups of Vocal Jazz</div><div>Four Weds: 11/18, (skip 11/25), 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 – 2–4 p.m.</div></div><div><div>Healthcare: Reform, Repair or Ruin?</div><div>Three Tues: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 – 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</div></div><div><div>Cultural Journeys</div><div>Two Tues: 12/1, 12/8 – 2–4:30 p.m.</div></div><div><div>Voyage of the Damned: The Steamship St. Louis</div><div>Tues: 12/15 - 2-4:30 p.m.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Special Series: About Laura (Riding) Jackson</div><div>Mon: 11/16 – Vero Beach Main Library, and Wed: 11/18 – IR Environmental Learning Center 10 a.m.–Noon both days (Refreshments served 11/18)</div></div></div>
	FAU Treasure Coast Campus — St. Lucie West
	<div><div><div>Awakening Joy Through Yoga</div><div>Four Thurs: 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10 – 10 a.m.–Noon</div></div><div><div>Viva Domingo: A Celebration of 40 Years at the Met</div><div>Four Thurs: 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10 – 2–4 p.m.</div></div><div><div>Resources, Politics &amp; Power...</div><div>Four Fri: 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11 – 2–4 p.m.</div></div></div>
	FAU at Harbor Branch — Ft. Pierce
	<div><div><div>The Indian River Lagoon Then and Now (Scientific Research Lecture and Boat Tour)</div><div>Mon: 11/30 – 2:30–4:30 p.m. (Seating is limited)</div></div></div>

For more information, contact Kellie Leveille:  
772.873.3338 - [kleveill@fau.edu](mailto:kleveill@fau.edu) or visit:  
[www.fau.edu/psl](http://www.fau.edu/psl) (Lifelong Learning)



# The dollar: Weak, but not about to collapse

One of the few calamities that has not befallen the world economy during the past two years is a dollar crash.

During the bubble era that preceded it, many fretted that foreigners, tiring of the United States' gaping external deficits, would send the greenback slumping and interest rates soaring. In fact, the opposite occurred.

The crisis began within the U.S., and the deeper it became, the more the dollar strengthened as fearful investors sought safety in Treasury bills. Between September 2008 (when Lehman Brothers failed) and March 2009 (when U.S. stock markets hit bottom), the dollar rose by almost 13 percent on a trade-weighted basis.

That history is worth bearing in mind when assessing the latest bout of fretfulness about the dollar's future. For the past six months, the greenback has been sinking steadily, hitting a 14-month low against a basket of leading currencies and \$1.50 to the euro this week.

The slide has unnerved policymakers in economies whose currencies are rising. Coupled with the extraordinary looseness of U.S. policy, the weak dollar has revived fears of a currency crash.

With the budget deficit in double digits and the Federal Reserve's balance-sheet swollen, dollar bears are once again forecasting that the slide could become a rout and spell the end of the United States' status as the world's reserve currency.

This dollar declinism is overblown. It exaggerates the scale of the slide and misunderstands its cause. Much of the recent weakness simply reverses the earlier safe-haven flight



to dollars. On a trade-weighted basis the dollar today is close to where it was before Lehman failed. Yields on Treasuries have not risen and spreads on riskier dollar assets continue to shrink. If investors were growing lerier of dollars, the opposite should have occurred.

Furthermore, a weaker dollar is what you would expect, given the relative cyclical weakness of the U.S. economy. Thanks to the hangover from its financial crisis, the United States' recovery will be slower than that of other economies, especially emerging ones.

That suggests U.S. monetary policy will stay looser for longer, pushing the dollar down. A weaker dollar should also assist global economic rebalancing by helping to reorient the U.S. economy toward exports. So in general, it should help rather than hinder the global recovery.

That does not mean the worriers' fears are baseless. Three dangers remain. First, the dollar's decline is distorted. The world's most buoyant big economy, China, has kept its currency tied firmly to the greenback. This is stymieing the adjustment of China's economy, and fueling dangerous domestic asset bubbles.

Second, U.S. fiscal and monetary policies are unsustainable. The public-debt burden is set to double and, on today's policies, will still be rising in a decade's time. Third, the financial crisis has accelerated the relative shift of economic heft away from the U.S. -- which will hasten the eventual erosion of the dollar's dominance.

Even so, this is unlikely to provoke a sudden crisis.

Although the United States' fiscal mess will last for years, it is not acute. Inflation will not soar suddenly. With neither the euro nor the yuan yet ready to usurp it, the dollar will not quickly lose its reserve-currency status.

The lesson of the past year is that it is still a currency to flee to, not from. None of this absolves American policymakers from hard choices. But a dangerous collapse in the greenback is unlikely. ●

Treasure  
Coast  
Financial  
Planning

## What Can We Expect Now?

### You're Invited!

**Time: 12:00 AM Lunch**

**Date: November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Place: Private Barrier  
Island Club**

**Call 231-1422 to RSVP**



Guy Bassini, CFP

While strong cross-currents remain in the financial markets, growing evidence points to an improving economic backdrop. The economy remains fragile, yet robust fiscal and monetary policies have helped lead the way to an improved economic backdrop.

Please join me for lunch and an informational seminar to understand how recession to recovery, deflation to inflation, depression to recession to recovery, the Bond Market and Alternative Investments are all essential parts to forging ahead on the road to recovery.

Treasure Coast Financial Planning  
3418 Ocean Drive  
Vero Beach, FL 32963

Securities and Advisory Services offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Alternative investments may not be suitable for all investors and should be considered as an investment for the risk capital portion of the investor's portfolio. The strategies employed in the management of alternative investments may accelerate the velocity of potential losses.

**Paul V. Minotty, MD**  
is pleased and proud to  
announce the association of



**Stephen M. Tate, MD**

Dr. Tate's interests include cataract and multifocal intraocular lens surgery, glaucoma and retinal management and is available for general eye exams as well. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Tate and his family to our community.

**NEW  
VISION  
EYE CENTER**  
Paul V. Minotty, MD

777 37th Street,  
Suite D-103  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 257-8700  
(877) MINOTTY

Accepting new patients October 5th.  
We Accept Medicare & Most Insurance Plans  
[www.minottye.com](http://www.minottye.com)



# The “Public Option:” Shirking cost control

**T**he “public option” is dangerous not for what it might do but for what it allows the politicians not to do.

From the start, the Obama administration has said that health-care reform has to make health care both more accessible and less costly. If Congress does the first without the second -- guarantees a new entitlement without controlling costs -- it will bankrupt us, because health-care costs are rising faster than the overall economy is growing.

So far, though, that seems to be where Congress is headed, for two reasons: First, no one knows for sure how to control costs; and, second, the reforms that are likeliest to work are politically unpalatable.

What are those reforms? The most logical big thing Congress could do would be to tax, as income, the value of the health-care benefits Americans receive from their employers.

By not doing so, the government forgoes \$250 billion in revenue every year -- effectively, its second-biggest health expense after Medicare. It discriminates against people who have to buy insurance on their own. And it encourages overuse of health care, which drives up costs.

If employees had to pay taxes on their plan, they might opt for one that cost, say, \$12,000 per year rather than \$16,000, and push to receive the difference in wages. The government could use the revenue to subsidize health insurance for those who need help.

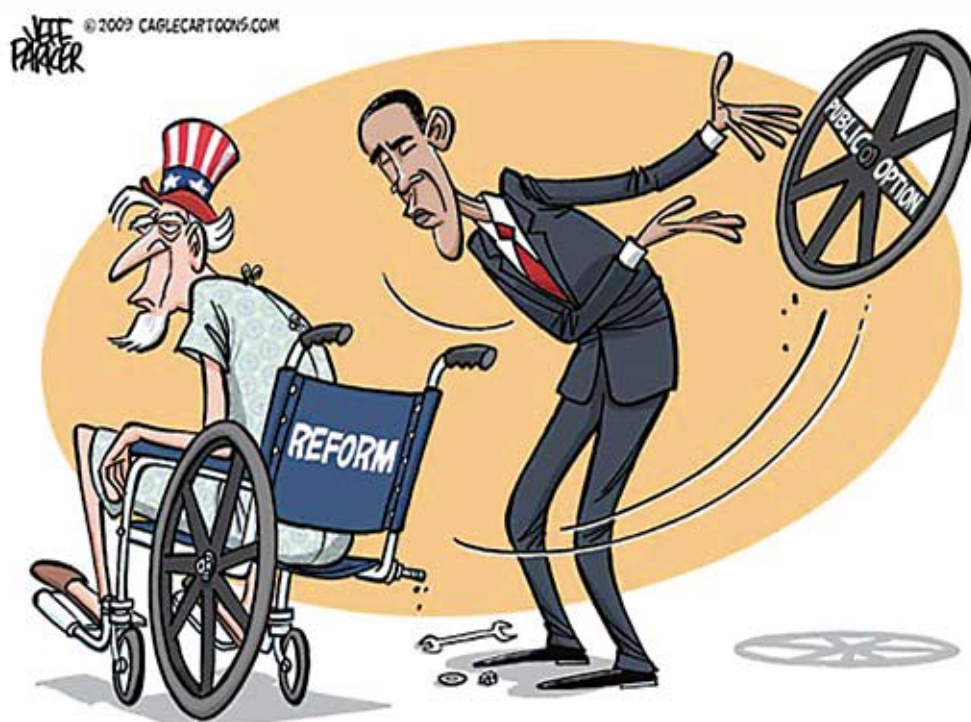
But many unions oppose this change, because they fear it would jeopardize their members' hard-won benefits, and so Democrats won't go for it. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) embraced the idea as presidential nominee and was irresponsibly attacked for it by his opponent.

Now Republicans oppose it so that, were President Obama to embrace it even in part, they could beat him up for retreating from his foolish campaign promise to reform health care without raising taxes on anyone but the rich.

The second big thing Congress could do would be to cede its power to regulate the minutiae of Medicare coverage. Cost control will come from a series of changes, adjusted and readjusted over time, in how physicians and other providers are reimbursed and what they are reimbursed for. Such decisions should be made based on evidence of what works and what doesn't.

Which brings us back to the idea of a government-run insurance plan. It allows Democrats to make their base happy, to bash the unlovable insurance companies -- and to claim to be taking care of cost control, too, by ensuring competition in the marketplace.

The claim merits skepticism. If, as advocates sometimes argue, a public plan operates



HANDICAPPING HEALTHCARE

But all such changes make one interest group or another -- urologists, MRI operators, oxygen tank manufacturers -- unhappy. They go to Congress, and Congress blocks the changes. Now Congress is being asked to cede both power and a reliable fundraising source. And -- surprise! -- it doesn't much like that idea.

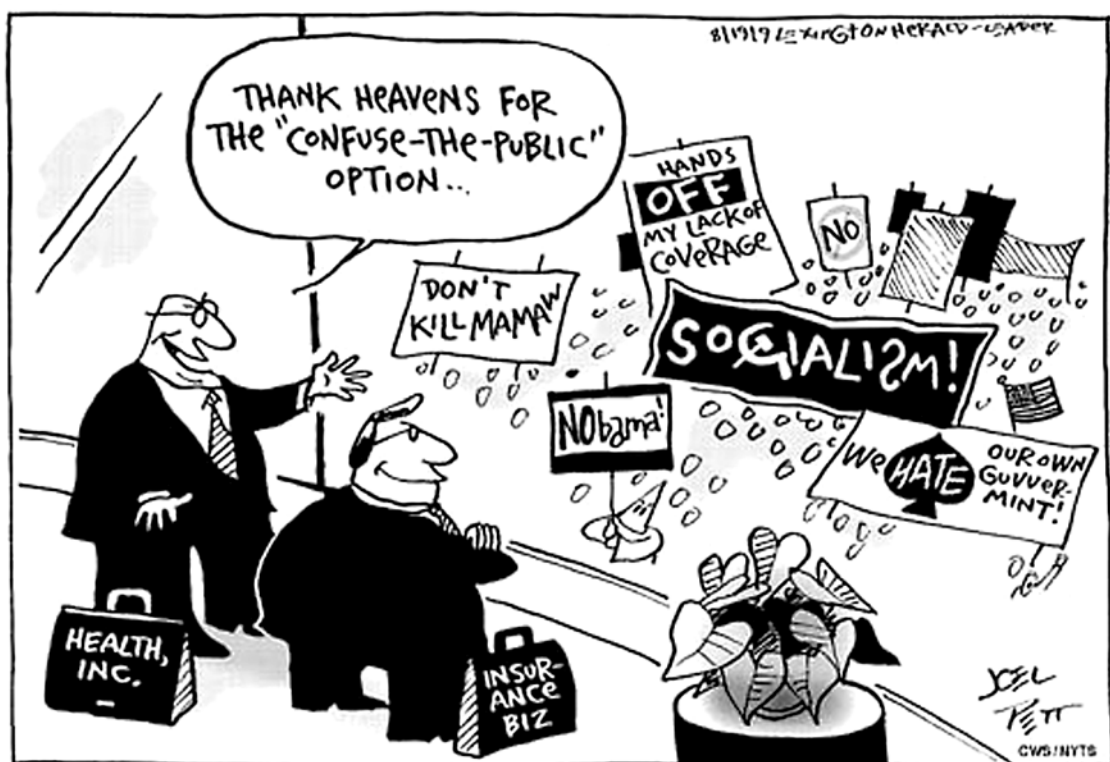
without favoritism, it will be simply one more entrant in the marketplace. Like other companies, it will have marketing and administrative costs. In some markets served by few private plans, it could offer a useful alternative. But it won't radically reduce costs.

If, as advocates argue at other times, the point is to insure sick people whom private companies, despite all regulatory efforts, find ways to shun, the public plan could offer a valuable safety net. But that wouldn't save money.

And if, as seems likeliest -- and as House legislation mandates -- the plan uses government power to demand lower prices from hospitals and drug companies, those providers may lower quality or seek to make up the difference from private payers.

Private companies would have to raise their rates, so more people would choose the public plan, so private rates would rise further -- and we could end up with *only* the public option and no competition at all. Single-payer national health insurance may be the best outcome, but we should get there after an honest debate, not through the back door.

So all the attention on whether Obama will get a public plan, as he says he hopes, misses the bigger point. The question is whether he will allow Congress to use the public option as an excuse to dodge the harder reforms, or whether he will insist on true cost control. ●





# Public plan mirage: All things to all people

In the health-care debate, the “public plan” is all things to all people. For supporters, it would discipline greedy private insurers and make health-care coverage affordable. For detractors, it’s a way station on the path to a single-payer insurance system of government-run health care.

In reality, the public plan, also known as the public option, is mostly an exercise in political avoidance: It pretends to control costs and improve access to quality care when it doesn’t.

As originally conceived by Yale political scientist Jacob Hacker, the public plan would be a government-created, nonprofit insurance company providing Medicare-like coverage to the under-65 population. But unlike Medicare, benefits would be paid for mainly by premiums -- not taxes. Americans could buy coverage from the public plan or a private insurer.

Competition and choice would increase, say liberals. Facing the low-cost public plan, private insurers would hold down their own premiums, the argument goes. Health-care costs for everyone would moderate. Government subsidies to provide universal coverage would be cheaper.

By some estimates, Medicare’s administrative costs are only 3 percent of spending, compared with 13 percent or more for private insurers. A new public plan is widely presumed to enjoy an advantage in overhead.

Nonsense, retort critics. The public plan’s low costs would be artificial. Its main advantage would be the congressionally mandated requirement that hospitals and doctors be reimbursed at rates at or near Medicare’s. These are as much as 30 percent lower than rates paid by private insurers, says the health-care consulting firm Lewin Group.

With such savings, the public plan could charge much lower premiums and attract lots of customers. But health costs wouldn’t subside; hospitals and doctors would offset the public plan’s artificially low reimbursements by raising fees to private insurers, as already occurs with Medicare. Premiums would increase because private insurers must cover costs to survive.

As for administrative expenses, any advantage for the public plan is exaggerated, say critics. Part of the gap between private insurers and

Private insurers’ profits (included in administrative costs) also explain some of Medicare’s cost advantage. But profits represent only 3 percent of the insurance industry’s revenue. Moreover, accounting comparisons are misleading when they don’t include the cost of Medicare’s government-supplied investment capital. A public plan would also need investment capital. And suppose the public plan suffers losses. Congress would assuredly bail it out.

The promise of the public plan is a mirage. Its political brilliance is to use free-market rhetoric (more “choice” and “competition”) to expand government power. But why would a plan tied to Medicare control health spending, when Medicare hasn’t?

Even Hacker concedes that without reimbursement rates close to Medicare’s, the public plan would founder. If it had to “negotiate rates directly with providers” -- do what private insurers do -- the public plan could have “a very hard time” making inroads, he writes. Hacker opposes such weakened versions of the public plan.

By contrast, a favored public plan would probably doom today’s private insurance. Although some congressional proposals limit en-

rollment eligibility in the public plan, pressures to liberalize would be overwhelming. Why should only some under-65 Americans enjoy lower premiums?

In one study that assumed widespread eligibility, the Lewin Group estimated that 103 million people -- half the number with private insurance -- would switch to the public plan. Private insurance might become a specialty product.

Many would say: Whoopee! Get rid of the sinister insurers. Bring on a single-payer system.

But if that’s the agenda, why not debate it directly? It’s not insurers that cause high health costs; they’re simply the middlemen. It’s the fragmented delivery system and open-ended reimbursement.

Would strict regulation of doctors, hospitals and patients under a single-payer system provide control? Or would genuine competition among health plans over price and quality work better?

That’s the debate we need, but in truth, doctors, hospitals and patients don’t want to be limited, whether by government or markets. Congress reflects public opinion. Fearing a real debate, we fake it.



**Endorsed by Vero Beach 32963 Newspaper and VeroNews.com**

*"By far the best prepared is Charlie Wilson. He is the only man with a plan to deal with the utilities. In this election we strongly endorse Charlie Wilson."*

—Vero Beach 32963 Editorial, October 15, 2009

**Vote Charlie**

**Wilson**

**Vero Beach City Council**

political advertisement paid for and approved by Wilson campaign non partisan 11/3



## Weirdness: Under-cover marketing

Just when we think we have heard it all, three prominent local real estate Brokers tell us they recently received anonymous hand-written notes on nicely monogrammed notepaper informing them that the writer and her sister are planning to sell their beachside homes (plural).

Alas, the note goes on to say, the two sisters have decided to list their homes with another real estate company because the Broker's agency does not advertise in a certain beachside paper.

The note is signed only "A." One of the Brokers said the agents in her office theorized that the "A" stands for "Aurella," a nom de plume used by a so-called advice columnist in this beachside publication. That would seem to fit with the monogram on the notepaper, "AAR."

We doubt that many local merchants are going to rush to advertise in this other publication based on anonymous notes. But what we found really incredible was that the sender had taken the trouble to make up monogrammed notepaper for a fictional advice columnist. 'Tis a mighty strange business.

## The News Business: Advertorials

From time to time, local merchants tell us they might advertise with us if we were to run a nice news story about their business.

We try to explain to them that the news business doesn't – or at least shouldn't – work that way. News is news, and advertising is advertising.

Our editor makes decisions on what we will cover in our news columns strictly on the basis of such considerations as whether it is news, or part of a trend that may be of interest to our readers.

Buying an ad won't enhance a merchant's chances of appearing in a story, and not buying an ad won't keep them out.

A lot of the confusion on the part of area merchants, we fear, comes from the local daily newspaper's unfortunate practice of running "advertorials" – stories about merchants that are arranged through the paper's advertising department.

Even worse, these advertising stories are written by the paper's news correspondents. For example, the reporter who wrote the Andy Williams story on the front page a couple of weeks ago was the bylined correspondent a day later on two advertorials?

Small wonder that readers and advertisers are confused when the paper itself seems to have difficulty telling the difference between what is right journalistically, and what is wrong. A big thumbs down!

The most amazing thing of all is that the local daily pays correspondents significantly more for writing the advertorials than it does for writing news stories! Now you know what they think is important.

## The News Business: Localism

It was only two weeks ago that our daily newspaper told us its focus for the future "will be ever more local, local, local."

That would be a good development. As we have mentioned more than once, Vero Beach residents simply aren't very interested in news from Stuart.

A few days later, we noted a new "house ad" on a back page of our local daily. (House ads are the ads they run promoting their newspaper when they don't have any paying ads to fill that space.)

This house ad in the Press Journal, extolling the many features you will find in your daily newspaper, featured a photo of the front page of (guess what) The Stuart News. Guess it would have taken too long

to prepare a separate ad for our community. So much for local, local, local.

## Endorsements: Have we made a mistake?

In our last issue, we told you that we thought the best choice in this election for Vero Beach City Council was Charlie Wilson. We continue to think that.

But as a second choice, we suggested former City Council Member Ken Daige. We are feeling less confident about that pick by the hour.

We were particularly pained by Daige's response two weeks ago to a question as to whether the stupidly named "Twin Pairs" – the one-way arteries that carry Route 60 through the downtown area – should be changed back into two-way streets to allegedly bring vitality back to the old downtown.

No, no, no. That's a terrible idea that has been debated ad nauseam over the past decade, and rejected on each occasion. These two one-way arteries are the main east-west route from the barrier island through town, and are often quite congested with traffic as it is.


Turning these thoroughfares into two-way local streets will not "revitalize" the old downtown – no matter how much proponents may wish it. It will only make a mess of traffic flow.

Coupled with the wrong-headed position Daige took two years ago on the Ocean Park and Humiston Park redevelopment, this latest suggestion casts new doubt on his judgment. On the other hand, he does seem more willing than any of the other viable candidates to question the material spoon-fed to Council Members by city staff (see electricity story, Page 1).

We encourage you to vote for Charlie Wilson next Tuesday. As for Daige, we hope he will prove that our endorsement of him for the second Council seat was not a mistake.

**VERO BEACH**  
**32963**  
Serving the Vero Beach barrier island  
www.verobeach32963.com

**A PUBLICATION OF VERO BEACH 32963 MEDIA, L.L.C.**  
4855 North A1A (Pelican Plaza) | Vero Beach, FL 32963 | 772-492-9024 | [www.verobeach32963.com](http://www.verobeach32963.com)  
Vero Beach 32963 is published every Thursday during the season, and every other Thursday in the summer



MEMBER

<p><b>President and Publisher</b> Milton R. Benjamin, 559-4187 <a href="mailto:milt@verobeach32963.com">milt@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Marketing Director</b> Mark Schumann, 696-5233 <a href="mailto:mark@verobeach32963.com">mark@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Art Director</b> Dan Alexander, 584-0870 <a href="mailto:dan@verobeach32963.com">dan@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Graphic Designer</b> Carrie Scent, 584-0870 <a href="mailto:carrie@verobeach32963.com">carrie@verobeach32963.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vero Beach 32963</b></p> <p><b>Managing Editor</b> Alina Lambiet, 492-9024 <a href="mailto:alina@verobeach32963.com">alina@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Associate Editor</b> Michelle Genz, 226-7924 <a href="mailto:michelle@verobeach32963.com">michelle@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Staff Editor</b> Lisa Zahner, 584-9121 <a href="mailto:lisa@verobeach32963.com">lisa@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Staff Photographer</b> Tom McCarthy, 205-0262 <a href="mailto:tom@verobeach32963.com">tom@verobeach32963.com</a></p>	<p><b>VeroNews.com</b></p> <p><b>Managing Editor</b> Ian M. Love, 226-7924 <a href="mailto:ian@verobeach32963.com">ian@verobeach32963.com</a></p> <p><b>Online Editor</b> Debbie Carson, 584-9083 <a href="mailto:debbie@veronews.com">debbie@veronews.com</a></p> <p><b>Society Editor</b> Mary Schenkel, 563-4881 <a href="mailto:maryelz@veronews.com">maryelz@veronews.com</a></p> <p><b>Visual Journalist</b> Keith Carson, 584-9125 <a href="mailto:keith@veronews.com">keith@veronews.com</a></p>	<p><b>Columnists:</b> L.L. Angell (Features), Richard Armitage (Music), Robert &amp; Casey Baggott (Faith), Linda Clark (Society), Humberto Cruz (Chess), Ron Holub (Sports), Pat Irons (Travel), Mary Beth McDonald (Government), Jay McNamara (Life), Willi Miller (Theatre), Sandra Rawls (Features), Tina Rondeau (Restaurants), Bill Smith (Fishing), Cissy Sumner (Pets), Lynn Morrison Williams (Health)</p> <p><b>Invite us to cover social and charitable events or Talk to us about news stories by calling 226-7924 or E-Mail us at <a href="mailto:editor@verobeach32963.com">editor@verobeach32963.com</a>.</b></p>
--	--	--	--



# How FBI traced a would-be jihadi

**T**arek Mehanna actively tried to become a terrorist for eight years following the 9/11 attacks, US authorities allege. Arrested by the FBI last week and charged with providing “material support” to terrorists, his history and footsteps took twists that led his group of three conspirators as far afield as Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia, according to a criminal complaint filed in US District Court.

What follows is a time line of Mr. Mehanna’s and his group’s alleged actions from before the 9/11 attacks in 2001 up to 2008, according to the FBI’s complaint and an affidavit supporting a search warrant. It is worth noting that according to the FBI, at least 21 domestic terrorism plots have been foiled since 9/11.

- 2000-2001 – Tarek Mehanna, who has known “CW2” (a conspirator who in late 2006 agreed to cooperate with the FBI) for 15 to 20 years, introduces him to Ahmad Abousamra, and the three men become close friends.

- Pre-Sept. 11, 2001 – Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 talk about going to terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

- After Sept. 11, 2001 – Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 express support for the attacks.

- April 4, 2002 – Abousamra travels to Pakistan in search of terrorist training, but apparently doesn’t find it, returning home.

- Fall 2002 – Mehanna meets Daniel Maldonado through Abousamra. At Mehanna’s home, they watch jihadi videos showing pillaging of the Muslim world in Bosnia and the Palestinian territories. Afterward, Mehanna, Abousamra, and Maldonado talk about the glory of dying for Allah.

- Nov. 17, 2002 – Abousamra travels again to Pakistan, where he connects with a man who helps him find a Taliban camp and another run by a Lashkar e Tayyiba group. But, as he later tells CW2, he was rejected by the former for being too inexperienced and by the latter for not being Pakistani.

- 2003 – Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 determine Pakistan is not a feasible place to get terrorist training. Frustrated, they begin exploring other options, including committing domestic terrorist acts.

- Second half of 2003 – Inspired by the 2002 sniper attacks in Washington, D.C., Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 discuss a plan to get automatic weapons, go to a shopping mall, and randomly shoot people. Abousamra says civilians aren’t innocent because they pay taxes to the government and because they are Kufar (nonbelievers).

- October 2003 – Abousamra flies to California to meet with “Individual A,” who tells him whom to see and where to go to find terrorist training camps in Yemen.

- Late 2003 – Discussion of the mall attack plan continues, including types of weapons needed, number of attackers involved, and coordinating the attack across different entrances.

- Late 2003 – Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 begin planning a trip to Yemen to attend a jihadist training camp or training in southern Jordan. Traveling to Iraq is discussed and of

particular interest because of the opportunity to fight US forces and because it is more accessible than other jihad conflicts around the world.

- February 2004 – CW2 hides video of his actions that he expects to tell family about later by e-mail. Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 debate the permissibility of suicide bombings. Abousamra agrees. CW2 does not; he and Mehanna want to be soldiers for jihad, not suicide bombers.



- Feb. 4, 2004 – Mehanna, Abousamra, and CW2 pull together \$13,000 and travel to Yemen seeking admission to a terrorist training camp.

- Feb. 4-10 2004 – Mehanna and Abousamra travel Yemen looking for the people “Individual A” told them to meet.

- Feb. 11, 2004 – Mehanna and Abousamra leave Yemen for United Arab Emirates (UAE). Abousamra goes on to Jordan and, two days later, enters Iraq, where he is thought to stay about 15 days. Mehanna returns home.

- November 2005 – Maldonado travels to Egypt.

- Summer 2006 – Mehanna visits Egypt and meets with Maldonado, who moved there.

- Aug. 10-11, 2006 – FBI agents search Mehanna’s bedroom and copy the hard drive of Mehanna’s laptop computer on authority of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. A picture from the hard drive shows Mehanna at ground zero in New York, smiling and pointing to the sky.

- Late 2006 – CW2 agrees to cooperate with FBI.

- November 2006 – Maldonado moves from Egypt to Somalia with his wife and three children.

- Dec. 12, 2006 – Maldonado phones Mehanna from Somalia and tells him he is participating in “culinary school” and making “peanut butter and jelly” – code words referring to jihad, Mehanna later explains to an informant who is

fitted with a recording device.

- Dec. 12, 2006 – Abousamra is interviewed by the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). He says he went to Yemen in 2004 to study Arabic language and religious studies.

- Dec. 15, 2006 – CW2 records a conversation with Abousamra. By the time of their meeting, both men had been interviewed by the FBI about their 2004 trip to Yemen.

- Dec. 26, 2006 – Abousamra leaves Boston’s Logan Airport to fly to Syria, telling customs and border patrol officers he is going to visit his wife and will return Jan. 20, 2007. He has not returned.

- Early January 2007 – Maldonado flees Kenya in face of attacks by Ethiopian forces and is captured by Kenyan military, who turn him over to the FBI. He tells agents that he called Mehanna from Somalia and urged him to join him in fighting.

- Feb. 14 2007 – Reports begin appearing of Maldonado’s arrest at the Somali border and a telephone conversation he had with someone in the US. CW2 sends Mehanna an e-mail saying: “You read the news?” referring to Maldonado being charged for receiving terrorist training from Al Qaeda while in Somalia.

- Feb. 25, 2007 – In a recorded phone conversation, Mehanna tells CW2 he is the person Maldonado called from Somalia and discusses who might be providing information to the FBI. They talk about Abousamra, who “fled the country” after FBI questioning. Mehanna explains that “PB&J” is code that means, generally, “I’m here fighting.”

- April 19, 2007 – Maldonado pleads guilty to military-type training from a foreign terrorist organization and is sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

- April 23, 2007 – Mehanna gives a compact disc with a handwritten label on it to CW1 (another FBI cooperating witness) that contains computer video files of jihad training downloaded from the Internet.

- Sept. 7, 2007 – Mehanna sends e-mail to CW1 with caption “An interesting read” with attached blog entry purportedly by and about Maldonado’s travels to Egypt and Somalia.

- Nov. 8, 2008 – JTTF obtains consent from a Mehanna family member to search another computer Mehanna used.

- Nov. 8, 2008 – Mehanna is arrested at Boston’s Logan airport. He is later charged in a complaint with lying to members of the JTTF concerning his statements about Maldonado’s phone call to him from Somalia in December 2006 and other statements. He is released on bail.

- April 4, 2009 – Mehanna is active online, sending messages with contact information for Aafia Siddiqui, a defendant detained in New York on terrorism charges.

- Oct. 20, 2009 – FBI petitions for a search warrant, noting a poem it attributes to Mehanna that is widely available on the Internet: “Make Martyrdom what you Seek.”

- Oct. 21, 2009 – Mehanna is arrested and charged by the FBI with providing “material support” to terrorists. ●



**\$71.5 million**  
**SOLD OR UNDER CONTRACT**  
Since January 2009

# John Found Paradise.



Designer Furnished, 1BR/1BA Island House  
Beautifully Updated, Pool Views, 590± SF  
400 Beach Road #210: \$287,500



**REDUCED**  
Furnished, Updated, 2BR/2BA Cottage  
1700± SF, Endless Fairway & Lake Views  
223 Silver Moss Drive : \$685,000



850 Beach Road Condominiums  
#178 – 2BR/2BA, 2100± SF : \$935,000  
#277 – 2BR/2BA, 2250± SF : \$1,200,000



**REDUCED**  
Rarely on Market! Indoor/Outdoor Living  
3BR/4BA Courtyard Home, Pool, 2600± SF  
70 Paget Court : \$1,750,000



**REDUCED**  
Beautifully-Detailed 4BR Family Retreat  
Saltwater Pool, Large Yard & Golf Views  
561 Sea Oak Drive : \$2,450,000



**REDUCED**  
Gorgeous 3BR/3.5BA Family Retreat  
Pool, Indoor/Outdoor Living, Lake Views  
90 Dove Plum Road : \$2,600,000



**NEW LISTING**  
Stunning, Renovated 3BR West Indies Retreat  
4390± SF, Designer Interiors, Outdoor Fireplace  
601 Sea Oak Drive : \$2,800,000



**NEW LISTING**  
Meticulous 5BR Home on Cul-de-sac  
Private VIP Suite, Pool & Golf Views  
311 Llwyd's Lane : \$2,995,000

## Homes and Estates

371 Sea Oak Drive .....	\$1,375,000
260 Sabal Palm Lane .....	\$1,395,000
251 John's Island Drive .....	\$1,725,000
321 Sabal Palm Lane .....	\$1,795,000
701 Shady Lake Lane .....	\$1,850,000
460 Indian Harbor Road .....	\$2,100,000
751 Shady Lake Lane .....	\$2,300,000
290 John's Island Drive .....	\$2,300,000
221 Clarkson Lane .....	\$2,500,000
389 Island Creek Drive .....	\$2,700,000
71 Cowry Lane .....	\$2,700,000
400 Indian Harbor Road .....	\$2,850,000
180 Orchid Way .....	\$2,950,000
220 Indian Harbor Road .....	\$2,950,000
580 Indian Harbor Road .....	<b>(NEW)</b> \$2,950,000
150 Clarkson Lane .....	\$3,650,000
370 Indian Harbor Road .....	\$3,650,000
241 Sea Oak Drive .....	\$3,690,000
35 Waxmyrtle Way .....	\$3,750,000
360 Palmetto Point .....	\$3,850,000

310 Island Creek Drive .....	\$3,995,000
228 Island Creek Drive .....	\$4,050,000
380 Island Creek Drive .....	\$4,100,000
330 Palmetto Point .....	\$4,650,000
71 Dove Plum Road .....	\$6,895,000
255 Island Creek Drive .....	\$6,950,000
646 Ocean Road .....	\$7,500,000
801 Shady Lake Lane .....	\$7,500,000
141 Gem Island Drive .....	\$8,900,000
692 Ocean Road .....	\$15,000,000

## Homesites

280 Sea Oak Drive .....	\$1,450,000
225 Coconut Palm Road .....	\$1,750,000
270 John's Island Drive .....	\$2,300,000
551 Sea Oak Drive .....	\$2,450,000
13 Sea Court .....	\$3,775,000
60 Gem Island Drive .....	\$4,150,000
1 Sea Court .....	\$4,350,000
662 Ocean Road .....	\$4,900,000
810 Manatee Inlet .....	\$5,300,000

## Townhouses, Cottages and Island House

431 Silver Moss Drive, #105 .....	\$350,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #720, 2BR/2BA .....	\$400,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #714, 2BR/2BA .....	\$450,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #717, 2BR/2BA .....	\$450,000
431 Silver Moss Drive, #104 .....	\$485,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #710, 3BR/3BA .....	\$525,000
231 Silver Moss Drive (New) .....	\$579,000
353 Silver Moss Drive .....	\$650,000
111 John's Island Drive, #17 .....	\$675,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #702, 3BR/3BA .....	\$685,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #725, 3BR/3BA .....	\$685,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #707, 3BR/3BA .....	\$695,000
401 Silver Moss Drive .....	\$695,000
777 Sea Oak Drive #701, 3BR/3BA .....	\$710,000
173 Silver Moss Drive .....	\$850,000
233 Silver Moss Drive .....	\$850,000
111 John's Island Drive, #19 .....	<b>(REDUCED)</b> \$1,775,000
Island House (590-660± SF efficiencies)	
#120 .....	\$225,000
#151 .....	\$250,000



Robert M. Gibb: Broker : Jack Mitchell : Judy Bramson : Jeannette W. Mahaney : Ba Stone : Terry Crowley : David Ashcroft  
Open 7 days a week : One John's Island Drive : Indian River Shores, Florida 32963





# Now We'll Find Yours.



Steps to Beach! 3BR/4BA Courtyard Home  
3000± SF, Pool, Spa & Private Gardens  
20 Dove Shell Lane : \$2,300,000



Oversized 94± and 1.01± Acre Lots  
Along Private Indian River Cove  
Stingaree Point : Price Upon Request



Under Construction, 3BR/4BA Penthouse  
Desirable Ocean Place, Generous 3400± SF  
1050 Beach Road #3H : \$2,400,000



**NEW LISTING**  
Private 4BR/5BA Home, Pool & Golf Views  
Generous 5147± SF, Lanai & Sun Room  
480 Sea Oak Drive : \$2,400,000



**NEW LISTING**  
Gorgeous 3BR+Den Retreat With Pool  
4400± SF, Boat Dock, Stunning Water Views  
351 Indian Harbor Road : \$3,375,000



Sophisticated 5BR Home on Private Cove  
Separate Guest Cabana & Water Views  
140 North Shore Point : \$3,800,000



Stunning New Anglo-Caribbean Home  
5838± SF, Fairway, Lake & Pool Views  
640 Indian Harbor Road : \$4,450,000



Ready to Custom Build! 8195± SF Estate  
Guest Cabana & Sweeping Ocean Views  
664 Ocean Road : \$5,750,000

#230.....	\$275,000
#121.....	\$277,500
#147.....	\$295,134
#144.....	\$346,795
#224.....	\$395,000
#237.....	\$395,000
#235.....	\$445,000
#243.....	\$450,000

#### **Condominiums**

950 Beach Road #192, 2BR/2BA.....	\$710,000
450 Beach Road #220, 2BR/2BA.....	\$725,000
700 Beach Road #355, 2BR/2BA.....	\$725,000
750 Beach Road #304, 2BR/2BA.....	\$749,000
100 Ocean Road #104, 2BR/2BA.....	\$750,000
550 Beach Road #221, 2BR/2BA.....	\$775,000
600 Beach Road #331, 2BR/2BA.....	\$775,000
450 Beach Road #322, 2BR/2BA.....	\$795,000
500 Beach Road #210, 2BR/2BA.....	\$795,000
100 Ocean Road #111, 2BR/2BA.....	\$825,000
700 Beach Road #158, 3BR/2BA.....	\$975,000
1000 Beach Road, #297, 2BR/2BA.....	\$995,000

950 Beach Road #193, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,000,000
900 Beach Road #285, 2BR/2BA.....	\$1,260,000
100 Ocean Road #112, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,275,000
500 Beach Road #203, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,275,000
900 Beach Road #382, 2BR/2BA.....	\$1,290,000
1000 Beach Road #396, 2BR/2BA.....	\$1,290,000
500 Beach Road #104, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,300,000
800 Beach Road #172, 3BR/3BA.....	\$1,350,000
700 Beach Road #148, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,400,000
700 Beach Road #149, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,400,000

#### **Sold Or Under Contract Since January 2009**

8 Sea Court	351 Sea Oak Drive
650 Indian Harbor Road	700 Beach Road #250
900 Beach Road #181	311 Indian Harbor Road
100 Ocean Road #212	110 Coconut Palm Road
800 Beach Road #169 & #371	241 Sundial Court
600 Beach Road #135 & #330	750 Beach Road #303
111 John's Island Drive #3, #4 & #5	381 Sabal Palm Lane
400 Beach Road #133, #222 & #228	531 Sea Oak Drive
450 Beach Road #120, #223 & #324	210 Live Oak Way

300 Ocean Rd #1E, 3BR/3BA.....	<b>(NEW)</b> \$1,400,000
1000 Beach Road #298, 2BR/2BA.....	\$1,450,000
500 Beach Road #211, 3BR/2BA.....	\$1,550,000
500 Beach Road #311, 3BR/3BA.....	\$1,600,000
1000 Beach Road #294, 3BR/3BA.....	\$1,600,000
250 Ocean Road #3C, 3BR/3BA.....	\$1,600,000
900 Beach Road #281, 3BR/3.5BA.....	\$2,295,000
1150 Beach Road #3L, 3BR/3.5BA.....	\$2,475,000
400 Ocean Road #184, 3BR/4.5BA.....	\$2,950,000

772.231.0900 : 800.327.3153 : [www.JohnsIslandRealEstate.com](http://www.JohnsIslandRealEstate.com)



Exclusively John's Island





# Vero Beach chefs go “Locavore:” From farm to table to (gasp!) hip

BY ALINA LAMBIET - STAFF WRITER | PHOTOS BY TO MCCARTHY JR.  
Columnist Linda Clark contributed to this story.

**M**ichael Lander likes to know everything about the turkeys, vegetables and products he serves to his discerning clients at The Moorings.

As the executive chef at the exclusive barrier island club, Lander makes it part of his routine to go to the local farms that raise the animals and grow the vegetables that end up on his tables.

“Once in a while I head out to the Crazy Hart ranch – I know those turkeys from egg to incubator to the table – the whole way,” said Lander. “And the way they are handled, it rears a better-tasting animal.”

It wasn’t always this easy to find locally grown products. In fact, Lander will tell you 10 years ago, he and other local chefs would ship food from around the world in overnight deliveries.

But was that better? Not always.

He and others wanted food that was handled less, processed less, gassed less – in order to arrive fresh. But local farmers and chefs didn’t even know one another. And so the idea for a Farmer-Chef Summit was born.

Seven years later, Lander and several local farmers and chefs are doing far more than getting to know each other; they are part of a growing national trend to serve more locally-grown foods in stores, restaurants and markets. And while area restaurants are not going with an all-local menu, more are opting to buy as much as they can from nearby farms.

The trend in some parts has even received a moniker, *locavore*, as in someone who eats locally grown food (say within 150 miles) for rea-

sons of health, safety, freshness -- and kindness toward the environment.

“The real rock stars now are the farmers, the fishermen who bring us these local products,” says Lander.

Local restaurants are more aware now about food safety and freshness, said Kevin O’Dare, whose Osceola Organics farm in western Vero Beach hosted the second Farmer-Chef Summit recently that brought together dozens of restaurants and growers. Organized with Lander, just about



every top restaurant serving the barrier island was represented there – from Lander’s Moorings Club to Orchid Island Club and the Ocean Grill.

As for the farmers – well, they need help marketing their products, said O’Dare.

“Everybody who was anybody was here,” said O’Dare, who provides produce for the Moorings, the Ocean Grill and John’s Island Club.

“It just shows you how strong the demand is for local products. This is so important – the food is grown here, it’s shipped a shorter distance into town, and the revenue...all of

that stays in the local economy.”

The summit was a tangibly earthy and food-hip event between local farmers and chefs – a way to meet face-to-face, talk local food and do business. A narrow dirt road led to Osceola Organics, a bumpy ride that made teeth chatter and the line of pickups ahead disappear in the dust. But once on the sprawling farm, the foodie adventure was palpable.

Small groups were meeting over folding tables dripping with vegetables; the open trunks of tired station wagons were brimming with lush, organic produce. Bronzed and weathered farmers and chefs talked new ideas, some over a glass of ice cold beer.

Keeping food supplies as local as possible, so goes the locavore argument, is good for everyone. The food is fresher, fewer people handle the products so there is less chance of contamination. By keeping transportation to short distances – it keeps carbon footprints down.

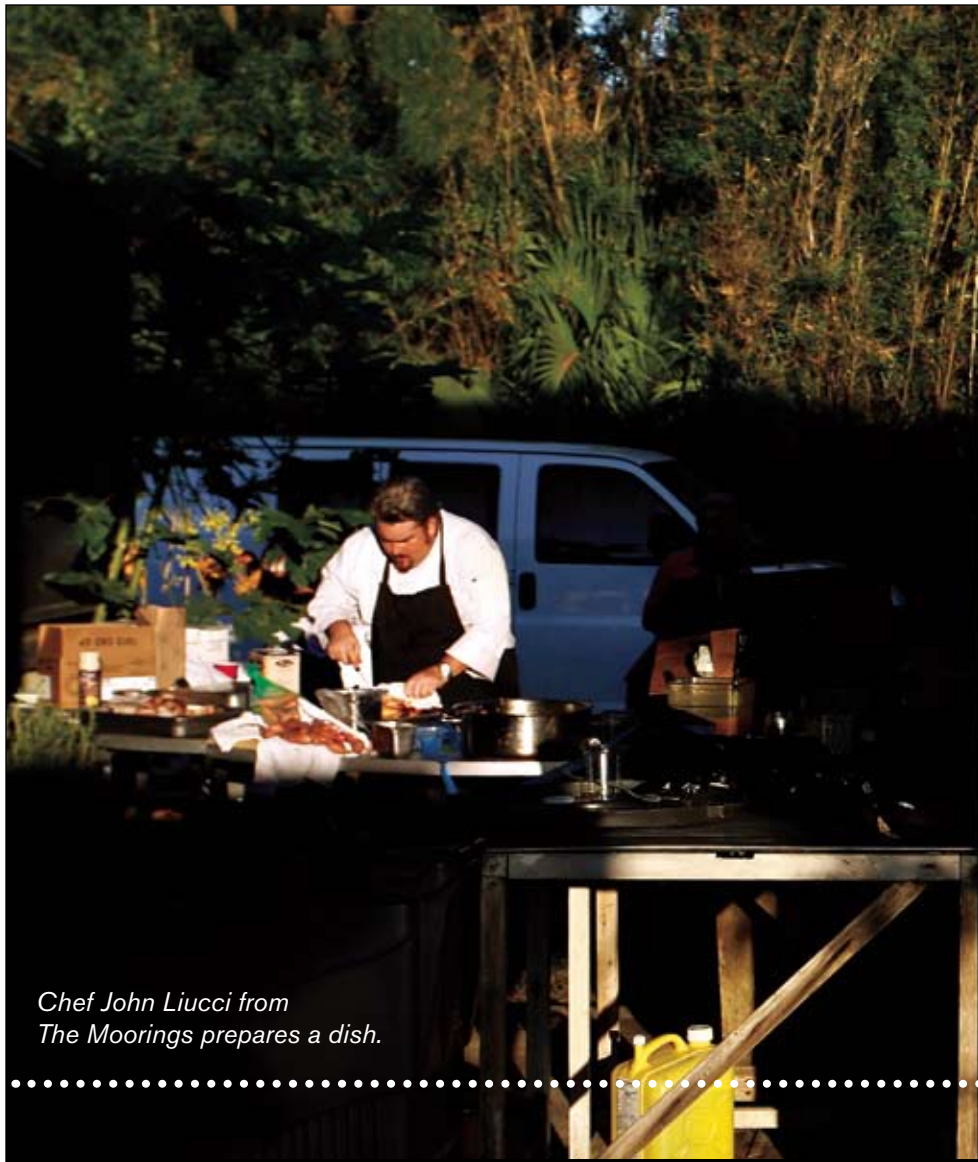
In reality, however, local chefs say their biggest reason for generating more demand from local growers is simple – their high-end clientele knows quality. Many come from the northeast, where competition between farmers is tough, and farmers’ markets create true food connoisseurs.

“I buy as much as I can locally -- why do I need to bring in California oranges when we live in Indian River County?” said Lander. “If something is not in season, it’s not in season. Let’s eat what is in season.”

With a chuckle, O’Dare goes a little farther.

“It’s like Vero has been known as this retirement place, but I think Vero is going *hip* – can you believe it?”





*Chef John Liucci from The Moorings prepares a dish.*



*Photo on top left: David Koliner, a first year culinary student at Indian River State College, and Hudson Hargett, who owns a palm farm, get introduced to a variety of spices, fruits and unusual ethnic seasonings by Allan McCarthy of Native Habitat Farms.*

*Photo on bottom left: A salad made of fresh organic greens from the Osceola Organic Farm sits alongside a tray of freerange chicken from Crazy Hart Ranch. Both dishes were prepared by chefs from The Moorings.*

Just stop for a minute to examine Lander's menu. He features O'Dare's organic mesclun mix, herbs and heirloom tomatoes and Fellsmere-based pasture-fed poultry products from Crazy Hart Ranch, run by Linda Hart, another summit organizer. Lander has been buying from the two farms from almost seven years.

By the time this summit was over, Lander had several good farmers contracted to plant and custom grow Brussels sprouts, greens and winter squash in their fields for his fall and winter menu.

O'Dare and others say over the past year, they have been overwhelmed by the demand for locally-grown food products. One man banking a lot on the trend is Jean Lacarte, who is start-

ing an organic farm in Grant Valkaria and has been a protégé of O'Dare's. He's not worried that he's leaving a full-time job at a commercial tile business to farm organically.

"The market is out of control right now," Lacarte said. "There's not enough to supply the demand for custom growing."

Ocean Grill's Executive Chef Timm McGraw buys O'Dare's produce. McGraw had just checked out Dekker Family Farms, hydroponic growers in Ft. Pierce, on his way back from Tampa and was impressed.


"It's awesome. They have 10 acres worth of crops growing in a very small, vertical space," McGraw said.

Tucked away, almost in the back pasture,

was a group intensely focused on what appeared to be enormous and mysterious piles of branches, tree roots and leaves displayed on two large tables. These were the wild and rare tropical fruits, herbs and spices from Native Habitat Farms of Vero Beach.

For more than 30 years, Allan McCarthy and Lee Rathbun have been growing species such as Indian borage, Cuban oregano, horseradish tree, kaffir lime leaves, sarmentosa, betel and sanctum (used as leaf wraps in Vietnamese cooking) here in Vero Beach. They had come to the Farmer-Chef summit to see if local chefs would use these rare items.

Perhaps we'll see borage soup on a local menu some day soon. ●



**Chester Clem**  
Attorney at Law

Wills – Estates – Trusts

2145 15th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772.978.7676

Located less than a block north of the Court House  
in downtown Vero Beach

TIME IS PRECIOUS. SPACE IS LIMITED. WE HELP YOU USE BOTH WISELY.

**livingmadesimple®**

Your personal organizing service for closets, offices, garages, kitchens, downsizing and relocation needs.

Call today for your FREE private consultation and begin enjoying the benefits of a better organized life.

Phone: 772.528.2737 | [www.living-made-simple.com](http://www.living-made-simple.com)







# Chelsea's to open in the Village Shops

BY ALINA LAMBIET - STAFF WRITER | PHOTO BY TOM MCCARTHY JR.

**T**he Village Shops are hoping to get a boost this winter from the addition of the specialty market Chelsea's on Cardinal after a 2008-2009 season that many retailers there called weak.

"Every island needs its village, and this is our village," said S. Scanlan Buckley, owner of Chelsea's, which is opening a prepared food market and café in the Village Shops on Nov. 10.

To be called Chelsea's Food, Wine and Café in the Village Shops, the Chelsea brand brings top draw to a collection of specialty shops in the heart of Indian River Shores.

"It's exactly what we wanted," said Village Shops association president Judy Gibson, who owns Trafalgar Square, a gift shop brimming with collectibles, rare books and seasonal wares. "We are really hoping this will bring people who can come shop, stroll, sip coffee, have pastries. This was really needed."

The Village Shops has had a succession of restaurants and cafes in the same location that have not managed to bring in more people, or keep around longer those that do come for shopping and dining. Chelsea's is opening in the building previously occupied by Mike Mac's.

So what makes Buckley think she can make it where others have failed?

"We are not a restaurant," she says, bright blue eyes twinkling. "We'll have wine and cappuccino and prepared foods. It's going to take advantage of the outdoors to spill out, but it isn't going to be a restaurant."

The plan goes something like this: Crisp awnings, seating (mostly outdoors) for about 30, several coffee/wine bars both indoors

and out, and lots of refrigerated cases with signature Chelsea's prepared foods, especially appetizers.

"Our customers like to have people over for cocktails and appetizers," said Buckley. "So they can pick up the hors d'oeuvres here, then go out to dinner with their guests."

Add to that lineup a healthy selection of cheeses and wines from around the world. And yes, those tempting breads and pastries found at Chelsea's on Cardinal will be available every day.

But don't expect to have the shelf foods she sells at the Cardinal Drive location.

"This is meant to be a place to hang out for awhile, but also to stop in to pick up those special prepared foods. But we just don't have the space to carry the shelf goods here."

Buckley has many ideas for the new location, which she is designing with a SoHo flair – crisp whites, clean lines.

Maybe an Italian movie night?

"We could have pizza and an Italian film," she said.

She also plans to offer a variety of catering services.

The Village Shops needs a bit of a facelift, said Gibson. She and other business owners are hoping for better lighting, spruced up landscaping and more seating around the property – "to encourage walking and browsing."

Several shop owners have moved their stores to bigger locations within the shops, and along with Chelsea's, Elegance by the Sea, a fine bedding and linen store, is moving in.

"There is a lot going on," said Gibson. We want to be more cohesive as a community – to be a destination."

Everyone is really trying to put their best foot forward," said Christine Connelly, owner of Christine, a table top gift shop. "After a slow summer we are so excited about Chelsea's; they have a good following and maybe we can get people coming back to the shops." ●



# Kemp Shoes moving to Brewster space

BY ALINA LAMBIET - STAFF WRITER

Ring in the New Year will take on new meaning for the sisters who run the venerable Kemp's Shoe Salon and Boutique on Ocean Drive this holiday.

After 36 years at 3402 Ocean Drive, the popular emporium of shoes, handbags and clothing for the island's well-heeled is moving to a slightly bigger space just a jump across the street from its current location.

"We've been looking for years for a new spot, and you know, it's not like there are that many big spots on Ocean Drive. So this was just a good opportunity at a good time," said Meg Offutt, one of three sisters who own the Kemp's stores.

Moving out is Frances Brewster, a retail clothing and accessory store, which has found a new location on Cardinal Drive.

Moving in by January of 2010 will be Kemp's.

The store will still have its signature chandeliers and white carpets, and of course, those to-die-for Mary Janes, sassy kitten heels and comfy sandals.



Photo by Tom McCarthy Jr.

The new Kemp's will have a more room for merchandise on the floor and a more efficient stockroom, she said.

A complete renovation is underway at the old Frances Brewster store by Banov Architecture and Construction, Offutt said.

As for a move in this tough economy, Offutt says, as long as the store's reliable seasonal customers come back, all should be well.

"People just enjoy coming back to Vero, and going shopping, and you know, people who

do come find it so charming with our customer service, so for us, as long as they're here, we'll be fine," Offutt said.

Kemp's has two Vero Beach locations, the store on Ocean Drive and an outlet store, "Kemp's Too," at 674 Miracle Plaza and another store in Stuart.

Kemp's has been at the Ocean Drive location since 1973, and its stores are run by Offutt, and her sisters Diane Jarrell and Denise Metz, along with their sister-in-law, Diana Shambora. ●

## Make The Eco-Smart Choice For Your Lawn Services

For a healthier lawn and healthier environment that doesn't cost more

Well-trained staff offering attention to detail and personal service

Locally owned and managed

Nationally certified, locally endorsed

Eco-Friendly is not only the smart choice for the environment but for your pocketbook too.

**Eco-Friendly Lawn & Garden**

Call us today at 226-5697 or visit our website [www.ecofriendlawnandgarden.com](http://www.ecofriendlawnandgarden.com)

## OAK HARBOR PROPERTIES

VERO BEACH'S PREMIER ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITY

**\$895,000**

4816 St. Margaret's

3BR/3BA, 3,200 sq. ft., den, island kitchen, pool, water views.

**\$435,000**

4772 St. Elizabeth's Terrace

2BR+den/2BA, 2,000 sq. ft., water views, close to clubhouse, wraparound patio.

**\$275,000**

1115 St. George's Lane

2BR/2BA, 1,800 sq. ft., new carpet/paint, large patio overlooking golf course.

**\$325,000**

4775 S. Harbor Dr. #301

3BR/2.5BA, 2,100 sq. ft. condo. Top floor, electric shutters, eat in kitchen, golf/lake views.

**HARBOR REAL ESTATE**

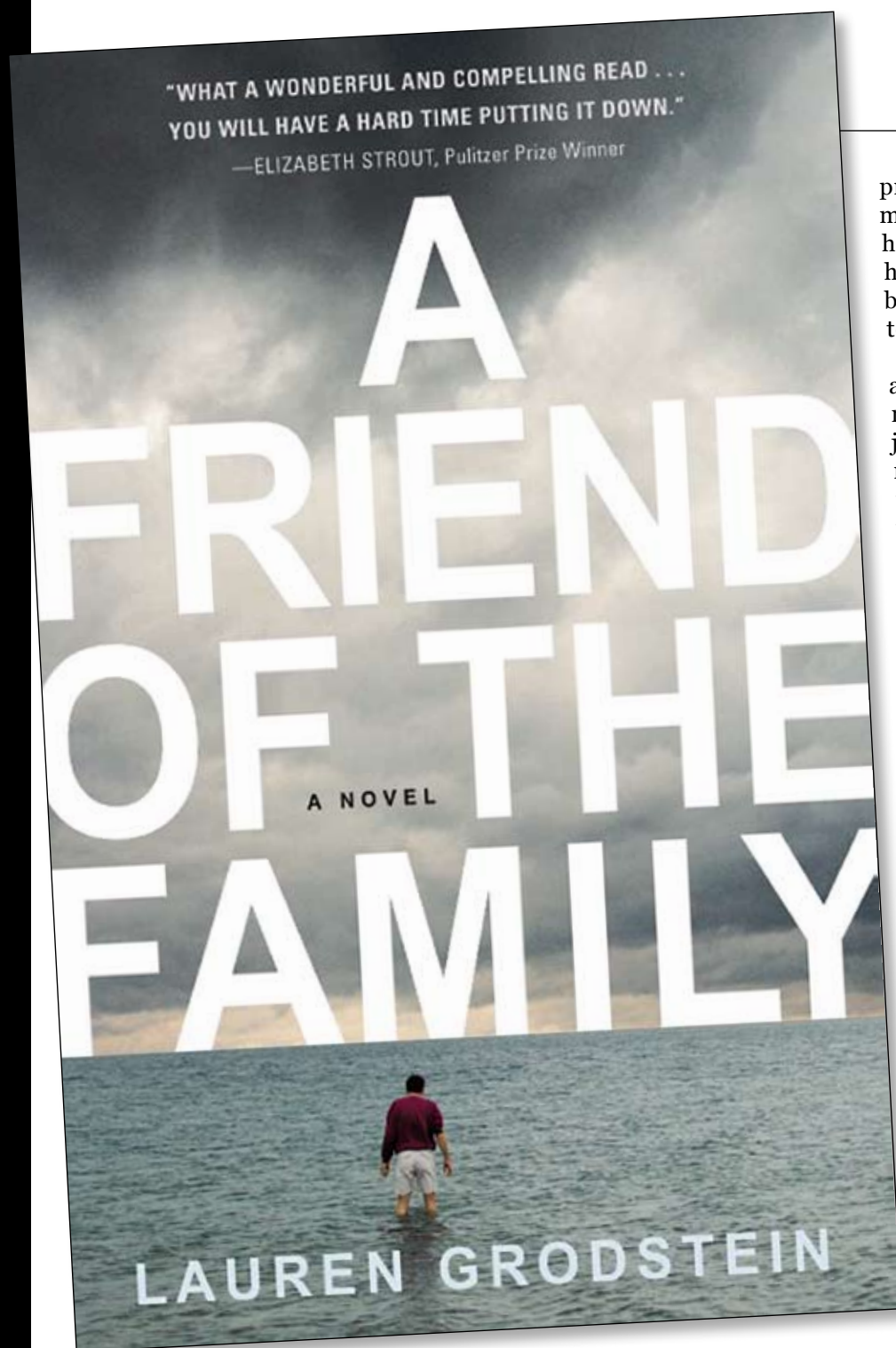
SPECIALIZING IN OAK HARBOR PROPERTIES

Shelli Schinkus Broker/Owner

[www.oakharborverobeach.com](http://www.oakharborverobeach.com)

772-538-9966





**M**y younger daughter has just gone off to college. To the wrong college, of course, where she's taking all the wrong classes and befriend- ing the wrong people and ba- sically ruining her chances of ever having a suc- cessful life.

Or at least that's what I used to think during insane moments of midnight para- noia. I'm better now, largely because I've just finished Lauren Grodstein's absorbing new novel, "A Friend of the Family." It's about a devoted dad whose parental con- cerns fester into a toxin that eventually poi- sons his life.

There's nothing polemic or didactic about Grodstein's story, but she's written such an incisive diagnosis of aspirational America that someone should hand out cop- ies at Little League games and ballet recit- als.

Dr. Pete Dizinoff is the chastened nar- rator of this drama of self-destruction. We meet him on the eve of a court decision in a medical malpractice case that could either set him free or complete his personal and

"You live in black and white," his wife chides him. "You have the moral code of a teenager, that level of sophistication." His inflexibility makes him a harsh judge, and we can feel his comeuppance gathering like a terrible storm on the horizon.

What Grodstein captures so strikingly is the anxiety of a father's love, that aching affection that can flip in a moment of pan- icked disappointment to full-blown disgust. "I cannot number how many times," Pete says, "I've looked at him and been almost knock-kneed with pride and thought, 'Yes, yes, that's my son.' . . . There's nobody I've ever loved more."

The object of his affection is 20-year- old Alec, a perfectly rendered upper-mid- dle-class kid: precocious and lazy, alter- nately sweet and petulant, overconfident and depressed, the kind of young man who could accomplish so much if he'd only put his mind to it and take advantage of what he's been given, damn it! (An eyebrow ring? Must you?)

Pete's parental anxiety is easy to satirize but Grodstein never pushes these characters into caricatures. She has a sharp ear for the discordant tones of conversations between

professional ruin. His marriage has collapsed, he's estranged from his son, and a patient's brother is threatening to kill him.

Holed up in an apartment over his ga- rage, he waits for the judge's verdict and ru- minates on the events that have brought him to this point. His wide- ranging and often dramatic memories of family and profes- sional crises compose the bulk of the novel.

The key to Pete's character is his recti- tude. "I always had a clear sense," he says in the ominous open- ing pages, "of what was right and what was wrong." But un- checked, that virtue becomes a tragic flaw.

Although he's an extremely sympathet- ic, disarmingly candid character -- a faithful husband, a loving fa- ther, a conscientious doctor -- gradually we see that he has no sympathy for oth- ers' weaknesses, no appreciation for the muddled palette of real life.

parents and their almost adult children. She knows how our subtle (we think!) efforts to prod them toward wise decisions incite their sarcasm, then their exasperation and finally their slammed doors.

The scenes involving Alec's madden- ingly casual application to college are flawles- sly drawn, but so is every episode here that portrays the common tension between the desire to nurture and the need to control, to "get it right."

Grodstein is such a perceptive and know- ing critic of suburbia that I kept expecting to see her driving slowly up and down my street peering in the windows. She captures "the vague but persistent smell of striving, of other people's koi ponds."

Poor Pete always feels the implicit com- petition that must never be acknowledged by polite and friendly neighbors. And the cruelest contest, of course, involves the old- er children, heading off to MIT or the local state college or -- worse -- bumming around the house.

"Soon enough he'll return to school," Pete reassures himself nervously, "finish a degree, meet a nice girl, and forge a career. . . . This was -- and is -- my truest, most deeply longed-for fantasy. It's so simple. It shouldn't be so hard."

The real crisis of this novel is sparked by Alec's infatuation with Pete's best friend's daughter, a 31-year-old woman who has re- cently returned home after years of bohe- mian living. As a teenager, she committed a shocking crime, but now everyone has moved on, forgotten and forgiven -- except Pete, who views this dissipated young wom- an as a "basket case," a direct threat to ev- erything he wants for his son.

"Pete, relax, okay?" his patient wife tells him, but he has yet to realize that there's no greater aphrodisiac than a parent's anxious disapproval. What follows is a tragedy all the more painful for its avoidability, if only Pete's expectations for his son weren't so rigid, if only his love weren't so desperate.

My single complaint concerns the nov- el's needlessly scrambled structure. Obvi- ously, it's meant to represent Pete's wan- dering memory during this dark night of the soul, but it sometimes comes across as merely calculating and coy, the author's at- tempt to manipulate extra suspense with misdirection and delay.

Grodstein's material is engaging enough without nesting memories inside of memo- ries and leaving us wondering exactly where we are in the chronology of Pete's downfall.

But the last 50 pages of the novel swell to such a gripping climax that you won't recall any confusion along the way. Horrifyingly plausible and deeply poignant, "A Friend of the Family" will leave you shaken and chas- tened -- and grateful for the warning. ●

*A Friend Of The Family*  
Lauren Grodstein, Algonquin, 302 pp., \$23.95  
Reviewed by Ron Charles  
Book World



## BOOK REVIEWS

**T**he 1912 World Series was not the last won by the Boston Red Sox before they entered their 86-year slough of despondency — they won again in 1915, 1916 and 1918 — but it was the most dramatic and the most important.

Mike Vaccaro, a sports columnist for the New York Post, does not exaggerate when he says that “the World Series was really born in 1912.”

What up to then had been a rather casual October encounter between the champions of the established National League and the young American League was transformed, by the 1912 series, into a great American institution, a seven-game competition that commanded the rapt attention of the entire nation.

Vaccaro has written a smart, lively account of the series that goes beyond the games themselves — though his accounts of all of them are vivid — to show how what happened during that series reflected what was happening in the nation.

The series was played between the New York Giants of the National League and the Red Sox of the American. By any measure they were exceptional teams, winning their leagues handily (the Red Sox finished a full 14 games ahead of the second-place Washington Senators) and having on their rosters five future members of the Hall of Fame: Rube Marquard, Christy Mathewson and John McGraw of the Giants, and Harry Hooper and Tris Speaker of the Red Sox.

They played in spanking-new ballparks — the Polo Grounds in New York, Fenway Park in Boston — and they had passionate fans, none more so than Boston’s Royal Rooters, one of whom was John “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald, mayor of Boston and future grandfather of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The October showdown was still a lowercase affair: the “world’s series,” though Ring Lardner, who poked fun whenever he could, called it the “world’s serious.” He was only half-kidding.

Though in 1912 it had yet to achieve mythical dimensions, the series was indeed taken very seriously by fans all over the country: “No matter where you traveled in the nation — the only ‘world’ that mattered to most Americans in 1912, five years before the killing fields of France would

permanently expand those boundaries — you found thousands of people hungry for scores, thirsty for baseball information.”

The American sporting scene was far different then from what it is now. Even though professional baseball was still in its adolescence, it utterly dominated all other sports; college football was popular but distinctly second-string, pro football barely existed, basketball was only two decades old.

Baseball ruled absolutely, and the country followed it with an avidity that didn’t really begin to diminish until the rise of pro football in the 1960s.

So though plenty of people are excited about the World Series that gets underway this week, the excitement pales beside that which swept through Boston, New York and all points beyond as the world’s series opened on Oct. 8, 1912.

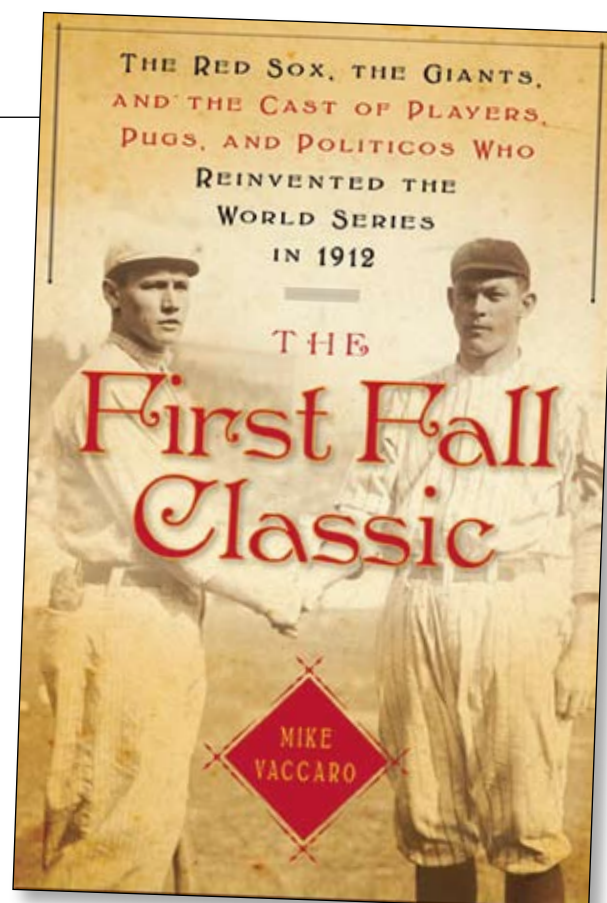
Newspapers around the country posted huge outdoor scoreboards on which every play — in the most sophisticated displays — was posted the instant word was wired in. Thousands gathered in Times and Herald Squares in New York and Scollay Square in Boston and roared their approval or dismay as each new development appeared.

There was plenty to roar about. The first game, which the Red Sox won 4-3 behind the gutsy pitching of Smoky Joe Wood, set the pattern: With the exception of Game 7, which the Giants won going away, 11-4, the games were tight and tense, and on-field tensions grew higher day after day.

But wait, you’re saying: If the Red Sox won the series, how could the Giants have won Game 7? Simple: because Game 2 ended in a 6-6 tie, having been called because of darkness after 11 innings. The 32-year-old Mathewson pitched heroically, but three unearned runs did him in.

“Hardest game I’ve ever played,” the great Matty said afterward, while McGraw, his manager, said, “Damnedest one I’ve ever seen.” Newspapers the next day were ecstatic: “‘A CLASSIC!’ roared the Los Angeles Times. ‘Greatest Ball Game in History!’ screamed the Washington Post.”

The game didn’t count, but the three-man National Commission, which then ruled baseball, decided that it most certainly counted toward the



four games from which the players would receive their share of the proceeds from ticket sales.

This meant that, should the series go the full number of official, complete games, there would be an extra, incomplete game to fatten the pockets of the owners. To help ensure that, the Boston owner, Jimmy McAleer, ordered his manager to hold Smoky Joe back from Game 6 and pitch the journeyman Buck O’Brien, who arrived at Fenway royally hung over and was routed in a 5-2 loss.

Students of baseball history will not be surprised that this transparent (and successful) attempt to fix a World Series went essentially unpunished, while the Chicago White Sox players who threw the series seven years later were kicked out of the game and made pariahs for life.

McAleer got his way: The series went the full length. But Bostonians had figured out what was going on, and the Fenway that had filled to overflowing was only half-full for the final (and in effect eighth) game on Oct. 16.

Too bad for them, for it was a magnificent contest that went right down to the final out, with Matty once again foiled by his teammates’

**60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**Alex MacWilliam, Inc.**  
REAL ESTATE



*The Market Leaders*

*Diane DeFrancisci*  
772.538.1614 For Gate Access



*Stacey Clawson*  
772.559.7984

www.GrandHarborProperties.com  
www.DianeAndStacey.com

## Grand Harbor of Vero Beach




*River Pointe*  
5620 N. Harbor Village Dr. #201

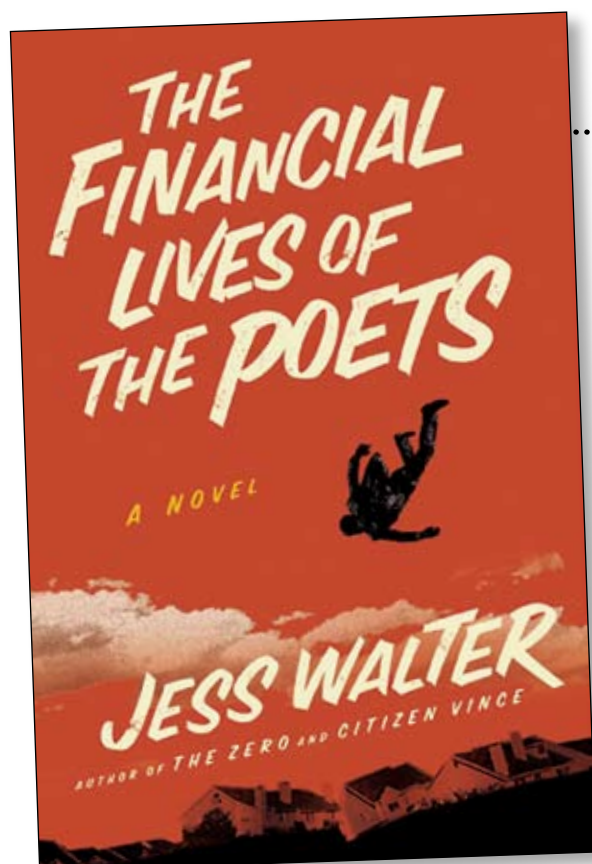
**Open Sunday Nov. 1st**  
**1pm — 3pm**

*River Club*  
1805 Paseo Del Lago Lane



errors, in this case one physical and one mental, enough to bring in two runs in the bottom of the 10th and give the Red Sox a 3-2 victory.

Vaccaro has dug up many terrific quotes from the sporting press of the day, but he somehow missed Lardner's dispatch to the Chicago Examiner. I'm going to quote in full its first paragraph, because it captures perfectly the glory and the pathos of that day:



**Y**ou think you've got problems? Just try being Matt Prior. He's lost not only his job but his profession (newspaper journalist – a field that's not likely to revive anytime soon) and it looks like his house and wife are about to follow. It's all going south – and then he gets a truly terrible idea as to how to hold it together.

As grim as that may sound, **The Financial Lives of the Poets** by Jess Walter is actually an extremely funny novel. Granted, you may spend a lot of your time wanting to

“Just after Steve Yerkes had crossed the plate with the run that gave Boston's Red Sox the world's championship in the tenth inning of the deciding game of the greatest series ever played for the big title, while the thousands, made temporarily crazy by a triumph entirely unexpected, yelled, screamed, stamped their feet, smashed hats and hugged one another, there was seen one of the saddest sights in the history of a sport that is a strange and wonderful mixture of joy and gloom. It was the spectacle of a man, old as baseball players are reckoned, walking from the middle of the field to

shout things at the book (things like: “Don't do that!” and “Can't you just once try *talking* to your wife??”), but for every such outburst you are also guaranteed at least a handful of dry chuckles and several out-loud hoots.

The plot of “The Financial Lives of the Poets” is set very firmly in the troubled economic climate of contemporary America. Not too terribly long before the events in the book, Prior was a reasonably successful financial journalist.

In a fit of hubris, however, he quit his job to found a poetry-and-investment website specializing in what he calls “money lit” – creative essays, short fiction, memoirs, and – least likely of all – poetry on business topics.

Surprise, surprise – his unusual venture belly-flops. At that point, he goes back to business journalism – only to discover that most newspapers, his former employer included, are withering on the vine.

Then comes the day that Prior wakes up to discover that – as a triple victim of the dot.com crash, the demise of traditional media, and the housing bubble – he is now six days away from the loss of his overpriced house. And so he turns to crime.

There are moments when “The Financial Lives of the Poets” seems to be dangerously glib about any number of very serious topics – drug-dealing, marital infidelity, bankruptcy, and senility (in the case of Prior's father) included.

In this case, however, neither book nor protagonist should be underestimated. In addition to being a remarkably inept criminal, Prior is also a tender father and husband.

the New York players' bench with bowed head and drooping shoulders, with tears streaming from his eyes, a man on whom his team's fortune had been staked and lost, and a man who would have proved his clear title to the trust reposed in him if his mates had stood by him in the supreme test. The man was Christy Mathewson.” ●

*The First Fall Classic*

Mike Vaccaro, Random House, 304 pp., \$26.95

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley  
Book World

Granted, his marriage has decayed.

He and his wife seem more like “unindicted co-conspirators” than lovers. (When Prior comes to bed these nights, he generally finds Lisa snapping her cell phone shut – after a lingering conversation with her high school boyfriend, he suspects – and wearing “her giant, unsexy, population-control pajamas, made of burlap, fiberglass insulation, razor wire.”)

But he loves her. And his terrible fear of losing her – and disrupting the lives of his innocent boys – is at the bottom of all his most misguided decisions.

The narrative itself, which at moments seems to teeter dangerously on the edge of becoming a sort of adolescent Ice Follies, actually turns out to be a very smart meditation on what's gone wrong with both the US economy and those of us who are expected to keep it running.

You may guffaw as you read, but you also share the aching comprehension that Prior is simply a likable everyman, swamped by an economy and an anything-goes, play-now-pay-later society that has created huge, out-of-scale problems that he has no idea how to solve.

In the end, it all turns out to be surprisingly simple – and even sweetly old-fashioned. Let's just say that certain lessons we all should have learned in elementary school turn out to matter after all. ●

*The Financial Lives Of The Poets*

Jess Walter, HarperCollins, 304 pp., \$25.99

Reviewed By Marjorie Kehe  
Christian Science Monitor

**JAMES GEIDNER HAIR STUDIO**

**541 BEACHLAND BOULEVARD 32963 | 772.492.8440**

**TWO LOCATIONS**

**LOGGIA**  
Home & Garden

**1882 Old Dixie Highway**  
Vero Beach, FL 32960 772.770.3009

~ New Store Opens Mid-November ~

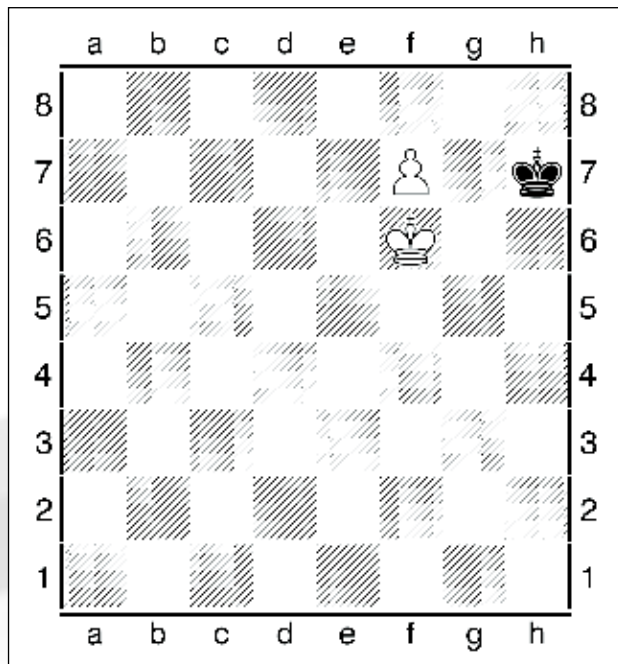
**LOGGIA**  
On The Beach

**2900 S. Ocean Drive**  
Vero Beach, FL 32963 772.231.2901



## FOR THE LOVE OF CHESS

BY HUMBERTO CRUZ - CHESS COLUMNIST



**What is White's best move?**  
Answer on page 50.

More than 900 miles from Vero Beach's barrier island, in the cafeteria of Laurel Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax, Virginia, the 50-plus students at the school's chess club gathered around a demonstration board on a recent Friday to decide how best to start their chess challenge game.

They voted to push the pawn in front of the White King two squares forward, a move written as 1. e4. The move was relayed the following Monday to their opponents, the 50-plus students at the Beachland Elementary School chess club in Vero Beach. After considering seven possible replies with Black, Beachland students voted to move their own King pawn two squares forward, or 1...e5.

"The kids really got into the game," said Eric Granitur, a Beachland parent who runs the club sponsored by Ellen Degnan, Beachland's media specialist. With one move made each time the clubs meet, students at both schools are sharpening their thinking skills in a fun way.

In addition, "this is a great way to encourage teamwork as well as learn notation," said Veronica Burchard, the parent chairperson for the Laurel Ridge club. Veronica is my daughter, and Kyle Burchard, the Laurel Ridge coach, is my son-in-law. I volunteer as a chess teacher at Beachland and relay the moves.

Today's diagram is from a puzzle several Beachland students solved. Can you?

Humberto Cruz is a United States Chess Federation correspondence chess master and certified tournament director. He can be reached at askhumberto@aol.com.

## THE BRIDGE COLUMN

BY PIETER VANBENNEKOM - BRIDGE COLUMNIST

For once it appeared that Smug Sam had over-extended himself and Flustered Flo would have a chance to give him his comeuppance and put him down.

Alas, Flo fell for a classic sucker play and missed her chance in the diagrammed deal from a recent pairs tournament.

Smug Sam held the South hand; his partner Shy Shem was North; Flustered Flo was East and her partner, Loyal Larry, held the West hand.

Both sides vulnerable; North is Dealer:

The bidding:	North	East	South	West
	Pass	1 Club	1 Heart	2 Clubs
	2 Hearts	Pass	4 Hearts	All pass

West led the Jack of Diamonds.

Once the dummy became visible, Smug Sam assessed the situation and discovered he had problems with his very risky bid of a Game contract. He was going to lose Ace-King of Trumps, the Ace of Spades and one Diamond trick for sure for Down One. How could he devise a plan to get rid of one of the losers?

He thought about it a while and that proceeded to set a trap for Flo, something he enjoys immensely, and it worked like a charm. He won the first Diamond trick in the dummy with the King and then led the Ace of Clubs, discarding his King of Spades.

Next he led a small Spade from the dummy and Flo as East held up her Ace, thinking South was going to ruff anyway. Sam made his Queen in the South hand and thus avoided the Spade loser.

Now South led a low trump, losing to Flo's King. Flo had one more chance to set the contract with a Diamond lead to give her partner a ruff, but alas, she led a Spade, which was ruffed by Sam as the Declarer.

On the next trump lead, West held up his Ace, which let Declarer win in dummy with the 9. He next led a Diamond to the Ace in his hand, lost a Diamond trick to East's 10, but ruffed the next Diamond in the dummy to set up a last good Diamond in his hand.

"I can't believe I fell for that sucker play with the King of Spades," Flo said, still looking daggers at Sam, who just smirked and walked away to another table for the next round.

## THE CLASSIC SUCKER PLAY

NORTH			
♠	10 7 6 5		
♥	10 9 3		
♦	K 9 7		
♣	A 10 7 6		
WEST			
♠	J 3 2		
♥	A 6 5		
♦	J		
♣	Q 5 4 3 2		
SOUTH			
♠	K Q		
♥	Q J 8 7 4 2		
♦	A 8 6 5 4		
♣	---	(none)	
EAST			
♠	A 9 8 4		
♥	K		
♦	Q 10 3 2		
♣	K J 9 8		

## 24 Hour Emergency Service 7 Days



**ALAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING  
& HEATING



**Sales · Service · Repair**  
Certified Technicians · Maintenance Agreements  
Indoor Air Quality · We Service All Makes & Models



**(772) 778-4026**

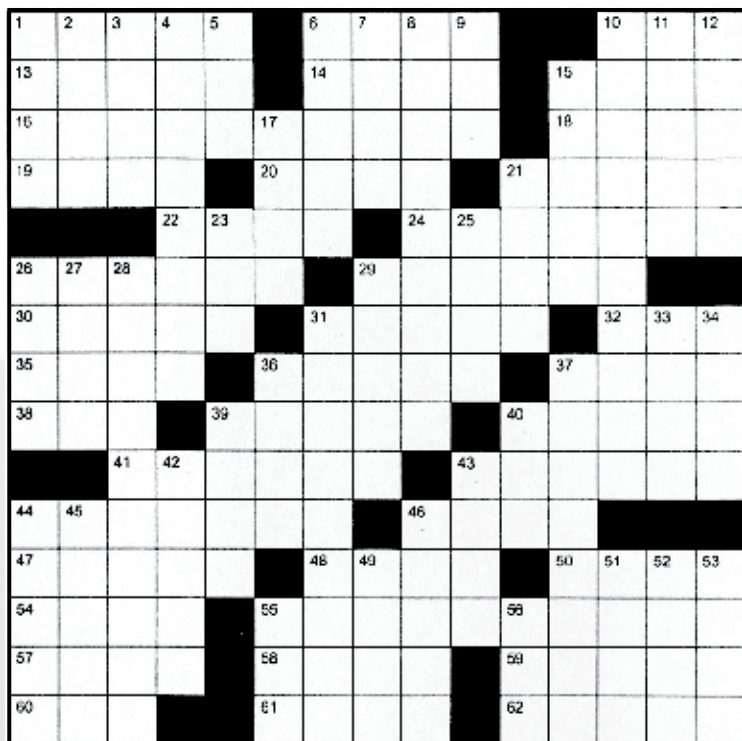
Licensed & Insured | Lic. #CAC1814730  
845 7th Avenue, #6 Vero Beach, FL 32960





# Crossword

## BUGGED



The Christian Science Monitor | By Jay Engle | Edited by Charles Preston

### ACROSS

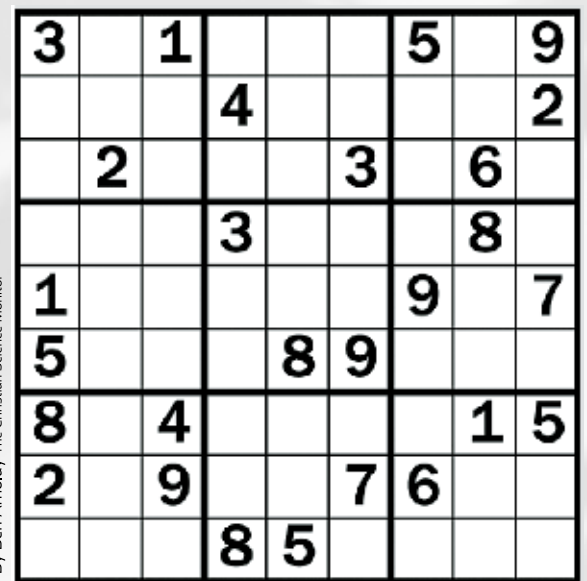
- 1 Star man
- 6 Timber wolf
- 10 Workout resort
- 13 Teheran native
- 14 Finished
- 15 Gyrate
- 16 Galax
- 18 Humming place
- 19 Mercantile attraction
- 20 Outlet
- 21 "Waiting for \_\_\_\_"
- 22 Not up
- 24 Charlotte hoopsters
- 26 Turkeys, en masse
- 29 More skeletal
- 30 "Cheers" Golden Globe winner
- 31 Mystic number
- 32 Arcing throw
- 35 Row
- 36 Farm spread
- 37 Beget
- 38 Greek letter
- 39 Out of this world
- 40 Brilliance
- 41 Angel item
- 43 London insurers
- 44 Good sportsmanship
- 46 Writer of nonsense verse

- 47 Hounds' quarries
- 48 Object of worship
- 50 US military concern
- 54 Former Peruvian
- 55 Transitory
- 57 Part of speech
- 58 Opposite windward
- 59 Water wheel
- 60 Ques. follower
- 61 Soviet Telegraph Agency
- 62 Not a friend
- 17 At any time
- 21 Engaging smile
- 23 Turkish title
- 25 Some bills
- 26 Grade
- 27 Came to rest
- 28 Entertainment, of sorts
- 29 KY college town
- 31 Trace
- 33 Toward the mouth
- 34 Tout's business
- 36 Face cream component

### DOWN

- 1 Family members
- 2 Kind of rug
- 3 Scottish Highlander
- 4 Aardvark
- 5 Nothing
- 6 Mooed
- 7 Heat chamber
- 8 "Fidelio" composer
- 9 Comic book supervillain
- 10 Tropical American plant
- 11 Rotation hub
- 12 Dill weeds
- 15 Excelled
- 37 Constellation figure
- 39 Biblical bateaus
- 40 Guido's note
- 42 Vast amount
- 43 Dutch painter
- 44 Sevres, e.g.
- 45 Continued, ad infinitum
- 46 Auricular projections
- 49 Stains
- 51 Legendary monster
- 52 Fancy
- 53 Remain
- 55 Cholesterol raiser
- 56 Dir. from TX to ME

# Sudoku



★★★★☆

### How to do Sudoku:

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row and three-by-three square. See example to the right.

**Solution to chess puzzle:** White moves f8(R), promoting the pawn to a Rook. Black's only legal move is ...Kh6 and White mates with Rh8. If White promotes the pawn to a Queen instead, Black is stalemated and the game is a draw.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST ISSUE ON PAGE 75

**Historic Riomar** **OPEN SUNDAY**

Gracious 4,000SF Pool Home  
135' GOLF COURSE FRONTAGE  
1931 Club Drive \$1.095M

**OPEN SUNDAY** **600' To Beach**

3/3/2 on Estate Size Lot  
CENTRAL BEACH POOL HOME  
770 Greytwig Road \$595k

**Extra Income \$**

Two Units - Pool & Income!  
SOUTH BEACH DUPLEX  
711 Lantana Lane \$465k

**Beach Block**

3Bed/2Ba Pool Home  
ANNUAL or SEASONAL  
915 Beachcomber \$2450/\$3250

**Shamrock Real Estate Corp.**  
Beachside Specialists  
Multi-Family, Single Family, Condos, Rentals & Acreage

Chris R. McLaughlin

NEW LISTINGS ALWAYS WELCOME

MLS hometour360

www.propertyinvero.com • 772.234.0351 or 772.234.1688  
2925 Cardinal Drive #H & I • Vero Beach, FL 32963

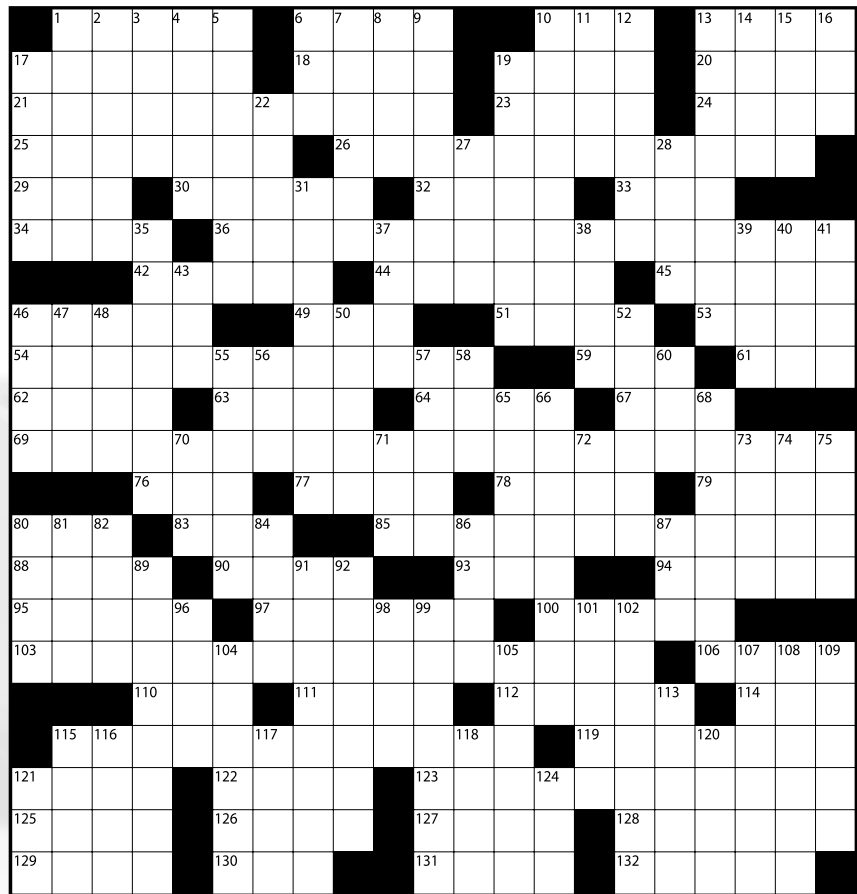


- ACROSS**
- 1 Disdain  
6 Neatnik's opposite  
10 Oil ams.  
13 Sky sights, once  
17 "\_\_\_ pig and away he run"  
18 Jellystone bear  
19 Birdman portrayer's first name  
20 "Nope"  
21 Western-style wieners?  
23 Hideout  
24 New arrival  
25 Gary Cooper film, "They Came to \_\_\_"  
26 With 36 Across, a tubby executive's last resort if he doesn't get his way?  
29 Sunday paper inserts  
30 Words of denial  
32 Harangue  
33 Start to feedback  
34 Go after  
36 See 26 Across  
42 Southfork name  
44 Will's subject  
45 Ruined  
46 Greek letters  
49 Half a Neil Diamond title  
51 Word seg.  
53 Humdinger  
54 "Glenn just went by," in other words?  
59 Little bark  
61 Capitol fig.  
62 Fill-up for a .45 auto?  
63 It's witnessed by seconds  
64 Champagne shade  
67 Energy  
69 What your dog keeps doing that prevents you from filing on time? (suuure)

- 76 "Aye" follower  
77 Bird or Irish river  
78 "The hole"  
79 Esther, for one  
80 City transit  
83 Great Plains st.  
85 The door prize at a zombie party?  
88 "Beloved" author's first name  
90 Judicious  
93 Compass pt.  
94 Rib adjective  
95 Ascend  
97 Break in the case?  
100 Nickname for "Alexandra"  
103 Sad result of "The Seven Dwarfs Meet Godzilla"?  
106 Gourmet Graham  
110 Bagel topper  
111 Ordered  
112 Like the gong's origin  
114 Sea delicacy  
115 With 123 Across, result of trying to sew on a zipper with the lights off?  
119 One-third of a French rallying cry  
121 Noted liner, briefly  
122 Attendee  
123 See 115 Across  
125 British school  
126 Takes a wrong turn  
127 Voice-over: abbr.  
128 Farthest orbit point  
129 "\_\_\_ it all!"  
130 Science guy Bill  
131 Gaelic  
132 "\_\_\_, the doctor"

- DOWN**
- 1 Walked like Wayne  
2 Rough  
3 Malodorous (anagram of LODI)  
4 Print again  
5 City near Thika  
6 Brother of Chaplin, briefly  
7 Like post-diet pants  
8 Today, in Naples  
9 Cool clubs  
10 Amount  
11 Math branch  
12 Disco flasher  
13 Initial amount  
14 Ousted Iranian  
15 Glue container  
16 Retiring partner?  
17 Humane grps.  
19 \_\_\_ a bat  
22 Secretary of War, 1829  
27 Secretary of War, 1904  
28 Kin of a ding  
31 3-D trick-picture fad of the 1990s  
35 Diane and Michael  
37 Floor model  
38 Bank (on)  
39 Work  
40 Be queen  
41 Knock for a loop  
43 Compass pt.  
46 Type style: abbr.  
47 "Goodness!"  
48 "Ashes to Ashes" author Hoag  
50 \_\_\_-nothing  
52 Real-time broadcasting  
55 Loves a lot  
56 It comes up every day  
57 Bender  
58 Enjoy 9 Down  
60 Deepest part  
65 Alan and Cheryl

- 66 Bible-passage analysis  
68 Cairo VIP  
70 Martini spirit  
71 Cologne conjunction  
72 Result of a timely hit  
73 Good-seat site  
74 Activist Chomsky  
75 Island of lochs  
80 Engrave  
81 "I met her in a bar down in old Soho"  
82 Hair cut  
84 Stable environment?  
86 Amer. Heart \_\_\_  
87 Galatians follower: abbr.  
89 Trying to say  
91 Arrive  
92 Repeaters  
96 Party letters  
98 Sushi candidates  
99 Record surface  
101 "So long"  
102 Big name in 70 Down  
104 Ambulance tankful  
105 Lecherous types  
107 "\_\_\_ bragh"  
108 Lousy  
109 Joaquin's "Walk the Line" co-star  
113 London diaper  
115 Spanakopita cheese  
116 Gemsbok chaser  
117 Labour foe  
118 Love from \_\_\_  
120 Hmong's home  
121 Proof abbr.  
124 Good source of iron?



**O PUNNISH ME**

By Merl Reagle

Puzzle by telegraph.co.uk

	3	1	9	8			6	
					5			
						4	7	
	7	2					9	
		4	8	2	1	6		
	5					2	4	
	1	7						
			3					
	8			9	6	1	2	

★★★★★

Row →

Three-by-three square →

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

Column ↓

**Smith Services, Inc.**

Air Conditioning • Heating • Pool Heaters

serving Vero Beach since 1974

We do business the old fashioned way....  
Courteous.  
Prompt.  
Guaranteed quality workmanship.

We'll be there fast. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Call on the dog. 772-770-3300

License #CAC057982





## McNamara's Musings

### **C'est La Vie** by Jay McNamara

Whatever you might say about the current leader of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, it wouldn't be that he is boring. Adding to the excitement is his show biz wife. The French are getting their euro's worth in that pair.

The latest excitement generated by Sarkozy is his suggestion of a new measurement of the state of the French economy. It would replace the familiar GDP (gross domestic product) used around the world.

Skeptics might suggest that Sarkozy was looking for a new way because the old one was not so hot. In fact, over the last 25 years the French GDP has grown at an anemic average rate of around 2 percent, with U.S. growth at 3.3 %. This small difference has accumulated over time, so that after 25 years Americans are 50 % richer than the French. Mon Dieu!

Whatever his motives, Sarkozy has come up with a tantalizing idea, the summation of some hard data and subjective stuff to get a kind of GHI (gross happiness index). He hired the Nobel Prize- winning American economist, Joseph Stiglitz to lead a brainy task force in the effort. He introduced it at the Sorbonne, a perfect place for a speech on abstractions. Where is Voltaire when you need him?

The idea is to combine estimates related to employment levels, education, health care, household assets, income, vacations, consumption, carbon footprint, pets, favorite teams etc, etc, into a Joie de Vivre score. As you can imagine, this is a game people of all nations can play. It's even something you can try at home. I did. Like any game, it can be rigged depending on your values.

For example, the French are famous for not working and for vacationing. They also have a reputation for romance. (Sarkozy would do well in that department). What are the values you put on their free time, socialized health care, early retirement? In their basket of indicators might be all that wine, cheese, and pate de foie gras. C'est magnifique!

When I tried computing my own happiness index, I was flummoxed at the git-go by a zero score for my baseball team, the Cubs, who haven't won in a hundred years. Any Yankee fan would be so far ahead of me that I would have to score all tens to catch up.

It turns out that The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which happens to be based in Paris, had already evaluated happiness in the 30 countries it covers. The winner was Denmark in case you were wondering.

But, if our barrier island was a country, I bet we would beat Denmark thumbs up, theirs being busy plugging their leaky dikes.