



REALTORS

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but continuing education to renew licenses has gone up 20 percent.”

Because students set their own pace to finish and register on various days, no enrollment figures were readily available, Rodgers said. It is the nature of ongoing online education.

The same remained true at the Academy of Real Estate Education Inc. and Ameriflora.

“People are keeping up their licenses, they have a lot of time and energy invested,” said Jane Peterson, president of the Academy of Real Estate Education. “We are running classes for new and renewing licenses. I do believe the business will turn around.”

Statewide figures show that Florida issued 95,105 real estate licenses issued during the boom.

That was an average of 13,586 licenses issued every fiscal year. In contrast, the state issued an average of less than 3,000 for the most recent years counted. ■

realtor stats

>> New and renewed real estate licenses issued statewide fiscal year by year starting with the turn of the century:

1999/2000	210,389
2000/2001	215,287
2001/2002	227,015
2002/2003	249,871
2003/2004	288,688
2004/2005	305,494
2005/2006	336,496
2006/2007	342,033
As of January 2008	338,389

Collier and Lee counties for available years:

2004	
Collier	8,288
Lee	10,948
2005	
Collier	7,456
Lee	10,382
2006	
Collier	8,066
Lee	11,924

—Licensing information from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Jewish Federation celebrates Israel's 60th birthday

Israel is turning 60 this year, and you can join in the celebration right here in Fort Myers. There will be food and fun, music and merchants – all under the Southwest Florida sun – at Israel Fest 2008, presented by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

The family-friendly celebration starts at noon on Sunday, March 2, at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard. Festivities continue until 5 p.m.

Headlining the event will be Seeds of Sun, a five-member jazz band that blends music written in Israel in a jazz and world music setting. The band, which boasts an international following, is currently touring North America. They will perform at 2:05 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. during the festival.

Also providing musical tributes to

Israel will be Lynn and Joe Goldovitz, Kol Echad and local choirs from Temple Judea, Temple Beth Shalom and the Community Free Synagogue.

Numerous vendors brought in just for this event will be selling Israeli products, and Kosher Israeli food will be available all day long. A raffle will also be held throughout the day.

This will be a fun day for the whole family, with a special activity area for kids planned. Everyone is invited to attend; admission will be \$2 for adults, and children ages 12 and under will be admitted for free. Parking will be available nearby.

Israel Fest 2008 is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. Contact the Federation at (239) 481-4449 for more information. ■

Walk to Cure Diabetes in April

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is hosting its annual Walk to Cure Diabetes at Florida Gulf Coast University on Sunday, April 20 at 2 p.m. The goal of the event is to raise more than \$100,000 for diabetes research.

The FGCU Walk to Cure Diabetes is a 5K walk that will take participants through and around the FGCU campus. Currently there are 43 teams registered for the FGCU Walk. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. with registration, a short program and a complimentary

lunch provided by Sysco Foods and beverages by Coca-Cola.

If you wish to volunteer or participate in the FGCU Walk to Cure Diabetes please contact Jeannie Kawcak, Special Events Coordinator, at 941-929-0621 or 239-992-3840 or by email at jkawcak@jdrf.org. If you would simply like to donate to an admirable cause please visit the JDRF website, www.jdrf.org, and click on the “Green Sneaker.” Ninety-six cents of every dollar raised goes directly to research. This is possible because

of our generous sponsors who help keep expenses minimal. ■



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