

BETH AM TEMPLE TALK

A child leads the way

BY DR. DIANE KRIEGER

Like many Jewish extended families, mine runs the gamut from "Jews for Jesus" to Orthodox Judaism.

One of my closest cousins, a woman in her 50s, grew up in a completely secular home. Her Jewish parents were professors and had chosen the academic world as their community. Their home was full of interesting people and joyous celebration. Religious ritual and tradition weren't part of their scene. As a result, the Jewish world was foreign to my cousin. She enjoyed it and was interested but not intimately familiar with its customs. She married and she and her Jewish husband decided to provide their sons with a Jewish education. But soon they felt disconnected from their Jewish community's offerings and fell away. Their children came along for the ride and left religious school before learning to read Hebrew or to understand much about Jewish teachings.

Two years ago, when one of my sons became a bar mitzvah at Temple Beth Am, my cousin brought her then 11-year-old son from the northeast to celebrate with us. The weekend began with a Friday night service at the temple followed by dinner at my home. One of our friends, an accomplished singer and guitarist from Argentina, led our out-of-town guests in Hebrew songs after dinner. The northeasterners were captivated by sitting on an outdoor patio in March, singing and dancing to beautiful music by candle light. The next day, my son, a graduate of Temple Beth Am Day School and a student at the religious school, helped lead the service, chanted a portion of the torah and haftorah and shared thoughts about the weekly bible portion with the gathering of family and friends.

My cousin's son had a lot of questions. We talked about how I wasn't confident in the existence of God, but loved to be part of our synagogue community anyway and to participate as if I believed. As the weekend unfolded, something — maybe it was the music or perhaps how the temple community embraced our family — moved the boy. On their

return flight, he asked his mother to find a synagogue in their city so that they could be part of a community like Temple Beth Am's. My cousin reluctantly obliged, joined a synagogue and enrolled her son in remedial Hebrew. At first, the temple they joined warned them that there was little chance he would acquire the Hebrew skills to become a bar mitzvah in two years, but he was diligent and quickly caught up to grade level.

What began as loving parenting turned into genuine curiosity and soon my cousin was learning to read Hebrew, too. She described the joy of moving from feeling like an outside observer to knowing the music and prayers and participating in the service.

In early May, I had the pleasure of traveling to attend the now 13-year-old's bar mitzvah ceremony. During their Friday night service, several of the pieces of music the choir sang were composed by Beth Am's very own Rachele Nelson, so I felt right at home singing along. The bar mitzvah boy's Hebrew chanting was expert and his teaching about what makes holidays holy was so sophisticated that it took my breath away. My children had boarded the Jewish education train in nursery school and bar mitzvah was preordained for them. Though technically this boy would have become a bar mitzvah, or son of the commandments, just by reaching the age of 13, he had made a very grown up and active choice, to embrace new responsibilities for learning and behavior. When his mother confidently read in Hebrew and said these words to her son, it was my turn to be moved: "At the beginning, we heard you practice the Hebrew alphabet. Soon the letters became words and then the words became prayers. The prayers had music and the music was beautiful. It's not often that a child leads his parents. Thanks so much for taking us on your journey"

For more information, call membership director Rita Diaz, 305-667-6667, ext. 107, send email to <rdiaz@tbam.org> or log on to <www.tbam.org>.



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8-week 'Girl Talk' leadership workshop starts Aug. 20

BY LEE STEPHENS

If your daughter struggles with relationships, communication, bullying and self-esteem issues, then you might want to consider enrolling her in the upcoming eight-week Girl Talk leadership series workshop. There's also a "Moms' Group" that will meet three times during the two-month series.

Organizers Claudia Vasquez-Fraga and Susana Cetta say the program is "designed to focus on your daughter's strengths, character development and your family's values." They say it will also improve your ability to communicate with you child.

Theme topics for the program include friendships, adolescent body

image, relationships with peers and creating a path to the future.

"Our strengths-based, skill-building approach creates a safe space for girls to improve relationships in a format that interests and engages," say Vasquez-Fraga and Cetta. "Girl Talk will help both you and your child improve communication and leadership skills."

The Girl Talk meetings will take place at the Morningstar Renewal Center, 7275 SW 124 St. The cost is \$40 per session. The program for girls 9-11 year old begins Aug. 20 at 4:30 p.m. and lasts for one-hour. The program for 12-14 year olds starts at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Vasquez-Fraga at 305-510-9575 or Cetta at 305-776-4714.

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By

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Get Ready for the Soccer Season

Clean Boating Act passed last month

BY MARILYN MOWER



The political nail-biter saga over incidental recreational boat discharge and EPA permit nightmares almost came down to the wire. (See *Docklines* in the Pinecrest Tribune, issue July 21)

Shortly before vacating Washington, D.C. for summer recess, the Clean Boating Act bills in the House and Senate were passed July 23.

The Senate Version, S. 2766, was sponsored by Florida Senator Bill Nelson and California's Barbara Boxer. Senator Nelson had tried earlier in the summer to get the bill passed in that chamber by unanimous consent but Senator Lisa Murkowski from Alaska withheld her vote, trying instead to substitute exemptions for commercial fishermen. Senator Boxer reportedly engineered a closed-door compromise with Murkowski, which preserved the exemption for recreational boaters' incidental discharge, (i.e. your engine cooling water, anchor washdown, bilgewater), but also added a two-year extension of the EPA's current regulations for commercial vessels under 79-feet. Kudos to those of you who spoke out in favor of the Clean Boating Act. The compromise includes a provision for an independent commission to investigate the possible pollutants from the commercial vessels involved, and to propose legislation later for commercial boats, which would take into account the realities of their operations. President Bush signed the bill into law on July 29.

"The recreational marine industry and boaters throughout the U.S. can now rest easy and go boating without a federal or state permit, heavy penalties and absurd legal jeopardy," said Scott Gudes, vice president of Government Relations for the National Marine Manufacturers

DOCKLINES FROM SOUTHERN BOATING MAGAZINE

Association. "We applaud President Bush and Congress for their bipartisan efforts to reverse the unintended and potentially devastating consequences of an overbroad federal court decision."

With that problem settled and fuel prices dropping, it's a good time to share with you what those of us who make our living as marine journalists have been doing this summer — test driving new models that will debut to the public at the fall boat shows. Honest, it's hard work!

NEW ON THE WATERFRONT

Do to the fact that it's expensive to bring a new boat to market — engineering, model testing, tooling, and prototype testing of a new fiberglass powerboat in the mid 30-foot range costs about \$1million — you may notice less brand new models and more incremental changes at the shows. Some of them are pretty big increments, however, such as all-new drive trains in many of the Brunswick company boats. Maxum, Bayliner and Sea Ray will be offering models with Axius stern drives for joystick control and easier docking on their twin-engine models. Sea Ray will also be showing its 44 Sundancer with Zeus pod drives developed by Cummins Mercruiser Diesel.

For those of you who like boats that fit on a trailer, Bayliner has a fun new entry-level cabin cruiser that can easily and legally be trailered to different cruising grounds. This 25-footer called the Bayliner 245 has an 8' 6" beam and carries 70-gallons of fuel to power its inboard 260-hp Mercruiser MPI/B3 engine. It has decent living space below for weekending with the kids and much more headroom


than a cuddy-cabin style boat. With reverse-cycle air conditioning and a canvas "camper package" to cover the cockpit, this little boat bases in the mid-\$60Ks.

Center console fans will find much to like in some new Boston Whalers. The builder's Outrage line has new 22-, 25- and 28-foot models with integrated hardtops. The integration of the hardtops to the console is as aesthetically pleasing as they are well-engineered, which means rock solid. Other smart features such as convertible seating and smart built-in tackle centers make the boats equally suited to fishing and cruising. Wait until you see the fold-down trolling seats—brilliant! Tall guys will really appreciate the size—and serious headroom—of the heads contained in the console box.

Our neighborhood world-famous sport-fisherman builder will have a magnificent new 54-foot battlewagon on display at the

Fort Lauderdale Boat Show in October, but if you are patient, you might catch a glimpse of it testing soon or coming and going from its shed on the Miami River. Its totally new from the keel up design features a sharp bow and a long waterline. What you are likely to notice first, however, is the sleek band of black wraparound windows topside. The high-tech, multi-layered, tempered glass windows are molded into the deck structure. What anglers and their guests will really appreciate is the underwater exhaust. Bertram's CEO Giovanni Vacchi says the company's designers have concentrated on fishability and he says there's stowage for up to 25 rods. The baitwell has been moved to the mezzanine deck to preserve fish-fighting space aft. Standard power, a pair of MAN V-12s, is projected to deliver a top speed of 33 knots. Tournament guys may opt for uber-engines: larger MANS or Caterpillar C-32s are projected to push this boat to 39 knots.


Marilyn Mower, a boat owner for 23 years, is the editor of Southern Boating and the Marine Business Journal. For subscriptions in print or on the Web, visit <www.southernboating.com>





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Fly Fishing just right make your day this Fall

BY CAPTAIN PIER MILITO

If you're choice is fly fishing, reading this article might just make your day of fishing in windy conditions a more enjoyable and productive experience. For most fly fisherman, the wind provides many unwelcome challenges. For the experienced fly fisherman the wind is a friend. Learning how to use the wind to your advantage while fly fishing will make the difference between really enjoying your day on the water or having a frustrating day.

Fly fishing is a sport that can be practiced in many different regions and waters all over the world. Geography, weather conditions, fly rod #, fly size and weight, targeted specie and other factors all play a role in determining how challenging the fly fishing outing will be.

One factor that plagues the salt water fly fisherman is wind. Salt water fly fishing is usually a sport that is practiced in open spaces unlike the small fresh water streams that are nestled in the mountains and protected from the winds.

Understanding wind; how and where it is. While providing fly casting lessons I often explain to my students that on a windy day, say 20-30 knot winds, from water level up to about 6 feet you have the slowest traveling winds (5-10 knots). From 6 feet to about 15 feet you have stronger winds (10-15 knots) and from 15 feet up into the skies you have the strongest winds (20-30 knots). Then I ask them, "which winds would you prefer to fly fish in today?" More often than not, the response is, "the slowest, calmest winds possible." So the area or space of air in which we should be casting is obviously from 6 feet off the water or lower. What does this mean? This means that the traditional



Above: Capt. Pier Milito landing a big Tarpon on fly at location x. Right: Big Bone in Biscayne Bay. Below: Red fish on fly deep in back country. Below right: Pristine Permit makes customers' year.



over head fly casting should be altered into a side arm cast which will keep the fly line and fly traveling parallel and close to the body of water.

If your interested in knowing how to further use the wind to your advantage while fly fishing in windy days, E-mail me a line or two and I will send you more information. Don't wait anymore, take some time off and go fish.

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As a professional fishing guide I run boats and trucks. As a business man I believe that you have only one opportunity to make a first impression on your customer and a life time of effort to maintain that customer. Keeping my boats and trucks (not to mention all of

my other equipment) clean and looking like new is part of this philosophy. I understand that the wet spot filtration system(s) filters the water from many impurities which makes cleaning easier and more efficient. Using the wet spot you end up using less soap, which in turn actually helps the environment and reduces water spots tremendously. I truly enjoy seeing the results every time I use the wet spot. Check them out on the web and as always if you have any questions about any of the TACKLE STATION featured products or services please feel free in contacting me direct by phone or email for more information.

The Captain fishes Islamorada/ Upper Keys, Biscayne Bay, Flamingo/ Florida Bay and Everglades National Park and also provides international all-inclusive fishing adventure. Capt. Pier Milito is an IGFA Certified Captain; and a member of the CCA and a professional fishing guide for the Redbone Celebrity Fishing Tournament Series. He does tournament and fun fishing, but most importantly he loves his job.

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*In more than 20 years of experience Dr. Lata Sonpal has received training from, and has been an associate for seven years of, esteemed Dr. Brian L. Weiss, the author of **Many Lives, Many Masters; Only Love is Real; Messages from the Masters; and Same Soul, Many Bodies.** Dr. Sonpal provides psychotherapy to Individuals, Couples, and Families in the following areas:*

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Home Design and Remodeling Show returns Labor Day Weekend

Premiere Event at The Miami Beach Convention Center

The Miami Home Design & Remodeling Show, the Southeast's largest home-products marketplace, will showcase products and services ideal for home improvement and renovation projects at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The show opens Friday evening, August 29th and continues through Tuesday night, September 2nd.

The annual event offers consumers the opportunity to compare a variety of products in one convenient location, the chance to talk directly with home improvement and custom work experts, easily compare product quality and price and benefit from special pricing for five days only. In addition, the show will inspire homeowners with thousands of ideas for their homes.

Over 1,000 displays will be featured in this nationally recognized event. New trends in home décor and renovations will be on display along with the products to help homeowners either do-it-themselves or hire professionals to do it for them.

REMODELING MADE EASY

Almost 45 percent of home improvement spending involves changes to interior spaces such as kitchen and bath remodels, and



room additions. The Miami Home Design & Remodeling Show offers a large selection of products designed to do just that. Kitchen and bath remodeling projects, custom home theater systems, flooring, organizational systems for closets, home offices and garages, as well as custom woodwork, ironwork, moldings, windows, doors and more can be found under one roof.

INCLUDED IN THIS YEARS EXHIBITS WILL BE:

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Furniture
- Custom Cabinets
- Wall Units
- Bars

- Flooring
- Home Theaters
- Landscaping
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- Home Accessories
- Home Offices
- Awnings
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- Wall Treatments

The Miami Home Design & Remodeling Show is produced by Home Show Management Corp. and Perl Advertising Group, producers of the Miami Spring and Fort Lauderdale Home Design & Remodeling Shows.

For more information, log on to www.homeshowspecials.com.

SPEAKER TO GIVE REMODELING ON A BUDGET TIPS: PRACTICAL ADVICE IN A TOUGH ECON-

Steve Gonzalez, CRC and best-selling author understands how to approach home improvements in a soft economy. He will present complimentary seminars entitled "Remodeling On A Budget: 5 Ways To Cut Home Improvement Costs Without Cutting Quality," at the Miami Home Design & Remodeling Show, August 29 – September 2 at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Gonzalez, a Florida state certified residential contractor with over 30 years experience in the building industry, has built over 100 homes and successfully completed more than 120 home remodeling projects. His two books, *Ready...Set...Build: A Consumer's Guide to Home Improvement Planning & Contracts* and *Before You Hire A Contractor: A Construction Guidebook for Consumers*, have been recommended by hundreds

of publications across the country. He has been featured on CNBC's Money Tonight, CNN's Your Money, and national radio shows.

Steve will speak on Saturday at 2:00 & 5:00 pm ; Sunday at 5:00 & 7:00 pm; and Monday (Labor Day) at 1:00 & 5:00 pm.

Steve Gonzalez

