You Say You Want a Revolution?

by Michelle Kaplan • Photography by Erica Hernandez

It may have looked like an invasion when 1,600 people turned up to celebrate Bastille Day at the Norton Museum this July, but it was actually a celebration. "This is our fourth joint Bastille Day celebration between the Museum and Multilingual Society, and each year it is growing more and more," said Natacha Koblova, executive director of the Multilingual Language & Cultural Society.

The evening was packed full of things to see and do—art, music, film and wine, all with a little French flair. The Consul General of France in Miami, Philippe Letrilliart, was even on hand and the Multilingual Language & Cultural Society also held a French lesson.

"The French class was the biggest ever—I think about 50 people in one room—but this was just to give people an idea of what we do at Multilingual Society." Unfortunately, due to the extra-large turnout, they ran out of crêpes—sacre bleu! Koblova vows they will stock up on more next year.

Champions of Mind & Body

Story and photos by Lee Hershfield

On the second floor of 300 Clematis St. in West Palm Beach, men, women, and children strained their necks for a clear view of championship-caliber grapplers and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) Black Belts contorting their opponents' bodies and bending their minds. The grand opening of Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu attracted the curious onlooker and hardcore martial arts practitioner alike.

BJJ World Champion Braulio Estima and UFC World Champion mixed martial artist Georges St-Pierre, along with BJJ Black Belt and West Palm Beach Gracie Barra owner Wally Holen, enthralled the crowd with their demonstration of BJJ and their accompanying detailed explanations of the sport that promotes intellectual and emotional self-discipline concomitantly with physical technique. Students of the West Palm Beach studio joined the exhibition with their instructors and captivated the onlookers with their abilities. Duffy's Sports Grill provided complimentary refreshments for everyone at the conclusion of the demonstration.