



TOUCAN TALK

A Trip To The Zoo That Comes To You!



\$2

Three tips for a longer life: eat well, exercise regularly and live at Metrozoo! Did you know that several of our animals have broken longevity records for their species in captivity? South Florida would seem to be as favorable a setting for senior animals as it is for senior citizens.

Take "Fang" — a white-handed gibbon. He was born on April 16, 1956. Nine years later, he arrived at Crandon Park Zoo. Today, he swings from branch to branch at Metrozoo and his distinctive whooping call is as strong as ever. Fang now holds the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) longevity record for gibbons in North American zoos. At 38, his age has surpassed by almost a decade the wild gibbons' life expectancy of 24 to 30 years.

According to General Curator Bill Zeigler, life expectancies can vary greatly between wild and captive animals of the same species. Zoo animals may tend to live longer because, compared to wild animals, they live a more leisurely life.

At Metrozoo, the animals are fed a balanced diet prepared by Patty Leon-Singer, John Hale, and Freddie Cohen in the zoo kitchen. The animals are skillfully attended by dedicated keepers who work diligently to assure their health and safety. Keepers develop very close relationships with their animals and can assess their health status by subtle changes in behavior or eating pattern. Comprehensive veterinary care, for prevention as well as treatment of illnesses, is provided by Dr. Chriss Miller and her staff, who work with animals in the paddocks and at the Christopher A. Weeks Animal Clinic.

In Metrozoo's African plains, you can see another of our elder specimens. Among our growing herd of reticulated giraffes (including three youngsters born this year), you will notice a stately female whose markings are not as bright as the other giraffes', and whose hide is a bit wrinkled. Her name is "Sexta" and she was born in May, 1956. (continued on next page)



"Fang" is a record holder for gibbon longevity.

— photos this page by Alex Worden

2

On the cover, Mohan, an Indian rhino, turns 25 this June.

— cover photo by Alex Worden

Fit For Life At Metrozoo

(continued from the cover)

Sexta came to Crandon Park in 1958 when she was two. In 1981, when Crandon Park animals were transferred to this location, moving Sexta proved to be a real challenge. She was 22 years old and approximately 14 feet tall. So curators accompanied Sexta, riding in an open truck through the Miami streets. At every traffic light or highway sign, they presented special treats so that she would lower her head, thus ducking under wires and overhangs.

At 38, Sexta is as strong as ever. Our male giraffe still finds her quite attractive and chases her around the exhibit, although she refuses to pay much attention to him.

It is impressive to realize that our older animals have experienced moving from Crandon Park in 1981, plus catastrophic natural events like Hurricane Andrew, with healthy spirits and bodies intact. This is a tribute to the

efforts of all our dedicated staff over the years as well as to the resilience of the animals and their adaptability to our climate.

Some of our other venerable old specimens (although not record-holders) are "Honey," a 28-year-old pygmy hippo; the appropriately named "Pops," our 24-year-old Grevy's zebra who has fathered 13 babies; and our Indian rhinoceros "Mohan," whose 25th birthday is coming up in June.

Animals don't show age gradually, like people do. They tend to develop observable signs of age very

late and then deteriorate rapidly. In the wild, overt signs of aging are a flag to predators. And this brings us to the last, and probably not least, factor in the longer life span of zoo animals: low stress. Not being the prey of a big cat does wonders for the blood pressure!

The next time you and your family visit the zoo, ask our volunteers or staff to introduce you to some of these long-lived Metrozoo residents. ■



Top: Sexta is our senior female reticulated giraffe.

Bottom: Pygmy hippo "Honey" is still feisty at 28.

As a father of 13, 24-year-old "Pops" is patriarch of our zebra herd.

There's A New Feline In Town

From head to toe, clouded leopards are among the most fascinating felines. Their scientific name, *Neofelis nebulosa*, refers to their large, irregular spots. Of the two broad categories of cats – those that purr and those that roar – clouded leopards are considered the bridge between the two groups and not a member of either. Relative to body size, they have the largest canine teeth of any cat. They have big, golden brown eyes, the better to see when hunting at night. With huge paws and a tail that's almost as long as their body, they are among the great arboreal acrobats, able to balance in the tree tops, walk upside down on the undersides of branches, or climb head-first down tree trunks.

Metrozoo now has two settings in which to observe clouded leopards. You can see demonstrations of the clouded leopard's amazing abilities in our Amphitheater programs. And you can witness clouded leopard family life in the Asian River Life exhibit.

"Iago," our new male, was born at the Buffalo Zoo. His mate, "Jazmin," was born at the Baton Rouge Zoo. Iago and Jazmin are what is called a "select pairing." This means their genetic background has been evaluated, and they are considered an ideal couple to breed so that genetic diversity of the species in captivity can be maintained. They were paired as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Metrozoo acquired the pair in March, 1993, when each was a year old. However, because of the damage caused by Hurricane



Metrozoo now has two settings for visitors to observe one of the most beautiful and least understood feline species. Clouded leopards are on display in the Asian River Life exhibit and visitors can also see them in Amphitheater programs. – photos this page by Alex Worden

Andrew, it was impossible to bring them to our facilities until February, 1994. Since it would have been very hard to pair them after they were one or one-and-a-half years old (there is a very strong possibility males will kill females unless they're introduced at a young age), the Baton Rouge Zoo agreed to pair them for us during our rebuilding.

When you come to the zoo, look for Iago in the Asian River Life exhibit. Jazmin remains behind the scenes. Why? She is pregnant with two kittens, and should be giving birth very soon.

Clouded leopards are native to the forests of Southeast Asia. They

are the least studied of the large cats, being very secretive and difficult to observe in the field. They were once thought to be almost exclusively arboreal, feeding largely on birds and attacking ground prey only from the branches of trees. It has been discovered that they are more terrestrial than previously thought and that they feed on monkeys, goats, deer and small rodents – even porcupines.

Like most exotic cats, clouded leopards are endangered. It's a privilege for us to be part of the captive breeding effort for this species. We hope to show you clouded leopard kittens on display in the very near future. ■



Black-necked swan

3

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

January 1- March 4, 1994

Reticulated giraffe
Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata
Female Jan. 3

Nile lechwe
Kobus megaceros
Sex undetermined Jan. 8

Nile lechwe
Kobus megaceros
Female Jan. 28

Nyala
Tragelaphus angasi
Female Feb. 2

Chimpanzee
Pan troglodytes
Male Mar. 13

Grevy's zebra
Equus grevyi
Male Mar. 21

Black-necked swan
Cygnus melanocoryphus
Female Jan. 2

Eastern leopard tortoise
Geochelone pardalis babcocki
Sexes undetermined
25 hatched Jan. 17-Feb 9.

ACQUISITIONS

3 Bengal tigers
Panthera tigris

2 Clouded leopards
Neofelis nebulosa

1 Greater kudu
Tragelaphus strepsiceros

1 Miniature donkey
Equus africanus

1 Vietnamese pot-bellied pig
Sus scrofa

Membership: What A Deal!

Our membership privileges extend far beyond free admission to Metrozoo. Present your membership card and receive:

- Free admission to over 150 zoos and aquariums across the U.S. and Canada.
- A 20% discount on admission to South Florida attractions including:

Center for the Fine Arts
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Gold Coast
Railroad Museum
Historical Museum
Miami Seaquarium
Miami Youth Museum
Museum of Science & Space Transit
Planetarium
Parrot Jungle & Gardens
Vizcaya

- A dollar off admission to Discovery Center

- 10% gift shop discounts at: Metrozoo
Parrot Jungle & Gardens

Share this bounty with a friend! Call us at 305-255-5551 and we'll tell you how you can give zoo membership as a gift.

PS: Keep an eye out for the "new look" on our membership materials. You're gonna love it!

Come On A Zoo

Spring Programs

Animal Mothers and Fathers

Take your parents to the zoo for Mother's and Father's Day! Participants in this class may drop by the classrooms to receive a special Zoofari Search Card with puzzles and games for families to do as they tour the zoo. You can also learn about expanding your zoological family through our Adopt-An-Animal Program.

For Families

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 8
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Father's Day
Sunday, June 19
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FREE for Members

Breakfast with the Beasts

The early bird gets the worm... so what do zoo members get? The return of an old favorite – Breakfast with the Beasts. A continental breakfast is followed by a special, behind-the-scenes look at animal diet preparation. A few animal guests may join us for breakfast. Finish off your morning adventure with a monorail ride over the zoo residents as they begin their day.

For Families

Session FAST-B:
Saturday, June 4
7:30 a.m.
Fee per person:
Member adult \$10;
Non-member adult \$15; child (12 and under) \$6

Educators Day at Metrozoo

Finish off the school year with a bang! Join us for this Saturday sampler of education programs for your school groups. Classroom educators will receive sample activity packets and special tips to make each field trip to

Metrozoo the best ever. Plan ahead for the fall and make your reservations for zoo classes, tours and out-reach programs.

For teachers

Saturday,
June 18
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FREE to pre-registered adults.

"It didn't seem long enough. My children really enjoyed themselves."

"My eight-year-old has attended zoo camp for the past several years and has told me that the program is 'perfect.'"



"Thank you for opening the zoo with 'camp' this summer. My son had a wonderful time, and he's looking forward to going again next year!"

"My son is a lover and enjoys... See you..."

Zoofari With Us

Summer Camps

Summer is almost here, and there's no better place to be than Metrozoo! Each Zoofari Camp includes activities, crafts, games and special animals to touch and visit. These programs fill up fast, so register early! Call 305-255-5551.

Kindercamp Ages 4 - 6

Created for the youngest campers with lots of songs, crafts and games to build appreciation for wildlife. Two different programs are offered, register for one or both!

Program I

Animal Crackers: How are animals different from each other and how are they similar?
9 a.m. - noon
June 20 - 24
June 27 - July 1
July 11 - 15

Program II

What's for Dinner?
What do animals eat and how do they catch or find food?
9 a.m. - noon
July 18 - 22, July 25 - 29
August 1 - 5

Fee per child: Member \$80 per week; Non-member \$95 per week.

Zoofari Adventure Camp Ages 7 - 10

Campers go behind the scenes and get close to some of our furry (and scaly) residents. Crafts and games develop understanding of our fragile Earth. Two different programs are offered, register for one or both!

Zoofari I

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
June 27 - July 1, July 11 - 15,
July 18 - 22

Zoofari II

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
July 25 - 29, August 1 - 5,
August 8 - 12

Fee per child:

Member \$125 per week;
Non-member \$145 per week.

ZooLife Ages 11 - 13

Campers discover the ins and outs of managing everything in the zoo, from snakes to people. Zoo Keepers and our staff veterinarian demonstrate animal management techniques and share first-hand knowledge and experience. Two different programs are offered, register for one or both!

Program I

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
August 8 - 12

Program II

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
August 15 - 19

Fee per child: Member \$125 per week; Non-member \$145 per week.

Teen Zoofari Ages 13-18

Teens can work in the Children's Zoo, assisting with summer programs and taking care of our classroom animals. This training camp makes teens eligible to join the exclusive and wild team. Those who successfully complete Teen Zoofari training may apply as volunteers to assist in the summer of '94.

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
June 20 - 24

Fee per child: Member \$125 per week; Non-member \$145 per week.

Flashlight Safaris Age 10 and up

Just for campers... a special treat to cap off your camp experience. A special Zoo Camp overnight. We'll do an evening craft, plus dinner, snacks and breakfast. An evening adventure you won't forget!

6:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Fridays: July 1, July 15,

July 29, August 12

Fee per child: Member \$20

Non-member \$25

F.I.U. At The Zoo

One of South Florida's most popular college courses has its first summer session this year. F.I.U. At The Zoo meets from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, May 10 through June 25. Dr. Ed Reichbach of Florida International University teaches teachers how to use the zoo as a resource for science education. F.I.U. At The Zoo provides three graduate credit hours, and teachers in any subject area can use the course for recertification. Contact Prof. Reichbach, 305-348-2561 for registration information.

5

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

I am a Member: Membership # _____ I am not a Member

For children's programs, complete the following:

Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Method of Payment (Please do not send cash.)

Check American Express MasterCard Visa

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Customer Signature: _____

Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee
TOTAL:			\$

Mail this completed order form with your payment to Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.

an avid animal
thoroughly
the camp.
next summer!

Applause! Applause!



Alan Lederman and Carolyn O'Connell of JoAnna's Marketplace joined dozens of area restaurateurs to make Feast With The Beasts the best party in town.

6

These generous businesses and individuals provided services and support for our best Feast With The Beasts ever. Help us say "thanks" by giving them your business whenever you can.

- Advantage Golf Carts
- Aerolíneas Argentinas
- American Express
- Jacques Auger Design Associates
- Arabesque
- Arthur's Paper House/Southern Paper
- Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company
- Beverage Canners
- Black Tie Formal Wear
- Broadcast Quality
- Blumberg Communications
- Charles Collins
- Colorprinting
- Crystal Water
- Curbside Florist
- Delta Air Lines, Inc.
- Designs By Sean
- DMCC Design Group
- Gaudino & Associates
- Gaviña Coffee Co.
- Gourmet Chandlery
- Groo Display
- Happy Balloons Courtesy of Carole Cotton
- Heritage House
- Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc.
- The House of Seagram
- K-Mart
- Los Ranchos Restaurants
- Love94 Radio
- L. Luria & Sons
- Mac Parking
- Mango Creek Nursery
- Master School of Bartending
- Mayor's Jewelers
- Miami Stage Lighting
- Music By Varon
- Power 96
- Publix Supermarkets
- Rex Art
- Ross Printing
- Ryder Truck Rental
- Scene Stealer Designs
- Swanson Printing
- Silver Eagle Distributors
- Sounds Great!
- Southern Wine & Spirits
- South Florida Business Journal
- Bob Soper
- Tech Air
- Thorp & Company
- The Paper House
- Urban Taylor & Associates
- Vivace Brass
- Wal-Mart
- Winn-Dixie Supermarkets

Feast Follow-Ups, Floods Of Funds, Fond Farewells

Well, my dears, I'm still a-flutter from "social"-izing at **Feast With The Beasts**. As you can see from the candid photos on this page, it was simply South Florida's best party!

March 4 was a magical evening; so well done it seemed as if it just *happened*. As if we said on the spur of the moment, "Say, let's do acres of fab decorations and lay out a sumptuous buffet for a thousand of our nearest and dearest!" and it just materialized effortlessly.

But of course, our dear Committee (superwomen all) began to plan this year's Feast the *very day after last year's event!* Chaired by **Mercedes Ferre and Jean Kislak**, the committee sold tickets, "egged" on the participating restaurants, festooned the zoo, even wrapped the Beastkeeper gifts! Then on the "day of," with everything ready to go, they vanished for an hour and returned in their glittering finery, as cool as cucumbers, to meet and greet our gorgeous guests. (Oh, how those dashing, distinguished gentlemen in black tie reminded me of a crowd I used to run with in Antarctica!)



Even with the preparations for Feast going full steam ahead, your able **Development Professionals** were flying about town, raising money. And the community really has been showing how much they love the zoo! In the first half of our fiscal year we received 2,300 gifts. That includes outright donations, "Walls of the Wild" and "Adopt-An-

Right: Frank Hawkins shares the stage with Jean-Michel Cousteau and Richard Leakey at the Down To Earth environmental summit.



Friendly service and great food from El Novillo at Feast



The eyes and ears of our Development Department, our inimitable "gossip" columnist, Sociable Plover.

Animal." Just about every zoo program or project has been enthusiastically supported. And what really makes us chirp is the fact that 20 percent of these gifts are from our wonderful members! You may recall our twittering in the last *Toucan Talk* about the "Go Hog Wild for Metrozoo" membership drive. Well, as we go to press we have welcomed 1,000 new members to our little flock.



Finally, a fond farewell to dear **Frank Hawkins**. In case you haven't heard, our former board president has left South Florida to find fame and fortune in Hong Kong. At his "bon voyage" we presented him with a darling rhino sculpture. (Rhinos were his favorite, you know). Like the rhinoceros, Frank is bold yet gentle, he leaves giant tracks for his successor to fill, and there are very few like him in the

world. (In fact, that's what we inscribed on his sculpture). Fortunately, our Immediate Past President, and now Interim President, **Sherrill Hudson**, was waiting in the wings. I bestow on him many kisses and hugs for agreeing to fill Frank's wingtips for the rest of the term. We're so lucky to have such great people working every day,



out of the goodness of their hearts, on behalf of our zoo. It just gives me – what else? – "goose" bumps!

Gotta Fly!
Sociable Plover
Sociable Plover

Above: Our dear friends Lee Bynum and Betty Miller were recognized at Feast for their exceptional generosity to the zoo.



Left: Immediate Past, now Interim, Always Adored ZSF President Sherrill Hudson with our Feast co-chairs Jean Kislak and Mercedes Ferre.

-Feast photos by Sergio Alsina

Wild Florida

Now is the time that, in my opinion, South Florida's wild country is at its best.

Spring has ended and summer is on its way. It's a season when the senses can absorb an endless array of textures, sights, sounds and smells that permeate tropical habitats.

Though it's warm, we have yet to feel the sizzling heat of August. This year's chicks have already fledged. Young gators can still be seen lying on their vigilant mothers' backs or heads. The soft, delicate leaves of the cypress trees have once again veiled the interiors of their strands, protecting delicately blooming orchids and bromeliads.

There are two places that can take me back to a truly wild Florida. Places where the panther and bear still hunt; wild turkey gobble in gaggles; and otters poke and prod for crayfish or nap on fern-covered cypress bogs.

The Loop Road

The Loop Road is a dirt road off Route 41 that goes through the heart of Big Cypress National Preserve. The first few miles are paved, but where the pavement ends, you find yourself back in time: A time when the Tamiami Trail was a mere foot path through an Eden of wildlife – undisturbed and undeveloped.

This habitat includes pine and hardwood hammocks and cypress strands. Entering the strands may take you through waist-high water, but the rewards are worth it. A musty smell hints at secrets that the cypress hold. An array of bromeliads shows off, attracting pollinators while providing habitat for insects and small tree frogs. Delicate resurrection ferns that had wilted and browned during

sparse periods of rain are bursting back to life as the rainy season begins, attesting to their name.

The silence is broken only by the wind and the wildlife. Frogs announce their presence with nasal quanks. Ibises squawk in hidden



View of a waterway of Loop Road. -photo by Bill Zeigler

rookeries. Occasionally a barred or great horned owl hoots. Wrens dart back and forth, with a quickly repeated "cheet cheet cheet cheet."

Once while I was climbing a tree to photograph a blooming orchid, two otters came gliding through the dark, brown water. Smelling my presence, they circled the tree snorting in excitement, but they never looked up to find the source of the scent. Finally, they swam on, disappearing through the cypress.

Fakahatchee Strand

West of the Loop Road, off Route 29 at Copeland, is the James Archer Scenic Drive through Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.

Originally this was primarily

cypress, but it was logged in the 1930s and '40s. Logging dramatically changed the plant life and opened up the area for the introduction of other hardwoods, actually adding to its diversity. For the last 50 years the area has been left to recover with little

human interference. Today it is a secondary forest that includes hardwood, a stand of native royal palms, and a species not common to Dade County, the maple tree. It is a protected refuge for Florida's rarest orchids and ferns. Animal life includes threatened and endangered species such as the Everglades mink, the round-tailed muskrat and the limpkin, a long-necked, long-legged, olive-brown wading bird that has declined elsewhere due to the loss of wetland habitat.

Railroads were built throughout the area to facilitate removal of virgin cypress. Mounded railbeds now serve as dry pathways to explore the preserve on foot.

If you plan to hike anywhere in the Everglades remember: Leave nothing but foot prints and collect nothing but photographs, feelings and memories. Be prepared. South Florida has venomous snakes, so always watch where you walk and sit. Essential gear includes plenty of drinking water, a compass, a first aid kit, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, a hat, a full tank of gas, a good spare tire, trail mix or light snacks, binoculars and a camera, and extra clothes and shoes. Before you leave home, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Loop Road and Fakahatchee Strand are rare treats, especially at this time of year. Protecting them is important to the abundance of life they support, and to us because they preserve a bit of our wild heritage. ■

Editor
Barbara Brady

Contributing Editors
Sheila Fyfe
Mayra González-Rey
Janet Perales

Graphic Design
Jill Ditzel

Photographers
Sergio Alsina
Rick McCawley
Cindy Seip
Alex Worden

Contributors
Carol Gaudino
Nancy Hotchkiss
Bill Zeigler

Printed on ♻ recycled paper
with vegetable-based inks.
Please recycle this publication
when you are finished with it.

Copyright ©1994 Zoological
Society of Florida. All rights
reserved. No part of this publi-
cation may be reproduced by
any means without permission
of the publisher.

Toucan Talk
Volume 20, Number 3
May/June, 1994
Published six times each year as
a benefit to the members and
supporters of Miami Metrozoo.

Zoological Society of Florida
Glenn W. Ekey,
Executive Director
Sherrill W. Hudson,
President

Miami Metrozoo
Robert Yokel, Director

12400 SW 152 Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499
305-255-5551
305-255-7126 (fax)

Zoo Visitor Information
305-251-0400



Calendar Of Zoo Events

Tuesday, May 10 - Thursday, June 25

FIU At The Zoo

5 p.m. at the zoo

Florida International University's popular class for teachers. Details on page 5.

Saturday, May 21 or Saturday, June 4

Breakfast with the Beasts

7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the zoo

\$10/Member adult; \$15/Non-member adult; \$6/child (12 and under)

Join us for a continental breakfast followed by a special, behind-the-scenes look at animal diet preparation. A few animal guests may join us for breakfast. Finish off your morning adventure with a monorail ride overlooking the zoo as the animals begin their day.

Saturday, July 23

Bowling For Rhinos

Sponsored by the American Association of Zoo Keepers to benefit the Ngare Seroi Rhino Sanctuary, Kenya

1 - 4 p.m. Don Carter's Kendall Lanes, 13600 North Kendall Drive

\$75 per team/\$15 per individual

Make a "strike" against extinction of the rhino at this fun family event sponsored by our keepers' professional organization. Bring your own five-person team (company teams are encouraged) or come on your own and we'll put you in a team. Or simply pledge your donation and help Bowling for Rhinos "spare" the rhinoceros. Call Walter Dupree at 305-247-9628 for more information.

For Travel Bugs

This summer we introduce a new travel program with journeys to Africa, June 25-July 10, and to China, July 28-August 17. Each trip is being led by a Metrozoo expert, and a portion of the fare benefits the zoo. To join these trips, or to learn about future travel plans, call Janet Perales at 305-255-5551.

Zoo Speak

Has your civic, business or social organization settled on its programs and speakers for upcoming meetings?

If not, why not invite someone from our Speakers Bureau? Their 30-minute presentation "Metrozoo - Past, Present and Future" tells the story from Crandon Park to Metrozoo. It is illustrated with slides that show the beginnings of the zoo, its growth and development, the effects of Hurricane Andrew, and our current projects.

Our Speakers Bureau is a free community service. The presentation is geared to adults and is ideal for clubs, professional organizations or churches. Scheduling is very flexible, with speakers available seven days a week and almost any time of day. Call 305-255-5551 for booking information. If possible, please call at least two weeks in advance of your meeting. ■



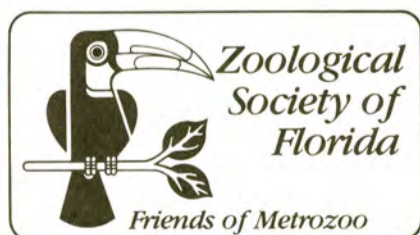
Perfectly precious! This nyala

was born at Metrozoo

February 2. For more Births

& Hatchings turn to page 3.

- photo by Alex Worden



12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4358
Miami, Florida