

**PATTERSONS BOOST PRISM**

Author and his wife underwrite Dreyfoos School's showcase concert. **A2**



**SALVATION ARMY THROWS SNOW BALL**

The Breakers became an alpine forest for 46th annual holiday event. **A6**

# Palm Beach Daily News

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## Finance division wins award

Government Finance Officers Association recognizes department for financial reports.

By ELLIOTT WENZLER  
Daily News Staff Writer

While awards in budgets and financial reports might not sound thrilling to a layperson, recognition that only comes after meeting rigorous criteria and working through more than 100 pages of checklists is no small feat for the Town of Palm Beach's Finance Department.



**Struder**  
Director of Finance Department praises her staff.

This fall, for the 29th year in a row, the department was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for work on its comprehensive annual financial report. It also was recognized for its budget work for the 25th consecutive year.

The staff of about nine town employees works throughout the year striving to meet the standards set by the association, Finance Director Jane Struder said.

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## PLENTY OF POINSETTIAS



Melanie Bell / Daily News

Flowers of Worth Avenue employee Coleen Kennedy prepares for the day by watering and putting out the poinsettias in front of the shop on Thursday. Holiday shopping continues on the Avenue and elsewhere in town this week with Christmas drawing near.

## Suit filed over ring

Bill Koch's son, Wyatt, wants it back from his former fiancée.

By MATT MORGAN  
Daily News Staff Writer

Billionaire Bill Koch's son Wyatt is no longer engaged, and he wants the \$180,000 ring back from his ex-fiancée.

Lawyers filed a civil lawsuit on Wyatt Koch's behalf on Tuesday in an attempt to force Ivie Gabrielle Slocumb to return the expensive piece of jewelry.

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## Designer Jackie Rogers featured on HBO

Documentary about Italian industrialist Gianni Agnelli includes the interview of owner of a boutique in The Esplanade.

By ELLIOTT WENZLER  
Daily News Staff Writer

Palm Beach fashion designer Jackie Rogers will be featured tonight when a documentary about Italian industrialist and the head of Fiat Gianni Agnelli premieres on HBO.

Rogers, who was once a model and eventually the apprentice of Coco Chanel, was a longtime friend and confidante of Agnelli and is one of nearly 40 of his close friends and family members interviewed in the film, called *Agnelli*. Others interviewed include Henry Kissinger and Roger Cohen. A young Agnelli noticed Rogers while she

was modeling for Chanel in the South of France, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

"Gianni Agnelli was the king of Italy and to be part of his inner circle was nothing short of spectacular," Rogers said in a news release.

Agnelli, a charismatic risk-taker, died in 2003 at 81 after leading and inspiring the company that his grandfather founded in Turin in 1899, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

"There's nobody around like him anymore," she says in the film, the *Journal* reported. "Because they're so involved with making money, they're boring

as hell. ... Gianni was funny and exciting. He was incredibly alive."

Rogers attended the documentary's exclusive screening at La Grenouille restaurant in New York on Dec. 5 along with historian and author Sally Bedell Smith and Italian photographer Priscilla Rattazzi, among others.

Rogers, who has a boutique in The Esplanade, celebrated her brand's 40th anniversary in March at Via Amore on Worth Avenue with a fashion show featuring clothes for day, evening

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Artist Gordon Cheung stands with Jacob van Walscapelle II.



Melanie Bell / Daily News

## OLD BECOMES NEW AGAIN

London artist Gordon Cheung's remix technique uses classic paintings as inspiration

By JAN SJOSTROM  
Daily News Arts Editor

Like many of us, artist Gordon Cheung was rocked by the 2008 recession.

"It was an apocalyptic time," he said. "All these big companies collapsed within a matter of weeks."

He wanted to know how such a thing could occur. His research led him to tulip mania, the world's first

economic bubble. Today's pundits are comparing bitcoin's rise to tulip mania.

During the 1630s in Holland, speculation in tulips drove prices so high that a single bulb sold for the cost of a luxury home. The market crashed in 1637, bringing down great fortunes.

For Cheung, a London resident of Chinese ancestry, flowers became the perfect metaphor for the recur-

rent boom and bust cycles of history.

Using digital photographs of 17th century Dutch still life paintings from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam as his source material, he applies an algorithm that enables him to manipulate the pixels into new compositions.

Twenty-seven of his still life re-

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### ROGERS

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and cocktail.

Two days after the pre-

miere of the documentary, she will open a new salon on Madison Avenue in New York.

Rogers plans to screen the documentary during

the salon's opening, from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

"He is deeply missed and I am proud to have been able to participate in this documentary,"

Rogers said.

The film will air at 8 to-night on HBO.

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Melanie Bell / Daily News

A visitor views the work of artist Gordon Cheung during his show, *New Order Vanitas*, at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach.

### CHEUNG

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mixes are on view in Gordon Cheung's *New Order Vanitas* at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach.

The 17th century is considered the golden age of Dutch still life painting. It also saw the rise of capitalism and the height of Dutch economic power, as colonies transferred exotic goods and wealth to the homeland.

In Cheung's works, which are titled with the Dutch painters' names, remnants of the paintings are discernible to varying degrees. But the imagery is mutated, blurred

and obscured. It's as though the paintings have been recast in wax and melted.

Some works come in pairs, showing two versions of the same painting. *Jan van Huysum I*, for example, looks as though flowers are sprouting from stalagmites in a cave, while *Jan van Huysum II* reconstructs the painting as a coral reef.

Jacob van Walscapelle I pulls flowers into elongated ruffles. Version II carves out the flowers and replaces them with golden light streaming through rocky openings. "What's important about the algorithm is that it doesn't destroy or erase the pixels," said Cheung, who was at the sculpture gardens recently for the show's opening. "It

simply reorders them. It's a way of suggesting that things have transmuted, but they're the same at the core."

*Vanitas* paintings incorporated symbols of the transience of life and the futility of pleasure, such as skulls, insects and chewed leaves. Conversely, they also portrayed items that were luxuries at the time, such as rare flowers, lemons and rich tapestries that trumpeted the wealth of the artists' patrons.

What they don't show is the dark side of colonialism — slave labor, the ransacking of resources and the guns that enforced Dutch dominance, costs Cheung implies by distorting the images.

"What's interesting about Dutch still lifes is

that they're so familiar that we think of them as benign — something you might see on a chocolate box," he said. "I like that because the narratives behind them are so powerful." The sculpture gardens' art committee discovered Cheung's work at Alan Cristea Gallery when consultant Susie Staikos led a tour last year of Art Basel in Miami Beach. "I thought these were something unusual that we should grab, because they weren't just pretty pictures," Staikos said. "They had more depth."

They're also affordably priced, an important consideration as the Ann Norton gets a percentage of sales.

— jsjostrom@pbdailynews.com

### AWARD

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"As a government (agency), you want to make sure you produce financial documents that are of the highest standard for yourself, for constituents and for rating agencies," Struder said. The financial reports and budgets give island residents a flavor of what the town does for them, she said.

"It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting

*The award for the financial report is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting.*

and financial reporting, according to the association. There is not a limit to how many departments across the country can receive the awards but in order to earn them, the departments' work must pass through a series of rigorous criteria and checklists.

These documents give the public an idea of how their government is running and where their tax dollars go, so if they are not clear or not completed correctly, the public can't easily get that information, Struder said.

"It's a level of transparency for the citizens," she

### HOLIDAY CALENDAR

## Hanukkah still being celebrated

Hanukkah, also known as the Feast of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem by the Jewish Maccabees after their victory over the ancient Syrian army. At the time, there was only a one-day supply of consecrated oil to light the temple's "eternal flame," but miraculously it managed to glow eight days.

**Today** — Women's Rosh Chodesh Society

Course, 10:15 a.m. to noon, Chabad of Northern Palm Beach Island, 3361 S. County Road. Call 561-420-5000, email info@palmbeachjewish.com or visit palmbeachjewish.com. RSVP: palmbeachjewish.com/rcs

**Tuesday** — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Chanukah at the Fountain, Memorial Fountain Park, 360 S. County Road. Musical entertainment by the Gyorgy Lakatos Band.

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