

YOUR CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

3 TO SEE

Schedule your season – with our help

There's always something to do in The Palm Beaches! That's why every week, the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County helps you with three ideas – one that's free, one that's affordable and one that's a splurge. Your events curator is the Cultural Concierge, a free service that provides customized cultural recommendations and more at palmbeachculture.com/concierge.

COMING TOMORROW: THE TO DO LIST

Your guide to weekend fun



The work "Maria de Medici (1540-1557)" was created by Isabelle de Borchgrave in 2007. A selection of De Borchgrave's paper fashion sculptures are on display at The Society of the Four Arts through April 15. CONTRIBUTED

DEAL Fashionable painted paper in Palm Beach

It's easy to say "yes!" to decadent paper dress and costume sculptures when they're so intricately designed and constructed by Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave. Her creations dot the interior of The Society of the Four Arts' Esther B. O'Keefe Gallery for an exhibition titled "Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning

Art from Paper," on display through April 15. The level of detail behind each sculpture is mind-boggling, which makes this show a must-see for any fan of fashion and design.

"Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art from Paper": On display through April 15. \$5. The Society of the Four Arts, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Info: 561-655-7226 or www.fourarts.org



Vanessa Perez (from left), Bill Murray, Jan Vogler and Mira Wang come together for a music and spoken word performance titled "New Worlds", which they will perform on Friday as part of the Festival of the Arts BOCA. CONTRIBUTED BY PETER RIGAUD

SPLURGE Festival of the Arts BOCA

In what sort of alternate dimension do we get to see the likes of T Bone Burnett, Bill Murray and E.T., all in one weekend? Festival of the Arts BOCA is turning up the heat

this year and bringing some incredible talent to Mizner Park. This is the festival's second and final weekend, but what's left will delight just about any audience. Events include an Authors & Ideas lecture, featuring Burnett at 7 tonight; the "New Worlds"

music, poetry and prose performance with Murray narrating to the music of Jan Vogler and friends at 7:30 p.m. Friday; and a screening of Spielberg classic, "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," with a live orchestra accompaniment from The Symphonia

at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Festival of the Arts BOCA: Tonight through Sunday. Ticket prices vary for each event. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Info: 866-571-2787 or www.festivaloftheartsboca.org

FREE Art among the elements

When you're already surrounded by pristine beaches, natural wildlife and perfect weather, it's not much of a stretch to grab a paintbrush and start going at it. When it comes to plein air painting, artists take their palettes outside of the studio and capture their environment as closely as possible. Starting this Saturday, take the opportunity to visit any of the artists participating in the fifth annual Plein Air Festival throughout Palm Beach and Martin counties, a juried exhibition and event held by Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta. Whether you see the beginning, the middle, or the end – it's a fascinating process!

Fifth Annual Plein Air Festival: Starts Saturday



Take a deep breath and enjoy the arts outside for the Plein Air Festival starting Saturday across Palm Beach and Martin counties. CONTRIBUTED

and runs through March 11. Multiple events and loca-

tions throughout Palm Beach and Martin coun-

ties. Info: 561-748-7014 or www.lighthousearts.org

PETS

Program allows dogs in some Disney World resorts

By Jen A. Miller
Special to The Washington Post

At sunset on a warm January evening, I walked my dog along the edge of a man-made lake at Walt Disney World's Art of Animation Resort. She sniffed the grass and marked her territory while I kept my eye out for alligators and staffers' ubiquitous golf carts hauling guests' luggage to and from their rooms.

Six months ago, this would have been impossible. Annie Oakley Tater Tot is not a service dog. She's my pet, and for the first time, my room could be her room while I visited the Magic Kingdom.

In September, Walt Disney World allowed guests evacuating inland from Hurricane Irma to bring their pets with them. That experience prompted the company, which has 28,000 rooms at its Florida location, to pilot a one-year program that designates as dog-friendly 250 rooms at four properties. Resort rooms at the Art of Animation, Port Orleans – Riverside, Fort Wilderness (in the cabins) and Yacht Club that host canine guests are given the same cleaning provided for rooms occupied by service animals, a company spokesperson said.

If anything, Disney is somewhat late on accommodating pet owners. Thirty-seven percent of them travel with their companions, up from 19 percent from a decade ago, according to the American Pet Products Association, and more than half of

U.S. hotels are already pet-friendly, according to the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

"We've been around for almost 12 years, and pet travel is certainly much easier today than it was a decade ago," said Jason Halliburton, chief operating officer of Bring Fido, a website and app that pairs dog owners with dog-friendly activities, events, parks, restaurants and hotels. His wife, Melissa Halliburton, started the website to help people find places to bring their pets while traveling. (It's a good one, too; I've driven about 10,000 miles with my dog and use it wherever we go.)

While our grandparents may have had a dog that they kept outside, he added, "Millennials have grown up with pets inside their homes, so their first pets are also going to be considered part of the family, and people want to travel with their family members."

The most dog-friendly accommodations are budget hotels, 70 percent of which are pet friendly, the American Hotel & Lodging Association says. (That number is bolstered by chains such as La Quinta Inn and Red Roof Inn that, with few exceptions, allow pets.) But luxury hotels aren't far behind, with 43 percent of them being pet-friendly. Many now go above and beyond in offering amenities for pups.

In November, Hilton announced its new "Paws in the Neighborhood" program, which is piloted at the



The author's dog, Annie Oakley Tater Tot, prepares for a snooze in a "Little Mermaid"-themed bed at Walt Disney World's Art of Animation resort in Florida. JEN A. MILLER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Canopy by Hilton location in Washington, and partners with Planet Dog to provide pet toys, treats, poop bags, a dog guide to the neighborhood, and even leashes and collars.

Hotel Nikko San Francisco has had a "canine operating officer" since 2015, and offers a \$50 pet package that includes a plush bed, a food and water bowl, and a grass run on the roof.

The Hotel Pennsylvania in Manhattan is pet friendly year round (with "pet" having a wide definition as it has, at least once, hosted a guest who brought bats) but has a doggy concierge for the Westminster Kennel Club dog show who arranges for rooms big enough to accommodate dogs, canine spa treatments and shuttle runs to and from the nearby judg-

ing locations.

Disney may not have a dog shuttle, but at check-in, I was given a "Pluto Welcome Kit," which included a new food and water bowl, a place mat, a roll of pickup bags and a scarf for Annie. None of it was Disney-branded, though – if I wanted that, I could buy a leash, collar, bowls, or Minnie Mouse dress and ears from the Disney Tails collection, which is sold in a handful of locations around the property, including in Art of Animation's lobby and at the Emporium in the Magic Kingdom. (Because I'm a sucker, Annie now sports a Mickey Mouse collar. Cost: \$14.99.)

Disney's pilot program will run through October. There are some limits and additional costs. While Disney doesn't set weight limits

for canine guests, only two dogs are allowed per room.

Dogs cannot be left unaccompanied for more than seven hours, and guests are expected to come back to their rooms if their dog is barking or otherwise being disruptive. You should be prepared to show your dog's vaccination records, too.

And you'll pay extra: \$50 more per night at Art of Animation, Port Orleans – Riverside, and Fort Wilderness resorts. At Yacht Club Resort, it's \$75 more.

Annie and I experienced only one hiccup: After making my room reservation online, I called to make sure that it included the notation that I was bringing my dog. But when I checked in at Art of Animation, Annie wasn't on my reservation. Fortunately, they still had a dog room open, but I stayed on a weekday in January. If I were coming with Annie during a busier time of year, I would make sure to call before check-in to make absolutely sure she was on my reservation.

Bringing Annie along cost more than that extra Disney fee: I opted to leave her at Best Friends Pet Care while I was in the Magic Kingdom. It's a 27,000-square-foot facility on Disney property (about an eight-minute drive from the parks) that takes care of dogs, cats and what it calls "pocket pets" – animals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and ferrets. The company has partnered with Walt Disney World for more than a decade and once was

guests' only option if they traveled with pets.

For dogs, Best Friends offers overnight boarding (ranging from a 4-by-7-foot, climate-controlled space to a 16-by-9-foot VIP luxury suite with a platform bed and flat-screen TV), doggy day care and grooming. I opted for grooming and daytime boarding for Annie, which included one walk; I added an extra walk and one-on-one playtime.

My park ticket for the day cost \$107. (The price for that type of ticket has risen to \$109.) Annie's day at Best Friends cost \$78, which included a tip for her groomer. Best Friends is open one hour before and one hour after the last Disney park closes. When I picked Annie up at the end of my long day, she bounded out to greet me and then slept for the next 16 hours, also exhausted by her day of play.

While Best Friends is on Disney grounds, it doesn't offer any pet services at the resorts themselves, such as coming to your room to walk your dog, though it does offer discounts if you and your dog are staying with Disney.

As I walked Annie along the lake that evening, the only surprise more palpable than hers (at the resort's golf carts) was that of other visitors (at the fact that I was walking a dog on Disney property). If this policy continues after the pilot program ends, expect that to change – and for Annie and I to come back soon for another magical stay.