



Meet Jill!

A resident of Islamorada for 30 years now, Jill Zima Borski has enjoyed the opportunity to tell the stories of the Florida Keys from January 1, 1995 to the present -- on and off but mostly on, as she likes to say -- for the Free Press and the Keys Citizen, as well as Keys-based magazines. She loves the opportunity to tell people's stories, as people are infinitely fascinating, albeit vexing from time to time! For stress relief, she turns to copious exercise – religiously swimming a mile, biking 21 miles or kayaking Tavernier Creek.

Jill's athletic accomplishments include walking on to her Duke University swim team in her junior year and earning a letterman's jacket and having completed an Ironman-distance triathlon in the Texas Hill Country in the 1990s when she got lost on the course – which was haphazardly marked with posted signs -- and had to complete 123 miles cycling after swimming 2.4 miles in a lake, and then run a marathon.

Jill wrote *Know That I Have Lived*, a memoir-style short-story book, available online that covers highlights of what she learned growing up in Florissant, Mo., Pittsfield, Mass., Gainesville, Fla. and then on to universities, earning a B.A. from Duke University and a Master of Science degree in Telecommunications from Indiana University-Bloomington. A second memoir, *Know That I Have Loved*, is written about life since coming to the Keys but wallows when it comes to publishing it.

Curious and creative, Jill has enjoyed participation in the Art Guild of the Purple Isles for years, as well as its art shows. Although no longer a member of the art guild, Jill donates her time painting canvases and Christmas tree ornaments for local entities including the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, on whose advisory board she serves.

Jill is involved in community organizations such as the Just Older Youth Center, whose motto is “not your grandparents’ senior center,” Wild Women on the Water and the Florida Keys chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

An avid traveler and student, Jill’s vagabond spirit enables her to explore the world and its wonders. Having visited 34 countries including Mongolia, Ukraine and most of Europe, she always is ready to pack a backpack or bag and go to places she has never been. Jill learned French and German in high school, and pursued Spanish and Italian after that -- mostly through on-the-ground learning, so foreign languages do not hold her back. About two years ago, she started housesitting and pet-sitting which has given her opportunities to house- and horse-sit in the Loire Valley area of France, and in more easily-reached places such as Boise, Portland, Austin, and Huntsville. For Jill, it’s not a question of why, but more like “Why not?!”

Another “why not” moment: she appeared on Wheel of Fortune a few years ago and won a trip to Aruba and \$10,000.

Jill is a product of a loving family. Marvin and Elizabeth Zima bore six kids, three girls and three boys and Jill is the second oldest. Her parents, retired, live in Weston, Fla.

Upon moving to the Keys, Jill met and married a lifelong artist, Tim Borski, who originally was from Wisconsin. As parents of two sons, Josef, 23, and Gus, 20, Jill’s love for and pride in them is endless. Both are earning college degrees and Jill is fearful they will be entrepreneurs like their parents, which isn’t the easiest row to hoe. The Borski Boys are sensitive but strong, honest and mostly hardworking, and independent with their own talents, interests and senses of adventure.

Discovering Matecumbe Methodist Church (MMC) and getting to know and be involved in its congregation has been a blessing. She marvels she never worries about how long the services are because she is so engaged in its atmosphere and being surrounded by its wonderful members.

As for the future, it's more of the same: writing, exercising, traveling, learning, pet-and people-caring, and attending MMC.