

Star Wars

Women Embracing Li

2 Year Anniversary Iss

Spring Thymee

Porch
Party

Inspiring
Women

Jane Taub
Doris Aldrich
Helen Mills



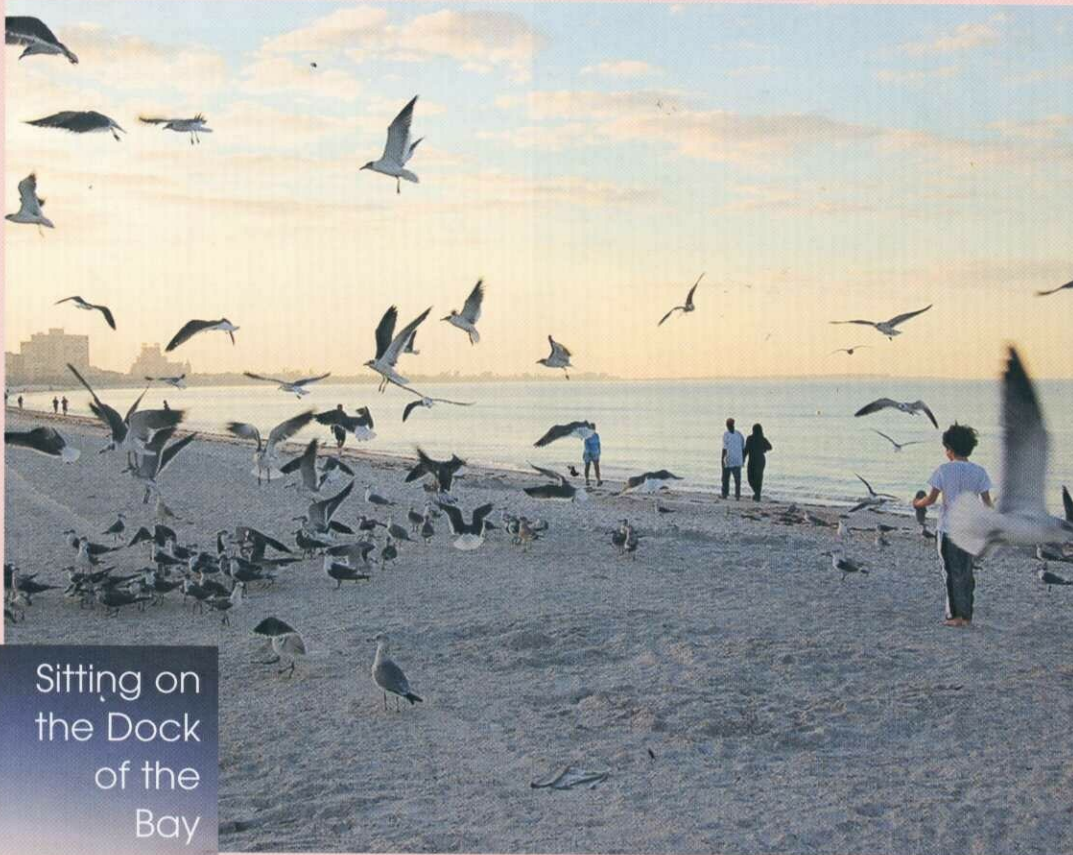
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SPRING 2007

Tampa Bay Memories



Sitting on the Dock of the Bay

Growing up in Tampa, with the beach just 30 minutes away, it was almost taken for granted. Visiting the area years later for my father's memorial earlier this year, I saw Tampa in a different light. The Tampa Bay area

is around an eight-hour drive from Athens or less than a two-hour flight (our tickets went for \$100 round-trip per person by using Travelocity's Fare Watcher). The city of Tampa has innumerable attractions such as Busch Gardens, Tampa Bay Aquarium, Museum of Science and Industry, and Lowry Park Zoo. It also has many historic areas such as Ybor City and Hyde Park.

Ybor City is rich in Cuban history and is home to the delicious Columbia Restaurant and locally hand-made Cuban cigars. Food should be sampled at local favorites such as: Alessi's Bakery (grab a Cuban Sandwich), Housewife Bakeshop (try Scacciata pizza), and Burne's Steakhouse (world famous for steaks). Hyde Park is another historic part of Tampa with old homes and new shops. When I was young I planned on living in one of the mini-mansions that lined Bayshore Boulevard with the never-ending sidewalk that overlooks the bay.

The many bridges from Tampa will lead you to the Gulf of Mexico's white sandy beaches. Crossing the bay, the boats are plentiful and the scenery is delightful. I suggest you take the bridge to St. Petersburg, which is an old town full of great finds, including the Salvador Dali Museum and the Pier Aquarium. One of our favorites is St. Petersburg beach, which is scattered with a variety of hotels. The most recognizable is the Don Cesar, the pink hotel with colorful history. My mom and dad's first date included a walk on the

beach in front of this famous hotel, which was then a V.A. Hospital. Now, it is anything but grey and drab, and even if you just stop by for the Sunday Brunch, you will be impressed. Down the street is one of the larger resorts, Tradewinds, which offers large beach areas with amenities such as cabanas, water bikes, kayaks, water canals through the property with swans, several pools (heated as needed), restaurants, putt-putt golf, and more. Even further down the street you will find Pasa Tiempo, a quaint inn with romantic courtyards and many personal touches. The inn's pool and dock all overlook the bay and the serenity of the boats. If you could take one of these boats across the bay, you would make your way to a little town called Gulfport. Once a rough fishing town, it is now transforming into a Bohemian art town, where fishermen still sit on the dock of Boca Ciega Bay. A structure that has been the focal point of the town for many years is the Gulfport Casino. It went from being built upon the bay to being built upon the sand. But one thing never changed: There is no gambling, but lots of dancing on the hardwood floors. There are several places to stay, none of which are commercialized. The Sea Breeze Manor is a bed and breakfast that overlooks the bay and has all the comforts of staying with an old friend.

I took this trip to the Tampa/St. Pete area for two reasons: to throw my father's ashes into the sea and to do my dad's favorite thing – have a family vacation. I worried that this would be a bittersweet trip, but we ended up having the times of our lives. I have special memories of these blue waters and I hope that if you have the chance to visit, you will do so as well.

This story is dedicated to the memory of my father, Stanley John Walsh, who grew up in St. Petersburg.

