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PALM COURT TREASURES

Chung-Yon Hong, violin
Natalie Helm, cello
Joseph Holt, piano

November 23

Historic Spanish Point
5:30 pm

A musical journey back in time to the light classics of the Edwardian era, with works by Bach, Boccherini, Puccini and more. **Outdoors at Historic Spanish Point.**



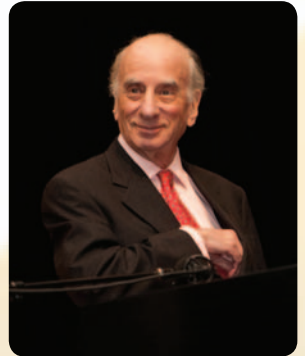
FLORIDA JAZZ MASTERS

Dick Hyman
and five top Florida
jazz artists

December 6

Selby Gardens
3:00 pm

Enjoy the music of
Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington,
George Gershwin, Benny Goodman,
Thelonius Monk, Cole Porter,
Dick Hyman and others.
Outdoors at Selby Gardens.



TODD THOMAS, baritone
with Joseph Holt, piano

January 21

Michael's On East
11:00 am performance
12:15 pm luncheon

A favorite of opera houses across the country, including the Sarasota Opera, Todd Thomas and Joseph Holt will perform a delicious assortment of operatic, Broadway and popular tunes.



STEVEN BANKS, saxophone
with Xak Bjerken, piano

January 31

Faith Lutheran Church
4:00 pm

The first saxophonist in 59 years to earn a place on the Young Concert Artists roster, Steven Banks is a bright young star. Banks and Bjerken bring their sax and piano magic to works by Schumann, Paul Creston and Banks himself.



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ON THE COVER

Ken Waters, Vice President, Resident Services
at Sarasota Housing Authority and Luz Corcuera,
Executive Director of UnidosNow.
Photo by Maria Lyle.



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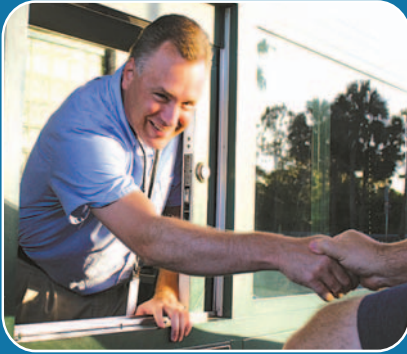
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EMPLOYMENT



"I'm grateful to the Academy for the support I've received in obtaining a job with Republic Parking at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport."

-- Aaron Collmer

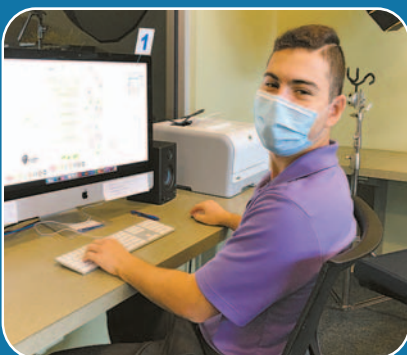
TRAINING



"I see my skills building every day and my accomplishments bring me peace and enjoyment."

-- Carolyn Robinson

COMMUNITY



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-- Ian Churchill



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For more information, please contact:

William McKeever, Academy Director

Direct: 941-921-9936 / Email: William@AcademySRQ.org



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[HELLO]

Together We Prevail

While working on this issue of Style Philanthropy I got slightly obsessed with researching the history of the subject – back to ancient Mesopotamia and forward throughout U.S. history.

I learned that regardless of race, religion or economic circumstances our country's philanthropists have devoted themselves to abolishing slavery, preserving wilderness and defending civil rights. Their efforts have produced our greatest art museums, educational institutions and aid organizations.

Philanthropy has also provided vital crisis relief through wars, hurricanes, floods and fires, and now COVID-19.

The Manatee/Sarasota philanthropic community has stepped up in a myriad of ways to help individuals, families, businesses and charities get through this time of pandemic. Style's cover story on Season of Sharing; and its three, deep-dive articles on organizations that tackle the needs of children and families (page 10), the wellbeing and safety of animals (pg 18), and the escalating food and hunger crisis (page 14) are proof.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a profound effect on the arts. Read about our arts organizations' efforts to adapt to the new 'normal' on page 26 and see some results by perusing the listings of virtual (and actual) events in Style's Social and Arts & Culture Agendas starting on page 44.

Last year, while working on the first-ever Style Philanthropy, I wrote about how excited I was to help its re-launch with themed issues and a new look and feel. I'm still excited about the magazine and I'm confident in our community's resilience and ability to prevail through difficult times together.

– Emily Leinfuss



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PHILANTHROPY

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Sarasota Housing Authority VP Ken Waters, and Luz Corcuera, Executive Director of UnidosNow help connect individuals and families with emergency relief funds provided by Season of Sharing



SEASON *of* SHARING

Sparking Generosity & Cooperation

“It takes a village.” “No man is an island.” These phrases, one an African proverb and the other from a 400-year old poem, point to the fact that we live in an interconnected world. Even more, they highlight how we all may need “a little help from our friends” from time to time.

Enter Season of Sharing (SOS), a 20-year fundraising partnership between the Herald-Tribune and the Community Foundation of Sarasota (CFS). Since the turn of the millennium SOS has helped more than 35,000 households in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties by providing one-time, emergency assistance for unexpected costs – payments that may have made the difference between financial stability and losing one’s home.

By design, SOS doesn’t work alone. It takes “a network of collaborators and partners, which is what Season of Sharing exemplifies,” explained Kirsten Russell, CFS’ Vice President, Community Impact.

The Herald-Tribune plays a vital role in the partnership. “(We document) people who have been helped by Season of Sharing, nonprofits that distribute it – with no administrative charges I might add – the philanthropists behind it and the smaller donors who are just as important to the whole process,” said Executive Editor Matt Sauer.

He notes that, thanks to an added partnership with the Community Foundation of Sarasota, the Herald-Tribune now has a dedicated writer whose job is to “shine a light” on people in need by covering Season of Sharing and other issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOVE & BEYOND

The keyword powering Season of Sharing is “community” said Russell. “Our philosophy stems from a core belief that we build community when we come alongside individuals and families. Listening, understanding and connecting are essential,” she added.

Those essential qualities are found in abundance at UnidosNow and Sarasota Housing Authority – two nonprofits that operate independently and are also a part of SOS’s network of human services agencies.

Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) provides housing and housing assistance to more than 2000 families in Sarasota and Manatee counties, explained Ken Waters, Vice President, Resident Services. The Resident Services department offers training, employment and educational opportunities to assist SHA residents in realizing economic self-sufficiency.

UnidosNow’s mission is “to empower Latinos to achieve ‘the American dream,’” said Executive Director Luz Corcuera. Noting that Latino children account for almost 40 percent of kindergarten enrollments in our community, Corcuera explained that the nonprofit provides programs and resources designed to “empower our young people to be ready for tomorrow’s jobs and for leadership positions.”

PANDEMIC RESPONDERS

The two agencies’ missions may look different on the surface, but the underlying goal is the same – to lift families and individuals up so they can thrive, instead of struggle

to survive. Both Curcuera and Waters have been on the front lines of this quest long enough to know the impact a global pandemic can have on the people their organizations serve. So has Season of Sharing.

“(SOS) has the stability to respond to emergencies, whatever their form. Over the years our community has been affected by hurricanes, recessions, Red Tide, and other storms and Season of Sharing has been a trusted way for neighbors to support neighbors. It was always going to be a key part of our community’s response to the pandemic,” explained Russell. Last spring, in less than a month, donors gave more than \$2.4 million to Season of Sharing with gifts ranging from \$15 to \$250,000, she added.

However, Curcuera points out that even in times of great need it’s hard (for anyone) to ask for help. “Nobody wants to be in that position. It’s scary and there is a sense of shame,” said Corcuera. So, when someone does reach out it’s only natural to go where they already have connections – namely UnidosNow and SHA. Since March, the two organizations have been going above and beyond, helping people in the communities they serve find emergency funding relief – through SOS and in other ways.

“We see the need (for SOS assistance) daily,” said Waters. He explained that many of the individuals and families served by the Sarasota Housing Authority were already close to the edge of homelessness before the pandemic. Even though rents are based on percentage of income, and adjusted for unemployment, job loss has been causing many other problems.

WORKING TOGETHER

Due to the collaborative environment fostered by Season of Sharing and the Community Foundation of Sarasota the nonprofits in the SOS network stay in close contact – keeping each other up to date on pandemic-related resources. (UnidosNow provides a detailed list of COVID-19 resources at unidosnow.org/covid-19-resources-2 in Spanish and English. The SHA home page, at sarasotahousing.org, has useful links for all its housing, voucher programs and other resources).

This closeness between agencies helps them quickly provide appropriate referrals to each other when needed.



Kirsten Russell, Community Foundation of Sarasota's Vice President, Community Impact.

[PHOTO BY BARBARA BANKS]

For example, one family came to Waters for help after their power had been shut off, and it wasn’t just a simple case of not paying FP&L; it was a complicated problem. First, the bill added in all the months for which the utility had provided payment extensions. Second, the family had already reached the \$1000 limit on SOS funding in a 12-month period. Third, there were three children who needed to access remote learning for school: with a grandmother living at home, they couldn’t risk in-school attendance. SHA found a creative solution by opening the doors to its on-site learning center. “The kids got the computers and Internet connection they needed and we found other agencies to provide funding to get the bill paid,” said Waters.

SHARING AND CARING

If there is a positive side to all the problems and panic caused by the pandemic crisis it lies in the way that people, communities, and organizations of all kinds are coming together. “The silver lining is how caring and sharing neighbors and friends are to each other,” said Corcuera. She sees this happen within the UnidosNow extended community where there are people who lack the transportation to get food – whether from the supermarket or from charitable food sources.

Season of Sharing represents the best of our community and of humankind in general.

-Matt Sauer, Herald-Tribune Executive Editor

“One student who had to come home from college (because of the pandemic) started going out to pick up food for an entire community. Now it’s (the student’s) daily ‘job,’” she said. “These kids may have lost internships or campus jobs, but they have stepped up to help their families and others.”

Perhaps that’s why Sauer calls SOS “magic.”

“Season of Sharing represents the best of our community and of humankind in general.” Especially remarkable, he added, is that people who’ve been helped by SOS often become donors themselves, making SOS, “the greatest example of pay it forward I can think of.”

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See the schedule below for the individual persons and dates. (Subject to change)

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Global Issues Series

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25 Lecture Series

January 4	Adelaide Boedecker, soprano (Grew up in Sarasota, attended Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota Youth Opera and has been featured with Sarasota Opera)
January 11	Joshua Horne, French Horn (Sarasota Orchestra)
January 18	Jonathan Gentry, oboe (Sarasota Orchestra)
January 25	Kevin Short, bass-baritone (International performing artist, Sarasota Opera)
February 1	Steven Banks, saxophone and Xak Bjerken, piano (Young Concert Artist and Artist Series concert)
February 8	Olga Kern, piano with Vladislav Kern, piano (Internationally recognized super star of the piano)
February 15	Lisa Chavez, mezzo-soprano (Performed with Sarasota Opera (Carmen and Dialogue of the Carmelites))
February 22	Christopher and Jennifer Takeda, violins (Sarasota Orchestra)
March 1	Dick Hyman, piano and Bobby White, tenor (Dick is local, both are legends)
March 8	Sheridon Stokes, flute (Knew Ed from Seventh Army Orchestra in Europe)
March 15	Maria Wirries, singer (Local artist, now performing in Dear Evan Hansen touring company)
March 22	Tetiana Shafran, piano (2019 winner of the Olga Kern Piano Competition (was to have appeared for MM in March, 2020))

January 5	Roughead, U.S. Military as an Agent for Democracy
January 7	C. Hill, The President's Inbox
January 12	Milani, Iran's Foreign Policy: Continuity and Change
January 14	Twining, America's Strategic Future in a World of Rival Authoritarian Powers
January 19	Ross, Is the Middle East Turning A Page
January 21	Kokler, Impact of the Corona Virus on the Conduct of U.S. Diplomacy and Historical Perspectives from Africa
January 26	Beyrle, U.S. and Russia: Paradoxes of Conflict and Collaboration
January 28	Jackson, Drones and Drone Warfare
February 2	Shannon, Diplomacy in the Time of COVID-19
February 4	M. Walker, European Union: What's Next
February 9	Aydintasbas, Turkey's return to the Middle East in an age of Global Turmoil
February 11	Chamberlin, Neglected Crises: Cassandras
February 16	Jay, The New Normal
February 18	Suri, Presidential Leadership in Crises
February 23	Gibson, Lessons from the Global Pandemic: The US Can't Make its own Generic Medicines
February 25	Troen, Food Security: Bringing Science and Politics to the Table
March 2	Spaulding, The US under Electronic Siege: Are We Losing the War in Cyberspace?
March 4	Lieber, Indispensable Nation? U.S. Role in World Order
March 9	Gentzel, Pandemics, Privatization, and Political Power Plays
March 11	Dollar, China's Economic Challenges
March 16	Baker, The Centaur's Dilemma: What You Should Know about the Coming AI Revolution and its Impact on National Security.
March 18	Ford, Syria and the Kurds
March 23	J. Walker, Japan's Global Moment
March 25	Barylski, Russo-American Relations after our Presidential Election
March 30	R. Gary, The Politicization of the Department of Justice

To sign-up for lectures and performances visit: www.SILLSarasota.org



BATTLING THE

More Food Insecurity Than Ever Before

The arrival of COVID-19 has created a host of challenges in nearly every avenue of life, but for those whose mission is battling the hunger crisis in America – and in our own backyard – it's a game-changer. Here's an in-depth look at what three local organizations are now faced with, and what they are doing to make a difference.

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

HUNGER: A BIGGER PROBLEM FOR MORE FAMILIES THAN EVER BEFORE

One of the common denominators in the local fight against hunger is All Faiths Food Bank. As the only food bank and largest hunger relief organization in Sarasota and DeSoto counties, All Faiths helps out other organizations regularly. For example, since Meals on Wheels of Sarasota is short on space, it uses the All Faiths walk-in refrigerator and freezer to store goods and it is given nearly 200 gallons of milk

and boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables weekly. Since Transitions Sarasota doesn't own any trucks, All Faiths provides bins and vehicles to get that fresh-picked food to where it's needed most.

"We partner with 200+ agencies and programs across our service area, explains All Faiths CEO Sandra Frank. "Though we have a staff of about 50, it's our 6,000 hard-working volunteers that make everything happen. Sorting, packing, distributing – they do such incredible work."

That's why March 2020 caused such a problem. The organization had to suspend its volunteer program until July when it became safe and appropriate to bring them back. In the meantime, the All Faiths staff and county workers filled in by working incredibly long hours.

"We've had more than double our output as a result of COVID-19," said Frank. She explained that All Faiths distributed 14 million pounds of food in 2019. This year it had already distributed 14 million by September and the total number for 2020 was likely to double.

BY RYAN VAN CLEAVE

The organization has also had to change its entire distribution process. To comply with the new no- and low-touch requirements everything has to be boxed and bagged, and it's gone from letting client self-select from an assortment of fresh food to an all drive-through model, with masked, gloved volunteers loading pre-boxed food into car trunks.

The changes don't stop there. All Faiths needed to acquire more vehicles and hire outreach workers, drivers, and warehouse staff to gear up for a long-term sustained response to COVID-19. Seventeen new locations were also added to distribute food, with more on the way.

How severe and acute is the local hunger crisis? In 2019 the total number of hits on All Faiths' website, from March through September, was 11,000. In 2020 the same period of time saw 60,000 hits. "The suddenness of this pandemic and the shocking reality that people might be unemployed for a while hit people hard," Frank said. "We're part of a national organization, Feeding America, and its sharing data monthly. The sudden spike is everywhere. But it is reassuring that when we look to our sister food banks for best practices, we see that we're doing it right."

A major unexpected challenge is how to reach those who've had jobs for 10, 15, even 20 years, and have found themselves without work. Letting these people know about All Faiths' services requires different strategies than the norm, which is why it has upped its social media presence and employed unexpected tactics like advertising on billboards. "Some families that have never had a challenge in putting food on the table are struggling. We want them to know we're here for them," said Frank. "We want them to



HUNGER CRISIS

know where to go for help."

No pre-registration is required. No documentation is necessary. Simply drive up to one of the distribution points during a designated time and open the trunk and masked volunteers will load in box full of fresh milk, dairy, meat, poultry, and produce.

In 2019, farmers, local food drives, and grocery chains like Publix, Walmart, and Winn-Dixie donated almost 90 percent of the food given out. The rest was purchased to help round out the meal options. After COVID-19 that equation flipped. When the supply chain broke down, the bulk of All Faiths' funding went to purchasing food. That's a real problem, considering it's predominantly supported by individual and private entities and receives no federal monies.

COVID-19 has made food insecurity a bigger problem for more families than ever before. And when All Faiths helps alleviate that incredible stress, people get very emotional, Frank noted. You can see it in their faces. Some press thank-you notes up against the windshield.

"I think this year's Giving Challenge really showed the strength of this community and its clear focus on fighting hunger," said Frank. "We're going to need that strength because the consequences of the pandemic will continue to be felt through all of 2021. Hunger is going to remain an ongoing issue."



TOP: Dedicated volunteers are crucial to the work of All Faiths Food Bank. ABOVE: Grateful recipients at an All Faiths' drive-through food distribution site.



Meals on Wheels of Sarasota is preparing nearly double the amount of food as last year.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERING MORE THAN FOOD AND WITH NO AGE LIMITS

When Executive Director Marjorie Broughton joined the Meals on Wheels of Sarasota team five years ago, her initial task was to help take the organization to the next level so it could better achieve its mission – supply nutritious meals for Sarasotans who are unable to provide or prepare ones for themselves in their home.

While most Meals on Wheels focus on feeding the elderly, the Sarasota organization wanted to start feeding a variety of people, including people with handicap challenges, pregnant women, new mothers, veterans, and those with physical or mental illness. In short, the only qualification for receiving assistance was a clear need for food support.

“In February 2020,” reported Broughton; “our team of 1,000 volunteers was covering 600 square miles to feed 450-500 people daily. As of September 2020, we’re delivering 750-800 meals a day.”

That increased volume is a burden. “Our building hasn’t gotten any bigger,” Broughton said. MOW-S now uses three exterior storage trailers because its entire building is devoted to food preparation and packaging in biodegradable/recyclable paper product containers. “Each meal has a cellophane seal, which sterilizes it, and controls food migration during delivery,” she said. “The packaging also controls temperature for up to four hours.”

BEYOND FOOD

The issue is about more than just food delivery. Before COVID-19, the organization’s trained volunteers would interact with isolated people who opened their doors and accepted meals. This allowed the meal deliverers to do a brief safety and environmental check. Now that people aren’t as willing to open doors, those checks simply can’t happen as often. A lot of the time, the volunteers have to hang the food on the door with a plastic bag, but they still knock, yell, and call on the phone. Broughton explained, “In a lot of the areas we deliver to, the meals will be stolen if they’re not taken inside quickly.”

Eighty percent of meal recipients have a monthly income at 250 percent below the poverty level. They don’t have unlimited minutes on cell phones. You can’t just call them up to chat or check on them. Most don’t have a vehicle, either. Whether they’re physically frail, a double amputee, sick, or suffering from mental illness, many of these people don’t have anyone to depend on. Who’s going to come over and drive them to the store during a pandemic?

Meals on Wheels is also delivering Lifeline boxes to take care of entire families. These boxes are loaded with what each family may need. The elderly might get Depends, Ensure, and nutrition bars. Families with kids might receive diapers and pull-ups. All get cleaning products and masks. As many as 100 of these boxes go out each month, and every box costs about \$500 to fill.

There’s also Meals on Wheels’ Pet Love program. Pre-COVID-19, that meant well-pet checks, vaccinations, treatment for ticks, fleas, and heartworms, plus help getting pets registered with the county. These days, it’s feeding 150 pets each month because for many, it’s no easier to get food for pets than it is to get food for themselves.

“We’re an independent, private charity. We receive no federal funding,” said Broughton. “By the end of May, we’d already used our entire year’s projected food budget. I now need to raise an additional \$1 million because we’ve extended our coverage area to include Laurel and Nokomis. We now cover 800 square miles.”

Normally, her budget for the year is \$900,000, but she estimates that 2020 will now cost \$1.7 million. For 2021, she anticipates that number rising to \$2 million.

While it seems like people dropping off food would help, it doesn’t. If the source and the age of a food donation aren’t known, it can’t be used. Juggling all these factors is keeping Broughton working late most nights. She’s busy writing grants and seeking out new funding sources so Meals on Wheels can get enough usable food to meet Sarasota’s new demand.

“There are a lot of people in their home who need help,” she said. “We’re doing all we can because these urgent needs aren’t going away.”

TRANSITION SARASOTA CLOSING THE FOOD LOOP TO FEED OTHERS

The #1 thing that Executive Director Rebecca Brey wants people to know about the ten-year-old grassroots nonprofit Transition Sarasota is that “we’re here and we’re willing to help!” The primary way it accomplishes this is by developing community-driven solutions for our local food system. In short, it’s all about reducing food waste.

The most successful program it has is the Suncoast Gleaning Project, where volunteers harvest surplus produce from local farms to benefit food-insecure people here in our community. Once COVID-19 hit a lot of food lay rotting in fields with no one to pick it. And with most food service and farmer’s markets shut down, picked goods didn’t have outlets to get to the consumer – especially for produce with a short window before it’s no good.

It was especially hard to hear about so much food, on a national scale, being wasted. But Brey knew the organization had to stay focused on close-to-home opportunities with existing partners. For example,



Gleaning crops is one way Transition Sarasota reduces food waste.

Honeyside Farms had loads of cherry and heirloom tomatoes that were slated for farmer's markets and restaurants, and neither of those outlets were in operation. "They reached out to us and we got right to work," said Brey.

More farms have also gotten in touch. To date, those growers donated 44,364 pounds, which is more than Transition Sarasota gathered in all of 2019. "Last year, we gleaned into November and December," she said. "We hope that we'll be allowed onto the lands of our farm partners again during those months this year."

Thankfully, it hasn't been hard finding local volunteers to pick produce – 140 have already helped this year. Brey has shifted to using smaller teams working in shifts to provide adequate social distancing. Some find the chance – any chance – to be outside a most welcome thing.

However, gleaning isn't the only option to prevent food waste. Some local farmers have embraced Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA), a model where individuals can invest in produce boxes. With CSA people purchase a crop share at the start of harvest season and receive weekly dividends of just-harvested produce weekly. This also tends to reduce waste – everything grown is used to fill up those boxes.

"We try hard to support CSA. We recently did a home-page takeover at our website that showed all the local options that were available," said Brey. Plus, an updated Eat Local Guide is in the works to inform the public of CSA options and additional producers.

One of Transition Sarasota's best local partners is Enza Zaden Research USA, a vegetable-breeding company that is interested in seeds research, and does not commercially sell its harvest. Enza Zaden has been thankful Transition Sarasota can glean its fields and donate to The Food Bank of Manatee or All Faiths Food Bank, closing the loop on food waste," she added.

Despite all that, Brey has sobering news. "40 percent of all food goes to waste," she reports, "and one in nine people in Florida go hungry: one in five of those (are) children. Doing a better job with food waste is one way to help change those numbers for the better."

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Service dogs trained by Southeastern Guide Dogs help support veterans through emotional and physical challenges.

Beyond the realm of cute kitten videos and dog tricks lies an intricate web of human/animal interactions. A puppy that a child loves to cuddle can grow up to become a life-saving companion dog. A calf raised for the commercial meat market can gain a new lease on life when released to an open pasture. And even the most aloof cat grows more attentive when given a safe home and proper nourishment.

Those scenarios are all true stories. They are made possible by the work of area nonprofit organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals – each in its own way.

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS **THE LIFE-CHANGING GIFT OF CANINE SUPPORT**

What is not to love about a bouncing, cuddly puppy? Southeastern Guide Dogs turns those pups into elite working dogs at the most advanced training facility in the world – right here in Sarasota County. Every year about 150 Labrador retrievers graduate from its two-year training program and start their careers as guide dogs, service dogs and companion dogs across the United States.

Alumni of the comprehensive training provide life-changing services for people with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and children with significant challenges such as the loss of a parent in the military.

All of Southeastern Guide Dogs' services, which include selective breeding and expert dog training; comprehensive on-campus student instruction; and the most robust alumni support program in North America, are provided at no cost to the recipients who are partnered with the dogs. It is all made possible by private donations and the work of more than 750 volunteers who serve as puppy raisers, breeder hosts, ambassadors, campus volunteers, and more.

Daphne Collier is one of those stellar volunteers. In January

2010 Collier brought home a sweet little black Lab puppy named Nick. She received training and support to help her prepare for the task of fostering and socializing Nick for 12-14 months before the start of Southeastern's Canine University. Ten years and ten puppies later, Collier is still raising puppies and picked up her 11th puppy in October.

Southeastern Guide Dogs offers the most robust alumni support program in the working dog industry. It provides lifetime follow-up for dog alumni through annual home visits and phone support for about 600 active dogs and their recipients. In addition, Southeastern Guide Dogs has expanded this program to include food, pest preventative and more.

"The people we serve tend to experience a high level of unemployment and limited, fixed incomes," said CEO Titus Herman. The expanded support is "making a significant difference in the quality of their lives, especially during these difficult times."

Guide dog graduate Rachel Weeks, who has first-hand experience caring for her guide dog, Plum, calls this support "an amazing gift. I know exactly what it is like to walk into the vet office hoping the bill will not derail my budget. It is important to put food on the table for my family and for Plum to receive top-of-the-line care."

As the economic fallout of the past eight months makes every dollar count, Southeastern Guide Dogs is encouraging donors to help them sustain this critical support for their alumni dogs so they can continue to transform lives for their extraordinary partners.



Missions of **KINDNESS**

Dedication to Animals First & Foremost

BY GAYLE WILLIAMS



Maybee (above) and Alfred, (below) are two of more than 100 animals who are part of the Florida Farm Rescue family.

FLORIDA FARM RESCUE **A FARM ANIMAL HAVEN**

In 2010 Glen Morescu and Kelly McCormack decided to homestead on their 5-½ acre farm in Duette, FL. They wanted to pull away from the commercial food system to live off the eggs, milk, and meat from animals they raised themselves.

As result they bonded closely with the animals in their care, developing empathy as they observed how each one had a unique personality.

“We saw the friendships they had and how they protected each other,” said Morescu. He went on to describe a goose rescuing a duck from an alligator snapping turtle in a pond on the property and how his cows once surrounded him to shield him from two coyotes in the nearby brush. “After that we really didn’t feel comfortable eating off our friends.”

The couple’s passionately vegan lifestyle turned into a broader mission in 2015 when

they established Florida Farm Rescue. The nascent nonprofit’s mission was to provide a haven for all manner of unwanted farm animals that would otherwise face horrific living conditions or slaughterhouse demise.

Following core values of compassion, non-violence, and animal welfare McCormack and Morescu currently provide a home for more than 100 “residents” who get to live free of fear. Every animal, from cows, goats, and pigs to rabbits, geese, ducks, and chickens were surrendered by their owners or arrived from rescue operations.

Florida Farm Rescue is entirely run and supported by volunteers and community donations. While Glenn and Kelly own the land, they also donate 50 percent of their family income to the feeding and care of their farm animal residents. It’s important work. “Few people have the opportunity to interact with the animals that end up on dinner plates,” said McCormack. “We believe a large part of changing people’s

attitudes towards farm animals lies in experiencing this connection.”

But, even before the pandemic it was tight quarters for Florida Farm Rescue’s animals. “We have limited space on our farm and keep a database of fully vetted volunteers wishing to adopt animals or start their own sanctuary community,” said McCormack.

Since the COVID shutdown the number of farm animals surrendered – or abandoned – has doubled and with so many more residents it’s been difficult to procure animal feed and basic animal husbandry items. Without the volunteers who usually come to assist, McCormack and Morescu have had to shoulder all the chores. Donations have been down as well.

Another important part of Florida Farm Rescue’s mission is providing the Florida Farm Rescue experience to the community. Curtailed since March, socially distanced tours were welcomed back in November, bringing in a small amount of much-needed funds.

“We strive to keep our operation streamlined enough that we can care for the animals without outside help if necessary,” said McCormack. “Our experience led us to alternative feed and medications. We also used natural fodder to supplement the animals’ feed.”

Having said that they would welcome help with feed and hay – a \$1500 monthly expense. Fresh capital could also help them build a new goat enclosure and, looking forward, they’d like to create a virtual tour to make it even easier to see the farm and all its residents.

CAT DEPOT FOCUSING ON RESCUE, ADOPTION & EDUCATION

For an organization known for all things cats, Sarasota’s Cat Depot provides a formidable array of programs that benefit the human community. In addition to its free-roaming adoption center, where people wanting to add a feline to their family can meet and cuddle the candidates, Cat Depot conducts rescues and has an active TVNR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return) program for feral cats.

The sudden COVID shutdown in March presented a special problem due to the need for the cats to have on-site human care.

“We sent all staff home to keep them safe. At the same time, we had to find a foster home for the 86 cats currently in the center. There were already fifty cats, mostly



Cat Depot’s Cat Care Clinic provides medical services for more than 6,000 cats and kittens, like this cutie (below).

kittens, in foster homes waiting their turn in the adoption center because our space is limited,” said executive director Jackie Ott Jaakola. “It is a testament to their dedication that so many of our volunteers and employees opened their homes for even more cats to keep them safe as well.”

Three months later, in June, the cats returned to the center along with staff for appointment-only adoption visits.

While the focus is on saving lives and finding loving homes, Cat Depot also provides resources and education needed to improve the destiny of homeless cats. This creates a great demand, particularly now, for the support the organization needs to continue its Community Food Bank and to offer subsidized veterinary care for families under economic duress who wish to keep their pets healthy and at home with them. After all, the loving connection with a pet is often a soul and life-saving part of survival in tough times.

The Community Food Bank provides food for 600 community cats and underserved personal pets each month. Hundreds of pounds of wet and dry food are picked up on the last Saturday of every month from its facility west of N. Tuttle on 17th Street in Sarasota.

“Everyone benefits from this human-animal connection and we are determined to keep cats out of the shelter and with their humans regardless of financial circumstances,” said Ott Jaakola.

The Cat Care Clinic is also seeing patients with strict social distancing guidelines.



Limited appointments and the use of Pet-Pro Connect, a free mobile-based platform, help the veterinarians communicate with families outside the clinic while a cat is in their care. More than 6,000 cats and kittens receive treatment each year.

Cat Depot seeks grants and funding for veterinary care and for the food distributed through the food bank.

“Right now, so many people are struggling to care for their families, and the cats are family members, too,” observed Ott Jaakola. “We’ve been nimble in our response and are asking for donations to our new VetCare Assistance Program to provide subsidized preventative and emergency care. We just want to keep these families together.”

THE GIVING TREES

Meeting Children's Needs Now for Future Success

There's a Chinese proverb that epitomizes Sarasota's many and varied children's nonprofits: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." Some of the area's youth-centered organizations began working decades ago and have cultivated generations of young Sarasotans into adult pillars of the community. And today, with an eye toward future healthy, happy generations, these charities continue to plant and expand.

As the world grapples with the effects of the pandemic, the work of children-centered organizations to meet the emotional, medical, practical, and educational needs of the area's youngest and most vulnerable citizens is more important than ever.

These three local nonprofits, powered by staff, boards, volunteers, and your financial support, are performing invaluable work with children and families. This is how your dollars make a difference.

CHILDREN FIRST A MULTIGENERATIONAL MISSION

Children First has been serving south-west Florida families for nearly 60 years and Philip Tavill, now president and CEO, has been there for 25 of them. The organization was founded in 1961 by the Junior League of Sarasota as the Sarasota Day Nursery. Although the name changed in 2000, the multigenerational mission remains very much the same. "At the core, even though

we are living in a much more complex world, we're still doing what (the founders) set out to do," said Tavill, "and that's to help children and families living in dire economic circumstances be successful."

That mission takes two primary forms at 15 sites throughout the county. One is early care and education for children through the age of five, which is when 90 percent of brain development occurs. It also provides family-strengthening services so that positive development continues through lifetimes and generations. Of the 900 kids enrolled annually and more than 400 total families served each year, every single one requires some level of scholarship support. Among local contributions this year was a \$10,000 scholarship grant from Suncoast Credit Union.

As the exclusive Sarasota provider of Head Start and Early Head Start services, Children First receives approximately 80 percent of its expense budget from the federal office of Head Start – on the condition that the local community donates the other 20 percent. As Tavill explained, "Every local dollar collected secures four federal dollars."

When COVID hit and schools were closed, Children First family advocates became a lifeline for clients, delivering home learning kits, food and other supplies to families where they lived. One donor supplied \$8,000 in Publix gift cards.

With the current combination of global health crisis and





economic impact, “our children and families are the first to get hurt, they get hurt the worst, and they’re the last to recover,” said Tavill. “While our mission has always been important, I believe the pandemic makes the mission of Children First more important than it’s ever been.”

As needs grow, the organization must expand its reach. That’s going to take more space and more operational funding to support the cost of serving even more children. Community partnerships provide some space for little or no fee, but Children First remains committed to hiring early childhood experts and paying them competitively, so that they can afford to dedicate themselves to the organization and the community. Private philanthropists have thus far made sure that all of the current 210 Children First employees have been retained on staff.

“Private philanthropic support translates into this: Many hands make light work, es-

pecially when the lifting is heavy,” said Tavill. “And it’s really heavy lifting right now.”

THE TWIG EMPOWERING FOSTER CARE KIDS

For nearly four years, The Twig has been turning a straightforward conceit into a profound service. Founded in 2016, the Venice-based nonprofit’s main focus is maintaining a “shop” that looks and operates like a children’s boutique. Its racks and shelves are filled with new clothes, accessories, toys, toiletries and shoes in a full range of sizes, colors and styles, all bearing The Twig’s own label.

The difference is not in the inventory, but the clientele: the more than 1,400 foster care kids living in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties.


Children in foster care, regardless of where they live, are welcome to come to The Twig to choose around 10 items per visit. Everything is free, and the children can visit every month. In a testament to

just how rare this type of service is, families come from as far away as Tampa and Fort Myers.

“Most children in foster care have faced some form of abuse, neglect or abandon



Opposite page and above: Children First helps our area’s most vulnerable children, birth to five years of age, and their families.



ment,” said development director Nicole Britton, who is one of The Twig’s two full-time staff, alongside programs director Callie Cowan. In addition to those traumas, many “come into the system with nothing, just the clothes on their back.”

While meeting these children’s immediate, practical needs, The Twig achieves a deeper mission: to encourage and empower them, and to provide a sense of community. (The organization’s name stands for “The Way to Inspire and Give,” and Britton explained that the catchy acronym invokes mainstream stores like “the Gap.”) The Twig has already trained more than 200 volunteers, some of whom serve as “personal shoppers” who get to know the families on visit after visit and hang out with the children even after they’re done shopping.

“We don’t want the kiddos to feel like they’re just getting hand-me-downs,” said Britton. “We want to create a sense of community where they feel love and encouragement.” The organization will not accept donations during shopping days, in order to keep the experience centered on the children.

The environment can be magical. A pair of young siblings, who’d been separated in foster care, were reunited for an afternoon when their families unknowingly brought them to shop at the same time. “The little boy looked up at the door and said, ‘there’s my sister,’” Britton remembered.

To keep the store stocked, The Twig maintains a warehouse off-site where volunteers manage donated items. There’s an ongoing “wish list” of immediate needs on the website (thetwigcares.com), and monetary donations go towards the purchase

of items to fill the gaps in inventory, in addition to covering rent and utilities. The Twig also manages a mobile boutique that travels to group homes, as well as sending out monthly care packages to people who’ve recently aged out of foster care.

During the pandemic, Britton and Cowan mobilized The Twig’s volunteer corps to open the store more frequently for appointment-only private shopping trips. Since March, care package requests have tripled. “It’s actually been good in a lot of ways,” said Britton. “We can be intentional and have that special connection one family at a time. We started mailing out board games when we couldn’t do anything else. Just to bring a little fun and joy to these families.”

This year, The Twig received a \$350,000 grant from the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation to open a second store in north Sarasota or Manatee County. Britton hopes it will be open by summer of 2021.

HERE4YOUTH **TRANSFORMING MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR AREA YOUTH**

Even with Sarasota’s longstanding tradition of youth-centered community support, innovation continues to reshape the nonprofit landscape. Among the latest advancements is a far-reaching, grassroots initiative called Here4Youth, a partnership led by Jennifer Johnston of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF) and John Annis of the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation.

“Mental health needs were the thread running through every conversation we



TOP: The Twig is a boutique-style store where kids in foster care can outfit themselves.

ABOVE: Jennifer Johnston of Gulf Coast Community Foundation co-leads Here4Youth with John Annis (not pictured) of the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation.

had,” said Johnston, GCCF’s senior community investment officer. “Every sector is saying that there are mental health needs going unmet. Where do you begin?”

Here4Youth began with a comprehensive effort to understand the problem. In 2018, GCCF and the Barancik Foundation commissioned a research scan of children’s mental health environment throughout the whole of Sarasota County, performed by the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences.

As a result, a 68-page report detailed a needs assessment, a summary of challenges, a cost assessment, and a framework for improvements. It also revealed that the community loses \$86 million every year due to untreated mental illness. “We’re spending the money already,” said Johnston.

Johnston, who has a master’s degree in public health and completed a fellowship with the National Institutes of Health, led a team that spent a full year assessing the report and considering strategies for moving forward. Because most mental illness first manifests before the age of 24, they decided to focus on early interventions to help those at risk establish a better trajectory through life.

Next, they brought the community into the conversation. The team engaged more than 50 local nonprofits and community organizations, as well as young adults and families, in a series of meetings about the various ways mental health issues manifest in Southwest Florida. Connections were made.

In one meeting, a pediatrician voiced the need for a phone-in resource for information about psychiatric medications; they discovered that USF already offers that service. “There were opportunities for improvement that we didn’t realize sooner because we weren’t in the same room,” said Johnston, who notes that GCCF and the Barancik Foundation have a history of bringing people together to create measurable outcomes.

Ultimately, Here4Youth established independent work teams to tackle six barriers to better mental health services in Sarasota: community outreach, support for staff and families, a continuum of care, access to services, prevention and wellness, and financing. Because healthcare reform takes time, the organization will be an ongoing, multi-year investment, but some programs have already begun: Here4Youth created a special family care navigator role at the National Institute of Mental Health Sarasota and Manatee, and two new staff were hired for a pilot program at Sarasota and North Port high schools, where students will learn how better to identify and manage mental health issues in themselves and their peers.

“It’s about knitting together the system and then figuring out federal and state funding sources, maximizing them, and then using philanthropic dollars to supplement,” explained Johnston. “We don’t want to use philanthropic dollars for things that other sources fund.”

The work has continued through COVID, though some federal and state funding sources are slipping away. As needs escalate and government budgets shrink, Johnston wants the community to stay excited about the incredible potential of Here4Youth.

“Here’s our chance to try new things. This is an opportunity that we’re building from the ground up,” she said. “If we could design the perfect system, now’s our chance.”

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[COURTESY PHOTOS]

THE HERMITAGE'S CORE FOCUS TAKES CENTER STAGE

No matter what facet of The Hermitage Artist Retreat you point to – artist residences, community programming and so on – they all are designed for the same purpose. “It’s not about promoting any one particular program or artist, it’s about articulating the core essence of who we are – at our roots, we support artists in the creative process,” said Artistic Director and CEO, Andy Sandberg.

With recent events, i.e. the COVID-19 pandemic, providing the lens, The Hermitage (hermitageartistretreat.org) has refocused its fundraising efforts around those core operations. Thus, with a recent \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation to sponsor next April’s Greenfield Prize and its festivities, and to support its artist residency program, The Hermitage’s challenge is clear: if it doesn’t continue to incubate or develop our nation’s artists, it risks a future without new works acted out on stage or hanging on museum walls.



ANDY SANDBERG

... it’s about articulating the core essence of who we are – at our roots, we support artists in the creative process

– Andy Sandberg
Artistic Director and CEO



[HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTO]

WBTT MOVES TOWARDS SEASON

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe is poised to get its shows on the road with the help of a \$30,000 Arts Appreciation grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. At press time, WBTT’s 2020-2021 season line up was still in flux, as it endeavors to develop programming that will be safe for audiences and performers alike.

Fingers crossed, because “Light Up The Night,” WBTT’s first socially-distanced, open-air concert series has been wildly popular, as have its first virtual creations. Those include “American Roots: The Gospel Experience,” a collaboration with Key Chorale available for viewing through Nov. 30; and Stage of Discovery, a free camp for disadvantaged youth on Zoom that also debuted a socially distant, outdoor youth performance. Stay tuned at westcoastblacktheatre.org to learn of streamed performances, virtual playbills, concerts in the courtyard, and more.

[BULLETIN]



[COURTESY PHOTOS]

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO PROGRAMMING AT THE RINGLING

A spark of creativity with that morning coffee buzz is what The Ringling (ringling.org) has been serving up to its members lately. Its on-campus, low-attendance, and socially distant program known as Member Mornings opens select galleries for viewing. Together with its new, virtual family program experiences, the museum is finding its own small ways to reinvigorate the arts in our community with philanthropic collaboration.

In addition, significant support toward The Ringling's Art of Our Time initiative, Women in Circus exhibition (specifically the upcoming Suffragists and Circus exhibit), and family programming was bolstered by a \$50,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and an extended annual grant from National Endowment for the Arts.

"We live in a community where people and foundations want to support local organizations right now," explained Senior Development Officer of The Ringling, John Melleky. "Whether it's human services or the arts, they know these are critical pillars of our community that provide these programs."



ART



[COURTESY PHOTOS]

MAKING THE VIRTUAL REAL AT ASOLO REP

Buoyed by an Arts Appreciation Grant of \$70,000 by Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Asolo Repertory Theatre (asolorep.org) has been working hard to bring its theatrical world together with the digital world. That includes rethinking programming to reach indoor, outdoor, and virtual audiences, creating a strong, vibrant online presence with podcasts, developing presentations of archival work, and free virtual performances. In addition to the costs associated with those efforts, the grant also provides essential support to help Asolo Rep secure the safety of its audience, staff, volunteers, and the actors on stage, ensuring that Asolo Rep will be able to continue creating world class theatre here in Sarasota for the Sarasota community, as soon as it is safe to do so.



*Linda DeGabriele,
Executive Director
Asolo Rep*

VENICE THEATRE ACTS WITH INITIATIVE

Demonstrating the power of philanthropic collaboration, Gulf Coast Community Foundation's \$50,000 grant has helped Venice Theatre (venicetheatre.org), one of the longest-running community theaters in the country, to keep going.

In the meantime it has successfully run four cabaret performances and two performances of "Love Letters," featuring Producing Executive Director, Murray Chase and his wife – all at 30 percent theatre capacity with stringent safety protocols in place. It's prepared to continue these smaller-scale, socially distant productions as well as its active and robust virtual education programs that include more than 25 classes for children, youth, and adults via Zoom.



The organization is also looking forward to putting the support toward its musical theatre internship program, which provides valuable hands-on experience and mentoring to aspiring actors, singers and dancers, as well as other planned initiatives as season kicks off.

[BULLETIN]

SARASOTA OPERA STOKES NEW POSSIBILITIES

With unrestricted funding in support of its 2020-21 main opera season, as well as re-envisioned community education initiatives – like a newly virtual, more accessible Youth Opera program – Sarasota Opera's \$50,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation has opened the door for the development of new events and programs.

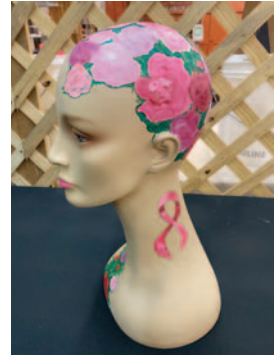


Sarasota Opera's Victor DeRenzi and Richard Russell

"Though we're not doing the productions we scheduled this fall, we're opening up a series of concerts - one of which will be live-streamed from the Opera House," said Executive Director Richard Russell. "This is a brand-new initiative for us and Gulf Coast's support is providing the runway to plan that kind of programming," he added. The Opera staff is also looking at developing new virtual content, and even outdoor programs. One can only hope that some open-air arias await our eyes and ears. Learn more at sarasotaopera.org.

RAFFLE FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH HELD BY THE BAZAAR

The Bazaar on Apricot & Lime recently raised money for META-Vivor (metavivor.org), which is the only nonprofit dedicated to the specific fight of women and men living with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer.



[COURTESY PHOTOS]

For every visitor, The Bazaar contributed one dollar and all 30 vendors donated a portion of sales. A raffle was also held to win this hand-painted head by Bazaar vendor, Kendal Kiner. The Bazaar (bazaaronapricotandlime.com) is an indie market open Thurs.-Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 821 Apricot Avenue in Sarasota.

ART

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EQUINE THERAPY EXPANDS AT EASTERSEALS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

After serving children, youth and adults with special needs in our community for nearly 75 years, Easterseals Southwest Florida (easterseals-swfl.org) has collected a lot of therapeutic and educational tools in its toolbox. That hasn't stopped the organization from adopting even more programs in pursuit of its mission to empower individuals to live their lives to the fullest extent.

Enter InStride Therapy Inc., a 62-acre ranch and facility in Nokomis that provides equine-assisted activities and therapies including hippotherapy. Effective for individuals with disabilities of all levels, including those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), hippotherapy integrates horse riding with specialized physical, occupational,

speech and behavioral therapy.

The two organizations had been working together for about 18 months when the Covid-19 pandemic hobbled all direct-service business, especially for those who provide services to people with already-fragile health.

President and CEO Tom Waters explained that by joining forces Easterseals-at-InStride is more equipped to expand services to those in need, increase its geographical reach and pursue opportunities for partnerships with organizations whose services would be enhanced by equine-assisted programs tailored for veterans and first responders.

As a regular visitor to InStride on Saturdays, Waters is stoked for



Love for horses always reigns during Operation Warrior Resolution veteran retreats at InStride Therapy.

the possibilities, especially after witnessing the transformation of a seven-year-old boy with ASD. "He was on the edge of nonverbal, but when he came home from a session, his mother told us that all he wanted to do was talk about the horse. The hippotherapy brought out his personality," he said.

"The magic of the horses is what makes all the difference," said Waters.



Willow Ransom is a Senior at Pine View High School who volunteers at InStride Therapy. She is a 'side' walker – meaning she is one of two people walking alongside the rider and his or her Easterseals' therapist. "I see the stress in the parents (who bring their kids for therapy). But during the therapy session, they get to sit back and watch their children enjoy it and even make progress. I love being a part of that," she said.

MOTE MARINE SEA TURTLE PROGRAM PROGRESS

Real and lasting conservation can move at the speed of a proverbial turtle. So when Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium (mote.org) logged its fourth best year (largest number of nests) out of 39 of its Sea Turtle Conservation & Research program it is cause for celebration. But these primordial creatures aren't completely out of danger. "Turtles are temperature dependent and because males are produced in colder weather we may start to see fewer over time," explained Mote PR Manager Stephannie Kettle. Mote scientists are monitoring the situation for now.



[BULLETIN]



CONSERVATION & COMMEMORATION WITH ETERNAL REEFS

Sarasota nonprofit Eternal Reefs (eternalreefs.com) recently completed the first and only memorial on behalf of those who lost their lives aboard the 65 U.S. submarines that never returned from duty since 1900. The On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef honors these 4,000+ veterans in the environment in which they served, the ocean, and is also the future location for Arlington of the Sea, a project to offer national veterans an ocean memorial alternative to Arlington National Cemetery.

TERVIS WATER BOTTLES GIVEN TO HOSPITAL WORKERS & SCHOOLCHILDREN

Locally owned and operated Tervis (tervis.com) offered a "Buy One - Give One" campaign that resulted in all 7,200 employees of Sarasota Memorial Hospital receiving a free Tervis water bottle. The company also provided 50,000 water bottles to middle school and high school students in the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) after the COVID-19 pandemic required that drinking fountains be shut down. "Thanks to Tervis, students will be able to use the newly installed touch-free water stations (enabling) us to responsibly supply our students with the water they need throughout the school day," said Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent Addison Davis.



GOOD DEEDS

[MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM]

FUTURE PLANS: NEW AQUARIUM, IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

2020 is a momentous year for Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium. The locally based nonprofit is celebrating the 65th anniversary of its world-renown research institution and the 40th birthday of its award-winning aquarium.

Mote is commemorating these events by highlighting some exciting news: plans for its new, multi-level Mote Science Education Aquarium are underway. Situated in Nathan Benderson Park, just west of I-75, the state-of-the-art facility will feature three interactive K-12 STEM teaching laboratories complete with educators and scientists on site, immersive experiences for visitors, and, of course, plenty of amazing sea creatures.

By moving the aquarium, Mote frees up much-needed space at its City Island home base for scientists and researchers. In fact, the need for more science and research labs was the impetus that inspired Mote to examine its past, gain historical insights, and use them to plan for its continuing success.

One thing is for sure: Mote Marine Lab has come a long way. It's grown from a tiny one-room laboratory in Placida, FL, to an organization with six campus locations along the Gulf Coast and the Florida Keys. Plus, Mote's marine science initiatives, which began with the



Learn more by visiting mote.org, or calling 941-388-4441. Purchase Aquarium tickets online at mote.org/tickets

groundbreaking work conducted by founder Dr. Eugenie Clark into the behavior of sharks, now includes more than 20 diverse research programs.

Covering the past and envisioning the future still leaves a lot to do today. A visit to the current Mote Aquarium helps to support the nonprofit's vital worldwide marine research programs.

[ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK]

MEETING THE PANDEMIC HUNGER CHALLENGE

The challenge of feeding people impacted by the Covid-19 crisis is growing at an unprecedented rate and All Faiths Food Bank has gone all out – ramping up to meet our communities' needs.

Starting in mid-March, All Faiths experienced a 120 percent increase in distribution in just six weeks, with a 45 percent increase in new clients. "There are so many people in our community who never struggled to put food on the table before. They didn't know where to turn for help," said All Faiths CEO Sandra Frank.

All Faiths conducted a deep analysis to find where the newly unemployed were living. It identified 10 underserved or unserved ZIP codes and opened 19 new, safe, drive-through distributions; there are now over 315 monthly distributions. It also added operations specialists, three new fleet trucks, and greatly expanded its communications and outreach to find more people who need help.

Frank is realistic about the future. "All of 2021 will be a recovery year. Our team is working on the metrics of how many meals we will need to provide," she said.

No matter what, Frank affirmed that All Faiths Food Bank would continue to provide food that supports the health of the individual and the community. Speaking candidly, she said, "Your dollar can go further than any food donation because of the buying power and sources we already have."



To learn more,
and to donate to
All Faiths Food Bank,
please visit
allfaithsfoodbank.org.



COVID-19 has created more empty plates than ever before.
Together, we can turn them into ThankFULL tummies.



Give today at allfaithsfoodbank.org

[PERSONALIZED ESTATE LIQUIDATION BENEFITING YOUTH, INC]

SERVING AT-RISK YOUTH: ONE ESTATE SALE AT A TIME!

If children are our "most valuable resource and best hope for the future," then supporting them as they grow up is of paramount importance. All adolescents face challenges. Sadly, young people with less opportunity or problematic home lives are "at risk" of taking on destructive behaviors that can prevent a successful transition into adulthood.

TURNING LIVES AROUND

Personalized Estate Liquidation (PEL) Benefiting Youth, Inc.'s mission is to help turn those lives around. It accomplishes this by raising funds in a truly unique way – by expertly conducting estate sales, consignment sales and more – all in support of Sarasota County's at-risk youth.

PEL's team of volunteer professionals manage estate sales from start to finish by handling all details including advertising, staging, running the event. Sales are held in private homes and at its 9,400 sq. ft. showroom located near downtown Sarasota. The showroom also sells furniture, artwork, fine crystal, china, everyday dishes, pots, pans, appliances, patio furniture, jewelry, purses, and many unusual items.

Since 2016, PEL has raised a total of \$220,400 that it gave to places with programs serving our at-risk youth population including Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota, Teen Court of Sarasota, Booker High School Foundation, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, and Roberta Leventhal Sudakoff Youth Center.

School Foundation, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, and Roberta Leventhal Sudakoff Youth Center.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Your estate donation or consignment of goods, or visit to the showroom to shop for your home, gifts and more will help PEL help Sarasota's young people grow to be successful and productive members of our community.



Personalized Estate Liquidation Benefiting Youth
1520 N. Lime Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237
personalizedestateliquidation.com

For store merchandise call 941-210-3149
For estate sales, donations and consignments
call 941-933-8757



Personalized Estate Liquidation Benefiting Youth, Inc.

Conducting Estate Sales of Fine Jewelry,
Furniture, Art, Crystal and More!

Shop - Donate - Consign - Volunteer

PEL HAS DONATED OVER \$220,400 TO COMMUNITY YOUTH IN NEED



PersonalizedEstateLiquidation.com

1520 N. Lime Ave • Sarasota

941.210.3149 for store merchandise

941.993.8757 for estate sales, donations and consignments

Follow Us on  @PELSarasota

FO-1891887

[THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SARASOTA-MANATEE]

THE CAMPUS FOR JEWISH LIFE – BUILDING HOPE & OPTIMISM

It's an exciting and pivotal time for The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee (JFED). The 62-year area nonprofit is on the cusp of transforming its 32-acre property into the Larry & Mary Greenspon Family Campus for Jewish Life.

The extensive project includes new and revamped buildings and programs designed to engage, educate and entertain people from the Jewish community and beyond, for generations to come.

"In 1959 the Sarasota/Manatee area had only few thousand Jews, mostly retirees. Today we have about 3,500 people of all ages including families, baby boomers and older generations," said Tevlowitz. Those demographics, echoed in the community at large, provide JFED with an opportunity to support the educational, cultural, spiritual and physical needs of a diverse population as it grows and changes.

When complete the Larry & Mary Greenspon Family Campus for Jewish Life will be a testament to JFED's mission: to save Jewish lives and enhance Jewish life in the Sarasota-Manatee region, in Israel, and the world.

Planned social and cultural features include a family event center, a banquet hall available for rental, community meeting spaces, the newly designed and relocated Beatrice Friedman Theatre, and a state-of-the-art Israel and Holocaust Learning and Resource Center.



The new sports complex will boast an aquatic center, tennis courts, and fitness facilities.

The Campus will also accommodate JFED's new Florida Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) program, which is designed to attract high-growth Israeli tech ventures to the Sarasota/Manatee area.

It's a tall order, but the Larry & Mary Greenspon Family Campus for Jewish Life is up to the challenge. "The Federation was made for this moment in time," said Tevlowitz. "JFED's dedication and ability to keep our community safe and thriving is the core of our existence."

Learn more, volunteer
or donate by going to
jfedsrq.org or calling
371-4546.

Where YOU belong

JFED PROUD & STRONG

JOIN US to learn more about the exciting reimagination of the Larry & Mary Greenspon Family Campus for Jewish Life. Visit JFEDSRQ.org/ProudStrong.


The Jewish Federation
OF SARASOTA-MANATEE

McINTOSH ROAD, SARASOTA



JAMES ROBINSON

Activist For LGBTQ+ Youth

James Robinson moved to Sarasota from Fort Myers to become executive director of ALSO Youth (the ALSO stands for advocacy, leadership, support and outreach) this past April – right at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

Originally from south of Boston, Robinson's dedication to LGBTQ+ activism began when he was living in New York City in the 1980s. "Most gay men my age became accidental activists when our friends all started dying of AIDS," he explained.

From that epidemic to this pandemic he earned a graduate degree in urban affairs and subsequently worked in a variety of positions and places including as development director at a private school and for a wildlife preservation organization.

Robinson is gratified to be working at a nonprofit with a strong activist mission: To promote the health, safety, and

personal growth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, and allied youth.

ALSO Youth takes a three-pronged approach to cover all the bases. It supports local GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) clubs in Sarasota and Manatee counties; provides trainings on LGBTQ+ issues to the GSA groups and to for-profit and nonprofit businesses and community groups; and it operates the ALSO Youth Drop-In Center.

When the pandemic shut down in-person meetings ALSO Youth moved its peer-run support groups online. At press time, the schedule included check-ins, open groups and transgender support via Zoom Chats for teens (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-24).

Even when virtual, Robinson knows that these groups may save lives. "There is any number of statistics showing that LGBTQ+ youth think about suicide more than their peers."

BY EMILY LEINFUSS | PHOTO BY BARBARA BANKS



WILLIAM MCKEEVER

Opportunity, Hope & New Beginnings

William McKeever's professional life is dedicated to service. Currently the executive director of the Academy at Glengary, he's worked in Peru, where his wife was employed for Habitat for Humanity before returning to the U.S. A certified rehabilitation counselor, he has worked in a 'clubhouse' environment in Worcester, MA., St. Pete and Sarasota for 20 years.

McKeever believes in the effectiveness of the clubhouse model – where people with mental illness are given opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education and access to medical and psychiatric services in a single caring and safe environment. Its participants are known as members, rather than patients and no clinical services are provided.

"We see mental health as something people experience; we are not a medical model, but a wellness model. Symptoms almost seem irrelevant," he said. McKeever tells members to leave their diagnoses at the door. "(Our people) are defined by who they are and who they want to be," he explained. "It's so liberating."

Through the program, members rediscover their talents, hopes and dreams. They participate in The Academy's working community. Even staff often have no prior expertise working with the mentally ill; they are hired for the skills they can teach.

Launching as The Vincent Academy in June 2017, the Academy at Glengary, Inc. incorporated as a nonprofit the following year. The organization houses a fully operational

culinary program where members prepare and serve food in a dining room setting. Much of the produce used in the kitchen is grown on the premises. It also features an office set up with the latest technology, and a multi-media graphics and photography wing.

"We provide service to about 100 members over the course of a year," McKeever said. Members don't necessarily attend every day. Some come in two or three days a week. Because of the pandemic, however, only 20 members at a time may use the facility. Masks and social distancing are required and members are screened upon entering.

"There is a flow to what we do here," he said. Some members spend their day working at the academy, honing professional skills or learning new ones. Others go to work or pursue further education. "After being here six months, we might only see them once a week or month, but we're there for them whenever they need it."

Several area businesses, including Sunset Cadillac, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Sarasota County Public Defender's office and Pines of Sarasota, partner with the academy, providing members with transitional employment opportunities.

The goal is integration into the community. "When our members say, 'I'd love to come in but I'm too busy,' it's a wonderful but bittersweet outcome for us," said McKeever. Those members become role models for program newcomers.

"We learn as much from this experience as our members," he said. "I can't see myself doing anything else."

BY PATRICIA HORWELL



MELISSA PARKER

Facing Challenges With a Commitment To Compassionate Care

Imagine you've just moved more than 1600 miles to undertake a demanding new job as CEO of a nonprofit health organization. Then, shortly after arriving in Sarasota, FL in November 2019, you are diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. A few months later along comes the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's exactly what happened to Melissa Parker. After 19 years heading up a community clinic in Minnesota, Parker knew she was ready for a challenge and a change of location. Becoming CEO of CenterPlace Health (centerplace.org) fit the bill, but the rest? Not part of the plan.

"The staff at CenterPlace was compassionate beyond words," said Parker. "They made me feel at home during (my personal) battle. Then with COVID-19, they engaged in unprecedented efforts to ensure we could still serve the vulnerable populations who rely on the medical and dental care we provide."

FROM CANDY STRIPER TO ADMINISTRATOR

A single parent of two, Parker was once a 15-year-old "candy striper" (hospital volunteer). Healthcare positions formed her career and she worked in clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, home care and administration. After earning a B.A. in health care administration she landed at United Family Medicine (UFM) in St. Paul, MN.

After rising to the rank of CEO at UFM, she led the organization through a successful capital campaign and the completion of two clinic building projects, one of which received silver LEED certification from the US Green Building Council.

"It was a well-oiled machine," reflected Parker, "and so I began to wonder, where else can I help out?" A recruiter made the match with CenterPlace, which was looking to re-

place its retiring CEO, Linda Stone, PhD.

CenterPlace Health was created in 2018 to provide care for low-income populations after the Florida Department of Health stopped offering primary care services for children and adults to focus on public health initiatives. A private nonprofit corporation, it is one of Sarasota County's Federally Qualified Health Centers with three locations in Sarasota County – two in Sarasota and one in North Port.

ADAPTABILITY AND HOPE

Thanks to community partners like the COVID-19 Response Initiative, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation – along with funding from the Paycheck Protection Program – CenterPlace Health has been able to continue operations during the pandemic, including testing and telehealth and avoid having to furlough staff. Clinic hours have been adapted so that healthy patients are seen in the morning and those who are sick in the afternoon. Chiropractic and child psychology services are new.

Parker hopes to increase the services provided by CenterPlace Health across the spectrum, from mom and baby to senior care. She'd like to add adult dental services, and maybe a residency program for dentists. She's fired up about the idea of bringing a mobile unit into 55+ communities and is determined to figure out a way to make specialty care more accessible.

While Parker's own integration into Sarasota County has been hampered by health issues – both personal and global – she is very impressed with what she has encountered so far. "This is a great community that wants to take care of its people," she said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know it better."

BY LINDA F. JOFFE

DEBBIE MASON

A Peaceful Warrior for The Greater Good

Serendipitous. That's how Debbie Mason CFRE, APR, CPRC, Fellow PRSA, president of Tidewell Foundation, describes how she came to work at the Sarasota non-profit a little more than a year ago. Mason showed up with the perfect combination of right skills, and right place right timing, she explained.

Experience-wise, Mason's career boasts top-level positions at healthcare systems, nonprofits, foundations, and commu-

Springs and the Gulf Coast," she said.

While consulting in Sarasota she set up two informational interviews to scope the job market. "Both of them said, 'you need to know Jonathan Fleece (President and CEO of Stratum Health). He is looking for someone with your skill set.'" They connected virtually and talked for hours. Two weeks later she got the job offer.

MEANT TO CARE & EXCEL

On a deeper level, Mason may have been destined to serve at an organization like Tidewell – one that cares for others with dignity and compassion. "Early on I became an advocate for people who didn't have a voice or whose voice couldn't be heard." She explained that her brother had a speech impediment that made him very hard to understand. "I was his translator and his peaceful warrior against people who bullied him."

Mason also admits that she was a precocious little girl. Her entrepreneurial side was activated after she started selling cakes and pies she made in her Easy-Bake Oven. From that start she grew up to be a food and wine-pairing alchemist, but had just gotten started exploring area restaurants when the COVID-19 shutdown hit.

Still, when she "needs a head fix" she visits Selby Gardens, walks on the beach, and caters to her standard poodle Tucker, who also goes by the name Mr. Poodleicious.

If Mason has an actual superpower, it is her ability to energize and motivate when handling a crisis or starting a new enterprise. "A lot of people get paralyzed when everything is rushing towards them," she said. "But it energizes me. I have great clarity and persistence," she added.

Those are invaluable qualities to have when you are asked to help establish your organization's foundation in a tight timeframe and then serve as president. The Tidewell Foundation, launched in July 2020, "was started to provide perpetual support for Tidewell Hospice and other Stratum organizations," she explained.

MORE THAN HOSPICE CARE

Because she was the primary caregiver for both of her parents, Mason can personally relate to the services that Tidewell provides the community, free of charge, in addition to hospice care.

"Last year we served more than 8,000 people, most of whom didn't have a direct Tidewell experience (before) they came for grief support," she said. Especially close to her heart is the "Blue Butterfly" program for grieving children, ages 5-18. Mason explained that when children experience the loss of a parent they are more likely to struggle with mental health and behavioral issues, and substance abuse.



nications agencies. That checked all the boxes to land the job of executive vice president/chief philanthropy officer at Stratum Health System, Tidewell's parent company.

As for timing and location, Mason, a multi-generational Floridian, was living in California when she felt Florida calling her back home. "I'd spent a good deal of my life in Tarpon

BY LINDA F. JOFFE

KATRINA BELLEMARE

A Visionary for How Parenting Matters

When Fred “Mister” Rogers was a child and needed reassurance, his mother gave him sage advice. “Look for the helpers,” she told him. “You will always find people who are helping.”

Sometimes, with family matters, it’s the parents who need to be encouraged. And that is where Parenting Matters, with executive director Katrina Bellemare at the helm, can help. The organization has been a valuable family resource in Sarasota and Manatee counties for 26 years. Its range of services for parents of children ages 0-17 includes programs for in-home parenting, adopted families, musical motion, and more. All programs are free and available in English and Spanish.

The work has been rewarding and challenging for Bellemare, especially because parents can be resistant to asking for help. But she knows that everyone needs support now and then.

Bellemare and her team can relate. They, too have felt the “stigma” around needing help. “It takes a lot of

courage, but we’ve never met (any) parents who didn’t love their children, she said, adding “it’s hard to be a good helper if you don’t know the feeling of getting it, too.”

With years of experience, and a background that includes social work and international adoption behind her, Bellemare is following her vision for Parenting Matters. That is “to ensure all families in our community have access to the skills and support needed to effectively parent their children.”

Operating virtually now, Bellemare hopes to provide at least one live session soon. “It’s all about keeping our families and staff safe.”



BY PATRICIA HORWELL





**HELP US KEEP GROWING...ALL NEW
AND INCREASED GIFTS MATCHED
1:1 IF YOU GIVE BY 12/31/20**

**941-953-3877
CHILDRENFIRST.NET
1723 N. ORANGE AVE
SARASOTA, FL 34234**



DWIGHT FITCH MD

The Impact of Mentors and Mentoring

Bradenton oncologist Dwight Fitch MD feels blessed to have been involved with the Brotherhood of Men Mentor Group (BOM) since its inception in 2007. The way he tells it, the connection between the group and the man was meant to be.

Born and raised in Detroit, Fitch moved here directly after his residency when he was hired by 21st Century Oncology in Bradenton. He soon started exploring the area and was taken aback at the lack of diversity.

It was only after he discovered Newtown in Sarasota that he found a community of black people. “These are families who have been here for decades, but it felt like they were quarantined to a just few blocks,” he said.

The very next day Fitch was told about a mentoring group starting in Newtown at 6 p.m. It was 5 p.m. “When I got there I thought ‘the only difference between these kids and

mine is that my three sons have a dad who is a physician and a mom who is an engineer.”

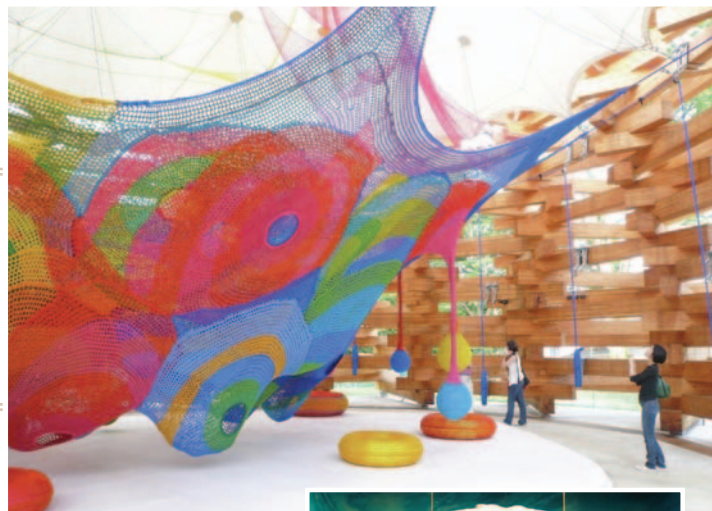
“The founder was talking about things that should be basic: how to respect yourself, how to be positive and to stand by your word,” he explained. Remembering how his own experience being mentored helped him in life, Fitch committed his time and his heart to the group.

Since then he has helped guide generations of boys and young men as they learn how to become better grown men. And, when they come back to visit, these “graduates” – mentored by Fitch and other Brotherhood of Men volunteers – confirm BOM’s message of love, responsibility, integrity and manhood. “They say, ‘everything these guys told you is true. Because of them I stayed out of jail, I got a steady job, I went to college.’”

BY EMILY LEINFUSS | PHOTO BY BARBARA BANKS

Gifts That Give More

Large, in-person celebrations for birthdays, anniversaries or holidays are out this year. But gift giving is always in style. Make your gift count twice by choosing something your recipient will love that also supports area businesses or organizations.



[COURTESY PHOTOS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED]

ARTFULLY THEIRS

Give culture-lovers in your life the ability to visit our area's top museums, such as the Sarasota Art Museum, The Ringling or The Bishop Museum of Science & Nature, as much as they'd like.

Sarasotaartmuseum.org, Solo - \$65, Duo - \$100

Ringling.org: Individual- \$75, Duo- \$120, Family- \$135

Bishopscience.org: Memberships start at \$75



[HEBALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTO]



MAKE A FOODIE'S DAY

A gift card to a locally owned eatery provides pleasure to the receiver and also helps owners navigate a challenging time for restaurants. Supersize your selection with a card that offers two or more restaurants.

Sandbar, The Deck at The Beach House, and Mar-Vista: One gift card is good for all three places. beachhousedining.com/gift-cards

Sharky's on the Pier, Fins at Sharky's, and Snook Haven: Gift cards have no expiration date and can be used at all three restaurants. sharkysonthepier.com/store/Gift-Cards-c36608212

Sarasota Manatee Originals offers certificates that are good for a selection of its more than 60 locally owned member restaurants. eatlikealocal.com/dining-certificates



NATURE'S GIFTS

Whether it's by land (with lots of orchids) like Marie Selby Gardens, by sea and its creatures such as Mote Marine Aquarium, or up a tree at the activity center Treeumph Adventure Course, a membership or gift card to one of these area treasures lasts all year.

Selby.org: Single- \$75, Dual- \$100, Family- \$150

Mote.org: Party of two- \$95, Party of four- \$125

Treeumph.com (Year-round gift certificates): Adult (ages 12 and up) \$55.95, Junior (Ages 9-11) \$37.95 and Ape Up (ages 7 & 8) \$25.95

LIVING IT UP AT THE RITZ

A DAY IN THE LIFESTYLE



Style Magazine went behind the scenes at a unique video shoot orchestrated by mother and daughter real estate agents at Michael Saunders, Christine and Sara DelMonte, together with Tatyana Sharoubim-Stewart, the owner of the boutique T. Georgiano's in downtown Sarasota.

The promotional video envisions a day in the life of a fabulous, confident and beautiful millennial-aged woman 'owner' at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Residences. Its purpose – to promote Ritz Carlton Beach Residence Unit 805, and to showcase T. Georgiano's effortless year-round fashion, which is for sale at tgeorgianos.com. Photography by Tutti del Monte at tuttidelmonte.com.

Hostess with the most-est enjoying evening cocktails with friends. Clothing l-r: Vacay Me Blazer by Volcom \$79.50, Leopard Print Smocked Crop Top \$49.99, spacedye out of pocket high waisted legged \$99, Shoes; Madeline by Steve Madden: Chinaza Drape Tuxedo Playsuit \$168, Gramercy Glitter Platform Sandals \$178; Buttoned Duster by Beyond Yoga \$132 Malibu rhinestones by Steve Madden \$115, Zebra print high waist pocket shorts \$69.99





Yoga on an unending wrapped terrace with stunning views: priceless. Clothing: Piper High-Waisted Jogger by Spiritual Gangster \$118, Airweight Bralette by splits59 \$74



Enjoying sun and fun at the private pool. Clothing: Simone High Waist Pant \$79, Amelia Smocked One-Piece \$89



Lounging at home is divine. Clothing: Airweight High Waisted Short \$58, Adella Bralette \$38, Powder Blue Dip Dye Plaid Tencel Shirt \$85 (in store only)

All photos shot on site.
Find info at michaelsaunders.com/properties/

Social

NOTE: Scheduled events may very well experience cancellations and rescheduling. Please make sure to double-check all for the most up-to-date information before you go.

NOVEMBER 16

SCRAMBLE FOR SPARCC

Entry includes boxed lunch, beverages, greens fee, cart and awards presentation. Cash bar available.

Longboat Key Club-Harbourside Golf Course
12 p.m., \$175

Contact Ning Qin, nqin@sparcc.net
365-0208 ext. 124, sparcc.net

21

DENIM BY THE DIAMOND

Suncoast Charities for Children
Country music themed fundraiser featuring food stations, a full host bar (2 drink tickets included), and a silent auction.

Cool Today Park, Venice
6-10 p.m., \$85
487-7904

suncoastcharitiesforchildren.org

DECEMBER 5

SPARCC AUXILIARY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Collecting gift cards, toys and gifts for survivors.

SPARCC, Sarasota, 4-7 p.m., Price TBD
Contact Ning Qin, nqin@sparcc.net,
365-0208 ext. 124, sparcc.net

Lucy V. Nicandri, executive director, and Sarah Catell, on right, assistant executive director, of the Suncoast Charities for Children.
[HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTO]

VIRTUAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18

20TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

State College of Florida (SCF) Foundation
Keynote Speaker: Erin Gruwell, educator, author, motivational speaker and founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25 & \$100 + discounted tickets available for regional educators
scf-foundation.org/scholarshipluncheon
or text 'SCFLUNCH' to 41444
to purchase tickets

21

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN 2020: A 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County (BGCSC). Virtual event to benefit BGCSC programs.

8-9 p.m., \$350

Dawn Bouck, dbouck@bgcsarasota.com
366-3911, bgcsarasota.com



[AGENDA]

NOVEMBER

21

TURKEY TROT

Virtual Run/Walk for Tidewell Foundation
Participants may run or walk any distance they choose at any location to raise needed funding for Tidewell Hospice and its programs.
\$10, 552-7546
or email turkeytrot@tidewellfoundation.org

DECEMBER

4

33RD ANNUAL WINTER BENEFIT: AN EVENING TO INSPIRE

The Florida Center for Early Childhood
Virtual fundraiser and celebration featuring an interactive wine tasting, entertainment, silent auction, chance drawing and more!
7-9 p.m., \$100
merab.favorite@thefloridacenter.org
or call 371-8820 x1025
thefloridacenter.org

23RD ANNUAL JINGLE & JOG

The Haven 5K run/walk. All funds raised by the event benefit the mission of The Haven, an established non-profit with a 66-year legacy of providing programs and services for children and adults with disabilities.
4405 Desoto Rd., Sarasota
8 a.m., \$25
355-8808, TheHavenSRQ.org

JANUARY 2021

9

THE HOSPITAL GALA – A VIRTUAL EVENT

Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation
Fundraiser to support the greatest needs of Sarasota Memorial Hospital and to honor its SMH healthcare heroes!
6:30-7:30 p.m.
\$100-\$250 patron
\$1000-\$15,000 sponsorship
Sally Schule, 941-917-8729
sally-schule@smh.com, smhf.org



Sarasota Memorial Hospital President/CEO David Verinder.
[HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTO]

Music... Theater... Visual Art... Literature...
where it all begins.

THE HERMITAGE
artist retreat



Reggie Harris
Songwriter, Woodrow Wilson Scholar,
Kennedy Center Teaching Artist

"The reach of the Hermitage goes far beyond its houses on the Gulf. The work produced here is seen and heard around the world."

—Mark Campbell, Pulitzer Prize & Grammy Award Winner

The creative process and artistic development are more essential than ever. The Hermitage remains committed to supporting the creation, development, and exploration of bold and impactful new works of art that reflect and shape our world.

Hermitage Fellows include...

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MacArthur Genius Fellows
Poets Laureate
and hundreds more brilliant artists!



Martyna Majok
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Playwright,
Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner



For programs and more information, visit: HermitageArtistRetreat.org

arts &

NOVEMBER 16

GUITAR SARASOTA

Emerging Artist Series: Duo Excelsa
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7:30, Free
260-3306, guitarsarasota.org

16-22

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: OPEN AIR CONCERT SERIES

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe
Various Artists, most nights, 7:30 p.m.
\$20-\$40
366-1505, westcoastblacktheatre.org

17 & 19

SARASOTA OPERA AT THE GARDENS

Sarasota Opera
10/17 - Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
5:30 p.m., \$35
10/19 - Historic Spanish Point
5:30 p.m., \$35
328-1300, sarasotaopera.org

19-22

HEARTSTRINGS

Sarasota Orchestra
Holley Hall, Live at
Holley Hall, various
times, tkt. by lottery
Streaming: 11/26-12/1,
\$10, 953-3434
sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts



Dick Hyman
[COURTESY PHOTO]

23

PALM COURT TREASURES

Artist Series Concerts
of Sarasota
Historic Spanish Point
5:30 p.m., \$25
306-1200
artistseriesconcerts.org

DECEMBER 3

STRINGS CON BRIO GOES TO THE THEATRE

Outdoor Concert
Phillippi Estate Park
6-7 p.m. / 8-9 p.m., \$TK, Strings Con Brio
677-3291, stringsconbrio.org

6

DICK HYMAN AND THE FLORIDA JAZZ MASTERS

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens,
5:30 p.m.
\$25, 306-1200
artistseriesconcerts.org

10-13

BEETHOVEN @ 250

Sarasota Orchestra
Live at Holley Hall, vari-
ous times, tkt. by lottery
Streaming: 12/17-22, \$10
953-3434
sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts



Sarasota
Orchestra
[COURTESY PHOTO]

17-20

HOLIDAY POPS

Sarasota Orchestra
Live at Holley Hall, various times,
tkt. by lottery
Streaming: 12/24-29, \$10
953-3434, sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

18

FIESTA DE COLORES WITH SARASOTA CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Sarasota Contemporary Dance hosts a live
collaborative performance in conjunction
with Ringling School of Art and Design
alum, Skylar Martinez plus local lyricist
and B-boy Rick Levin and DJ Karim
Manning.
Rosemary Square, 7:30-10 p.m., \$15
345-5755, sarasotacontemporarydance.org

culture

NOTE: Both online events and scheduled seasons may very well experience cancellations and rescheduling. Please make sure to double-check all performances, activities and exhibitions for the most up-to-date information before you go.

21

**EMERGING ARTIST SERIES:
ROBERT PHILIPS**

Guitar Sarasota
St. Paul Lutheran Church
7:30, Free
260-3306, guitarsarasota.org

**TODD THOMAS, BARITONE
WITH JOSEPH HOLT, PIANO**

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota
Michael's On East, 11 a.m., \$53
306-1200, artistseriesconcerts.org

**JANUARY 2021
5-6**

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
7:30 p.m., \$NA
263-6799, vanwezel.org

9

JOHAN SMITH

Guitar Sarasota
Riverview Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m., \$35-\$39
260-3306, guitarsarasota.org

12

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
7:30 p.m., \$22-\$62
263-6799, vanwezel.org

14-17

INSPIRATIONS

Sarasota Orchestra
Holley Hall, Sarasota, Time/\$ NA
953-3434, sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

15

IL DIVO

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
7 p.m., \$95-\$171
263-6799, vanwezel.org

17

**ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE
FACTORY**

Van Wezel Performing
Arts Hall
2 & 7:30 p.m., \$NA
263-6799, vanwezel.org

18

**EMERGING
ARTIST SERIES:
SAM DESMET**

Guitar Sarasota
St. Paul Lutheran Church
7:30, Free
260-3306, guitarsarasota.org

19

ISRAEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
8 p.m., \$NA
263-6799, vanwezel.org

25

REZA: EDGE OF ILLUSION

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
7 p.m., \$17-\$57
263-6799, vanwezel.org



[AGENDA]

VIRTUAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 16-24

SPANISH FLAIR

Choral Artists of Sarasota
4 p.m., Individuals \$15, Watch Party \$30
387-6046, choralartistssarasota.org

16-22

TOGETHER WE RISE: CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Key Chorale Online
\$30, 921-4845, keychorale.org

18

VIRTUAL GALLERY CONVERSATION: FEELING THANKFUL

The Ringling
1 p.m., \$5, Members Free
359-5700, ringling.org

19

ANN RODDY, ELLING EIDE LIBRARY'S CHINESE PUPPET COLLECTION

Arts Advocates on ZOOM.
Free, 330-0680, artsadvocates.org



Sarasota Ballet
[COURTESY PHOTO]

20-24

SARASOTA BALLET DIGITAL PROGRAM 2

Performances and excerpts of the works
of George Balanchine.
Sarasota Ballet, Digital Venue, \$35
359-0099, sarasotaballet.org

26 (THRU 12/1)

HEARTSTRINGS STREAMING

Sarasota Orchestra
\$NA, 953-3434
sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

DECEMBER 2

VIRTUAL GALLERY TALK: KABUKI MODERN

The Ringling
1 p.m., \$5, Members Free
359-5700, ringling.org

3

JIM BRICKMAN: COMFORT & JOY AT HOME 2020

Virtual Concert to help support
the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
7 p.m., \$40-\$125
263-6799, vanwezel.org

16

VIRTUAL GALLERY CONVERSATION: THE NATIVITY

The Ringling
1 p.m., \$5, Members Free
359-5700, ringling.org

17-22

BEETHOVEN @ 250 STREAMING

Sarasota Orchestra
\$NA
953-3434
sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

18-22

SARASOTA BALLET DIGITAL PROGRAM 3

Show Details TBA
Sarasota Ballet, Digital Venue
\$35, 359-0099, sarasotaballet.org



Natalie Helm, Choral
Artists of Sarasota -
Spanish Flair
[COURTESY PHOTO]

19

MOSCOW BALLET'S NUTCRACKER CHRISTMAS STREAM

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
8 p.m., \$24-\$70
263-6799, vanwezel.org

23

HOLIDAY LIGHTS: MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS AND CHANUKAH (VIRTUAL PREMIERE)

Replay 12/24/2020 -1/21/2021
Choral Artists of Sarasota
4 p.m., \$15-\$30
387-6046, choralartistssarasota.org

HOLIDAY POPS STREAMING

Sarasota Orchestra
Holley Hall, Sarasota, Time/\$ NA
953-3434, sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

JANUARY 2021 12

VIRTUAL GALLERY TALK: MUSIC IN THE CIRCUS

The Ringling
1 p.m., \$5, Members Free
359-5700, ringling.org

21-26

INSPIRATIONS STREAMING

Sarasota Orchestra
Holley Hall, Sarasota, Time/\$ NA
953-3434, sarasotaorchestra.org/concerts

The Art & Science of Astrology

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020

BY KARI NOREN-HOSHAL



NOVEMBER

The intensity of the beginning of November will start to improve before the end of the month; but it is tough work getting there. Mercury finally moves out of its retrograde shadow on Friday, Nov. 20. The next day the upbeat and generous Sagittarius Sun arrives with a social Aquarius Moon, kicking off this year's holiday shopping season. We can look forward to better-than-expected sales numbers through the end of November. Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26 will be a bit tense with an Aries Moon, but the next day a pleasure-seeking Moon in Taurus will motivate us to enjoy life!

As we approach the dawn of the Aquarian Age in December everything we do for the common good will make life better. If you have some extra funds, donations to the needy will never be more appreciated this Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER

At the start of December truths will be exposed – on the world stage and in our personal lives – when Mercury (planet of communications) moves into blunt-spoken Sagittarius. A Solar Eclipse on Dec. 14 conjuncts the center of our Milky Way galaxy at 24 degrees Sagittarius heralding a serendipitous event in our lives.

A major (positive) shift in our mental and emotional energy will take place after Saturn (planet of self-discipline) moves into the futuristic and egalitarian sign of Aquarius on Dec. 16 and Jupiter moves into Aquarius on Dec. 19. The two planets make a once-in-20-years conjunction to each other on the Winter Solstice (Dec. 21), which some say marks the literal beginning of the Age of Aquarius: when mankind is scheduled to become more concerned with the betterment of all of Earth's citizens.

Let's hope so!

A Taurus moon on Christmas Day makes for family togetherness and on New Year's Day a Leo Moon makes for a lively and joyous celebration as we welcome 2021; not a moment too soon.

– Kari Noren-Hoshal is a Sarasota-based evolutionary astrologer and the executive director of The White Bison Association, a non-kill sanctuary for the endangered white buffalo. To learn more visit her website at VisionQuestastrology.com.

[END NOTE]



*Best Wishes for a
Safe and Joyful Holiday Season*

Thank you, Jan Miller



Tidewell Hospice and Caldwell Trust Company salute Jan Miller for her many years of service to Tidewell Hospice. Highlights of Jan's 15 years of volunteer service to the Tidewell Hospice Board of Trustees:

- Two terms as board member and two terms as Chair
- Eight years as Executive Committee Member
- Service on every board committee

Jan won't be stepping away from Tidewell Hospice's family of companies. She ascends to Chair, Stratum Health System, and is a board member of the newly formed Tidewell Foundation.



Jonathan Fleece, President and CEO of Tidewell Hospice

"We are so grateful to Jan Miller, who is the model servant leader as a board member and board chair, and who has given extraordinary time, guidance and personal treasure to building Tidewell into the world-class leader we are today."

Tidewell
HOSPICE



Kelly Caldwell, CEO and President, Caldwell Trust Company

"We salute Caldwell leaders like Jan Miller, who is a walking ambassador for Tidewell Hospice, demonstrating such passion and advocacy for the organization."

CALDWELL TRUST COMPANY
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But it was always the same. This shape has won races. Many. Everyone knows it, everyone recognizes it.
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