

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 2012



Audition call

A front row seat at tryouts for the upcoming season at TheaterZone. **C1** ▶



In the saddle

One family's story about accomplishments made possible at Naples Equestrian Challenge. **A32** ▶



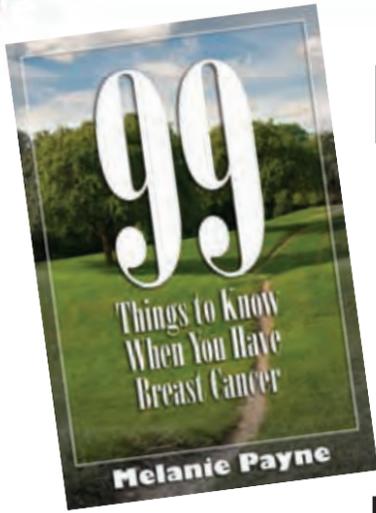
Out to eat

Restaurant deals abound in the off-season. **B1** ▶



A class act

Two elementary schools happily on the receiving end of HMA's generosity. **A37** ▶



FROM '99 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE BREAST CANCER'

1 Most of the women diagnosed with breast cancer don't die of breast cancer.

43 Drink more water and less alcohol.

88 Bill collectors can be nasty. But you've made it through cancer. Bill collectors can't compare.

Investigative reporter shares tips learned on her journey to becoming a

SURVIVOR

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

READERS OF MELANIE PAYNE'S NEW SHORT BOOK, "99 Things to Know When You Have Breast Cancer," may recognize the writing style from her newspaper reportage — even-handed and clear, conscientious and funny, and held together by an unusual amount of common sense. But instead of her daily role as an investigative reporter for *The News-Press*, where she is known for pulling back the curtain on scam artists, thieves and crooked deals in her regular column, "Tell Mel," this offering is compiled of her more personal

SEE SURVIVOR, A6 ▶



Author Melanie Payne

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Inside the pink pages

- Meet this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer honorary survivor chair. **A4**
- Photos from last year: **A10-11**
- News about a new ribbon and the mobile mammography bus: **A12**
- The inaugural Pink Party and a Slice of Hope: **A14**
- A listing of this year's Breast Cancer Awareness Month events: **A17**

New research brings doctors closer to a cure for breast cancer

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

In the arena. In the ring. On the battlefield. On the front lines. The struggle, the fight, the war.

The martial metaphors are nearly irresistible in describing the bloody contest against breast cancer, because the stakes are mortal for every patient diagnosed.

In this war likely to sweep into the lives of almost 230,000 American women this year, killing about 40,000 of them, according to the American Cancer Society,

knowledge is power.

Thirty years ago, knowledge in the form of early detection meant a 74 percent chance of survival for five years. Now, it means a 98 percent chance, statistics show. There's a reason.

"Let me give you three words," explains Dr. George Sledge, winner of the prestigious Komen Foundation Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction (to name one of many awards), and one of the nation's most celebrated research oncologists: "Research cures cancer."

Dr. Sledge and several others pioneering new research have at least one thing

in common as 2012 slides toward 2013: their newest investigations identify genes or proteins whose function has remained invisible until now — villains that work in or around tumors and cells to resist current medicines, or even to assist them.

In recent days, the functions of these life enemies have been described publicly for the first time.

Coincidentally, a ground-breaking and potentially world-altering genetic study published Sunday in the journal *Nature*

SEE CLOSER, A8 ▶

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF SEPT. 27-OCT. 3, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

Audition call

A front-row seat at tryouts for the new season

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

THEY KNOW THE AUDITIONING DRILL. Sally Ann Swarm from New Jersey certainly knows it. And Jessica Bircann from Miami. And Khristy Chamberlain of Fort Lauderdale. They knew what awaited them at TheatreZone when Mark Danni held the door open and said, "Hello, my name is Mark." He's the managing artistic director for the professional theater company. Each of the actresses walked in alone and,

SEE AUDITION, C4 ►

Top: Karen Molnar, resident choreographer, and Mark Danni, artistic director, during auditions.

Above: Jessica Bircann gives it her all, accompanied by Charles Fornara at the piano.

>>inside:
Four shows in the lineup for season eight.
C4

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INSIDE



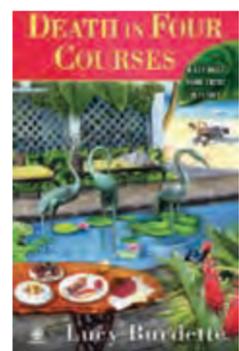
Rain or shine

At the first Bayfront Farmers Market, and more fun. **C21, 22, 24 ►**



Fifty shades of dirt bag

Artis Henderson ponders the attraction of bad boys. **C2 ►**



Mouth-watering mystery

Book reviewer Phil Jason enjoys the next installment in the Key West Food Critic series. **C14 ►**

Gallery partners showcased in next library exhibit

BY BILL PAPPALARDO
Special to Florida Weekly

Friends of the Library of Collier County showcases paintings by Karen Stone and Lynne Wilcox, the owners of ArtGallery OldNaples2, for the next exhibit in the West Wing Art Gallery at the Naples Regional Library.

On display Oct. 1-31, the show consists of 30 pastel paintings of landscapes painted outdoors or "plein air" and still

life paintings.

A nationally recognized pastel artist, pastel judge and teacher, Ms. Stone is the daughter of art collectors. She started painting in elementary school. After a 36-year career in marketing and advertising, she began to chase a life-long dream: to become a fine art painter. She traveled to the south of France with a group of artists and studied with noted pastel masters, including Albert Handell.

Her style is impressionism, and she prefers to paint landscapes, especially those in Naples, and likes the ease of painting outdoors with pastel sticks in every imaginable color. That's the case in her welcoming pastel "Flying High," with birds hovering over a beach path to the gulf, which she completed at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park's Parking Lot 3.

SEE FRIENDS, C3 ►



The High-Rises at Bonita Bay	495-1105
Estuary at Grey Oaks	261-3148
The Strada at Mercato	594-9400
The Village	261-6161
The Gallery	659-0099
Broad Avenue	434-2424
Vanderbilt	594-9494
The Promenade	948-4000
Fifth Avenue	434-8770
Marco Island	642-2222
Rentals	262-4242

AUDITION

From page 1

after the door closed, had 10 minutes to display her acting and singing chops. They were among about 100 candidates who auditioned over two days on a recent weekend at the G&L Theater on the campus of The Community School, the home of TheatreZone.

Mr. Danni and his staff were casting shows for the company's eighth season, which opens Nov. 29 with "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum."

Seven Actors Equity contracts were available for that show. Only seven. Other contracts were available for other shows, but the candidates outnumbered the openings. Professional actors know that and they know about the 10 minutes they're allotted.

"Every professional actor knows this," Mr. Danni said, sitting in the theater, Starbucks cup in hand, before the auditions began. "They have their picture and resume stapled together. They have their music. Usually 32 bars. Never a whole song." His wife and resident choreographer Karen Molnar or accompanist Charles Fornara will read with the auditioning actors.

Later in the day, groups of 10 or 12 actors were brought in to dance. "Just to see how they move and all that," Mr. Danni said. "Then we let them go on their way."

That was said around 9:45 a.m. on the first of two long days of auditioning. Before another weekend rolled around, the actors would know if they had won a part.

Mr. Danni doesn't like to dawdle when evaluating talent. "One reason, they're all fresh in my mind," he explained. "So then we go through... Compare notes between the three of us. By the end of the week, I'm trying to make offers, because these people are getting other offers."

Who are 'these people'?

The first candidate on stage on the first of the two days was 50-year-old Naples resident Randall Kenneth Jones.

He's no stranger to Mr. Danni.

"Hello, Randy," Mr. Danni said as he entered.

Mr. Jones read and sang from "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum."

"That's it," Mr. Danni told him when the audition ended. "It was great, Randy."

Mr. Jones knows about auditions and being on stage. After he exited the stage, he sat in the lobby and chatted about his career. "The first thing I ever recall being in was 'Christmas Cookies' in Mrs. Watt's fifth-grade class in Columbia, Mo," he said.

Now, Mr. Jones is a dynamo who describes himself on his LinkedIn profile as "Marketing-company entrepreneur, humorist, editorial writer and speaker." Although not an Actors' Equity member, he has deep auditioning experience. He estimated he's auditioned about 200 times since his days at Fairview Elementary back in Missouri.

"I'm one of those weird people," he said. "I actually think the audition process is so interesting."

As he spoke, 24-year-old Khrystal Chamberlain of Fort Lauderdale was in the theater giving her audition. She'd spent a good chunk of the morning in a car being driven to the audition by her father, Fred, who had dropped her off at the theater and then gone in search of coffee for himself.

The stage is another home to Ms. Chamberlain.

"I think I started when I was 5," she said as she took a break from stretching in a hallway. Her passion is evident on



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Miami actor Michael Freshko waits his turn, top, and works his way through the audition, above.

a website called bigworldbigdreams.weebly.com, where she wrote the following:

"My name is Khristy Chamberlain and I am an actress, singer and dancer. This blog is my journey through the highs and lows of being a working actor."

The University of Central Florida theater major graduated in 2010 and from there went to work at the Forstburgh Playhouse in New York and on a national tour of "All Shook Up." She recently returned from working in South Korea and is now pursuing roles in places such as Naples.

"The goal is to get a job," Ms. Chamberlain said.

Shortly after the TheaterZone audition, she planned to go to New York City for two weeks to seek work there. "If I get a job on Broadway, that's awesome," she said. "I'll go wherever it takes me."

Another young actress from Florida's east coast was in the hallway at the G&L Theater the same time as Ms. Chamberlain.

Jessica Bircann of Miami couldn't stay in Naples long. She had to get back by 4 p.m. to report to her job as a waitress at a restaurant called The Dome.

Like Ms. Chamberlain, Ms. Bircann's theater quest has taken her far away from home. She appeared in "West Side Story" in the Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, N.Y., and in "Meet Me in St. Louis" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.Y. Her resume includes a role in "A Funny Thing..." earlier this year at the Riverside Theater in Vero Beach. She finished that run in the spring and the play is still fairly fresh in memory.

"I feel good," Ms. Bircann said before her TheatreZone audition.

Becca McCoy drove about three hours from her St. Petersburg home with her 4-year-old daughter, Nancy, and a friend, Rolando Ramos. The adults were there to audition. Nancy didn't know that morning, but her mom was planning to take her on a side trip, perhaps to The Naples Zoo.

First, though, mom had to walk in the theater and give it her best. The stage is familiar territory for Ms. McCoy.

On her website she describes herself as a "proud member of Actors' Equity Association." Her long list of credits

includes "The Pirates of Penzance" in Chicago and numerous regional theater productions in Florida, West Virginia, Indiana and South Carolina.

Another city? Another audition? Another stage?

"I take it in stride," Ms. McCoy said.

Curbing stage fright

Mr. Danni, Ms. Molnar and Mr. Fornara were waiting inside the theater doors. They know what it's like to be on the other side, however, and all three say they want to make the auditioning process as painless as possible for actors hoping for a part.

Ms. Molnar recalled her time in New York City going to auditions. Just the thought of doing it again sets her stress meter trembling. "I get terrified," she allowed. "Every time, no matter how many times I've done it."

She laughed. A few moments earlier she had said she likes her new role, watching auditions and casting parts instead of doing them herself and hoping against hope for a role.

"I like sitting here," Ms. Molnar said from a comfortable seat in the theater.

TheatreZone staff doesn't want its auditions to remind actors of the uncomfortable scene for Geoffrey Rush's character, Lionel Logue, in "The King's Speech." As a speech therapist in the film, he fails to impress the folks at a theater where he auditions and is set on his way without a glimmer of hope.

"Ninety-five percent of your auditions are like that," Ms. Molnar said. "They're cold. You get nothing. That's why a lot of people like coming here."

As she, her husband and Mr. Fornara chatted before tryouts began, the name of one-time Tampa Bay Bucs coach John McKay, an acerbic and witty fellow, was brought into the discussion.

Football teams don't have auditions, but they do have tryouts and training camp. The Bucs once had a kicker who said he was nervous with Mr. McKay watching him in practice.

"I don't think he's got much a future here because I plan on going to all the games," Mr. McKay famously said.

Ms. Molnar said performers can't be like the kicker, nervous about the coach or director. And she doesn't want to make TheaterZone actors nervous.

in the know

- >> **What:** TheatreZone's eighth season
- >> **Where:** G&L Theatre at The Community School
- >> **Nov. 29-Dec. 9:** "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to The Forum"
- >> **Jan. 10-20:** "Grand Hotel: The Musical"
- >> **March 7-17:** "Next to Normal"
- >> **May 2-12:** "The Shade"
- >> **Tickets:** \$43-\$48 (subscription packages and group rates available)
- >> **Info:** (888) 966-3352 or www.theatrezone-florida.com

They also don't want to keep actors waiting and waiting and waiting to learn if they were selected.

"When we lived in New York and Karen was auditioning, a lot some times you sit there and after a while you go, 'Whoa, I guess I didn't get that,'" Mr. Danni said. "People who have not gotten (a role), I send them an e-mail. Thank you very much. You're very talented, but we don't have anything."

He and others in the decision-making seats at TheaterZone look for more than just talent, however.

"People have to have their head on straight," he said. "They have to be good to work with. We try to get a sense of their personalities. We only have 10 rehearsals for each show, so it has to be a group of people that feels safe with each other."

Mr. Fornara, the accompanist, also offers advice for actors who plan to sing.

"I know a lot of songs, but if you bring me something crazy in the key of F sharp major, I feel bad for messing it up," he said. "I'm not the greatest sight reader in the world, but I'm a pretty good audition pianist. But I've been brought music I can't decipher."

Those on stage and those sitting and taking notes during an audition all know one immutable and everlasting fact.



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Mark Danni likes what he sees (and hears).

"People in this business," Mr. Danni said, "get rejected more than they get accepted."

Sally Ann Swarm's list of theater credits is very long, and she knows the business. She was in "Camelot" on Broadway in 1980. She was with a national touring company of "The Phantom of the Opera" in 2010.

On that recent Saturday, her travels brought her to Naples and yet another audition.

"I gave it my best," Ms. Swarm said after her 10 minutes in the theater. "One never knows."

On the Monday after the auditions wrapped up, Mr. Danni's work wasn't done.

"Now we have to put the puzzle together," he said.

The puzzle will be the casts of the shows of the eighth season of TheatreZone. ■