

# artnews



## County Commission Welcomes New Members, Elects Leaders

Voters chose two new members for the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in November while re-electing three Commissioners to new terms. Joining the board are Stacy Ritter, a former Florida State Representative, representing District 3, and attorney Ken Keechl, who serves as Commissioner of District 4. Returning for new terms are Commissioners Kristin Jacobs, District 2; Sue Gunzburger, District 6; and Diana Wasserman-Rubin, District 8. The Commissioners were officially sworn into office on November 21. At that meeting, the Commissioners elected Josephus Eggelletion Jr. to serve as Mayor and Lois Wexler to serve as Vice Mayor in 2006-2007. Pictured are (seated) Vice Mayor Lois Wexler, Mayor Josephus Eggelletion Jr.; (standing, from left) Kristin Jacobs, John E. Rodstrom, Jr., Sue Gunzburger, Ken Keechl, Diana Wasserman-Rubin, Ilene Lieberman, Stacy Ritter

## Community Design Guidebook Honored

The American Institute of Architecture (AIA) has honored the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for design excellence as a result of the publication of the *Broward County-wide Community Design Guidebook*. Presented to the county's Urban Planning and Redevelopment Department in January 2005, the *Guidebook* focuses on the influences of transportation, urban design, landscape, architecture, signage and graphic design on a community's sense of place. The *Guidebook* has already influenced projects in Dania Beach, Wilton Manors, Coconut Creek, Pompano Beach and Miramar, among others.

It was created by Broward architect Anthony Abbate, principal of Anthony Abbate Architects. Abbate is also an associate professor of architecture and urban design at Florida Atlantic University and chair of the Broward Cultural Council.

Abbate was invited by the Queensland University of Technology to



speak about the *Guidebook* at a conference in Brisbane, Australia, in the fall. During his visit, he was featured on the national radio program *Australia Talks Back* along with aboriginal architect Kevin O'Brien and Georgia Butina-Watson, professor of urban design at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford UK. The three discussed issues concerning good design practices in relation to sustainable tropical architecture that is adaptable to climate conditions and future energy necessities.

## NY Artist Team Selected for Transit Center Project

The Broward County Commission's Cultural Division has selected New York husband-and-wife team Bill

and Mary Buchen to create the visual enhancement design for a new Neighborhood Transit Center near the southwest corner of Dixie Highway and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Pompano Beach.

The first of several such centers planned by Broward County Mass Transit, the Pompano Beach Neighborhood Transit Center will consist of a transit hub, parking and amenities with the ability to accommodate eight bus routes. The artwork is intended to help create a sense of place and enhance the visual appeal of the Center while encouraging use of the facility and stimulating public transit ridership.

Through their firm, Sonic Architecture, Bill and Mary Buchen design interactive installations for museums, galleries and public sites throughout the United States. Their large-scale public works include sound parks and science playgrounds, aeolian (wind) harps and designs for urban and natural environments. In Pompano Beach, the artists will collaborate with the project architects, landscape architect and engineer to create original designs and enhancements to the walkways, station platforms and canopies.

### Broward County Library Hosts Blues Celebration

Blues lovers can immerse themselves in their favorite music during an upcoming series of free events presented by the Broward County

Library. Dubbed "Blues School," and inspired by the International House of Blues Foundation, the program includes concerts, workshops and films that celebrate this venerable art form. The schedule includes:

- **Cinema of the Blues**, February 5-9 at the Main Library, featuring daily screenings of blues-inspired movies such as *The Blues Brothers*, *Ray*, *Lady Sings the Blues* and *Crossroads*.
- **Blues School**, February 10 at the Main Library, features Professor Chuck Bergeron from the University of Miami School of Music, who will discuss the origin and development of blues music and its influence on other musical styles. The two-hour program will feature live music from Bergeron and others. A bassist and composer, Bergeron has played and recorded with many musical greats, including Stan Getz, Dave Grusin, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich and Joe Williams.
- **Blues School with Guy Davis**, April 14 at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center. Davis is a critically acclaimed blues musician who plays traditional country blues as well as his own contemporary blues compositions. His album *Legacy* was chosen by the music critics of National Public Radio as one of the best albums of 2004. Davis has performed on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* as well as Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

### Bronze Lone Sailor Statue Stands in Esplanade Park

Thanks to a four-year effort spearheaded by the Navy League Fort Lauderdale Council, a larger-than-life, bronze lone sailor now gazes across Fort Lauderdale's New River surrounded by the lush vegetation of Esplanade Park on the Riverwalk. The statue was formally dedicated in a ceremony in October.

The Lone Sailor sculpture expresses appreciation to the men and women



Broward County is rolling out the red carpet for some very special guests this winter. From January 11-13 I will be extending a warm welcome, on behalf of the entire County Commission, to the board of directors of Americans for the Arts and the leaders of the United States Urban Arts Federation, the Arts Education Network, the Public Art Network and the Emerging Leaders Network.

During their visit, the Broward County Cultural Division will offer special tours to introduce these leaders to our cultural attractions. We welcome this opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of our local cultural community and thank Americans for the Arts' Chair Steven Spiess and President Robert Lynch for choosing to hold the important national meeting of arts leaders here.

As 2007 begins, I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues on the County Commission to serve as Mayor for the current year. I look forward to working with the Broward Cultural Council and the Cultural Division to develop new and creative ways to support the many diverse artists and cultural organizations in our community.

One final note: Congratulations to the Cultural Division on the 20th anniversary of *Cultural Quarterly*. This magazine represents us well – and we are always proud to share it with our residents and visitors alike. ★

Josephus Eggelton Jr.  
Mayor, Broward County  
Board of County Commissioners



Professor Chuck Bergeron (left) and Guy Davis will be featured during the upcoming Blues School.



Lone Sailor Sculpture

in the Sea Services across the globe who voluntarily put their lives in harm's way to protect freedom. Bronze plaques honoring each of these services – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-Flag Merchant Marine – are embedded at the entrance to the circular deck at the Lone Sailor site.

The statue is the creation of Stanley Bleifeld, the U.S. Navy Memorial's official sculptor. The sailor, who stands seven feet tall and weighs approximately 1,000 pounds, is positioned next to his sea bag and cleat, which weigh 700 pounds. The Lone Sailor site will be available for use by all services, veterans' organizations and civic groups for appropriate special events, ceremonies and patriotic services.

### Joseph Greco's Film *Canvas* Has Strong Ties to Broward

When *Canvas* made its Florida premiere during this fall's 21st Annual Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, it could boast of a long list of Broward County connections.

The new film, which weaves love and the magic of sailing into an emotional, character-driven story of one family's struggle with mental illness, was written and directed by

Hollywood, Fla., native Joseph Greco. It was filmed in Broward County in late 2005, primarily in Hollywood, and featured many local actors. And it incorporated artwork created by individuals who participate in art classes offered by 9 Muses Art Center, a program of the Mental Health Association of Broward County. "I wanted the art in the film to be beautiful, but I wanted it to be real. All of the paintings featured in *Canvas* are painted by people with mental illness," Greco wrote in an article about the film.

According to his notes for the film's press kit, the production was hard hit by Mother Nature during its filming. "On October 24, 2005, during our third week of shooting, Hurricane Wilma hammered us. There was no gas, no power and we were running out of money fast. It almost shut us down. I decided to embrace these limitations and, together with my incredible producers, cast and crew, we persevered," he wrote.

Greco received "The Florida Award" during the Film Festival for his efforts to overcome the challenges posted by the storms. The film was selected for the Festival's "Audience Favorite Award." For more information, visit [www.canvasfilm.com](http://www.canvasfilm.com).

### Artists' Works Sought for 2007 Juried Biennial

Florida artists are invited to submit entries for the 2007 All-Media Juried Biennial, which is sponsored by the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood. All works selected to appear will be on display from April 6 through May 20 in the Art and Culture Center's galleries, 1650 Harrison St., Hollywood.

Original paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, photography, video, computer-generated images and site-specific installations will be considered. Only work completed after Jan. 1, 2004, and submitted by Jan. 31, 2007, is eligible. A total of \$4,000 in prizes will be distributed. The juror is Claire Breukel, executive director of Locust Projects in Miami and the former exhibitions director of ArtCenter/South Florida.

Visit [www.ArtAndCultureCenter.org/biennial](http://www.ArtAndCultureCenter.org/biennial) for an entry form and more information, or call (954) 921-3274.

### Short Takes...

► The Florida Youth Orchestra has released its fourth professional recording, *Winterlude*. To listen to

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Joe Greco

## Jack Latona: Focused on the Future

No one can accuse Jack Latona of living in the past or resting on his laurels. With a varied and highly successful career in government, law and urban planning, he has earned every right to sit back and relax. Instead, he's facing the future head-on – and inspiring others to follow his lead.

In 1999, in the frenzy surrounding the arrival of the year 2000, he taught a course, "Creating the Millennium," at Florida Atlantic University. "It focused on where we've been, where we are and where we're going," Latona says. "Previously, I hadn't thought that much about the future. But I discovered that the future is knowable. We can see what's coming and get better prepared for it."

That realization inspired Latona to establish the Center for Creating the Future – a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is "to assist and enable organizations in grasping and shaping their future now rather than passively waiting for it to happen." Latona explains further: "I started saying in 1999 that our life expectancies were going to change dramatically. We can see the trends. But no one has faced the implications of all of that."

Latona and his colleagues at the Center focus on these issues in their consulting projects, while he explores the ramifications of "living forever" in his own research and through the Lifelong Learning courses he teaches for FAU. "Living to 101 or 102 is more and more likely," he suggests, as a result of improved medical care, advancements in health care technology and developments in genetics. Longer lives will require adjustments, though, in the way we approach such issues as retirement, income, education, employment and even marriage. "We're just scratching the surface," he says.

Latona's current focus on the future isn't surprising given the many years



he has spent looking ahead in his professional and political life. He has been deputy to the mayor of San Francisco, project director for the New York State Urban Development Corporation, director of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, chair of the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization and a member of the City of Fort Lauderdale Planning and Zoning Board. He was elected to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, where he served for nine years.

He and his wife, Kay, moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1977. Kay was the first woman to be a partner in a major law firm in Broward County, he notes. She is now retired and spends a good bit of her time collecting first editions by Florida mystery writers. "We have books all over the place," he quips. Latona reads many of them – and reviews them occasionally for *Go Riverwalk* magazine, for which he also writes a column about urban planning.

Not surprisingly, Latona's cultural interests are varied. "I'm not a practitioner of the arts; I'm an appreciator," he notes. His latest passion is satellite radio. "It's 99 percent music and 1 percent chatter, and there's an extraordinary range of music available."

He has been actively involved with the Stonewall Library and Archives in Fort Lauderdale, where he is assisting with fundraising and

planning for a new facility to house the widely respected collection of gay and lesbian materials.

As might be expected, he has a strong personal interest in architecture and design. "We should be more concerned about our visual environment," he observes. That background comes into play constantly in his role as a member of the Broward Cultural Council, to which he was appointed in 2001 by Commissioner John Rodstrom. Today, Latona is a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee. He thoroughly enjoys the opportunity.

"It's a window to many things I probably wouldn't be sufficiently aware of," Latona explains. "I've been astonished by the amount of quality cultural activities and the extraordinarily gifted people we have here. Broward County has done an extraordinary job in making its cultural investment available to a larger percentage of the population." As an example, he cites the county's Public Art and Design program, "which went from the idea of putting up a statue to integrating art into the facility. Look at what they've done in the airport. I think the buses are wonderful," he says, referring to the rental car center shuttle buses adorned with colorful images by Romero Britto and other artists.

"And then you get to help," he adds. "Working with the VISION Broward program to make people aware of the economic aspects of the cultural environment and bringing the economic and business community together with the cultural community is something I'm in a position to do."

If the past is any indication, it's a safe bet that this represents another in a long line of goals that Jack Latona is going to achieve in the future. ★

– Leon M. Rubin



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a sample, visit [www.floridayouthorchestra.org/listen\\_in.html](http://www.floridayouthorchestra.org/listen_in.html). Call (954) 962-5666 to order a copy. Recorded under the baton of Music Director Thomas Sleeper, the holiday-themed CD includes selections such as Alfred Reed's *Greensleaves*, the *March of the Three Kings* by Franz List and the serene *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 1* by Georges Bizet. To see and hear these talented young musicians in action, catch the upcoming performance by the FYO

Symphony and Repertory Strings on March 4 at the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center.

► Broward County Vice Mayor Lois Wexler received the 2006 Outstanding Public Official Award from the Florida Association of Museums during its 20th Anniversary Annual Conference in the fall. Wexler was nominated by Mindy Shrago, Young At Art Children's Museum's executive director, who accepted the award on Wexler's behalf. Shrago later presented it to Commissioner Wexler at the museum. A long-time friend of Young At Art, Wexler recently served as co-chair of the organization's 2006 Women of Vision fundraiser.

► Recipients of the 2006 Crystal Vision Award for Support of the Arts included Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Nance Parrish (government); Dr. Fred Lippman, chancellor of the Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University (Chairman's



Mindy Shrago (left) presents the Florida Association of Museums award to Lois Wexler

Award); Bonnie Barnett, owner of Bonnie Barnett Fine Art and a Broward Cultural Council member (community service); Jo Motlow North, Language and Culture Coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida (individual); and MCZ/Centrum Development (business). The awards were presented at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood's Eighth Annual Crystal Vision Gala. ★



## Arts Teacher of the Year

The Amature Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts was filled with song in late October during a celebratory program honoring Gretchen Weihe Fasulo, the 2006 Broward County Arts Teacher of the Year. Children from several groups directed by Fasulo performed during the event. Pictured above with Fasulo (right) is County Commissioner Sue Gunzburger, who presented the Sawgrass Elementary School music teacher with an official proclamation.

