

Accolades

■ Sarasota attorney **J. Allison Archbold** of the **Archbold Law Firm, P.A.**, was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 26th Edition of The Best Lawyers in America 2020 for her work in Trusts



J. Allison Archbold

and Estates in Sarasota. This is the fourth consecutive year she has earned this honor.

Since it was first published in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Best Lawyers lists are compiled based on a peer-review evaluation - lawyers are not allowed to pay a fee to be listed; therefore, inclusion is considered a singular honor. For the 2020 edition, 8.3 million votes were analyzed, which resulted in more than 62,000 leading lawyers being included.

Archbold has been practicing estate planning, probate, and trust administration in Sarasota since 2007. Prior to obtaining her Masters of Laws (LL.M.) in Estate Planning, she was a judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps. She is board certified in wills, trusts and estates. For more information, call 941-960-8825.

■ **Goodwill Manasota** earned recognition during the recent Goodwill Industries International summer conference in Spokane, Wash. The organization won the **"Retail Excellence: Market Leadership by Share of Used Goods"** award (for sixth consecutive year) for having the highest market penetration of its donor market, the "Retail Excellence: Market Leadership by Donations" award (for the fifth year in a row) for capitalizing on the highest proportion of its available used goods market, and the "GILPS Organizational Safety" award (its first), recognizing the organization's commitment to positively influence safety policies and practices that strengthen its Goodwill. The organization is evaluated in the medium-sized agency category, which includes



(From l-r) Goodwill Manasota team members Brady O'Neil, Sara Gingery, Adrian Gessen, Bill Thielen, and Donn Githens

Goodwill agencies with revenues between \$26.9 and \$57.3 million.

■ **Donna Anderson**, a resident of Bradenton and member of **American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Kirby Stewart Unit 24** was recently recognized as Florida's ALA Unit Member of the Year. The award, presented annually at the ALA's National Convention, recognizes and honors ALA members for outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the organization's mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. Donna Anderson's ALA Unit 24 nominated her for the award because of her commitment to bettering the lives of people in her community through her service as our Children & Youth Committee Chair. Donna worked with Manatee Elementary School initially collecting school supplies. After learning and experiencing further needs while volunteering at the school with kindergartners, it led to her further collecting donations for uniforms, shoes, computers, field trips, and much more.

Donna expanded her ability to support this Title 1 school by getting the entire Legion Family involved. As Donna states, "she could not have done it without all the support from The American Legion Post 24, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 24, Sons of the American Squadron 24, and American Legion Riders Chapter 24 members."

Appointments

■ Bruce Rodgers, the executive director of the **Hermitage Artist Retreat**, recently announced that the organization has welcomed **Sara Krusenstjerna** as its new development director. He notes that Krusenstjerna "brings extensive, executive-level experience in all areas of development."



Sara Krusenstjerna

In her new role, Krusenstjerna will oversee all aspects of the Hermitage's development operation, including fundraising initiatives, corporate and foundation relations, community outreach, major gifts, and planned giving.

■ **The Players Studio** has announced its new Studio Director, **Jennifer Bushinger Ortiz**. J Bushinger Ortiz has nearly two decades of professional theatre

experience ranging from acting in two national tours or costume designing Connecticut Free Shakespeare to directing nearly 100 productions across the Tri-State area.

The Players Studio offers classes in all styles of dance, singing, and acting, as well as multiple workshops from perfecting your monologue to playwriting. This season the studio expanded its curriculum by adding more classes for the homeschool student along with Mommy & Me classes.

■ **Allegiant Private Advisors**, a fully independent, fee-based financial advisory firm based in



Michelle Cross



Karyn Nantes

downtown Sarasota, has hired, **Michelle Cross**, CFP, CPA, CDEA, as a wealth advisor and **Karyn Nantes** as an operations specialist. **Cross** has joined Allegiant Private Advisors as a wealth advisor. Having worked in the financial services industry since 2002, her role at Allegiant focuses on a holistic advisory approach, guiding client families through all areas of financial planning to help define and achieve their financial goals. Michelle previously worked for Deloitte & Touche's investment management audit group and spent several years as an audit manager at a large local CPA firm before becoming an independent financial planner. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Delaware. Michelle holds the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification, is a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® designee, and Certified Public Accountant currently licensed in Florida and Pennsylvania.

Karyn Nantes has joined Allegiant Private Advisors as an operations specialist. She is responsible for processing money transfers, new account setup, account maintenance, and handling client questions with the highest quality of service. Prior to joining the firm, Karyn worked for Harvest Partners Private Equity in New York and Mallitz Investment Group in Sarasota, Fla. Karyn received her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science from Michigan State University.

■ **Key Chorale** has hired **Johnette Cappadona** for the newly created position of Director of Community Engagement. Cappadona comes to Key Chorale with a history of arts management and development work. She was Director of Patron Services with her hometown Austin Symphony Orchestra for 18 years. After moving to Florida, she worked at JFCS and developed two unique fundraising events. Subsequently, she worked at New College Foundation, and USF Sarasota-Manatee Foundation. Three years ago, Cappadona started her own business, SRQ Special Projects, and has worked for many local nonprofits helping them with development/fundraising and will continue to do so in addition to her new role with Key Chorale.

Additionally, Key Chorale has recently appointed **Jamal Sarikoki** to Associate Conductor. Conductor, singer, organist, and minister, Sarikoki can be found wearing any number of hats on a given day. Whether he is in a sanctuary or performing hall, Jamal strives for excellence in all aspects of his performing. Sarikoki also currently serves as Minister of Music and Worship at Venice Presbyterian Church and additionally as the Artistic Director of the Venice Community Concert Series; he enjoys planning programming and brings in artists from across North America to perform for the community.

■ **University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee** Director of Global Engagement **Amela Malkic** has been named presi-



Amela Malkic

dent of the Mid-Florida Chapter of the Fulbright Association. Malkic's term will last three years. She previously served as board member and vice president for the chapter, one of 54 in 38 states serving as a regional extension of the Fulbright Association, an independent, non-profit membership organization for U.S. alumni of the Fulbright Program. Fulbright's goal is to improve intercultural relations, cultural diplomacy, and intercultural competence between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of individuals, knowledge and skills.

"I am very excited about this new role, and one of my primary goals will be to focus on advocacy," Malkic said. "Fulbright is America's flagship international exchange program, and now more than ever we need support

and funding for the program. Therefore, we will be advocating for Fulbright and collaborating with the National Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C. We also plan to work locally in our mid-Florida region to further engage our members in promoting Fulbright and its values."

Malkic has worked closely over the past few years with outgoing president Darlene DeMarie, PhD, an associate professor of educational psychology and USF's Fulbright faculty advisor. Malkic this past spring spent two weeks in India through a grant from the Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators (IEA) program, which is designed to inform participants about the country's higher education system and to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

■ **Erin Hoffer** of **KSC Inc.**, a member of the Central West



Erin Hoffer

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), Hoffer 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.

Hoffer, APR, joined KSC's team as an account executive in 2018. Prior to this, she spent 11 years with the City of North Port, as a professional government communicator.

The APR examination is administered by the Universal Accreditation Board (UAB), which is an alliance of eight national and statewide professional associations dedicated to furthering the field of public relations and the development of public relations professionals. The Florida Public Relations Association is a member of the UAB.

The Central West Coast Chapter of FPRA is a network of more than 100 public relations, marketing and communications professionals from Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto counties who come together regularly for professional development and to build a network of peers. For more, go to cwcfptra.com. 📍

Send Your News to:
westcoastwoman@comcast.net
You can now find this column on our website. Visit us there at:
www.westcoastwoman.com