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## Friends and Neighbors by Chris Mayo: Special needs kids get a special day

BY CHRIS MAYO

Mascots Jobie and Billy the Marlin helped recently greet more than 800 special needs students from all over Miami-Dade county at the ultimate field trip, the annual Jobie's Fun Day.

Chaired by **Nancy Little**, the event featured face painting, games, a bounce house and carnival food, including cotton candy. Representatives from the Coral Gables Police and Fire departments helped out and the students were treated to a canine demonstration.

The Girl Scout Council, and its program director **Nydia Gonzalez**, provided the field trip site in South Dade. The event was hosted by the Junior Orange Bowl Committee and its many supporters including Miami Children's Hospital, the Kiwanis Club of Miami and the GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club. Among the volunteers were **Dr. Carol Morris**, who is Little's daughter, and **George Cadman**, of ERA Real Estate.

The Woman's Club made a last minute donation of \$1,000 to support the special day. Club representatives president **Pam Schaefer** and member **Gloria Burns** also joined in the festivities. For more on Junior Orange Bowl events and programs, visit [jrorangebowl.com](http://jrorangebowl.com) or call 305-662-1210.

### JAM SESSION

Join the show or be part of the audience at AMJAM starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Arts & Minds Center, 3138 Commodore Plaza in Coconut Grove.

All artists, musicians, poets, rappers, singers, dancers, dramatic and comedy stand-ups and visual artists are invited to participate. Students and professionals can be part of the happening.

The event started as part of the education program at the Academy of Arts & Minds High School at the center. It is now a forum for expression for all talented persons throughout the community. There are only two rules. You have to be good at what you do, and you have to be ready when your turn is called. Student performers start at 7:30 p.m. and professionals start at 9 p.m.

Some of the jammers at the March event included: Cystem 32 from A&M High; the Voice and Safiok Brains; Flamenco musicians **Andy Gonzalez** and **Jorge Polanco**; the Slay Jazz Quintet with **Jan Espera**, **David Kinsey**, **Aki Mendez**, **Monroe Getz** and **Ian Slay**; the A&M Afro Cuban Percussion Team with **Sebastian "Seabass" Delgado**, Getz and Polanco; and a jazz combo with **Abraham Mendez** on sax, **J.P. Aller** on bass, and Kinsey and **Juan Turros** on clarinet. Daytrip, with **Alex Castro**, **Mauricio Viladegut**, **Dave Martinez** and **Anthony Otero** finished the amateur sets.

The JT4 with **Marcel Salas** on bass guitar, **Max Farber** on piano, **Fabio Patiño** on the drums and led by **Juan Turros** on sax jammed until midnight. For information, contact Turros at 786-357-7447.

### DANCE FESTIVAL

Momentum Dance Company will perform as part of the Miami Dance Festival at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Manuel Arttime Theater, 100 SW First St. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$20 the day of show. Students and seniors are \$8.

Momentum will present a diverse program of new and historic works. Artistic Director **Delma Iles** will premiere a new satirical work inspired by the current economic crisis. The program also includes Iles' meditative work *Mandala* with its lighting design by **Bruce Brown**. Also scheduled is **Anna Sokolow's** historic 1985 lyrical work *Poems of Scriabin*, created for Momentum by the modern dance genius during a visit to Miami. Former soloist **Odman Felix's** *Harum* is on the program as well.

There is limited free parking at the rear of the theater. For tickets and information on this and other festival events, visit [momentumdance.com](http://momentumdance.com) or call 305-858-7002. The festival starts Wednesday and runs through May 9.

### SENIOR LUNCHEON

More than 200 seniors gathered at the City of Coral Gables' Senior Citizens Advisory Board's annual luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel to hear guest speaker **E. Doug Beach**, secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

The event was sponsored by the Bank of Coral Gables. Many active seniors were recognized for giving their time to the community. Among those attending the luncheon were **Dr. William Schiff**, a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board; **Catherine "Kay" Faringer**, vice chair of the board; and **Terry Best**, president and CEO of the Bank of Coral Gables.

### MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

Follow the balloons to "Strings and Things, Around the World with Music" for the 4 p.m. performance for children, Saturday at Gusman Concert Hall, Frost School of Music, University of Miami, 1314 Miller Dr.

Sponsored in association with WLRN Radio and TV, and BankAtlantic, the afternoon will feature The Cleveland Duo, **Carolyn Gadiel Warner** at piano and violinist **Steven Warner**, along with **James Umble**, soprano and alto saxophone.

There will be a special guest appearance by **Michael Eschmann**, 10-year-old violinist who will collaborate with The Cleveland Duo in selections by Bach and Vivaldi.

Come early to play the musical string instruments. Instructors from the Allegro Music Center of Coral Gables will help the children. Peter-the-Mime/Clown will entertain until the performance begins and will host the apple juice, balloons and cookie party following the one-hour concert.

Tickets are \$10 for children and \$12 for adults and may be purchased at [sundaymusicals.org](http://sundaymusicals.org); Heritage House, 12105 S. Dixie Hwy.; or Allegro Music Center, 4537 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

If you have news for this column, please send it to Chris Mayo, Friends and Neighbors, Neighbors, 7300 N. Kendall Dr., Suite 200, Miami, FL 33156, or fax to 305-671-4350. Pictures cannot be returned. If you have questions, call Chris Mayo at 305-671-4341 and leave a message. Her e-mail address is [ChristinaMayo05@aol.com](mailto:ChristinaMayo05@aol.com).

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