

# Bidding Farewell to 2023

## Headlines from The Reef

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### Ocean Reef Club Forges 2nd Partnership with Coral Restoration Foundation January 20

In 2015, the Club committed to a groundbreaking five-year collaboration with CRF to bring Carysfort Reef, one of the world's most iconic reefs that lies just five miles from Ocean Reef's shore, back to life. Called "Carysfort 2020", the goal was to outplant 30,000 corals at Carysfort Reef over the span of five years. By 2020's end the goal was exceeded with 35,108 corals being outplanted, effectively saving Carysfort Reef from extinction. Recognizing how important it is to Club Members to preserve and enhance the environment for many future generations to enjoy is why the Club partnered with CRF back in 2015, and coupled with the tremendous success, why the Club Board agreed to do so again.

### 50 Years of Member-Guest Tennis January 27

2023 marked some significant Ocean Reef Club milestones – namely reaching 75 years as a Club and 30 as Member-owned. Additionally, one of Ocean Reef Club's oldest and fondest traditions, the Member-Guest Tennis Tournament, also celebrated a historic 50th anniversary. Tennis has been a notable thread in the fabric of the Ocean Reef Community ever since the first court was built in 1955, and for the past 50 years, the Member-Guest Tennis Tournament has been the Tennis season highlight. Founded in 1973 by **Bob Ecuyer**, Ocean Reef Club's Director of Tennis at the time, and the late **Dick Garbisch**, the Member-Guest Tennis Tournament continues to be a great success.

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**Burgee Jubilee**

Ocean Reef's oldest neighborhood, Villa Cay, since 1983. Read all about it on page 13.

Helen and Pat Burns, since 2013.

Carla Gomez, Gerald Gomez, Cecilia Fernandez, Tom Davidson, Bill Legg, Adelaide Shephard, Alan Goldstein, Dede Nutt, Janis Sims, Bill Nutt, Nelson Sims, Gus Hillenbrand and Nancy Hillenbrand, since the 70s, 80s and 90s!

The Cruise Show represented in the grand finale for the second year in a row.

The Wade family, since 1988.

Becky Dickinson, since 1975, and Everten Barling.

Lisa and Tom DeNooyer, since 2021.

**REMINDER: UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS**

If your mailing address is going to change for the summer, you can update it online by visiting [oceanreef.com/Member](http://oceanreef.com/Member) and click Update Profile under your name, or by calling Membership at 305-367-5921.

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**OCEAN REEF CLUB**  
75th ANNIVERSARY  
MEMBER OWNED SINCE 1948

**ROCK THE BLOCK PARTIES**

MARINA DOCKS

HALFWAY ROAD TRIANGLE

SUNRISE CAY

BAY RIDGE AREA/KNOX LANE

CHANNEL CAY ROAD

SNAPPER POINT AREA

121 MARINA

SUNSET CAY ROAD

### Bob Toski Ocean Reef's First Director of Golf February 3

Bob Toski's love affair with Ocean Reef has not wavered as evidenced by his visit to Ocean Reef this past February. It is an annual trip the now 96-year-old Toski makes, arranged by long-time friend **Lida Tingley**. (Mrs. Tingley started her Ocean Reef journey as the Golf Hostess in the 1960s and now enjoys the Club as a Member).

While here, Mr. Toski sat for brunch at the Grill Room, caught up with Sonny Vasquez (who also worked here during his tenure) and Mike Leone, visited Card Sound Golf Club and the staff, and then ventured over to the Ocean Reef Museum. It is at the Museum where Mr. Toski beamed with pride and perhaps some astonishment saying, "It is wonderful to live long enough to see yourself in a museum."

### Best Sellers February 10

**Terry Baxter** thoroughly enjoys "reviewing" the Ocean Reef culinary scene for the ORP, but as he admitted it is from his vantage point. So, he asked Chris Patterson, Executive Director of Food

& Beverage, to help gather some of the "facts" on Member favorites. Scouring the records for the most popular dishes in each of the venues based on actual orders, Terry revealed "that if Ocean Reef were a country, the national dish would be... a cheeseburger! Oh, and the favorite order from Reef Eats? You guessed it – a **cheeseburger**. Jimmy Buffet would be proud." And that's a fact.

### "It's \$58 million, take it or leave it."

#### March 3

Those were the words spoken in 1992 to the co-chairs of the Ocean Reef Acquisition Committee, **Tom Davidson** and **Bob Kilby**, who were negotiating the sale of Ocean Reef on behalf of the membership. They had ninety days to raise the money.

On March 3, 1993 the chapel bells rang out to let the property owners know they were now the proud owners of the new Ocean Reef Club. This historic moment heralding Member ownership continues to be celebrated through Club events year after year.

### Get Ready to Rock the Block! March 10

The concept for Rock the Block was born out of the original 1993 buyout

celebration when "a series of cocktail parties held in the different neighborhoods kicked off the celebration, followed by a mile-long parade in which every neighborhood participated. Replicated in 2023 with "Rock the Block Parties" throughout the community, they brought neighbors together in celebration of the anniversary much like was done 30 years before.

### All Charities Does It Again ("Thank You, Ocean Reef!")

#### March 31

It was **another record year for All Charities** resulting in the largest distribution to date to each of the not-for-profit recipient partners at Ocean Reef [Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association]. And, with the addition of some singular donations to the Community Grants Fund to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, the Foundation also made its largest Community Grants distribution – over \$2,000,000 – to more organizations in Florida City, Homestead and in the Upper Keys than ever! Indeed, Thank You Ocean Reef.