

## Accolades

■ **Dr. Barbara Gaunt-Jaehne** received the inaugural **Venice Lifetime Achievement Award** for her dedication in helping thousands of local patients since 1976. She's a Board-Certified Audiologist who owns Medical Gardens Hearing Center with offices on Venice Island (San Marco Drive) and Dearborn Street in Englewood.



Barbara Gaunt-Jaehne

Barbara is a third generation Floridian with audiology degrees from the University of Florida and the University of Memphis. She served two terms as a Fellow on the Board of Doctors of Audiology and three terms as Chairman of the Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology for the Florida Department of Health.

Barbara has served in key positions under five Florida Governors – Scott, Crist, Bush, Chiles, and Martinez. Locally, she has served in leadership positions with the Venice Cotillion, American Cancer Society, Venice Hospital Women's Board Foundation, Englewood Chamber of Commerce, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

■ **Designing Daughters** has awarded a **\$4,500 grant to Children First** in support of emotional and behavioral health materials to help combat the social-emotional problems that can develop in very young children, especially those living in high-risk environments.

This grant will be used to purchase materials will include play therapy travel kits, interactive toys such as stress balls and art kits, and curriculum materials like books on trauma-informed care for very young children. The travel kits are essential, as Children First serves 900 children annually at 15 locations throughout Sarasota County, from North Port to Newtown.

"We serve the highest-risk families in Sarasota. Their circumstances place tremendous stress on both parents and children alike, affecting their ability to progress. Ensuring our Mental Health Services team have the equipment they require to meet the needs of our children struggling with emotional and behavioral issues is critical," says CEO Philip Tavill. For information, call (941) 953-3877 or visit [childrenfirst.net](http://childrenfirst.net).

## Appointments

■ **The Van Wezel Foundation** has appointed **Tracey Long Beeker** as its new director of communications and community engagement. Beeker will be responsible for informing and engaging audiences to learn about and take part in the Foundation's mission to enrich the lives of children through the performing arts.



Tracey Long Beeker

Beeker brings more than 20 years of experience in communications, marketing, public affairs and community engagement. Throughout her career, she has worked in corporate and non-profit sectors, helping organizations increase awareness, engage audiences, build coalitions, and foster community impact.

Most recently, Beeker served as director of communications and community relations for Sarasota County Schools. As a senior team leader, she developed multi-platform communications strategies that informed and inspired students, teachers, administrators, and parents, while promoting educational outcomes throughout Sarasota County. Beeker was part of the team responsible for cultivating community alliances and partnerships, conducting public forums and digital town hall meetings, and growing the district's volunteer programs to support public schools.

Prior to her work for Sarasota County Schools, Beeker was the managing director and chief strategist for BE MORE Consultants in Washington, D.C., where she advised clients including Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Artemis Entertainment, and other national accounts. Beeker also served as the vice president of marketing and communications for Reading Is Fundamental and gained early experience in brand marketing with Feld Entertainment, Turner Entertainment, and Walt Disney Studios.

■ **Tracy Calla, Sr. Manager of School & Family Programs at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** was awarded the title of 2019 Project WILD Florida Facilitator of the Year in December, 2019, at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Ocala Conservation Camp. Tracy Calla was selected as the 2019 Project WILD Florida facilitator of the year because she has been a successful and extremely popular workshop



Tracy Calla

leader, which included facilitating a "Growing Up WILD" professional development workshop at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for early childhood educators.

Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design) is a national interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. The program is designed for educators of kindergarten through 12th grade students. Project WILD capitalizes on the natural interest that children and adults have in wildlife by providing hands-on activities that enhance student learning in all subject and skill areas.

Florida's Project WILD program sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) depends on the expertise and commitment of workshop instructors (facilitators). Project WILD facilitators are highly trained, talented and motivated.

Tracy learned about Project WILD in early 2017, attended certification workshops, and became a facilitator later that year. She has used Project WILD activities and ideas to enhance and expand the depth and breadth of Selby's summer camp curriculum, and has tailored WILD activities to meet the needs of teachers bringing their students to Selby Gardens for field studies.

She has also "Floridarized" a number of WILD activities and lesson plans to address environmental issues and concepts relevant to our state's unique ecosystems. As a workshop facilitator and a facilitator trainer, Tracy has introduced Project WILD and the value of outdoor, nature-based experiences to dozens of educators and hundreds of students across the state of Florida. To find out more about Project WILD go to <https://myfwc.com/education/educators/project-wild/>.

## Real Estate News

■ **Kris Marra** has joined **RE/MAX Platinum Realty** as a Realtor in the West Villages office. With 20 years of real estate experience, she has been consistently recognized in the top 5 percent of Realtors nationwide.



Kris Marra

Marra specializes in residential real estate, including primary residences, second homes and investment properties. Her focus is on relocations, helping people to realize their dream of living in Florida. She is an Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) and Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES), and was an Associate Broker in Pennsylvania before relocating to Florida.

Her performance and client service have earned her the Five Star Award for customer satisfaction and the Pittsburgh Times award for "Who's Who in Real Estate." The West Villages office is located at 19503 W. West Villages Pkwy, #A12, in Venice. Marra can be reached at (412) 680-4500.

■ **Michelle Butler** has been named Director of Development for **Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation**. Michelle has over 20 years of experience in



Michelle Butler

community relations, human resources and non-profit development. In her new role, Michelle will be responsible for cultivating relationships within the community on behalf of the Healthcare Foundation in support of its philanthropic mission.

Prior to joining the Healthcare Foundation, Michelle served as Chief Development Officer at The SKY Family YMCA in Venice, where she helped lead fundraising efforts since 2011. She also served as Vice President of Human Resources at JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc and Regional Director at Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central & Northern Florida, both in Sarasota.

■ **Premier Sotheby's International Realty** has announced that **Nancy Nagy** has been appointed to the role of president. In this position, Nagy will be responsible for leading all sales operations of the \$5 billion brokerage, a leading affiliate in the Sotheby's International Realty network ranked as the 34th largest real estate company in the country.

She succeeded Budge Huskey, who was named chief executive officer on January 1. An accomplished leader with a proven track record of success,

Nagy previously served as chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices Chicago, ranked among the top 10 in the franchise's global network. During her 12-year tenure, she orchestrated significant growth through mergers and acquisitions, and also led affiliated service entities. In July 2019, she stepped back to an advisory role with the brokerage.

During her career, Nagy has been ranked on the Swanepoel Power 200 as one of the most powerful women executives in the residential real estate brokerage industry, as well as earning a spot among Crain's Chicago Business 2019 Notable Women Executives. She has served on the board of the National Association of REALTORS for many years.

## Nonprofit Board News

■ **Children First, Inc.**, the exclusive provider of **Head Start** and **Early Head Start** services in Sarasota County, has a new slate of board leadership for 2020. **Lisa Giglio** is the former co-owner of Freedom Boat

Club, and has served as an early childhood educator and Director of Education at Sylvan Learning Center. **Michael Suarez**,

former Executive Director of Sarasota County Emergency Services, is also a Life Member, past President, and current Treasurer of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Both have been named to the Board of Directors for 2020.

**Michael Keebaugh**, former President of Intelligence and Information Systems at The Raytheon Company, will now serve as Board Chair. **Thomas W. Cail III**, Realtor and co-founder of Cail Grande Group, is now Chair Emeritus. **Katherine Martucci** was welcomed as Vice Chair, **Katrina Otchet** as Secretary, and **Jacqueline W. Ray** as Treasurer. **Keith Johnson** was elected as the Human Resource Representative, and **Howard Berman** as the Liaison to Policy Council, a peer-elected committed comprised of parents or guardians of currently enrolled children.

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