Back to School Bash
The YMCA of the Palm Beaches hosted its “Back to School Bash” Aug. 8, adding more than 500 area families.

King’s Academy grad joins ABC hit show
Douglas "D.J." James Carter, a 2003 graduate of The King’s Academy, will join the director team on popular ABC show “The Middle” this fall where he will work as an assistant director.

America’s Got Talent Live comes to Kravis
The Kravis Center has announced that tickets are now on sale for “America’s Got Talent! Live! The All-Stars Tour” appearing Nov. 1.

RPB Commons Park going to the dogs
The Village of Royal Palm Beach invites the public to the grand opening of its new “Bark Park.”

Fall Festival bracelets on sale now
All-access activity bracelets are on sale now for Wellington’s Fall Festival, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 at Village Park.

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Photo by Elizabeth Drake/Palm Beach Monthly

Instructor Veronica McClendon (middle) converses with students Eduardo Fosbes and Kayla Thoms of Jupiter during the “Trip to Italy” intermediate/advanced class. Felice says he takes the course “to exercise the brain.”

OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Two evenings a week, students meet at The Multilingual Society to learn a language through lessons, music, games and conversations.

By RON HAYES
Palm Beach Monthly

WEST PALM BEACH — Back in the 1960s, when young American men were being drafted and sent to Vietnam, Arturo Teolis got lucky.

“I was one of only two guys in our military police outfit, so we went all over France with two French gendarmes to investigate traffic accidents,” the Palm Beach Gardens resident recalls. “It was a lot of fun. You met people and picked up the language.”

Drafted at 20, Teolis came home at 25.

“And 50 years went by,” he says with a chuckle. “I’m 74 now and you forget what you learned.”

The Multilingual Language & Cultural Society is helping him remember.

Two evenings a week, Teolis and a half-dozen other students meet in the nonprofit society’s offices on South Olive Avenue in West Palm Beach to spend a couple of hours learning French through lessons, music, games and informal conversation. Lots of conversation.

Jose Magalhaes, 64, of Palm Beach Gardens, grew up in Brazil speaking Portuguese and joined the Multilingual Society’s French class after his work as a heavy equipment inspector took him to France and Germany.

I was picking it up little by little,” he says, “and now I’ve found out this is my passion. I practice with CDs at home and really enjoy it. It’s so rewarding when I go back now and am able to communicate.”

In other rooms on other nights, still other students are mastering Spanish or Italian and – more rarely – Russian, Portuguese and, yes, English.

When they’re not learning a language, students participate in events designed to celebrate each country’s culture.

A weekly movie night – free and open to the public – features French and Italian films with English subtitles.

The society sponsors book clubs for French, Italian and Spanish literature. It hosts wine tastings. From November to May, it partners with the Norton Museum of Art for regular tours with a French-speaking docent.

On July 5, the society celebrated Bastille Day at the Norton with a representative from the French Consulate in Miami attending, and recently the museum hosted a class featuring Spanish songs performed live.

Members meet in North Palm Beach for breakfast and conversation at the Paris in Town Bakery, or Limoncello Italian Grille for an Italian night out.

The idea of a multicultural society was the brainchild of Natacha Koblova, who earned a degree in linguistics at the University of Sarhara in her native Russia and gave up Paris for West Palm Beach in 2003.

“I was working as the branch manager for the Alliance Francaise Palm Beach,” she explains, “and when their district building in Miami was lost in foreclosures they had to close the office here. Then, I thought, ‘Why not add other languages’

Pet Adoption
‘Countdown 2 Zero’ adoption event takes place Sept. 12

WEST PALM BEACH — If you’ve been considering adding a furry four-legged companion to your family, now may be the perfect time to make your move.

The second annual Countdown 2 Zero adoption event, presented by The Louis Papp Life Foundation, takes place Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

The free event will feature several hundred of the area’s best dogs, cats, guinea pigs, kittens and puppies available for adoption.

Organized by Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League and Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control, the adoption event is a collaborative effort of more than two dozen local animal rescue organizations to save the lives of animals in Palm Beach County.

In 2014, more than 25 local animal rescue organizations participated in this event and even more are expected this year.

"This will be the biggest one-day adoption event in the history of Palm Beach County," said Rich Anderson, executive director & CEO of Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. "We hope to see as many as 500 pets adopted this year.

"Admission is free and many of the rescue groups will be offering discounts and adoption incentives, and all new pet parents will receive special gifts. Rabies tags courtesy of Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control will be complimentary for each adopted pet.

For more information, go online to countdown2zero.org.

LANGUAGE PAGE 5
French and Italian most popular languages at Multicultural Society

LANGUAGE / FROM PAGE 1
instead of just teaching French?"
In January 2013, The Multilingual Language & Cultural Society opened
with Natacha Koblova as founder and
executive director.
She speaks Italian in addition to
French and her native Russian, and is
learning both German and Spanish.
"Most of our students want French and
Italian," Koblova says. "French because
France is the most popular destination
for American tourists, and many come to
learn Italian because they're of Italian
heritage but their parents assimilated and
didn't teach the language to their kids.
Now they want to know their origins."
In addition to Koblova, the society
employs five teachers, each of whom
has at least a bachelor’s degree in the
language taught.
"They're teachers," Koblova emphazis-
es, "not just people who happen to speak
the language. When I have a new teacher,
I always say, 'If I hear people laughing in
the class, I know it's a good class.'"
Koblova's classroom has Bingo and
Monopoly games in addition to flash-
cards and textbooks.
"When people play, there's no tens-
sion," she says, "and people don't take
themselves so seriously."
But learning a foreign language is no
game, and the real secret, Koblova says,
is motivation.
"It's not a destination," she says, "it's
a journey, and there are no limits. Even
in your native language you may still
encounter words you don't know."
"Classes can teach the formal rules of
grammar and vocabulary, but students
will still be confronted by phrases and
idiomatic expressions you only discover
in the real world.
Just try explaining the phrase, "It's
raining cats and dogs," to someone who
speaks only French.
"It's complete nonsense if you trans-
late it word for word," Koblova notes.
In France, we say, "Il pleut des
cordes," which means, literally, "It's rain-
ing the ropes."
"This is not for beginners," she laughs.
And a lot of the society's students are
beginners who want to begin again.
"I took French in high school," they
say. "But I don't remember any of it."
Koblova says that because many stu-
dents make two fundamental mistakes:
"First, they quit too soon. I compare it to
going to the gym and thinking you can
get in shape overnight. You have to put
time and energy into it."
And secondly, beginning students
want to speak perfectly or not at all.
"But it's better to speak the language
with mistakes and have a dialogue
instead of waiting another two years,"
Koblova says. "Don't be afraid."
Simply say, "I love your language and
I'm trying to learn it. Please be patient
with me."
"When people see you're making an
effort, they will open up," she promises.
Group classes in French, Italian and
Spanish begin Sept. 8 at The Multilingual
Language & Cultural Society, 210 S.
Ave. in West Palm Beach.
Cost for the twice-weekly sessions is
$450 for the course, which runs through
Oct. 29. Textbooks and other materials
are extra.
For more information, go online to
multilinguallsociety.org. 

The American German Club of The Palm Beaches September Events!

Great American & Latin American Music & Dance Show
An Evening at the Copacabana
Saturday, September 8th

Dinner Menu:
Beef Bourgignon
Pasta
Yogato or Fish of the Day
Soup or Salad
Rolls & Butter

Winfest
and Drinks Dance
Music by Bob Houston
Special Program by The HelmutLange

Admission: $30
Includes Wine Tasting
Cheese & Crackers
Reception at 6:30 p.m.
Reserve Seating Suggested

Contact Trudel
For Reservation
561-294-2770

Doors open 5 p.m.
Dinner served
from 6-8 p.m.

Friday September 11th

www.AmericanGermanClub.org

MORE SEPTEMBER EVENTS!
561.967.6464
AmericanGermanClub.org

Sun., Sept. 20: Picnic in the Clubhouse
Fri., Sept. 25: Bavarian Night Dinner Dance
Sun., Sept. 27: General Meeting

ALL EVENTS
OPEN TO NON MEMBERS
PUBLIC WELCOME!