

## Accolades

■ **Malaka Hilton**, founder and president of **Admiral Travel International (ATI)**, has been recognized for the 17th consecutive year on **Travel + Leisure's 18th annual A-List** for her specialty in



Malaka Hilton

Egypt and the Middle East. Hilton's additional specialties in planning luxury travel experiences in Morocco, South Africa and United Arab Emirates are also noted on [www.travelandleisure.com/a-list](http://www.travelandleisure.com/a-list) as part of the 2019 Travel + Leisure A-List.

Hilton, whose father was born in Egypt, has hosted hundreds of travelers to the destination in addition to designing customized itineraries for clients who desire to travel independently. Most recently, she led a February 2019 river cruise of the Nile and led ATI travelers in exploring Abu Simbel, Memphis, Sakkara, Pyramids of Giza & Sphinx. Learn more about Admiral Travel International at [www.admiraltravel.com](http://www.admiraltravel.com).

■ Bradenton Photographer **Gigi O'Dea**, owner of **Memory Portraits by Gigi**, was named **Photographer of the Year** and also **Artist of the Year** at the **Florida Professional Photographers Annual Convention** held recently in Orlando. She received the awards for scoring the highest number of points in the organizations prestigious Salon Competition.

O'Dea received the Illustrative Best in show for her image entitled "Got Your Back". The image was taken featuring Tucker Holmes along with his dog Ace. Tucker is the son of PGA Pro-golfer J.B. Holmes and his wife Erica, who resides in Sarasota. This custom portrait was created showcasing the relationship of a boy and his dog. The image, which was inspired by the work of Norman Rockwell, scored a perfect 100 at the FPP convention, which is extremely rare in photographic competition. This image has also been nominated for a Grand Imaging Award in Professional Photographers of America International Print Competition which was held last month. Final award announcements will be made in January at PPA's annual convention in Nashville, TN.

O'Dea also received the Artist of the Year Award for skills as a photographer and as an artist working in the digital medium. Along with Artist of the Year, O'dea received first place in Digital Art with her image titled, "My Tribe" which was taken on her trip to Costa Rica. The image was taken using one of the local babies and depicts the unique Costa Rican tribe of Boruca. See more of her work at [www.memoryportraitsbygigi.com](http://www.memoryportraitsbygigi.com).

■ **Sharon Kunkel**, president of **Wordslinger Marketing & PR** and a board member of the Central



Sharon Kunkel

West Coast chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (CWC-FPRA) has earned **professional accreditation in public relations**. In receiving the designation of Accredited in Public Relations (APR), Kunkel joins the more than 5,000 professionals nationally that represent an elite group of highly-skilled public relations professionals committed to practicing with exemplary ethical standards.

Kunkel is the founder and president of Wordslinger Marketing & PR, an award-winning agency specializing in nonprofit public relations, strategic and content marketing, branding, and crisis communications. Kunkel, who has more than 25 years of experience in journalism, marketing and communications. She has served on the CWC-FPRA board since 2016.

For more information, visit [www.wordslingermarketing.com](http://www.wordslingermarketing.com).

■ **White Oaks Wealth** has announced that CEO **Sharon Bloodworth** has received a **Vistage Lifetime Achievement Award**. Lifetime achievers are members who have a track record of decisions whose benefits permeate the company, community and beyond. Sharon has been with Vistage for 13 years.

Sharon has worked in the financial services industry for over 25 years working at Lord Abbett in New York City, American Express Financial Advisors and White Oaks. Born in the UK, she has lived and studied in Africa, Asia and Europe and speaks multiple languages.

She has been quoted in CBS Money Watch, USA Weekend, MSN Money, The Financial Times Advisor IQ, Forbes.com, Glamour and CNN Money. She speaks at conferences and to CEO groups on market and economic issues, wealth planning and how to better prepare your next generation. She is currently writing a book on how not to ruin your children with money.

White Oaks is a boutique investment firm with offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Sarasota area. White Oaks Wealth Advisors is the largest 100% woman-owned registered investment advisory (RIA) firm in Minnesota and White Oaks Investment Management is one of the largest 100% woman-owned RIA's in Florida.

■ **Sarasota Memorial's** medical team recently honored two physicians for **outstanding service** to the hospital and the community and installed its new staff leaders.

Cardiologist **Chippy Nalluri, MD**, was named **2019 Physician of the Year**. Describing her as the consummate non-invasive cardiologist who is universally loved by all her patients and the med-

ical staff, colleagues praised Dr. Nalluri's ability to keep the care in health care, especially when handling complicated cases. An advocate of preventative cardiology, she initiated the Ornish Program at SMH to help patients reverse coronary artery disease. In particular she is a supporter of Women's Cardiac Care and the Red Dress Program.

The SMH Medical Staff also appointed officers of the **2019-2020 Medical Executive Committee**: **Alissa Shulman, MD**, was named Chief of Staff, serving as the top representative of Sarasota Memorial's more than 1,400 medical staff members and advanced practice providers. She succeeds **Joey Seaman, MD**, whose one-year term as Chief of Staff ends this month. **Jack Wazen, MD**, was named Chief of Staff Elect, while **Kyle Garner, MD**, was named secretary-treasurer, and **Kevin Koehler, MD**, and **Scott Perrin, MD**, were named members-at-large.

In addition to the physician awards, **Caitlin Bass**, a third-year resident physician, was awarded the inaugural **2019 Domenick Cover Humanitarian Award**. The award was presented by the Florida State University Internal Medicine Residency Program at SMH in honor of Caitlin's consistent demonstration of compassion, respect, integrity and service. The award was given in memoriam of the late Domenick Cover, MD, who served SMH and Sarasota County for more than 30 years.

## Appointments

■ On December 6, **Temple Sinai** has its Erev Shabbat service and installation of **Rabbi Samantha Kahn** who succeeded Rabbi Geoff Huntting July 1. Rabbi Kahn has additional degrees in nonprofit management and Jewish Commu-



Rabbi Samantha Kahn

nity Service. She's an experienced preacher, teacher, counselor, facilitator, innovative programmer and confidant. She recently served as San Francisco Bay Area Director for InterfaithFamily and Director of Sherith Littles, at Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco.

Prior to that she served as the Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Emanu El, in Houston, TX, where she was nicknamed the 'Chief Engagement Officer' for her warm presence and ability to create meaningful connections.

An active supporter of Jewish Nonprofits, she also previously served as co-president and Interim Chair of the Board of Rabbis of Northern California. She has been involved in much community work during her career, has authored many articles, and received several honors over the years. Married to Matt Kahn, a passionate and impressive Jewish Communal professional in his own right, Rabbi Kahn is also a devoted wife and mother. Her children, Roey & Stella Mae, are the light of her life.

■ **Asolo Repertory Theatre** has announced **Sara Brunow** as its **Muriel O'Neil Education & Engagement Director**. Brunow



Sara Brunow

is a theatre artist and educator, originally from the Washington, D.C. area. She has worked as an arts administrator, teaching artist, director, performer, dramaturg, artistic adaptor, sensory storyteller and arts integration specialist.

Sara has worked within the education and community engagement departments of several theatre companies including Orlando Repertory Theatre, Nashville Children's Theatre, and Theatre Under The Stars. She participated in arts integration training for teaching artists and classroom teachers through the Engaged Learning Through the Arts Program with Orlando Repertory Theatre in partnership with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2014, she participated in Dream: The Joy of Creating through Oily Cart Theatre and Rose Bruford College, where she received a Certificate in Theatre for Young Audiences with Complex Disabilities.

Asolo Rep's Education & Engagement Director is sponsored by the Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts of Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

■ **Pinnacle Community Association Management** has promoted **Heather Hamilton** to president of the company which provides comprehensive management services for small to medium-sized homeowners and condominium associations throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

A Licensed Community Association Manager (LCAM) with 25 years of customer service experience, Heather has a background in banking and hospitality, specifically in expense control and budgeting, hiring, training and team building. As one of Pinnacle's founding members, she also has experience as an association management company owner, an onsite/dedicated community association manager, and as a corporate community association manager responsible for handling a portfolio of clients from Orlando to Naples.

Based in Sarasota and with a history that spans over 15 years, Pinnacle Community Association Management offers focused and customized management services. The company offers a complete line of services specially designed to meet the needs of small to medium-sized HOAs and Condominium Associations located along Florida's Gulf Coast. For more information, visit [PinnacleCAM.com](http://PinnacleCAM.com).

## Nonprofit News

■ **The SOAR Learning Center**, 2731 N. Links Ave. Sarasota, is **now open**. The new SOAR Learning Center Jacquelyn Paulk Campus is the completion of the new

3000 sq. ft facility which includes four classrooms, a multipurpose / homework computer room, library and reception area, kitchen, and enclosed outdoor courtyard for study and play.

For two years, SOAR has been diligently completing its new facility to provide afterschool services for elementary students. The new building is named after SOAR's founder, educator Mrs. Jacquelyn Paulk. Mrs. Celestine



Jacquelyn Paulk



Celestine Campbell

Campbell, SOAR's Program Director will oversee the Center's programs and operations. SOAR has a 12-year history and legacy of preparing children to succeed. The SOAR Learning Center curriculum is designed to help students meet or exceed challenging state content standards in language arts and mathematics. In a safe, structured, nurturing environment, the curriculum incorporates computer-assisted learning, enrichment activities, homework assistance, and healthy snacks.

Mrs. Paulk and a team of qualified teachers and mentor teachers have helped over 400 children achieve remarkable academic outcomes. SOAR also provides opportunities for parental involvement and community service opportunities for college and high school students needing field experience or community service hours.

Since 2004 The SOAR Learning Center program utilized a small 900 sq. ft cottage, but the space limitations became an obstacle for the program's continued success and growth. SOAR students will now attend classes in a new spacious state of the art learning environment. For more info, visit [www.soarlearningcenterinc.org](http://www.soarlearningcenterinc.org).

## Real Estate News

■ **EXIT King Realty** has announced that **Trevor Reid, Suzanne Downing** and **Robert Scanlon** have joined its team of real estate sales professionals.

EXIT King Realty, located at 8728 East State Rd 70, Bradenton, is a member of EXIT Realty Corp. USA's network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

Send Your News to: [westcoastwoman@comcast.net](mailto:westcoastwoman@comcast.net)

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