

Accolades

■ **Myrdalis Diaz-Ramirez**, of **Sarasota Pain Relief Centers**, has received Sarasota County Medical Alliance recognition by being named **Physician Advocate for Drug Free Sarasota**.

The Drug Free Sarasota Physician Advocate Award is a Sarasota County Medical Alliance Initiative for education and advocacy. This community coalition is charged with raising awareness of prescription drug abuse and misuse in Sarasota County. Physicians presented with this award are considered leaders in their respective field and advocates for best practices. Learn more at physicianadvocateaward.org.

Appointments

■ **The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** has appointed **Marty Katz** as its **senior director of marketing and communications**. The Federation's previous chief of communications and marketing, **Kim Mullins**, has been promoted to serve as the organization's **chief operating officer**. The organization has also appointed former chief programming officer, **Jeremy Lisitza**, as its **director of innovation and volunteer engagement**.



Kim Mullins

role, Mullins will lead the organization's day-to-day operations, and oversee strategic planning, outreach and program initiatives, and technology implementation.

Prior to this appointment, Katz served as vice president of development and marketing at the Friendship Centers, where her role



Marty Katz

included managing the development, marketing and communication teams. She also spearheaded the organization's comprehensive branding initiative in 2017. Prior to the Friendship Centers, Katz served in marketing and development roles at New College of Florida and JFCS of the Suncoast. She is a board member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Southwest Chapter.

As the new director of innovation and volunteer engagement, Jeremy Lisitza will coordinate implementation and evaluation of large-scale programs. He will also

develop and oversee the organization's volunteer infrastructure.

■ **Sarasota Memorial's** new **Medical Director of Rehabilitation Services**, **Aurora Wong, MD**, has spent the past decade specializing in neuro-rehabilitation for



Aurora Wong, MD

stroke, traumatic brain injury, trauma and neurological disorders. She will oversee a full spectrum of services to meet the complex medical, rehabilitation and mobility needs of people recovering from brain and spinal cord injuries, stroke and neurological disorders, and orthopedic and musculoskeletal conditions.

Board-certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Medicine, Dr. Wong will work with Associate Medical Director David Siegel, MD, and Sarasota Memorial's team of physicians and rehabilitation specialists aiding the recovery of people affected by physical, neurological and cognitive disabilities.

Before relocating to Sarasota, Dr. Wong served as medical director of the North Mississippi Medical Center's Rehab Institute in Tupelo, Miss., for the past five years and was chairman of the medical center's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation division. She also served on the governing board of the North Mississippi Medical Center's Medical Executive Committee, helping to oversee 40 medical specialties implementing collaborative quality control and improvement initiatives. Previously, she served three years as medical director of the Appalachian Regional Medical Center, Hazard, Kentucky.

Dr. Wong's practice, part of Sarasota Memorial's First Physicians Group network, is located in the hospital's new Rehabilitation Pavilion on the hospital's main campus, 1700 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. She succeeds Samuel Grissom, MD, who moved to Hawaii earlier this year. For information, call the office at (941) 917-6574.

Board News

■ **Habitat for Humanity Sarasota, Inc.** announces new **board members** for 2018. **John R. Peshkin**, founder and managing partner at **Vanguard Land**, a private real estate investment group, continues his term as board chair. Peshkin has served on Habitat Sarasota's board of directors for 8 years and says, "we are committed to serving 66 families in the next 2-1/2 years and are diligently working to overcome today's challenge of finding affordable land."

Three new individuals have joined **Habitat for Humanity Sarasota Board of Directors**. **Tommy Gregory** is an attorney with Williams Parker Harrison Dietz &

Getzen. He represents individual and corporate clients in commercial litigation cases and represents private and public employers in labor and employment law matters. Gregory has a deep passion for developing people and building successful organizations.

Jennifer Poppen is a Senior Business Banking Specialist with Wells Fargo and has over 13



Jennifer Poppen

years of experience in the banking industry. Poppen is passionate about volunteering and giving back to her community. She has been an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity for several years.

Jody Garriss is a mortgage loan officer with Florida Community Bank. Garriss has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry and is known as a team builder who creates an atmosphere for success.

Returning to the Habitat Sarasota Board of Directors are: Vice Chair: **David Langhout**, Vice President, Kolter Homes; Finance Chair: **Sherry Edwards**, CEO, The Edwards Law Firm, PL; Secretary: **Jeffrey Grebe**, Attorney, Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen; **Bonnie Dezii**, Assistant Vice President of Claims, FCCI Insurance Group; **Michael Bruno**, PA, Realtor, Michael Saunders & Co; **Michelle Crabtree**, Broker Associate, Premier Sotheby's International Realty; **Lynn Kisser**, Vice President, Westpoint Home; **Alan Maio**, Sarasota County Commissioner; **Stephen Sutter**, Chairman, Sutter Roofing Company; **Carl Watkins**, Wealth Advisor Director, Allegiant Private Advisors; **Brian Watson**, Director of Finance, Vanguard Land LLC and **Stephen Wilbur**, Principal, Stirling & Wilbur Engineering Group.

■ **Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center** welcomed four new **board members** at its February meeting. New directors include **Matt Bowman**, College Advisor/Instructor, SCF Collegiate School; **Lori Colucci**, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing, Education & Patient Safety Officer, DeSoto Memorial Hospital; **Amie J. Miller**, MSN, ARNP, AOCNP, CTTS, Lung Cancer Screening Program, Sarasota Memorial Health Care



Pictured L to R: Nancy Page, Lori Colucci, Matt Bowman and Amie Miller.

System; and **Nancy Page**, LMHC, CAP, Vice President of Clinical Services, First Step of Sarasota. Many thanks to these new members in helping GSAHEC fulfill its mission of providing health education that improves the wellbeing of the communities we serve.

To learn more about Gulfcoast South AHEC, contact Ansley Mora, CEO, at (941) 361-6602 or visit www.gsahec.org.

■ **The Hospital Volunteers of Venice**, a 500-member nonprofit organization supporting **Venice Regional Bayfront Health**, named **Bob Bartholomew** president for 2018. Additional officers include Treasurer **Frank Collins**, Vice President of Ancillary Services **Ruth Quigg**, Vice President of Patient Services **Jon Zimpher**, Vice President of Education Joan Schum, Vice President of Off Site Services **Elizabeth Brooke**, Parliamentarian **Dick Fenstermaker**, and Secretary **Diana Miracle**.

The Hospital Volunteers of Venice is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that supports the mission of Venice Regional to provide compassionate, high-quality healthcare services. More than 500 volunteers participate, serving as greeters, receptionists, registrants, escorts, surgery transporters, Life-line installers, gift shop and thrift store helpers, patient representatives and more. Since 1951, the organization has provided grants and donations exceeding \$8 million to the Venice community.

In 2017, the group's fundraising supported the valet parking service and free newspapers for patients and families at Venice Regional, student medical scholarships, nursing scholarships at State College of Florida, indigent patient prescription assistance, Good Samaritan prescriptions and health clinic, the Loveland Center, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and Salvation Army.

For information on serving with the Hospital Volunteers of Venice, call 941-483-7050.

Good Deeds Dept.

■ As part of its \$100 million comprehensive campaign to preserve and expand its legacy for the 21st century and beyond, **The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art** and **Florida State University** has promoted **Phaedra Carter** has announced a **leadership gift of \$5 million from the Monda family of Sarasota**.

The gift will endow the **Keith D. and Linda L. Monda Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art** and includes four significant works of contemporary art from the Mondas' noted collection. The works of art – Teo González's mixed media Untitled #406 (2006), Yayoi Kusama's



Keith D. and Linda L. Monda

monumental painting *Infinity Dots* (1993), Beverly Pepper's steel sculpture *Curve in Curve* (2012) and Richard Serra's print *Untitled* (1990) – will be included in a future exhibition at The Ringling.

The Mondas' \$5 million commitment follows their 2015 gift of \$500,000 to support The Ringling's Art of Our Time initiative by funding a permanent space devoted to 21st-century works of art. The prominent 2,400-square-foot Keith D. and Linda L. Monda Gallery for Contemporary Art, which is located in the west wing of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, showcases exciting new projects by emerging and established contemporary artists.

The Monda Gallery launched in November 2016 with an immersive site-specific installation by American artist **Anne Patterson**. Currently on view in the Monda Gallery through June 10, 2018, is Hank Willis Thomas: *Branded/Unbranded*, an installation of two high-profile series by one of the most articulate and provocative practitioners working today.

Ola Wlusek, a leading specialist in global contemporary art, will be named the inaugural Keith D. and Linda L. Monda Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. Wlusek holds an M.A. in contemporary art theory from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and bachelor's degrees in both art history and in cultural anthropology from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Over the last several years she has developed a range of engaging contemporary exhibitions, public programs and publications at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, UK; PRAKSIS in Oslo, Norway; the Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, Canada; and the City of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In addition to the Monda Gallery, exhibition spaces at The Ringling now permanently dedicated to modern and contemporary art include reallocated galleries in the Arthur F. Searing Wing in the Museum of Art, which present rotating selections from The Ringling's growing collection of modern and contemporary art, and the new Kotler-Coville Glass Pavilion, which houses The Ringling's collection of American and European studio art glass. ☞

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