

Accolades

■ **Cat Depot's** Executive Director, **Shelley Thayer**, has been named the 2017 president of **FAAWO**; the Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations. FAAWO is a statewide coalition of animal welfare and protection agencies, dedicated to promoting respect and compassion for all life. Goals include uniting animal advocates in the state, and serving as a unified front for animal welfare.



Shelley Thayer

Thayer has extensive experience from the animal protection field; prior to Cat Depot, she worked with Best Friends Animal Society, assisting with several major rescue operations and co-authoring rapid response procedures. She has rallied for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, domestic animal rehabilitation, and big cat rescue. Thayer retains her position at Cat Depot where she currently strives for a fifth consecutive no-kill kitten season in the county.

FAAWO Board Members include animal welfare organizations in Tampa, Orlando, Gainesville, Broward County and 9 other locations. Advisory Council Members include the ASPCA, BFAS, HSUS and Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program.

Cat Depot is located at 2542 17th Street, Sarasota. Visit www.catdepot.org, or call 366-2404.

■ **Michelle Crabtree**, Realtor with **Premier Sotheby's International Realty** Lakewood Ranch office, was presented with the Florida Realtors Honor Society, 10th year pin. The 155,000-member Florida Realtors established an Honor Society 30 years ago to recognize members of local boards and associations whose members are active in the FL association. The recognition is for participation at the local and national levels of the Realtor® organization activity in National Association of Realtor's institutes, societies and councils; for designations earned; for educational activities; and for political involvement. Crabtree is a 3rd generation Sarasotan and has been a licensed Florida Real Estate Broker since 1982.

■ **Maria Medina**, a standout on the tennis team at **State College of Florida**, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF), has received the **Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Award**. She was the only National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tennis student-athlete to receive this honor this year.

Medina, who will be attend Liberty University next year, was named to the tennis third team and was among 60 college tennis players in the country to receive the award. The publication "Diverse Issues in Higher Education" recognizes these students in honor of Arthur Ashe Jr.'s commitment to education and his love for tennis.

The Sports Scholars Award is given to undergraduate students whose accomplishments exemplify academic and athletic achievement. In addition to athletic ability, students must exhibit excellence in the classroom and demonstrate community activism. To qualify, students must be at least a sophomore and have minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2.

Medina won the 2016 Oracle Championship for the junior college division and finished as runner-up in the overall Oracle Championship. She was the NJCAA National Runner Up in No. 1 singles in 2016. She and her partner finished the 2017 campaign as NJCAA Region 8 Champion in the No. 1 doubles draw.

Appointments

■ **Selby Gardens** has a new botanist who will help to expand the institution's study of the fern plant group. Selby Gardens is the world's only botanical garden that studies epiphytes, or plants that grow on other plants without harming them. Typically, orchids and bromeliads are the stars of the Gardens' research focus, but with the addition of **Dr. Sally Chambers**, ferns, with approximately 30% of species being epiphytic, will receive increased attention.



Dr. Sally Chambers

Chambers' research work will apply to all of the plants Selby Gardens studies, not just ferns. This will be especially important as Selby Gardens expands its research work throughout south Florida and the Caribbean. Her research on ferns rounds out the botany department's key areas of plant study; Dr. Antonio Toscano de Brito is an internationally-recognized scholar on the study of orchids and one of Holst's specialties is the study of bromeliads from the Lost World region of northern South America.

Chambers most recently held the position of postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florida. She holds a PhD in plant ecology and evolutionary biology from Purdue University and completed her undergraduate work in natural resource and conservation management at the University of Kentucky. Chambers' botanical garden experience includes an internship in the Horticulture Department at Missouri Botanical Garden.

Selby Gardens' staff regularly travels throughout the American Tropics to conduct field research on plant diversity and distributions, which is key to conserving habitats and species in nature.

■ **The Players Centre for Performing Arts** has a new Box Office Manager, **Tammy Halsted**. Halsted is a member of the Longboat Key Rotary and Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce where she sits on the Board of Directors. She is a volunteer mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters and shares her love of theatre with her "little sister."



Tammy Halsted

Tammy has performed with The Players Centre for Performing Arts since 2003. She has appeared in over two dozen shows, play readings and charity events.

Nonprofit News

■ The Sarasota-Manatee section of **NCJW** awarded seven scholarships during the **17th annual Scholarship Awards** ceremony held at New College of Florida. The awards recognize and promote the education of non-traditional students, who have returned to school after a hiatus or who wish to further their education and are experiencing unusual circumstances.

Of the 18 applications received this year, 7 individuals received scholarships to help them further their education and life goals. Scholarship Chair, Jessica Rogers presented the Gerri Aaron Scholarship to **Michael Loria** (Ringling College); Paul Tarantino presented the Canandaigua Bank Scholarship to **Rachel Goldman** (USF-Tampa). Shirley Yanowitz presented the Yanowitz Family Scholarship to **Theresa McMillan** (USFSM); Debbie Morrison presented the Helen Schusterman and Albert Samuel Morrison Women's Scholarship to **Nicole Schyler** (LECOM); Betty Schoenbaum presented the Schoenbaum Family Scholarship for a second year to **Angeline Koplau** (SCF); Norma Cohen presented the Cohen family Scholarship and a Publix Scholarship to **Christine Pomerleau** (FIU) and Jessica Rogers presented the NCJW Scholarship and the Canandaigua Bank scholarship to **Deborah Beese** (SCF).

Jessica Rogers, chair of the NCJW Non-Traditional Student Scholarship Committee, along with committee members, organized the event: Geri Serot, Rosalie Leon, Susan Gottlieb, Cecile Alexander, Cyd Charrow, Carol Pappish, Sandy Pass, Ann Goldstein and Joan Bour.



Left to right: Angeline Koplau, Rachel Goldman, Theresa McMillan, Michael Loria, Nicole Schyler, Deborah Beese and Christine Pomerleau.

■ **Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy, Inc.** (SMART) received a \$4200 grant from the **Bill and Maryann Vinall Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation**. The grant will be used to provide the SMART horses with their required nutritional feed supplements that support healthy hooves, coats, digestion, and joints. This grant will allow the organization to meet its annual supplement requirements which will keep the

horses in the best of health and at high performance levels.

"Keeping the SMART horses healthy and happy is vital to the work we do. Our therapy horses deserve the best possible care and the generosity from the Bill and Maryann Vinall Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation helps to make that possible. A year's worth of supplements is outstanding and we are incredibly grateful," said Brandi Ezell, executive director of SMART Inc.

Vinall and her husband Bill retired in Bradenton in 2000, and in 2001 became Legacy Members at the Manatee Community Foundation, in 2013 their bequest created the Bill and Maryann Vinall Fund to support animal welfare programs, as well as wildlife rescue and "therapy" programs such as service dogs, horseback riding therapy programs, and therapy programs featuring pets visiting nursing homes and senior residences.

Established in 1987, Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (SMART) is a non-profit organization that provides horseback riding, carriage driving and equine-assisted activities for individuals with disabilities. Located in eastern Manatee County, SMART is a mostly volunteer organization that serves over 650 individuals with disabilities each year, including people with a variety of challenges such as autism, attention deficit disorder, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome, as well as individuals with terminal illness, emotional or mental health conditions, and hearing, speech or vision impairments. Among the activities offered are therapeutic horseback riding and driving, a literacy program, and programs for veterans, women with breast cancer, at risk youth and teens, and victims of human trafficking.

Board News

■ **The Players Centre for Performing Arts** added two board members. The Board of Trustees recently elected **Arian Fox** and **Gayle Logan** as members. Fox, Managing Director for BFT International, brings years of experience in marketing to the organization. Much of his career has been working with some of the world's



Gayle Logan

children. Gayle Logan is a Financial Advisor, Private Wealth Management for Robert W. Baird & Co. Logan. She joined Baird in March of 2012. She started her career with AG Edwards & Sons in 1995 and then joined The Buskey McGinty Group in 2001 where she spent 14 years before transitioning into a solo Financial Advisor within Baird.

■ **Sarasota Opera** has a new slate of officers and the appointment of a new board member. **Murray Bring** was nominated and elected to serve as Board Chair replacing David Chaifetz who served from 2015-2017. Other officers include **Syble Di Girolamo** who will serve as Vice Chair, **Waldron Kraemer** who will serve as Treasurer, and **Janet Huelster** who will serve as Secretary. The membership also approved the addition of **Michal Wadsworth** to the board.

■ **The State College of Florida Foundation** has three new board members. Joining the board are **Dianne Anderson**, **Robert Klingbeil** and **Barbara Najmy**. Klingbeil is a native of Florida and graduate of the University of Florida's law school. His firm, Klingbeil & Roberts, P.A., has been serving the Venice area since 1993. He concentrates in the area of estate planning and guardianship and also does general corporate work. Klingbeil is past president of the Kiwanis Club of Venice, past president and member of the board of directors of the South County Family YMCA, and is the past president and a current board member of the South County Division of the Sarasota County Bar Association.

Anderson, an associate with Remax Platinum Realty, began her career as a financial advisor, and has served as a volunteer, mentor and fundraiser in education throughout her career. She has coached youth sports and serves on the executive committee of the YMCA Going for the Gold. She also volunteers as a Y Angel, providing outreach, support and funding to children in need.

Najmy, a lifelong resident of the Sarasota area, has a diverse professional background, including real estate, marketing, high-end retail, sales and management, and new home construction. She joined Michael Saunders & Company in 2003 and has brokered some of the area's top luxury sales. She and her husband, Joe, are both longtime board members of the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund, and Najmy supports and chairs fundraisers for Easter Seals of Southwest Florida and Jewish Family & Children's Services. ☺

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