

Accolades

■ **Monaca Onstad**, Lakewood Ranch's director of community relations, is the **gold award recipient for lifestyle director of the year** from the National Association of Home Builders' National Sales and Marketing Council.



Monaca Onstad

The awards, known as "The Nationals," honor the best in the building industry for "their determination, integrity, creativity and resilience." Started in 1982 as the Institute of Residential Marketing Awards, The Nationals recognizes honorees in 57 categories across various disciplines of the new home industry by individuals and sales teams.

The ceremony was held Jan. 9 in Orlando as part of the annual International Builders' Show, an exposition and conference for building industry professionals. Onstad was selected from 10 applicants who were all outstanding professionals, officials said, but Monaca was "simply stellar."

Onstad has handled community relations and lifestyle programming across Lakewood Ranch since 2016, and is responsible for more than 100 events each year. For more information, visit lake-woodranch.com.

■ The newest **Station 400 Breakfast & Lunch** eatery, located in South Sarasota at the Landings plaza, has partnered with **Phillippi Shores Elementary School**, to recognize a hard working teacher once a month with "**Teacher of the Month**." The teacher chosen will receive brunch for four people delivered to the school or a \$50 gift certificate.

Station 400 owners Deen & Kelly Fox believe that "teachers are the backbone of our community. We hope this monthly recognition will inspire others to show their support for the teachers of Sarasota County."

The first recipient of Station 400's "**Teacher of the Month**" is **Amanda Kushner**. Amanda is a Kindergarten teacher who "loves helping kids and watching them grow." Her favorite teaching moments "are the ones when a students been struggling with a concept and that one moment they "get it" is so rewarding.

Kushner chose to share the prize of delivered brunch with three of her colleges.

■ The Board of Directors of **Southwest and Central Florida** has announced **Stephanie Kight** as its new CEO. She began at PPSWCF on February 1, 2018. Kight follows Barbara Zdravecky, who retired at the end of January from PPSWCF after 24 years as CEO. PPSWCF serves over 45,000 patients at its 11 Health Care Centers in 22 counties across the state of Florida.

In making the announcement,



Stephanie Kight

Laurie Cowan Phillips, Board Chair, lauded Kight's leadership and shared the board's statement: "Stephanie Kight was selected from a pool of over 100 candidates from around the country. We are thrilled to have her lead this affiliate forward and to build on the successes we have as healthcare providers."

Kight brings decades of experience in health care business strategy, brand and marketing, public policy advocacy, and program development to Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. She has held senior leadership roles at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and at Planned Parenthood affiliates in Ohio and California.

Kight is a spokesperson on the statewide and national stage protecting Planned Parenthood's mantle as a leading health care provider, educator and advocate. Her interviews have appeared in Rolling Stone, the Washington Post, the New York Times, CNN.com, the Associated Press, and numerous other print and broadcast outlets.

For more info, visit www.ppswcf.org.

■ Marital and Family Law attorney **Amanda King** been named a partner in the Sarasota law firm of **Syprett, Meshad, Resnick, Lieb, Dumbaugh, Jones, Krotec & Westheimer, P.A.** Attorney King joined Syprett Meshad in 2010, and focuses her practice on assisting clients in a wide variety of marital, divorce, alimony, child



Amanda King

custody, paternity, child support, and domestic violence issues. Her practice includes litigation, uncontested divorce and parenting plan agreements, mediation, and collaborative family law.

A member of the Florida Bar licensed to practice before all Florida State Courts, King is also licensed to practice in California, where she previously served as a Deputy Public Defender. She is currently serving her second term as Chair of the Family Law Section of the Sarasota County Bar Association, and is a frequent speaker on family law matters in the community. In 2012, she received the Outstanding Service by a Young Lawyer Award from Legal Aid of Manasota.

Board News

■ **Friendship Centers**, a non-profit serving older adults in Southwest Florida, has five new **Board of Governors members**.

The Board of Governors brings together regional community leaders from five counties to the govern Senior Friendship Centers and Senior Friendship Centers Foundation.

The new Board of Governors Members are:

• **Christine Fenn**, a 27-year veteran in the aging field working in nutrition delivery programs, assisted living facilities and companion care. She currently volunteers at Friendship Centers' Lee County location, helping with the Adult Day Service program, the Food Bag Meal Program and the Friendly Visitor training program.

• **Dr. Thomas Logio**, a former colon and rectal surgeon in New Jersey, was on staff of several hospitals including Burlington County Memorial and Zurbrugg Memorial in New Jersey and the Community Hospital in Pennsylvania. He serves as the volunteer medical director for the Friendship Centers' medical clinic in Lee County.

• **Dr. Robert Nordland** is a former OB/GYN with a career that spanned more than 36 years in Minnesota, and included his own practice. He established many clinical trials during his career and taught medical students for more than 20 years. Dr. Nordland also served on the credentialing committee for Blue Cross Blue Shield of the Midwest for nearly 15 years. Dr. Nordland currently serves on the management board of the Senior Friendship Health Center in Collier County.

• **Thomas Rice** recently retired as CEO from Fawcett Memorial Hospital, a 238-bed acute care facility located in Charlotte County, where he served as CEO from 2002 until 2015. He is past president of United Way of Charlotte County and the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce and currently volunteers for the Friendship at Home program in Charlotte County.

• **Christine Schlesinger**, ARNP, CDE has been a nurse practitioner for more than 20 years. She has served on many medical boards and committees throughout her career, and is a published author and speaker. Previously, Schlesinger worked with the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and served on the Ethics Committee, was co-chair of the Advanced Practice Nurses Group and was co-chair of the Patient Education Committee. She currently serves on the board of Visible Men Academy in Bradenton.

For more information about the Friendship Centers, visit friendshipcenters.org.

■ **All Faiths Food Bank** announced the appointment of **Nelle Miller** as **Board Chairwoman** and the election of three directors to its board. The new appointments include **Ben Hanan** of Shumaker Loop, community volunteer and marketing professional **Terri Vitale**, and **Elton White**, retired businessman from NCR Corporation.

Ben Hanan, JD, MBA, CPA, is Co-Chair of Shumaker Loop's Management Committee and Managing Partner of the Sarasota

office. He works in the trust and estate and corporate practice groups. Ben is the Past Chairman of the Board of Gulf Coast Community Foundation and has served on the board of Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation, the Economic Development Foundation of Sarasota County and is the Founding Director of IMG Academies Student-Athlete Foundation.

Terri Vitale, MBA, has professional experience that includes



Terri Vitale

strategic media and marketing with Leo Burnett in Chicago. She currently serves on the boards of The Out-of-Door Academy and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County where she chaired the Literacy Task Force and Two-Gen Initiative. Terri is also the president of the University of Notre Dame Monogram Club.

Elton White, MBA, is a retired businessman with more than 40 years of experience. He was employed by NCR Corporation for 27 years where he served as President and Director, and has served on numerous corporate boards including Kohl's and Verifone. He has previously served on the board of Gulf Coast Community Foundation where he chaired the Investment Committee. Elton and his wife, Gordie, were the 2015 recipients of the Schoenbaum Humanitarian Award.

All Faiths Food Bank's 2018 Board of Directors include: **Nelle Miller, Board Chair; Judy Cahn, Vice Chair; Jack Higgins, Treasurer; Susan Jones, Secretary; General Board: Tom Bernstein, Paul Cantor, Edith Chaifetz, Thomas Dinverno, Ben Hanan, Keith Monda, Hal Munter, Terri Vitale, Neal Vorchheimer, Elton White.**

For more information, go to www.allfaithsfoodbank.org.

Nonprofit News

■ **Designing Women Boutique** has formed a strategic alliance with six Sarasota charitable organizations to increase fundraising and create scholarships and mentoring opportunities for area students.

Known as **GroundWorks**, the initiative is the inspiration of **Jean Weidner Goldstein**, a DWB co-founder and a steering committee member. The program's goal is to harness the considerable sales power of the upscale consignment boutique and its estate liquidation services to increase ongoing education funds for the benefit of six local non-profit organizations. Initial participating orga-

nizations include **Girls Inc., The Out-of-Door Academy, Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** and **The Sarasota YMCA**. The GroundWorks concept allows these groups to solicit donations from their own donor bases of high-end accessories, jewelry, handbags and art to be consigned on a VIP status through DWB. Each group will receive a major split of the proceeds to be used to fund their designated scholarships. DWB will target their minor share of sales to further its annual grants programs that benefits local arts and human services organizations. In addition, DWB will expand its online sales department and add a staff position to manage the program.

"Designing Women Boutique has had the good fortune of having the means to grant more than \$2 million dollars since we opened our doors in 2001," said Jean Weidner Goldstein. "We'd like to use our success to support the efforts of other non-profits groups who are also doing good works. By joining forces in this unique way, we can help them fund scholarships and increase our ability to grant. Much thought and planning has gone into the development of GroundWorks, and we are excited about its potential to benefit so many in our community. The power of each becomes the power of the many."

One of the most innovative aspects of GroundWorks is its opportunities for mentoring and internships. The six participating charities may select recipients to serve in a hands-on internship program at the DWB shop as well as mentor relationships in industries represented by DWB board members, including finance, marketing, legal, real estate and business. The charities will also provide opportunities for student internships within their individual organizations.

GroundWorks will be directed by a steering committee that includes Weidner Goldstein, Janice Zarro, Ida Zito, Margaret Wise, Linda Gross and Marisa Fowler. Participating groups work in concert with DWB to organize promotional events such as online sales and an Annual Luxury Consignment Retail Fair. Organizers are working to finalize plans for GroundWorks and expect the program to go into effect in early 2018. For more info, visit DesigningWomenSRQ.org. 📧



(L-R) Linda Gross, Paula Kee, Ida Zito, Marisa Fowler, Janice Zarro, Martha Harrison, Jean Weidner Goldstein, Margaret Wise

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