

WATER CROSSING

Ferries to the island were once all the rage

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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

Architect wins his second Schuler Award for home's design

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Palm Beach Daily News

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Boat show draws big crowds, sales



Visitors walk among the yachts at this year's Palm Beach International Boat Show. The event saw attendance jump more than 6.7 percent over last year, organizers said this week. [MELANIE BELL/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Four-day event was blessed with good weather

By Darrell Hofheinz
Daily News Staff Writer

Organizers of the Palm Beach International Boat Show have learned the hard way that rough weather can sink attendance at the annual springtime event quicker than a hole in a hull.

But that certainly wasn't the case at the 34th edition of the show, which wrapped up its four-day run March 31 in downtown West Palm

Beach. Sunny weather with only a rare rain shower helped keep the crowds cruising onto the South Flagler Drive waterfront.

The show, in fact, saw attendance jump more than 6.7 percent over last year, organizers said this week, although they didn't release specific gate figures.

Attendees — including those who traveled just across the bridge from Palm Beach — browsed yachts, boats, marine accessories and related merchandise worth a grand total of \$1.4 billion. That was the official dollar

figure in a prepared statement released this week to wrap up the event, which is owned by the Marine Industries Association of South Florida.

The show also saw 50 percent more ultra-luxury superyacht brands than in previous years, including vessels by Baglietto, Amels and Feadship, according to organizers. With its largest footprint ever, the show featured about 700 vessels docked in-water and a few hundred more displayed on land.

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Zhang charged with lying

Chinese woman arrested after gaining entrance to Mar-a-Lago

By Jane Musgrave
Daily News Staff Writer

A 33-year-old Chinese woman on Friday was indicted on charges of lying to get into Mar-a-Lago while President Donald Trump was visiting his Palm Beach estate last month.

The charges against Yujing Zhang, lying to a federal agent and unlawful entry into a restricted building, are the same ones that led to

Zhang's arrest on March 30. They carry a maximum five-year prison sentence.

While acknowledging they had found no evidence that Zhang was a spy for the Chinese government, at a hearing this week prosecutors indicated she might face additional charges when the evidence was presented to a grand jury.

Instead, the indictment repeats initial allegations made by Secret Service agents: "The defendant stated that she was there to attend a 'United Nations Friendship Event,' when in truth and in fact, as the defendant then

See ZHANG, A5



Zhang

Rosarians' got talent



ABOVE: Second-grade students Lilly Ivancevic, left, and Annabella Benneman perform a Hula Hoop act during Rosarian Academy's "Enchanted Showcase of Talent" on Friday at the school. AT LEFT: Fourth-grader Caden Perry entertains the crowd with his costume and dancing during the talent show. More than 40 students and several teachers performed in the show. [PHOTOS BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Ann Norton headed into Florida Artists Hall of Fame

Induction ceremony for renowned sculptor is in Tallahassee today

By Susan Salisbury
Special to the Daily News

Ann Weaver, a nationally known artist, arrived in the Palm Beach area in 1942, at age 37, to teach sculpture at the Norton Gallery and School of Art founded by Ralph Norton the previous year.

The sculptress — who married Norton in 1948 — would go on to create nine large-scale sculptures as tall as 28 feet where she lived and worked overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach. The brick and granite works grace the lush green jungle-like gardens of the former Norton home at 253 Barcelona Road in the historic El Cid neighborhood.

Now Ann Norton and

the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, an urban oasis she established as a non-profit foundation in 1977 before her death in 1982, are being given long-overdue recognition.

Norton will be inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame at a ceremony today in Tallahassee. Norton's artistic vision was shaped by Cubism and the Art Deco style and also by the architecture and sculpture of Romanesque

and Gothic churches that she studied on her trips to Europe, the Florida Secretary of State's office said in selecting her.

"I think it definitely should have happened a long time ago," said Cynthia Kanai, chief executive officer of the sculpture gardens. "She is a very significant artist. We are thrilled she is being

See NORTON, A3



Ann Norton in her studio at the Sculpture Gardens on Barcelona Road, circa 1962. See more photos at PalmBeachDailyNews.com

[COURTESY OF THE ANN NORTON SCULPTURE GARDENS]

NORTON

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recognized. Even from the very beginning of her being an artist, anyone who experienced the art she was producing knew she was a very forward-thinking sort of modern woman from Selma, Alabama.

"There were no barriers where she was concerned in terms of her art or the way she thought in terms of her legacy."

Established by the Florida Legislature in 1986, the Florida Artists Hall of Fame recognizes persons, living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the arts in Florida. More than 50 people have been honored including actor Burt Reynolds, writer Ernest Hemingway and artist Duane Hanson.

Another honor, the sculpture gardens' acceptance into the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was also recently announced.

Residents play big role

Kanai, board Chairwoman Frances Fisher, board chairman, and Director of Community Engagement Margaret Horgan will travel to Tallahassee to receive the Hall of Fame award on Norton's behalf.

Fisher, a Palm Beach resident, said, "Our board has had a top priority of raising visibility for Ann Norton's legacy to our community. This honor gives us an opportunity to not only celebrate who she was as an artist, but to begin to engage in a broader state, national and international conversation."

Fisher became involved with the gardens in 2014 when she was asked to help form the stewardship arm of the organization, the Gardens Conservancy. About half of the 50 or so volunteers, board and committee members are Palm Beach residents.

"I have always loved art and gardens. Like Ann Norton, I am a native Alabamian, and I grew up hearing stories. I am from Tuscaloosa. Ann was from Selma," Fisher said. "Her legacy lived there as well. She was regarded not only as a woman who made a remarkable contribution to the world of modern art, but as a forward-thinking independent female who left the comfort of her southern home to study and then, of course, pursue her interest in sculpting at such an interesting time."

Palm Beach resident Sally Soter, board vice chairwoman and head of the gardens' art committee, said, "It is exciting what has happened and how Ann Norton is being thought upon now, that she did something wonderful for this community."

Soter, who was on what is now the Norton Museum of Art's board for many years, said that Ann Norton also influenced Ralph Norton in his collecting.

Kanai said that from everything she has read, Norton was singularly focused on producing art.

"That was the thing she absolutely lived for. After Mr. Norton passed away, she did do some travel, but the travel connected to her art," Kanai said.

Norton's monumental sculptures reflect the places she traveled. For example, "Seven Beings" shows a Mayan influence in the faces and some Navajo Indian as well, Kanai said.

Kanai said that Norton didn't live to see the gardens, planted with



Ann Weaver Norton carving "Seven Beings" at the Sculpture Gardens on Barcelona Road circa 1964. [COURTESY OF THE ANN NORTON SCULPTURE GARDENS]



Guest services and education coordinator Nancy Jones greets visitors during the Earth Day activities in April 2018 at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. [RICHARD GRAULICH/DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO]

more than 250 rare palm species, cycads and unusual tropicals. Sir Peter Smithers, a world-renowned botanist and friend of Norton's, designed the gardens and selected the plants.

"She died in 1982. At that point it was her wish that the gardens be filled with plants that would allow a visitor to go through this jungle with a mixture of plants and come upon these huge sculptures," Kanai said.

"The purpose of the garden was to display her sculptures. She didn't want to plant anything that would distract from them, no brightly colored flowers."

Norton's studio, kept as close as possible to the way it was when she worked there, gives visitors a chance to see the breadth of Norton's work. About 100 smaller sculptures in wood, stone and bronze are displayed.

"You get the feeling she could walk in," Kanai said.

Historic places designation

The award bestowed by the National Trust for Historic Places occurred after the organization's director visited the gardens and fell in love with the house, the studio, the gardens and the combination of all of it in one place, Kanai said.

The gardens began the certification process for membership in the group that includes about 30 artists homes and studios nationwide. Membership in the prestigious group will give the Ann Norton the ability to share ideas on everything from preservation to programming, Kanai said.

"Inherently, the people involved here are passionate about the wonderful green space — two acres, sort of right on the Intracoastal Waterway. There is so much incredible building around us in the downtown and everywhere along the Flagler corridor here. We believe that this wonderful urban sanctuary is going to be more important than ever as time goes by," Kanai said.

About 20,000 people visit the sculpture gardens each year, including 5,000 Title I students for educational programming. Last year the pathways became wheelchair-friendly and an outdoor classroom was built.

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