Happenings in Palm Beach • Week April 2-9

Bubble

Palm Beach

Suzanne Werson
A Knack for Design

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**U.S. Open Polo Championship**

The U.S. Open Polo Championship had a kick-off yesterday Saturday March 28 for a final on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at IPC in Wellington. Eight excellent teams are entered, quarterfinals are Sunday, April 12, Semifinals Wednesday April 15. Today defending Champion Alegria AssistCard goes against Lechuza at 3pm, and next Sunday, April 5th it will be Valiente against Coca-Cola in the feature match at 3pm. For information: www.internationalpoloclub.com/

**Dance: PBA at Kravis Center**

Spring Dance Concert featuring Palm Beach Atlantic University’s Dance Ensemble, Monday March 30th at 7:30 pm at the Rinker Playhouse, Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

The PBA Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Kathleen Klein, will present a mixture of works choreographed by nationally renowned dance choreographers, PBA faculty and students.

Ticket price is $15.00. www.kravis.org/

**The Longines Global Champions Tour** will launch its 10th season of world-class show jumping in Miami Beach, Florida, April 2-4. Between April and November, the Championship then jets off around the globe visiting 15 sparkling destinations across 13 countries, including Paris, London, Doha, Shanghai, Monaco and a new stop in Rome.

2015 sees the Championship’s very first visit to the ‘World’s Playground’ Miami Beach. US show jumping legend Margie Goldstein-Engle: “I think it’s great to have (the Tour) in the United States, and being from Miami it is a special place for me. It’s great for the sport and brings it to a new audience. I think it is a very prestigious event and it’s very exciting for all of the riders.”

For more information on the Longines Global Champions Tour calendar of events, globalchampionstour.com/

**Miami Open, presented by Itau**

A favorite among Fans and Players, the 12-day Sony Open Tennis boasts the participation of the world’s top men’s and women’s players, and has become the place to be seen in Miami. The tournament broke its all-time attendance record in 2012, with 326,131 fans turning out for the two week event. Players have selected it as the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 tournament of the year six times, from 2002-06 and in ‘08.

**Bubble Palm Beach** - www.bbbl.co

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**Miami Beach will be the first stop on this year’s Longines Global Champions Tour. Watch the trailer for the 10th year 2015 Season on youtube.com/ Type: “Exclusive: 2015 Season Trailer”**

**APRIL 2-4 • MIAMI BEACH**

**THRU APRIL 5**

**Sunday 29 at the Pavilion at IPC, Cover Model Search for the Cover of Bubble**

www.bbbl.co
In the Bubble

IL CIRCOLO OF PALM BEACH

Story by Michelle Botindari

In June of 2010 I found myself boarding a plane that would land in Rome. I would eventually make my way to Umbria, il cuore verde d'Italia (the green heart of Italy). For six weeks, I studied art and Italian language in the city of Orvieto, an incredible piece of Etruscan beauty that sits on top of a large volcanic stone one thousand feet above the valley floor. I saw, learned, and of course tasted many wonderful things, but that is another story. This story is about Il Circolo and my experience that they made possible.

Twenty-five years ago Myriam Ruthenberg reached out to Il Circolo with the dream to start an Italian program at Florida Atlantic University, for which there was no funding allotted. With the help of Il Circolo’s monetary assistance and Myriam Ruthenberg’s passion for teaching, the program grew into a great success, and the state eventually took over the financial obligations. Today a degree in Italian Studies at Pope John Paul II High School and Saint Andrew’s School.

In 2010, it was my first semester at FAU, and I was taking an Italian language course. My father is from Palermo and because of this I have always felt a deep connection to everything Italian. When the opportunity to study Italian language and art in Italy arose, I jumped. I didn’t know how I’d be able to make it all come to fruition, but magically it did. I wrote a letter to Il Circolo, telling them about myself, my love for writing, and my heritage and they granted me a scholarship.

This scholarship not only allowed me to study abroad, but it also allowed me to flourish. I was able to reunite with my father’s family, and I realized that I had people in Italy who truly loved me just because I am my father’s daughter. In Orvieto my illustrating style blossomed, and I drew and wrote a children’s book for my little Italian cousin about his cat, Jack. I also had the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and talk with one of Italy’s esteemed authors, Erri De Luca. Il Circolo’s mission gave me the gift of Italian education and travel, forever enriching and inspiring my life.

I had never forgotten Il Circolo’s generosity and by complete chance they have stumbled into my life again, but this time I want to help their cause and mission. I met Il Circolo’s Vice President, Sally Valenti for breakfast to talk about how I might be able to help them. It was such a gift to meet Mrs. Valenti. She is one of those people whom you meet and instantly know that she has had a life full of love. She is now eighty-eight years old and has been involved with Il Circolo for thirty of the thirty-nine years it has been an established non-profit and her commitment to them is as strong as the first day she started.

When I asked Mrs. Valenti how could the public help Il Circolo continue its mission, she said earnestly, “It would be a wonderful thing for people to attend our events. They’re usually free to the public, and hopefully they might gain a little insight on what we [Il Circolo] do. We want to promote community awareness of the art and music evidenced all over the world of Italian culture. There’s so much. The capital in Washington DC, the lions at the New York Library... in order to keep it going, to preserve it, we have to promote it and encourage young people to participate.” Il Circolo’s board meetings are held at their office in Boynton Beach, at the address listed below, at 10am on the second Saturday of every month from September to May and are open to the public.

I asked Mrs. Valenti what motivated her to keep being involved with Il Circolo and without hesitation she said, “My parents came here from Sicily with nothing and managed to educate all four of their children. Primarily that is why I keep doing this. I’m honoring my mother and father and the heritage they gave me while taking advantage of the opportunities offered by this great country.” I learned many things about Mrs. Valenti’s family, and one of my favorite things is I learned that her father ate a plate of pasta every day. “With peas, cauliflower, broccoli rabe... you name it,” Valenti said. “He had to have it every day, and he lived to be ninety-eight years old.” And with that, I smiled and thought la dolce vita.
It happened one night, Suzanne Werson, a Graduate of F.I.T. in NYC for fashion design and drafting who had become a seasoned designer of her own line of evening and wedding bags, had a bet with friends, a bet that would change her life.

“That night at dinner with friends,” she says, “I made a bet that I could go to Arezzo [a town 50 miles South East of Florence] for 10 days and come back with a small collection of jewelry to bring to the White show in Milan that was two weeks away. [The White Show is a large men’s and women’s clothing and accessory show hosted in Milan twice a year.]

“So I left [Bologna, where she lived] the next day, went to Arezzo and found different people, one to make my designs and others to buy the metals from, do enameling and someone to buy the stones from. I came back with a collection and went to the show, sold to a few clients and just kept going as I really enjoyed it more than anything else. I just knew I could do it because I could see it in my mind. I can do that with clothes and houses too. It is all really the same. If you can imagine it you can make it.”

Today, Suzanne sells her spectacular jewelry to European boutiques in Italy, Spain, Beirut, Austria, Japan, France, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, New York (Styleliner) and Miami (Fountainbleau). All the jewelry is original and hand crafted in Italy, the final product may be worked on by 3 to 5 different people.

After F.I.T., Suzanne started working in NY as a belt designer, then she worked at Ralph Lauren while designing her own line of evening and wedding bags. Eventually she created a line of evening and bridal bags in her name which were sold in stores like Bergdorf Goodman, Vera Wang and a large collection of bridal bags at Kleinfelds.

In 1995, Suzanne moved to Italy and created her company American Girl in Italy doing casual handbags. She also designed sample lines for Furla, had two children, and started designing leather fashion jewelry for a company in Bologna, where she lived, discovering her true love: designing jewelry.

In 2011 she made that bet and went to Arezzo for 2 weeks, a move that would change her life. That year, after Milan, she went back to Arezzo to create new designs and took the new line to the Paris Show. She started her new company Suzanne Werson New York Italia, and at the end of 2012 decided to move back to the United States, purchasing a house in Wellington, FL.

She then created suzannewerson.com, her online website and started up again doing trunk shows in Jupiter, Palm Beach, West Palm and New York.

She now has a permanent presence at Anushka Spa (WPB), Couture and More (Palm Beach) and a line of 18karat at A.R.T. (Worth Avenue)

Her jewelry is original and hand crafted in Italy, she uses artisans, all of whom use old world techniques, a breed of artists rapidly disappearing. Her goal is to make jewelry that is edgy and different from what one can see everywhere else. Her work is most recognized for the equestrian line and serpent jewelry along with her long crystal and semi precious stone necklaces.

On the Cover, Alene cuff in 18k gold and diamonds

Above, LOGOS RING .925 ss with 24k gold plating and brown cz’s
Right, ROCKK RING 925 ss with 24k white gold plating and green quartz and cz’s
Below, DESIREE RING 925 ss with 24k yellow and white gold plating and cz’s

Story by Frederic Roy
Laila cuff in solid 18k gold, diamonds and rubies

CHARLOTTE EARRING - 18k white gold long earrings with large fresh water pearls and diamonds (available short version as well.)

benchmark cuff

desiree ring

detail of clasp and logo

Penelopy Lariat
Horoscope by Philippe Roy

Aries
For you, Aries, the opportunities around you are in line with your will to action. The initialization of Spring is symbolic of your current moment of growth. It is a time to be the leader you see yourself as. This full moon coming up is super charged for you especially. The skills you have developed as an individual are at their max level. Just don’t be too controlling in your dealings, flexibility is still your friend. The people around you will appreciate your dynamic authority.

Taurus
For your week, Taurus, the wind is in your sails. You are coming out of a period of slight confusion and aimlessness, but now there is a jump start of directed willpower being offered to you. Everything around you may seem extra beautiful, and this simplicity of perspective can bring much happiness throughout your days. The fuzziness you have been feeling may still linger, but attempt to make strides in your life, and what you desire will come to fruition.

Gemini
Your week, Gemini, is flowering with friendships and new connections. But, a continued theme of challenge within your personal one-to-one relationships may be apparent. A new level of maturity is being offered to you, and multiple people may come into your life to be your teachers. This is a meditative and reflective time as well, it can be beneficial to do something creative in your leisure time, or something outdoors like gardening.

Cancer
Cancer, the week ahead involves more appearances in the public eye. This is a time of communication and paying attention to the details concerning the words and sentiments you use. A focus on technology use or a job change, so be open to learning new computer skills. Cancer, you thrive on the emotionality around you, but be careful of over-caring, especially during the coming full moon. Your satisfaction this week can arise from spending quality time with friends, possibly doing something adventurous with them that gets you out into nature.

Leo
This week, Leo, you are good at focusing on learning, and practicing that learning in the field. If you are interested in any foreign languages, now is the time to go forth and test your skills. You may feel more need to engage with your career. Appreciate what you have gained so far, then shoot higher. There is much satisfaction in accomplishing any tangible achievements. Extravagance of the past may feel impractical. A more responsible aspect of yourself is emerging.

Virgo
For you this week, Virgo, pay attention to the energy you put out, and what you receive in return. It is spring cleaning time, not only in the house, but inside your mind and behaviors. Be real with yourself concerning what is needed and what is now meant to be discarded. Now is the time to expand your mind, and encourage new habits and methods. You may be asked to think deeper into your circumstances, either for work or your relationships. Spend energy into engaging your skillful mind with the complexities that may confront you.

Libra
For you, Libra, this season is partially alien to you, it being the opposite of Fall, your birth season. People may seem to be on a different beat than you are. Pay attention to the apparent differences, but be aware that they may be completely unmanageable at times, their whims throwing off the balance that you manicure throughout your day. Whatever you are confronted by, if need be, cut to the meat of it and don’t waste valuable energy. Others may view this as harsh, but you are doing everyone, including yourself, a great service.

Scorpio
For you this week, Scorpio, you want all the details to be sorted out so as not to get overwhelmed. Map your mind out on paper with to-do lists. This will be beneficial for your health. Your goal now is to work efficiently. Be careful of scattered energy. Offset the possibility by compartmentalizing your day. During this time period, you may have to work through conflicts by effectively cooperating with people. This is extremely fortunate for both of you as many differences you may have had in the past, can now be resolved quickly, thus creating a fresh understanding.

Sagittarius
In this week, Sagittarius, the details are coming into focus. You must plan your day effectively, otherwise you may get overwhelmed by your new found responsibilities that are emerging. What was once imaginations and dreams, is now becoming a reality, and new obligations must be maintained to uphold the bargain you made with your aspirations. It is slightly against your nature to have to deal with all this on a day to day basis, but in the end, you will appreciate the maturity you gain. Don’t hesitate to ask for help. You have the tendency to bear all the weight.

Capricorn
During this week, Capricorn, there is a full moon that illuminates a core aspect of you, which is to achieve and solidify your foundation. It is a guiding light to see clearly now, any of the vagueness in the darkness that was apparent before. It may be a time to bring work into the home. Invite others into your space for conversation and any business deals. You have a magnetic personality right now, share it and let your humor flow. There is also a lot of creativity to express through your hobbies. This time period is encouraging you to find that childlike spirit and play in business and leisure.

Aquarius
For this week, Aquarius, there is a natural curiosity of all things, and a propensity for multitasking. You will think better by jumping from one project to the next. Be careful of burnout from information overload though. If you are feeling bored or limited by the mundane, break out against your usual routine. Possible friendships that have a new level of depth are available. There is also an appreciation for your home space, take the time to beautify it with pleasant sensibilities like flowers, or bring new foods into the kitchen. Bring many ingredients into your life now so you can multitask freely.

Pisces
Pisces, your ambitions in life are being honed by the challenges of responsibility. These new levels of duty are testing you on how much you really want what you asked for. This is a surprisingly analytical time for you as well, an attribute that is technically not your area of expertise. This ability right now at your disposal is to your benefit as you may need to focus on finances and your business dealings with others. Luckily as well, your communication skills are top notch. It is powerful time for learning and comprehension of conceptual details that you couldn’t quite grasp in times past.
In the Bubble

PRIYANKA SHANBAG AT THE WPB MANDEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Michael Ray Smith

Tonight’s yoga instructor Priyanka Shanbag winses a bit from the pain in her back, the result of an accident years ago. None of the 75 to 100 students seem to notice.

They flow into the third floor of Mandel Public Library, one wave after another, posing occasionally to hug their yoga master or offer a light greeting.

Week after week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, students from as far away as Boynton Beach, 22 miles south, enter what looks like a cavernous meeting room but becomes transformed into a bit of a secular sanctuary where Priyanka shares wisdom from Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, and, occasionally, Krishna the Hindu.

As the lights soften and the relaxing music circulates through the room, the tittering conversations stop and adherents enter what Priyanka calls practice.

“It’s not ‘can I do it’,” Priyanka instructs the audience, overwhelmingly women in yoga pants and ponytails. “It’s ‘what can I do’. See what you can do and remember it is a breathing class.” Priyanka circulates among her students, talking to them often by name and lightly joking.

Part of her charm is her self-disclosure where she tells students of her surgeries while emphasizing their need to end the session determined to make a good life decision. Soon the class is sitting upright in the dim light on yoga mats, eyes closed, and listening to Shanbag say, “Mother Theresa said to love your country, but why stop there?”

She walks around the room, correcting posture here, a position there, always coaxing. "It’s not 'can I do it',” Priyanka instructs the audience, overwhelmed by women in yoga pants and ponytails. “It’s ‘what can I do’. See what you can do and remember it is a breathing class.” Priyanka circulates among her students, talking to them often by name and lightly joking.

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Priyanka began the practice of yoga as a girl in Bombay struggling to overcome a skin disorder. The youngest of eight children, Priyanka learned yoga by watching her elders practice in Bombay.

Over time Priyanka’s skin improved and she married an officer in the Indian army. Moshe, their son, became a professional photographer but Priyanka lost her husband while he was on duty. Priyanka stayed with yoga, mastering its benefits and before long met and married Gokul, an Indian physician. They spent a season in Michigan and in 2006 came to West Palm Beach.

Now in demand around the area, Priyanka has come a long way from her first teaching job when she was invited by the Roman Catholic Church in the area to teach about 50 nuns the practice of yoga with its promise of relief from stress and tension.

Priyanka said criticism by televangelists such as Pat Robertson who insist that yoga is a subtle way to attract demons is ignorant and she challenged the international figure to take a yoga class.

In Michigan where she and Gokul spent nearly two decades, she taught figures such as Evander Holyfield, five-time heavyweight champion boxer, who finally asked her if she knew who he was. She didn’t.

In addition to celebrities, Priyanka has taught yoga to private classes, even once on a yacht.

However, most of her students are like Eileen Foley, 64, West Palm Beach, who retired from Berkley University and brought a contingent of friends to experience the idea of being peaceful.

Foley and other students finance the yoga classes through donations, a practice students suggested six years ago when they learned Priyanka wasn’t paid. Devotees said the classes are well worth it.

“I call positive, life-affirming and empowering,” Foley says. “It is the way she instructs, in particular the idea of mindfulness,” she says. “Focus on breathing.”

“It’s both spiritual and fitness,” she says.

Michael Ray Smith is a professor of journalism at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Students with a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to apply.
The final match of the Piaget Gold Cup kept the sold-out crowd of spectators on the edge of their seats. Orchard Hill had just come off their sensational C.V. Whitney Cup win and was predicted to dominate the match, but Audi proved to be no pushover. Audi started strong, scoring two goals in the first few minutes, and kept the pressure on with an 8-6 lead at halftime. With 5 seconds left the score was 15-15, and the match went into overtime. An Orchard Hill foul gave Audi a penalty shot, and Gonzalito Pieres scored the winning goal, giving the prestigious cup victory to Audi.

**Veuve Clicquot Fashion on the Field Winner**

Heather Kobus proved to be a fashion standout in spring 2015’s hottest new style trend. The Lucy Paris strapless cotton romper was a cool choice in large florals of pink, orange, and purple on a crisp, white background. Nude wedges, perfect for divot stomping, completed her look, along with a few silver and gold bangle bracelets with semiprecious stones. She will be celebrating her style success with a bottle of Veuve Clicquot.

**U.S. Open Polo Championship® – Sundays Through April 19**

The 16-week winter polo season will culminate with the U.S. Open Polo Championship being played on consecutive Sundays through April 19. Be sure and get your polo “fix” before the season ends. Join in the festivities and high-goal competition by purchasing tickets at InternationalPoloClub.com today.