



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Miami Film Festival entry features Miami Lighthouse Students

We are thrilled to share that *[Stories From The Lighthouse](#)*, a documentary featuring three inspiring Miami Lighthouse students, will be screened as part of the Miami Film Festival. This captivating documentary follows the journeys of these young individuals as they navigate the challenges on the road to adulthood while living with visual impairments. Demonstrating their resilience, grit, and humor, the film offers a profound insight into the obstacles faced by the blind and visually impaired. *[Stories From The Lighthouse](#)* adds to the impressive body of work of its director, Deborah Dickson, a three-time Academy Award nominee and acclaimed non-fiction filmmaker with over thirty documentary films. Her films have premiered at many renowned film festivals, including Sundance and Berlin, and earned prestigious awards such as Emmys, the DuPont-Columbia Award, Peabody Award and Ace awards.

[Stories From The Lighthouse](#) will be screened on Thursday, April 11th at 7:30PM at Regal South Beach. To purchase tickets and to watch the trailer [click here](#).

[Purchase Tickets to Stories From The Lighthouse](#)

Miami Dade College's 41st Annual

MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL



You are invited to a Special Screening of
Stories From The Lighthouse

Thursday, April 11th at 7:30 pm

Regal South Beach

1120 Lincoln Road

Miami Beach, FL 33139

Stories From The Lighthouse is a documentary about three young people in Miami on the road to adulthood navigating the challenges facing the blind and visually impaired.

Directed by three-time Academy Award nominee, documentary film maker Deborah Dickson



Stories From The Lighthouse Invitation

Vote for Papi the Peacock in honor of Earth Day

We are excited to announce that our Miami Lighthouse Academy has made the TOP 10 FINALISTS in the [Channel 10 EARTH DAY Contest](#) with our student made sculpture, "Papi the Repurposed Peacock".

VOTE TODAY and everyday thru April 7th to help our Miami Lighthouse Academy have the chance to win \$4,500 to purchase art supplies. The winning school is solely picked by the number of votes the art piece receives. We are counting on you to help us win!

[Vote for "Papi the Repurposed Peacock"](#)



Papi the Peacock, brimming with pride, struts his repurposed and recycled materials, aiming to promote a more eco-friendly environment in celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd. Papi is a 5' x 6' sculpture made of recycled tissue paper, yarn, beach ball, pool floater tube, paper, peacock feathers, plastic and Styrofoam.

Consul General of Japan visits Miami Lighthouse

Miami's Consul General of Japan, Kazuhiro Nakai, along with Miami Lighthouse Board Director Rodrick Miller toured our facility and witnessed firsthand how we transform the lives of blind babies to seniors. Our Social Group Activities Program presented a special Japanese Flag on canvas with Braille, spelling out 'Japan' and Board Director Miller performed on piano with our Music Instructor Oman Pedreira.

We thank Consul General of Japan, Kazuhiro Nakai, and attaché Kenichiro Irisawa for taking the time to visit with us.



Miami Lighthouse Board Director Rodrick Miller, CEO Virginia Jacko and Consul General of Japan Kazuhiro Nakai

Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami

★ CELEBRATING 32 YEARS ★

Providing over 200,000 comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to underserved school children since 1992

Music Under The Stars
Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

benefiting our
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
A Division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Help support our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program as we celebrate our 32nd anniversary of providing comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to underprivileged schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida.

Are you ready to be serenaded by Miami Lighthouse's award winning musicians while enjoying delectable culinary treats? If so, you will not want to miss our 17th Annual Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami on Wednesday, May 8th from 6:00PM-9:00PM at Miami Lighthouse (601 SW 8th Ave.)

[Purchase Tickets to Music Under the Stars](#)



Music Under the Stars
Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



at Miami Lighthouse
Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus
601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130

Honoring

Dr. Jose L. Dotres

Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Recognizing Our Florida State Government Champions

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Senator Bryan Avila,

Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera

and Representative David Borrero

Special Memorial Tribute to Dr. Murray Heiken

Emcee

Olga Villaverde, TV Host / *The Balancing Act* and *The Health Channel*

Featuring

The sensational sounds of our very own award-winning
Miami Lighthouse Band with special guest performances by
Miami Lighthouse Board Director **Rodrick Miller, CEO The Beacon Council**
and **Norby Rudel, President Rotary Club of Miami**

Complimentary Valet Parking in our Adjacent Garage

Entrance on SW 8th Avenue, just north of SW 7th Street

Please contact Cameron Sisser at 786.362.7515 or
cssisser@miamilighthouse.org for additional information.

The event honors Dr. Jose L. Dotres, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, for his leadership and partnership with Miami Lighthouse. Each year M-DCPS schoolchildren who fail their school vision screening are referred to our Heiken Program which provides a comprehensive eye exam and prescription glasses when prescribed at no cost to the child. With Superintendent Dotres collaboration, our Early Learning and Early Elementary School students register each year through M-DCPS in our Miami Lighthouse Academy and a new collaboration, Blind Soccer, demonstrates his commitment to inclusion.

We will also be recognizing Our Florida State Government Champions: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Senator Bryan Avila, Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera and Representative David Borrero. There will be a Special Memorial Tribute to Dr. Murray Heiken and the event will be Emceed by Olga Villaverde, TV Host of *The Health Channel* and *The Balancing Act*.

The event also features the sensational sounds of our very own award-winning Miami Lighthouse Band with special guest performances by Miami Lighthouse Board Director Rodrick Miller, CEO The Beacon Council and Norby Rudel, President Rotary Club of Miami.

★ *Our Generous Sponsors*



Our Generous Restaurant and Beverage Sponsors ★



We Express Appreciation to Our Annual Supporters



Our generous sponsors include ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, FP&L, Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Bizitss, BrightStar Care, Choice Waste, Grove Bank & Trust, Rotary Club of Miami, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Community Newspapers, Monster Sound Productions, Biz Solutions, Susan Conroy Design, Perry Ellis International, Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., and more.

Our fabulous restaurant and beverage sponsors include Knights of Columbus providing Paella Campesina, Perricone's, Flannigan's, Season's 52, Roaster's and Toaster's, Sport's Grill, El Carajo, Vicky Bakery, E11even Vodka, Eagle Brands and more.

Miami Lighthouse welcomes new Guide Dog Sama



CEO Virginia Jacko walks with new guide dog Sama

The entire staff of Miami Lighthouse recently welcomed Sama, CEO Virginia Jacko's amazing new Guide Dog. Sama, much like all of Virginia's incredible guide dogs, was raised by Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB). Guide dogs train for two years, then are allowed to work as guides for seven years before they must be retired.

Sama, a magnificent black lab with a wonderful calm temperament, hears Virginia say "let's go" and she is ready for work. According to Virginia, Sama rests under her desk at Miami Lighthouse as she has been taught "office training" by Dave Hagemann, the GEB's Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. At a recent Comcast luncheon to meet the U.S. Commissioner of the FCC, Sama was a perfect guest, never sniffing, staying calmly at Virginia's side, ready to go when she hears the command.

Virginia thanks the entire GEB team for her gift of mobility. "Sama's ability to guide me through doorways, to find the elevator, to safely get me around obstacles, as well as the love she gives me, comes directly from the training by the GEB team, particularly Puppy Raiser Jane Santy and her husband Tony.

In the News:

- [7 NEWS WSVN, March 21, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired holds annual Beeping Easter Egg Hunt"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, March 19, 2024 – "MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND TO HOST ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRADITION WITH BEEPING EASTER EGG HUNT ON MARCH 21"](#)
- [WPLG Local 10, March 8, 2024 – "Blind soccer player shows talent, working to make USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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Vision Insights



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AS YOUR CHARITY ON FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER



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