Boating and Beach Bash for People with Disabilities

Thousands to attend 7th annual free, day-long party in Boca Raton

BOCA RATON, FL - South Florida's annual Boating and Beach Bash for People with Disabilities (http://boatingbeachbash.com) will celebrate its 7th anniversary on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Spanish River Park, 3100 North Ocean Blvd., in Boca Raton.

The Boating and Beach Bash is the largest, free family-friendly event in the nation for people of all ages with physical and/or intellectual challenges and their caregivers. Guests will enjoy a BBQ lunch, boat rides, all-day concert and numerous games and activities, including kite flying, finger painting, wheelchair yoga, dance classes, and much more.

Organized and run solely by volunteers, the Boating and Beach Bash is funded entirely through community donations. Professional rehab teams from area hospitals and universities will be on hand to oversee the event.

"Our mission is to provide the most overlooked sector of our community with a day that is free from prejudice, ridicule and exclusion. We want all of our guests to feel like they are welcome VIPs. Our annual goal is to celebrate diversity, uniqueness and all those things that make someone special in our eyes," says Boating and Beach Bash Executive Director, Jee Van Vechten.

The Boating and Beach Bash dates back 20 years to when the City of Boca Raton passed a resolution to offer those with disabilities one day of free access to Spanish River Park each March. The city's Auxiliary Board for People with Disabilities then stepped up to host a small annual event.

Festival of the Arts Boca

By Dale King
The Pineapple Contributing Writer

BOCA RATON, FL – The ninth annual Festival of the Arts Boca promises 10 days of “Beethoven, Broadway, Ballet and Beyond” when it takes over the north and south ends of Mizner Park from March 6 to 15. Events will take place either at the Mizner Park Amphitheater, 900 Plaza Real, or at the Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real.

"The music program is truly diverse, and the "Artists & Ideas" segment is astounding," said chairman and co-director Charles Soren. "Throughout this cultural celebration, festival-goers will enjoy a rich line-up of performers as we bring back artists from years past and welcome some of the greatest intellectual leaders of our time."

One famed performer, violinist Itzhak Perlman, was part of last year's Festival of the Arts Boca program in 2007, he'll be back with several other top-flight musicians for a "Mozart Gala" on Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. He'll be joined by violin protégé Amandine Boulanger and pianist Conrad Tao, who, at age 13, appeared at the 2008 Festival.

The music of Leonard Bernstein will be heard at the beginning and end of the Festival's run. The cultural experience opens March 6, 7:30 p.m., with the screening of the film, West Side Story. The Festival Orchestra Boca will play Leonard Bernstein's score and"
Beetles tribute band to headline the 15th Annual Pap Corps Walkathon

The music of the Beatles will rock The Pap Corps Walkathon, creating a five-filled 1960’s theme for the 15th annual event. Members from all 52 chapters, as well as the entire community, are invited to Coach Together to Beat Cancer on Saturday, March 14th. The event will take place at 8:30 am at PAX’s Boca Raton campus. Walkathon registration, including a t-shirt, is only $20. To walk, donate or support friends visit www.walkpap.org.

Attendees will celebrate the Flower Power generation by wearing peace-themed pants and singing along with the Orlando-based Nowhere Band (a Beatles tribute band) and taking photos with the University of Miami's Beatles bus. There will also be meet-ups with leading cancer doctors including Dr. Charles Vogel, Dr. Brian Shoemaker and Dr. Roman Bubis, who is the first recipient of The Pap Corps Endowed Professorship in Lexicon.

“Come Together is not only a classic Beatles song, it’s the message we want to send to the community,” said Beverly Berkowitz, Co-VP of Fundraising. “We can beat cancer if we work together to help support research.”

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songs with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim live while the newly re-mastered movie is shown in high definition on the big screen with the original vocals and dialogue intact.

That isn’t all. The Festival will close with a spectacular concert featuring the Young People’s Symphony of New York in Beethoven’s immortal Ninth Symphony,” said Siemon. During the performance, the young music students will sing “Somewhere” from West Side Story.

A special pre-Festival event March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center, Jamie Bernstein, one of Leonard Bernstein’s two daughters, will offer a lecture. “In conversation with Jamie Bernstein – West Side Story and Her Father’s Legacy.” Siemon said those attending the festival will discover a stellar array of talented performers, authors, dancers and musicians. Banjola Bile Flick and Abigail Washburn, among others, will bring their special brand of music to the Amphitheater stage March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Flick is a 10-time Grammy Award winner and has been nominated in more categories than any other musician in Grammy history.

The Stars of International Ballet featuring principal dancer and choreographer Guillermo Galdos will present the original and innovative story of the American Ballet Company’s and Friends will take to the stage Saturday, March 5 at 7 p.m. Performers will also be on hand from the American Ballet Theater, Boston Ballet, National Ballet and Washington Ballet.

“The Authors & Ideas” program brings some of the world’s greatest minds, with Pulitzer Prize-writers among them, to South Florida,” Siemon said. Also on tap is what he calls a “thought-provoking documentary film.” Girl Rising, by Academy Award-nominated Richard E. Baskin. The piece journeys around the globe to witness the strength of human spirit and power of education to overcome change.

“The films focus on girls living in the developing world – ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to pursue their dreams,” said Siemon. Prim-storied authors put the girls’ stories into words, and mesmerized their listeners.

A half-dozen authors and journalists bring their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times, Michael Gross, another American author; and Clark Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalists bringing their own stories to the festival. Among them are Richard Feld, a contributing editor at American author, Clive Thompson, a renowned technology expert and writer for the New York Times. Also on tap is a half-dozen authors and journalist...