

2016 RECOGNIZING WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS ON THE GULF COAST
SPECIAL COMPETITION AWARDS SECTION



WOMEN IN BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Hear Me Roar

RECOGNIZING WOMEN LEADERS IN SARASOTA AND BRADENTON
WHO HAVE MADE MEANINGFUL AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AREAS
OF BUSINESS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SCIENCE,
SPORTS, PHILANTHROPY AND THE ARTS.

VISIT US ONLINE AT SRQHEARMEROAR.COM FOR EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

Recognizing the 2016 WIB Leadership Circle

Winners

Lorrie Liang

COO, Sarasota Memorial
Health Care System

Laurie Pike

Director of Sales and Marketing
Florida Division, MPH Hotels

AnneMarie Rizzo

Attorney, The Law Place

Jennifer Rominiecki

Executive Director, Marie Selby
Botanical Gardens

Dr. Sandra S. Stone

Regional Chancellor, USF
Sarasota-Manatee

Finalists

Michelle Bianchi-Pingel

CEO/Managing Director,
The Players Theatre

Bernadette DiPino

Chief of Police, Sarasota
Police Department

Jonna Keller

Managing Partner / Owner,
First Security Investments, LLC
of Southwest Florida

Katherine Moulton

Hospitality Advisory Services

Dr. Inda Mowett

The Aesthetic and
Wellness Center

Cynthia Peterson

Board Chair, Center for
Architecture Sarasota

Jessica Rood

Marketing Director,
New College of Florida

2016 Keynote Speaker

Anna Zornosa

Founder of Ruby Ribbon



2016 Trailblazer Award Recipient

Pamela Fiori

Author, Philanthropist and Former
Editor In Chief of *Travel+Leisure* and
Town & Country magazines



Programs powered by the Women in Business Initiative.



SkillSHARE

Made for speed, SkillSHARE is the basics of mentorship concentrated into mini-sessions that encourage honest interactions and allow for spontaneous connection. Low commitment, this event is a way to meet like-minded professionals, make valuable connections and get straight to your most burning questions about career development. Each participant will be paired with several mentors for mini-sessions. Lasting from 12 minutes, each mini-session is unstructured, allowing for conversation, guidance and direction from each mentor. Thank you to the mentors who participated in our inaugural SkillSHARE: Lee-En Chung, Ivy Ventures, Kelly Gilliland, Horizon Mortgage Company, Kameron Hodgins, Glasser Schoenbaum Human Services Center, Cynthia Holiday, Children's World, Jo Ann Koontz, Koontz & Associates, Denise Kowal, Sarasota Chalk Festival, Angela Massaro-Fain, Grapevine Communications, Joy Randels, New Market Partners, Sandra Rios, The Resort at Longboat Key Club, Gabriele Vest, Grapevine Communications, Mary Dougherty-Slapp, Gulf Coast Builders Exchange, Beverly Helton, Helton Consulting and Dr. Sheri Dougherty, DAI Solutions. SkillSHARE 2.0 will be back this summer.



SMARTgirl

SRQ Media Advancing Real Talent (SMARTGIRL). The SRQ Women in Business Initiative is ready to make its mark with local high school girls through the creation of SRQ SMARTgirl. An empowering opportunity that invests in young, talented students with an interest in science, technology engineering and mathematics, SRQ SMARTgirl will be a major tenet of the 2016-17 programming.

Meet Our 2016 Competition Judges



SAMANTHA BOND

President and Founder, Sam Bond Benefits Group, Inc.

As a successful professional in the insurance industry for 25 years, Samantha brings a wealth of experience. Her services are primarily rendered to small business owners, focusing on the unique insurance needs of both the employee group and owner(s) individually. Licensed as a Life, Health and Annuity Agent with the Florida Department of Financial Services, she has assisted hundreds of businesses and represented thousands of employees in a diverse array of industries. Currently, Samantha assists clients in determining the best course of action for health insurance based on the goals of management and the constraints of new Affordable Care Act mandates. Sam Bond Benefit Group holds several area Small Business Enterprise certifications and is a member of the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations (NAPEO). Samantha is a registered broker for Small Business Marketplace (SHOP) and has a B.A. in Mass Communications from University of South Florida. Samantha lives and works in downtown St. Petersburg where she likes to fish, play golf and work out at the YMCA.



JULIA FORSTER

Director of Development , Spoleto Festival USA

Julia Forster, Director of Development, has had 32 years of fundraising experience, including 20 years with Spoleto Festival USA in the same position. Prior to her current employment, she worked in New York City for numerous cultural institutions including the American Museum of Natural History, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and New York's public television station Thirteen/WNET. Julia is responsible for raising general operating, capital, and endowment campaign support. Sources of support include individuals, corporations, foundations, government, and special events. In addition to fundraising, she manages the festival's Board of Directors, is involved in the overall management of the institution, and is a point person for the community at large.



JO WATSON HACKL

Attorney, Wyche, P.A.

Jo is an attorney with Wyche, P.A., in Greenville, South Carolina where she concentrates her practice in corporate and securities law. She has helped register over \$1 billion in securities. Jo is past President of the Greenville County Bar Association and was selected by The Best Lawyers in America listing as the 2016 Greenville Corporate Governance "Lawyer of the Year." She is a Liberty Fellow and Riley Fellow and has been recognized as a "Woman of Achievement" by the YWCA. Jo was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Greenville Area Development Corporation. Jo currently serves as a board member for the United Way of Greenville County, the Greenville Technical College Area Commission, the Greenville Center for Creative Arts, and Camperdown Academy. She also serves as a mentor for the PULSE Leadership Development program, the MIT NEXT Venture Mentoring Service, and for Yale Law School students. She received a B.A. from Millsaps College and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Jo is also a writer and outdoor enthusiast. She is founder of www.Outdoorosity.org, a website devoted to providing inspiration and information about the outdoors and serving as a resource to educators and individuals. Her novel, *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* is forthcoming from Random House Children's Books in the Fall of 2017.



KELLE M. JOHNSON, M.A.

Principal, The Ballast Group

In 2005 Kellee Johnson founded The Ballast Group, an integrated communications strategy firm, after serving as director of corporate marketing for Abbott Laboratories, where she managed 25 global teams and after she spent five years managing corporate communications for Tropicana, a multi-billion dollar division of PepsiCo, based in Bradenton at the time. Johnson has built and refined domestic brands of global companies and provided lead generation and growth for start-up companies. She and her team build better relationships with stakeholders through story telling that leverages qualified third parties in multiple integrated communication channels. Johnson serves as a partner and advisor to Chicago-based LISA App, the first open marketplace for on-demand beauty that connects artists and clients. Focused on all aspects of consumer products, healthcare and high-tech, Johnson has helped companies such as Hyatt, Kaiser Permanente, Stericycle, Safeway, TARGET, Cisco and Ultimate Software think differently about their relationships.



DONNA ORENDER

Orender Unlimited, CEO

Donna Orender, CEO of Orender Unlimited, is a recognized leader, game changer and business executive who has dedicated her career to assisting companies and people in navigating uncharted waters and blazing new, innovative paths and solutions while building teams and belief systems around success. She has been honored for her dedication to community development, diversity and leadership and is a sought-after speaker on issues such as teamwork, motivation, gender, diversity and leadership. Currently leading the efforts of Orender Unlimited, a Jacksonville-based consulting and advisory company, Donna utilizes her expansive experience to provide sales, marketing, media and diversity strategies for a wide array of industry companies and has consulted on entertainment and digital projects. She recently launched GENERATION W, a brand focused on educating, inspiring and connecting women and girls. The annual event held in April features over 40 national speakers and 1,500 attendees in a motivating day of programming.



LINDA SIMMONS

R.R. Simmons Construction Corporation, President and CEO

Linda is the President & CEO of various entities that comprise the R.R. Simmons family of companies, including R.R. Simmons Construction Corporation, a Tampa-based design and building company of commercial and industrial facilities. A life-long resident of the Bay Area, Linda is a proud 1975 honors graduate of the University of South Florida. Linda also graduated from the ABA's Stonier Graduate School of Banking. She is currently a member of the Tampa Bay Chapter of CREW, and is currently the youngest and first female president of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. She founded the Leadership Brandon Program, which continues to thrive today. Linda was the first woman to be elected as Chapter President of the Mid-Florida Chapter of Associated General Contractors, a national professional organization of construction service providers. Linda was recruited to and served for five years on the Grow Financial Board of Directors. Linda served on the United Way of Tampa Bay (now the United Way Suncoast) Board of Directors for several terms, where she served as Campaign Chair, two terms as Chair of the Board of Directors, and was a founder of the UW Women's Leadership.



CONNIE SMITH

Senior Vice President and Florida Community Affairs Manager, Wells Fargo & Company

Connie Smith serves as Florida Community Affairs Manager for Wells Fargo where she and her team manage the state's philanthropy efforts and activities which include community investments and team member volunteerism. A 20-year veteran with Wells Fargo, Connie is active in her community. She is the immediate past chair of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida and serves on the American Lung Association's Northeast Region Leadership Board. She also leads Wells Fargo's annual Community Support & United Way Campaign for the company's nearly 14,000 team members across Florida. In addition, Connie currently serves on the Florida Education Foundation Board and on the Jacksonville Day Resource Center Advisory Board. She is a member of Class XXXIII of Leadership Florida. She was selected as one of the Jacksonville Business Journal's 2010 Women of Influence and holds a B.A. from Vanderbilt University. She is based in Jacksonville.



NANCY WHITWORTH

Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development, City of Greenville

Nancy is the Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development for the City of Greenville. In addition to her role as deputy, she is responsible for commercial and neighborhood revitalization, downtown development, business recruitment and retention, planning and zoning and building codes. A native South Carolinian, she has been in Greenville for over thirty years and has played an integral role in Greenville's transformation. She received B.A. and M.S. degrees from Clemson University. She is a member of the American Institute for Certified Planners, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the International Economic Development Council and the Urban Land Institute. Nancy is also a member of The University Center of Greenville, Inc. Board of Trustees, the Greenville Professional Women's Forum, Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Upstate and the Clemson University Advancement Board for Real Estate Development.

Congratulations to the 2016 Women in Business Nominees

Stacy Alexander
Mary Alspaugh
Rosemary Angeleri
Darlene Arbeit
Dr. Sera Balderston
Aimee Bennett
Christine Benson
Lisa Berger
Brynne Anne Besio
Carey Beychok
Leymis Blanos-Wilmott
Kimberly Bleach
Karen Bagues
Angela Borthwick
Cookie Boudreaux
Susie Bowie
Veronica Brady
Veronica Brandon Miller
Ashley Brown
Samantha Bruno
Gina Burns
Elizabeth Callahan
Rosenda Calloway
Johnette Capadonna
Grace Carlson
Cathi Carson-Freymann
Lisa Carter
Rose Chapman
Dr. Caroline Cheblis
Erin Cigich
Lynn Clement
Aimee Cogan
Laurie Colton
Betsie Coolidge
Jeanne Corcoran
Laurel Corriveau
Patricia Courtois
Lisa Cushing
Laurie Davis

Samira Davis
Lori Davis
Kelly Davis
Christina De Guia
Erin Delia
Michele Demperio
Jacki Dezelski
Bernadette DiPino
Saralyn Dorrell
Janice Eakle
Anita Eldrige
Carisa Ellis
Adell Erozer
Laurie Evans
Shon Ewens
Sally Faron
Iceseas Farrell
Tiffany Farrell
Stephanie Felz
Sara Ferguson
Rita Ferrandino
Amy Fleece
Barbara Ford-Coates
Sandra Frank
LaShawn Frost
Darla Furst
Fran Galati
Heather Gamwell Todd
Anne Garlington
Jill Gass
Minta Getzen
Shawnta Gibson
Laura Gilbert
Margaret Good
Irene Gottlieb
Betty Graulich
Suzanne Gregory
Rick Gress
Shavonda Griffin

Linda Gross
Sondra Guffey
Johanna Gustafsson
Lori Hagey
Dawn Hair
Linda Harradine
Marni Hayden
Olivia Haynes
Eileen Hays Wallace
Sharon Hillstrom
Caryn Hodge
Kristen Horler
Amanda Horne
Jennifer Horvat
Margaret Hughes
Peg Hughes
Shannon Illch
Johnette Isham
Molly Jackson
Kelli Jaco
Roxie Jerde
Michelle Jett
Lisa Johnson
Michelle Kapreillian
Heather Kasten
Kelly Katz
Kathy Keh
Jonna Keller
Cheryl Kindred
Kristin King
Melissa Kirkpatrick
Erin Knievel
Karen Koblenz
Daniela Koci
Gigi Kovach
Lynne Koy
Joan Krauter
Lisa Krouse
Sabine Kruta

Judith Lambert
Brittany Lamont
Keffie Lancaster
Barbara Lancer
Melissa Lane
Audra Lange
Debbie LaPinska
Amy Leithauser
Charlie Lenger
Lorrie Liang
Tiffany Liashek
Kim Livengood
Sarah Lodge
Jan Loomis
Aubrey Lynch
Wendy Mack
Kandy Magnotti
Carol Ann Malinowksi
Sarah Massey
Teresa Mast
Dawn Mays
Trish McConnell
Jill McGarry
Joan McGill
Graci McGillicuddy
Karen McKeivier
Sandra McLeod
Erin McLeod
Barbara Mei
Kim Miele
Dawn Milhous
Alex Miller
Linse Miller
Erin Minor
Trudy Moon
Ansley Mora
Katie Moulton
Inda Mowett
Teri Najmolhoda

More next page

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Nominees were asked to share their insights with our judges on six key question areas: how they define success, what personal experiences have motivated and inspired their professional success, how they have guided transformational change in a rapidly-evolving marketplace, what trends concern them the most, who they would bring back from history to spend a morning with and what they would write in a letter to their younger selves. Our judges scored each nominee based on their responses to these above questions as they related to personal integrity, expertise, community engagement and change agents.

Congratulations to the 2016 Women in Business Nominees

Chippy Nalluri
Eva Nelson
Lucy Nicandri
Christine Nordstrom
Colleen O'Connell
Deva O'Donnell
Abigail Oakes
Pamela Olin-Maybloom
Eileen Olson
Hellen Osorio
Cynthia Peterson
Amy Phillips
Laurie Pike
Michelle Pingel
Coral Pleas
Elizabeth Power
Leslie Power
Sharon Prizant
Alex Quarles
Nadiene Raia

Lynn Rasys
Carla Rayman
Suzette Rice
Britt Riner
Nicole Rissler
AnneMarie Rizzo
Stephanie Rodriguez
Jennifer Rominiecki
Jessica Rood
Eileen Rosenzweig
Marissa Rossnagle
Tracy Salisbury
Rachel Saltzberg
Amy Sankes
Michael Saunders
Sarah Schebel
Jennifer Schembri
Michele Schlossberg
Lisa Seidensticker
Kim Seyer

Christy Sharek
Caryn Silver
June Simmons
Marnee Smith
Wanda Smith
Elizabeth Sockol
Donna Soda
Eleni Sokos
Marina Sommers
Tracy Spalsbury
Jocelyn Stevens
Susan Stewart
Diane Stewart
Dr. Sandra S. Stone
Jenn Stutler
LeeAnne Swor
Sharyn T Vross
Montana Taplinger
Nikki Taylor
Mary Thorpe

Donna Tororice
Jenny Townsend
Dawn Traetta Hair
Denise Tschida
Aledia Tush
Michele Vandendooren
Donna Vellenga
Nadia Vizza
Chris Voelker
Anne von Ger
Tracy Wagner
Sarah Walcutt-Febish
Summer Wallace
Tammy Wallingsford
Kimberly Walters-Vincent
Beth Ward
Tara Williams
Sarah Wren Tar
Marina Yeliseyev
Bridget Ziegler

Our 2016 Competition Judges

SAMANTHA BOND

President and Founder, Sam Bond Benefits Group, Inc. | Tampa, FL

JULIA FORSTER

Director of Development, Spoleto Festival USA | Charleston, SC

JO WATSON HACKL

Attorney, Wyche, P.A. | Greenville, SC

KELLE M. JOHNSON, M.A.

Principal, The Ballast Group | Chicago, OH

DONNA ORENDER

Orender Unlimited, CEO | Jacksonville, FL

LINDA SIMMONS

R.R. Simmons Construction Corporation, President/CEO | Tampa, FL

CONNIE SMITH

Senior Vice President and Florida Community
Affairs Manager, Wells Fargo & Company | Jacksonville, FL

NANCY WHITWORTH

Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic
Development, City of Greenville | Greenville, SC

THE DIAMOND VAULT "HEAR ME ROAR" LEADERSHIP PIN

Thank you to Michael Chokr and his team at Diamond Vault for their custom creation of the "Hear Me Roar" Leadership Pin. Inductees to the Class of 2016 Leadership Circle will be the recipients of the inaugural pin to wear proudly in the community. We are thrilled to be able to bestow such a gorgeous gift upon our ambassadors. We thank Diamond Vault for collaborating with us on this special project.

We'll see you at upcoming Women in Business networking and mentorship programs!

FOREVER SARASOTA STYLE



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"I'm humbled by this nomination. Working for an organization that was founded by an incredible woman, I feel motivated to continue the legacy of strong female leadership at the institution that is a true community gem and leader in science, conservation and education." —STACY ALEXANDER

STACY ALEXANDER AND ERIN KNIEVEL

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS
& COMMUNICATIONS AND CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
| MOTE MARINE LABORATORY AND AQUARIUM

AS YOUNG FEMALE PROFESSIONALS, WE RELY ON STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE WORKPLACE.

It is a priority to build strong teams that know they can rely on and support one another. With this in mind, we work collaboratively to ensure our teams are in sync and so that we can take Mote Marine Laboratory to the next level in philanthropy, communications and community outreach. We believe in mentoring and being mentored at any age. There's a tremendous amount we can learn from each other and creativity that is sparked from working together. As the bridge to the outside community, we are inspired by the incredible outpouring of support Mote receives from its supporters as demonstrated by the great success of our Oceans of Opportunity campaign. Our volunteers, staff, members, donors and community partners are the most inspirational. They keep us motivated to continue to set the bar high. Equally important is the critical mission of Mote. Mote is an important community resource for research and education and we feel proud to be working for an organization whose work protects and conserves our marine resources for the betterment of society. We feel particularly fortunate to have such dedicated teams of individuals that we continue to learn from and who share our passion for the organization. We celebrate and share the joy of our work as well as the challenges and hardships. No matter what, we feel fortunate to have each other as colleagues and more importantly as friends. **1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-388-4441 | mote.org**

**ERIN
KNIEVEL**
Chief
Development
Officer

**STACY
ALEXANDER**
Assistant Vice
President for
Community
Relations and
Communications

"I've often been struck by the support Mote receives from the community near and far as we undertake our mission. Our scientists, educators and volunteers who care so deeply about the marine environment inspire me everyday. I have been given a tremendous opportunity to lead the communications efforts for an organization that I adore." —ERIN KNIEVEL



"Devotion to worthy causes and raising money for organizations who support those in need is not just what I do for a living – it defines me as a person."

NOMINEE | 2016

VERONICA BRANDON MILLER

VICE PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION | GOODWILL MANASOTA

VERONICA HAS DEVOTED HERSELF TO WORTHY CAUSES professionally and personally. For more than 25 years she has helped nonprofits enhance and advance their mission, such as leading ShelterBox USA and helped them increase their donations by 1,000 percent, the Boys & Girls Club where she founded the Women's Leadership Council, and the Smithsonian Institution where she helped complete the campaign for the National Museum of the American Indian. Currently, Veronica is focusing her considerable capabilities on building philanthropic support for Goodwill Manasota. In her current role with Goodwill she gets to use her talents in re-branding their image, creating an award-winning Goodwill Ambassador program and helping to raise significant funds to help provide more mission programs. While already contributing \$81 million in economic impact to the local job market, Veronica wants people to understand the scope of what Goodwill does with their donated goods. The mission is to help change lives through the power of work, especially for those individuals with disabilities or barriers to employment. She is very passionate about helping veterans reintegrate back into the civilian workforce and has also created a program called "Good Futures" that provides mentors to young adults transitioning out of foster care. In addition to the time devoted to Goodwill, Veronica is an active Rotarian and serves as the vice-chair of the board for the Child Protection Center and on the board for Ave Maria Preparatory School. **2705 51st Ave. East, Bradenton, FL 34203 | 941-355-2721 | experiencegoodwill.org**



"As the mother of two small children I have never found that elusive 'balance.' What I have discovered is right now I am the most efficient I have ever been in my life; give me an hour and I can do what once took me all day."

NOMINEE | 2016

CATHI CARSON FREYMAN

PARTNER | GOODMAN MCGUFFEY LINDSEY & JOHNSON, LLP

CATHI HAS SPENT HER LEGAL CAREER IN THE COURTROOM AND IN FRONT OF A CAMERA.

For nearly a decade she was an on-air television investigative reporter and legal analyst. These days as a partner at Goodman McGuffey Lindsey & Johnson, LLP her practice focuses on general liability, construction disputes, and insurance coverage matters. Despite the complex nature of her practice she credits her ability to cut through the legalese to her years in broadcasting. "I am a communicator. My goal is to find the best possible solutions for my client. I think the way to do that is to make me understand their ultimate goals, and then they understand the different strategies available." Cathi first discovered Sarasota after her mother, ABC7's Linda Carson, and father, the late NFL football coach, Bud Carson, moved here more than 20 years ago. She and her husband Jason and their two children now call it home. **6751 Professional Parkway West, Suite 103 Sarasota, FL 34240 | 941-953-4411 | gmlj.com**



"I am honored to be nominated. The purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows and with the collective talent, initiatives and passion of so many in Sarasota and Manatee Counties we can and do impact lives. Thousands of individuals and families now see a path to success and economic independence out their windows."

NOMINEE | 2016

LISA CARTER

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION |
SHARED SERVICES CENTER, SARASOTA

BORN AND RAISED IN CONNECTICUT, LISA CARTER CAME TO FLORIDA'S GULF COAST IN 1997 and settled in University Park Country Club with her husband Danny. She is a Human Resources executive with over 20 years of broad-based management experience at the Vice President level for companies such as U.S. Foodservice, Airgas and Waste Management. Lisa holds an M.S. in Human Resource Development from Villanova University and graduated magna cum laude with a B.S./B.A. from New York Institute of Technology. Once in Sarasota, she quickly set out to find opportunities in the areas she is passionate about—human resources and education. As the Administrative Director of Human Resources for Tidewell Hospice she partnered with CareerSource Suncoast and the State College of Florida to enable nurses to attain a specialized certification in end-of-life care. After spending three years at Tidewell Hospice, Lisa decided to step into a consulting role. Her first client would be at the prompting of Mark Pritchett from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. He asked Lisa to consult in the strategic design, business model and Healthcare Employer Partnerships for the twenty-fourth site of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions. This resulted in educational opportunities and career growth for 1,700 employees of the largest healthcare providers in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. This organization would go on to be branded CareerEdge Funders Collaborative. She authored the program Bridges to Careers for Low-Skilled Workers which is currently in use by colleges and employers. Today, as the Director of Human Resources and Education for the Shared Services Center/CHS Lisa continues to drive these initiatives by attaining over \$350,000 in state workforce grants. This has impacted over 500 employees' lives with education opportunities and nationally recognized certifications by partnering with CareerSource Suncoast, the State College of Florida, CareerEdge and Manatee Technical College.

101 Paramount Dr., Suite 320, Sarasota, FL 34232 | 941-350-5399 | ssc-sarasota.com

NOMINEE | 2016

CHRISTINA M. DE GUIA, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHIATRIST

FINDING A PSYCHIATRIST CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK. Fortunately, Dr. de Guia has the skills to help you feel at ease. "My mission is to provide quality psychiatric care. My goal is to help you find balance in your emotional life. My hope is that we form a connection in which you believe your concerns are heard, your issues addressed and you get to a place where you can start moving in a forward direction."

269 S. Osprey Ave., Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-364-3629 | cmdpsych.com

"Many a false step is made by standing still." - I serendipitously found this beautiful old Chinese proverb in a fortune cookie many years ago. Since then I have taken it on as my personal mantra, which has shaped my career and life decisions. It has inspired me to try new things, to get out of my "comfort zone" and to eventually bring what I have learned and experienced back to my childhood hometown of Sarasota. I am honored to be included with the other nominees, and the recognition has shown me I am reaching others and becoming a positive influence in their lives."





NOMINEE | 2016

SARA FERGUSON

REALTOR® | MICHAEL SAUNDERS AND COMPANY

A SARASOTA NATIVE, SARA TRANSITIONED INTO REAL ESTATE AFTER SELLING TWO SUCCESSFUL FITNESS FRANCHISES.

It wasn't long before she was taking her business to the next level. That's when she made her move to the Michael Saunders and Company Palmer Ranch office. Her entrepreneurial spirit translates perfectly to the real estate industry, where she works tirelessly to provide the highest level of professional service and guidance to those considering selling or purchasing a luxury home in Sarasota County. Sara's background in marketing and sales, combined with her in-depth understanding of the Sarasota market is an incredible asset to her customers. Inspired daily by her husband Nick, a custom home builder in Sarasota, the two make a remarkable team. They can often be found collaborating on projects locally. In her free time Sara enjoys traveling with her family and enjoying the town she calls home. With two young daughters, it's no surprise that Sara supports local children's charities. Foundation board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota, Sara helps bring awareness about the club and its mission of enabling young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

8660 South Tamiami Trl., Sarasota, FL 34238 | 941-320-2709 | sellsiestakey.com

"As entrepreneurs we are constantly reinventing ourselves. This nomination comes as I celebrate a full year with Michael Saunders and Company. I'm grateful to all my colleagues, for their support and encouragement as I transitioned to the company. As women, we need to keep lifting up and empowering each other!"

*"Take healing into your own hands
and feel better in your body with
Body Rolling."*

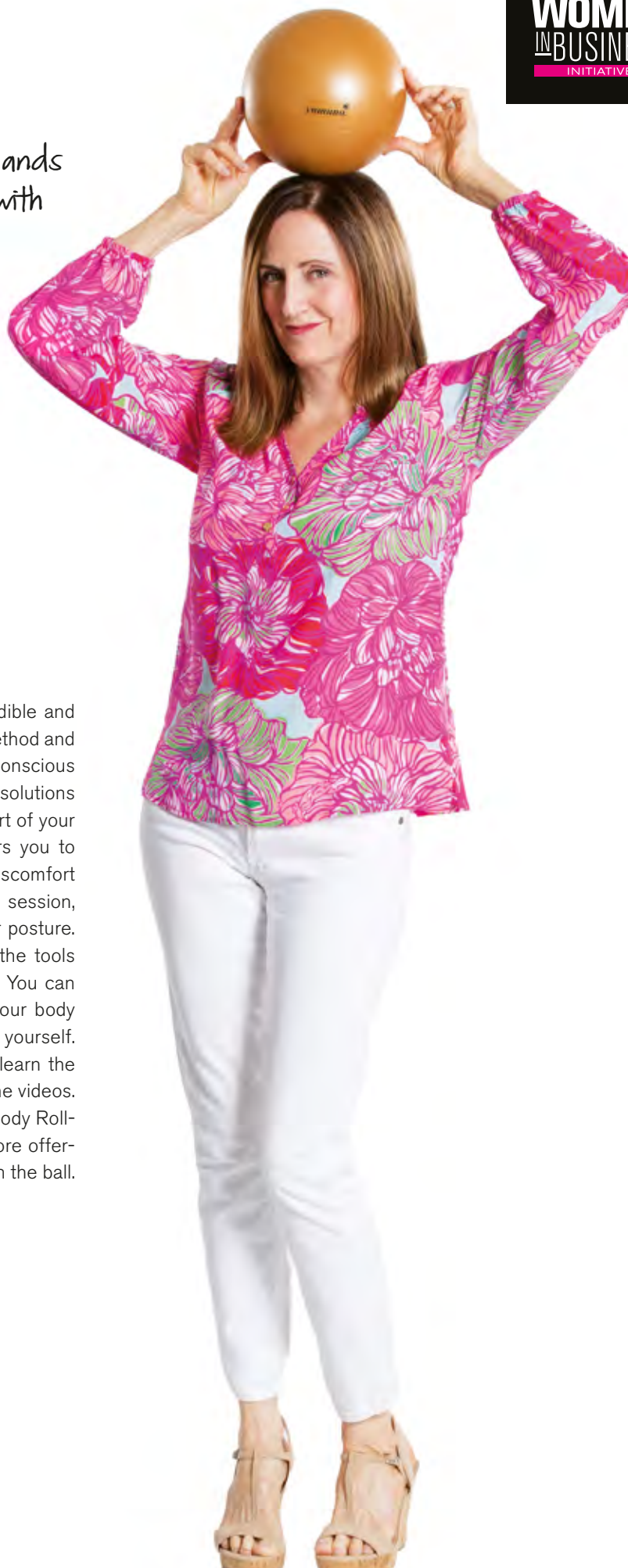
NOMINEE | 2016

DIANNE GLASS

BODY ROLLING INSTRUCTOR, AP, LMT

OVER 25 YEARS AGO, I WAS AMAZED by the incredible and unique benefits of the Yamuna® Body Rolling Method and am thrilled to share it with Sarasota's health-conscious community. Body Rolling teaches you life-long solutions to strengthen, align and relieve pain in every part of your body from your feet to your face. It empowers you to self-treat your own stress, inflexibility, and discomfort while toning and lengthening. After a rolling session, many visibly stand taller with effortlessly better posture. Our proprietary method and kit of balls offer the tools to safely work on your self anytime, anywhere. You can problem-solve and self-heal to feel better in your body at any fitness level. Dive in and experience it yourself. Join one of my local classes or workshops to learn the technique, then practice on the go with my online videos. Take the experience deeper in my Costa Rica Body Rolling Retreat in October 2016. Stay tuned for more offerings in our local community. I hope to see you on the ball.

941-587-7327 | BodyRollingDianneGlass.com





*"It's not about making
a living; it's about
making lives better."*

NOMINEE | 2016

JOHANNA GUSTAFSSON

WEALTH MANAGEMENT ADVISOR/SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT, WEALTH MANAGEMENT | MERRILL LYNCH

THE TRUSTING PERSONAL ATMOSPHERE JOHANNA AND CHRIS' TEAM CULTIVATES WITH THEIR CLIENTS is an extension of their strong family bond. Their values—integrity, respect, and teamwork—shape how they serve the families they work with.

Serving a limited number of clients by design, the team develops highly personalized relationships with multiple generations of their families. These clients become part of Johanna and Chris' extended family, and they truly enjoy getting to know them as unique and special people.

"The clients we serve look to us as resources, to know about every aspect of their wealth, to work seamlessly with their other advisors, and to help them weather the dynamic financial markets." As an Ironman Triathlete, Johanna recognizes the value of hard work, self-discipline, and staying laser-focused to help clients pursue their goals.

Embracing the Merrill Lynch principle of responsible citizenship, this team has a deep commitment to our community, and are actively involved in several organizations in our area, including: Girls Inc., Forty Carrots Family Center, Easter Seals, Aging in Paradise, and ITN Sarasota. "As business owners, we feel it is our responsibility to give back to our community."

Johanna, a native of Sweden, resides with her husband Chris and their two children in Sarasota.

**1819 Main St., Fl. 12, Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-364-5676 | ml.com
johanna_gustafsson@ml.com**

Johanna Gustafsson is a Wealth Management Advisor and Senior Vice President-Wealth Management with Merrill Lynch. Together with her husband and partner, Christopher Pinckney, they operate The Gustafsson Pinckney Group.

"I am so inspired by women. I help my clients achieve balance in the areas that are important to them by providing support during the trials of balancing their career, family, social life, and caring for their beautiful new baby. I find such contentment and purpose in providing the best in unwavering, non-biased, professional support in such a sensitive time. I know my business is supporting the future of Sarasota every day."

NOMINEE | 2016

CHERYL KINDRED

OWNER | SARASOTA MOTHERCARE

OUR ONE-OF-A-KIND CONCIERGE POSTPARTUM DOULA CARE GIVES NEW MOTHERS THE SUPPORT essential to overcoming the hurdles and celebrating the milestones that make up the postpartum stage while juggling a fast-paced modern woman's life. A well supported postpartum year with Sarasota Mothercare creates a strong, balanced foundation. We believe: "Why should you do it alone when you can have expert support every step of the way?" We support our clients as they develop confidence in the parenting practices and styles that fit their family best. There is no one way to be a parent, and Sarasota Mothercare postpartum doulas are well versed in the many options modern families have. With postpartum doula support, overnight respite, and sleep consulting our clients can have their best possible postpartum year. **941.539.0018 | SarasotaMothercare.com**

"My nomination for the SRA Women in Business leadership circle left me speechless! I'm so thankful to the strong women who have shaped my career and honored to be recognized amongst such impactful people."





"The SRQ Women in Business Leadership Awards is a wonderful way to honor such dedicated women in the Sarasota Community. I am honored to be recognized for doing what I love – giving back to our community."

JONNA KELLER

MANAGING PARTNER/OWNER | FIRST SECURITY
INVESTMENTS, LLC OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Jonna Keller has pursued her passion of philanthropy by offering her resourceful abilities, coordinating the process of enhancing objectives and goals, and effectively producing results within several not-for-profit organizations. Some of Jonna's contributions include:

- 2015 honoree, ABC7 News for "personifying the spirit of volunteerism and making the Suncoast a better place" in their Seven Who Care broadcast and ceremony.
- 2015 Beverly Burton New Board Member of the Year for Boys and Girls Clubs, Florida
- Chair Elect of Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County
- Committee Chair for the Women's Leadership Council
- Vice President and Board Member of T.R.E.K (Tech Readers Enrich Kids)
- Chair Member for Women in a Changing World
- Panel Member and Speaker at the U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women, 2013

Jonna actively supports several organizations in Florida which include: Embracing Our Differences, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, All Faiths Food Bank, Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, T.R.E.K., Howard University, Florida Studio Theatre, Asolo Rep Theatre, Sarasota Pops, Gulf Coast Community Choir, Gamma Xi Boulé Foundation, Inc., and local libraries as well as various other causes.

3340-A Bee Ridge Road., Sarasota, FL 34239 | 941-922-9100



"Always full of surprises, [Jonna] opens our minds to new avenues."

—CAROL POTEAT-BUCHANAN

"My father once told me 'Never forget where you come from' and I've always kept that in mind, both personally and professionally. As Loveland Center grows into Loveland Village, it's incredibly important to reflect on where we started and using that to help set strategy for where we want to go, and how we want to get there."

NOMINEE | 2016

DANIELA KOCI

PRESIDENT/CEO | LOVELAND CENTER

DANIELA KOCI HAS ONLY BEEN THE PRESIDENT/CEO OF LOVELAND CENTER SINCE FEBRUARY 29TH,

but her strong impact on the growth of the organization began when she first joined the team in January of 2011. In her five years at Loveland Center, Daniela has helped develop and implement a strong marketing strategy, secured millions in local and state grant funds to support programs and services, increased local, state, and national level collaborations to better advocate for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and has been instrumental in the development of the Loveland Village, a planned residential community of affordable and supportive apartments for adults with I/DD. "I'm extremely honored to have the privilege to lead Loveland Center during such a major transformation," Daniela says. "Our organizational growth will present many challenges for us, but there are also countless opportunities for our mission of helping adults with developmental disabilities live their lives to the fullest to be carried out in a greater capacity!" Daniela graduated with a B.A. from Colgate University and a master's in Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida. In addition to her role at Loveland Center, Daniela is also a graduate of Leadership Sarasota (Class of 2015), a member of the Venice Area Young Professionals and Junior League of Sarasota, and mom to an energetic six year old daughter. **157 Havana Rd., Venice, FL 34292**

941-493-0016 | lovelandcenter.org





"We don't achieve any degree of success alone, regardless of how it's measured. Countless individuals are to be credited with one's success. I am honored to be nominated as one of the SRQ Women in Business and humbled to stand among the nominees."

NOMINEE | 2016

LISA KROUSE

EVP/CHIEF HR OFFICER | FCCI INSURANCE GROUP

WORKING FOR FCCI INSURANCE GROUP HAS PROVIDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS.

I am incredibly proud of FCCI's many accomplishments but the one I always enjoy sharing is the charitableness of my FCCI teammates and the enormous impact they have had on our community. One effort I am particularly passionate about is Talent for Tomorrow, where the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce has acted as convener for many significant organizations in order to build a sustained pipeline of talent for local businesses. Sarasota is an incredibly generous and giving place. Opportunities to make a difference exist everywhere but are usually found in the little things—which generally add up to making a big difference. My advice to anyone, in business or not, is to be a difference maker. As Benjamin Jowett says, "The way to get things done is to not mind who gets the credit for doing them."

6300 University Pkwy., Sarasota, FL 34240
941-907-3224 | fcci-group.com

"Managing your money, making it grow, protecting it and planning for your retirement and legacy takes time and expertise."

NOMINEE | 2016

SARAH LODGE, CFP®

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT/FINANCIAL ADVISOR
THE GRESS LODGE GROUP

SARAH LODGE AND HER TEAM UTILIZE A WEALTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS by getting to know each client and developing a meticulous strategy in three key areas: asset, risk and legacy planning. They know that in the world of financial services, one size does not fit all. Their personalized wealth management plans come with attention to detail in understanding, design and implementation. They also know that needs change and evolve just as the financial markets do so ongoing and timely service is imperative. Sarah has obtained the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) designation and knows that planning is what makes a difference. She has a passion for helping others make the right financial choices so they can be financially independent. Managing your money, making it grow, protecting it and planning for your retirement and legacy takes the time and expertise that Sarah has. As a volunteer Sarah serves as the current president of the Junior League of Sarasota and is also currently on the board of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation and is part of Rotary Club of Sarasota. She has served on the Women's Leadership Council for the Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota County, has been a Big Sister for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast, served on St. Jude Foodlosophy as a committee member, and supports many other wonderful organizations around town such as SPARCC, Girls Inc., Children's First and Child Protection Center to name a few. Sarah and her husband Ryan are proud parents to two young kids and love spending weekends outside enjoying the beauty of Sarasota!

1819 Main St., Suite 1100, Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-316-4811 | thegresslodgegroup.com





"The Women in Business initiative speaks volumes about our community's desire to connect, encourage and attract talented women to this region. Our firm, where the majority of principals are women, is strongly aligned with this mission. I'm proud to represent CS&L CPAs and stand with these WIB nominees in a commitment to strengthening our network."

NOMINEE | 2016

AUBREY LYNCH

PRINCIPAL | CS&L CPAS
PAST VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS
THE MANATEE COUNTY GATOR CLUB
PUBLIC SPEAKER

BEHIND AND BEYOND THE DOORS OF HER OFFICE AT CS&L CPAS, AUBREY LYNCH IS PASSIONATE ABOUT helping hard-working individuals achieve their goals. In her role as a tax and business advisor, Aubrey helps business owners, executives and individuals create the structure and strategy necessary to achieve their personal and professional vision. As the leader of CS&L's recruiting initiative, she is continually inspired by the training and mentoring of young staff. Under Aubrey's guidance and implementation of innovative hiring practices, the firm employs a culturally diverse, talented workforce with a turnover rate far beneath the industry average. In the community, Aubrey is active in several nonprofit committees and business advisory councils including the Manatee County Estate Planning Council, the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council and the United Way of Manatee County. She is a past Vice President of Academics for the Manatee County Gator Club and frequently speaks on professional mentoring topics to youth groups and college students in the area. **1515 Ringling Blvd., Suite 900, Sarasota, FL 34236**
941-954-4040 | CSLcpa.com

NOMINEE | 2016

SARAH MASSEY REALTOR | MICHAEL SAUNDERS & COMPANY

SARASOTA NATIVES, SISTERS SARAH MASSEY AND KEFFIE LANCASTER, are grateful to live and work in such a fantastic community. Their love of family, community and entrepreneurial spirits allow them to connect and make a difference. In 2009, Sarah and husband Eric built their commercial real estate team of Massey & Massey, a successful and reputable business. Looking for an avenue to connect with the community in 2013, Sarah partnered with N2 Publishing. Her goal was to create a neighborhood publication where she grew up: Southside Village, the neighborhoods west of the Trail between Downtown Sarasota and Siesta Drive. N2 provides stories, news and events that thoroughly inform neighbors about their communities, and widens their circles of professional and personal friends. Sarah also created a publication for City Islands, which includes homes on Bird Key, Lido Key and St. Armands. Sarah can't think of a better career: "I get to connect the community with my family beside me." Sarah isn't the only one keeping busy. Her sister Keffie Lancaster, an award-winning interior designer, recently expanded her talents into a new downtown storefront.



SARAH L. MASSEY
SarasotaCommercialRealEstate.com
N2Publishing.com
941-374-2525

**WOMEN
IN BUSINESS**
INITIATIVE

NOMINEE | 2016

KEFFIE LANCASTER

KEFFIE'S ECOCHIC BOUTIQUE

KEFFIE'S ECOCHIC BOUTIQUE is the brainchild of Keffie's desire to expand her business and create an eco-friendly local shopping outlet for the community. Keffie aims to provide a mindful experience for shoppers, encouraging thoughtful purchases while raising awareness about fair-trade, recycling, and the importance of buying local. Her new gift shop is conveniently located in the Historic Downtown Village and has already hosted numerous fundraising events. Sarah and Keffie are happy to give back to the community not only through their businesses, but also by volunteering their time and resources to many nonprofit organizations.



KEFFIE LANCASTER
Keffie's ecoChic Boutique
1837 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL 34236
941-365-0159 | Keffies.com



NOMINEE | 2016

ALEX MILLER

CEO | MERCEDES MEDICAL

FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS MY TEAM AND I HAVE TWEAKED THE RECIPE

and Mercedes Medical still remains relevant in an ever-changing medical supply distribution environment. Equally rewarding and challenging has been the last three years representing the Central District as an elected member of the nine-member Sarasota Memorial Public Hospital Board. The complexity of such a large and ever-expanding public healthcare system is truly inconceivable, but as an insider and business person with a keen eye on efficiency, organization and quality, I cannot express how impressed and proud I am of what we have in our own backyard with SMH. My time on the Hospital Board has prepared me for my next journey, as Republican candidate for State Representative, District 72, which represents over 160,000 residents in central Sarasota. As a 22-year resident of Sarasota with a passion for this community, I hope to bring a pragmatic, business-minded and results-oriented approach to Tallahassee.

7590 Commerce Ct., Sarasota, FL 34243
800-331-2716 | MercedesMedical.com

"Business to me is a little like baking a cake. It's an interesting mix of ingredients that have little to do with one another, yet when combined create something spectacular. It's comprised of equal amounts of experience, psychology, strategy, intuition, adaptability and patience. It's deliberate and measured. It is a constant trial and error and does not come without an occasional inedible failure. But when you've figured out the right formula for success, the rewards can be delicious!"



"It's not about a brand or about a company, it's about the people we serve and making sure that they (the guests, the staff and any person who walks through those doors) know that we genuinely care for them."

NOMINEE | 2016

LESLIE POWER

GENERAL MANAGER | HOTEL INDIGO SARASOTA

WHEN YOU WALK INTO THE BACK OFFICES AT THE HOTEL INDIGO or any other non-public space, you will see the letters ATD or hear the words from staff members, "attention to detail," uttered throughout. This is the creed and motto of the General Manager—captain of the ship and head of the household—Leslie Power. It is through this concept that the Hotel Indigo Sarasota has risen to greater success than anyone could have ever imagined. With almost nothing in the proverbial "how-to" book, Leslie has taken the reigns of a newborn brand and marched to the beat of her own drum. In the nearly 10 years that Hotel Indigo has occupied the corner at Boulevard of the Arts and US 41, Leslie continues to create a brand identity that not only identifies with the local neighborhood story but is also writing the manual herself. "It's not about a brand or about a company, it's about the people we serve and making sure that they (the guests, the staff and any person who walks through those doors) know that we genuinely care for them." Those words, more than any other, describe what Leslie Power is about and how she models herself to others. With Leslie at the helm, the Hotel Indigo Sarasota has been the leader of the pack amongst all of the newly branded boutique Hotel Indigos across this nation and others as it has been awarded top honors of "Torch Bearer" (best of the brand) for the last six out of seven years, and not to mention Newcomer of the Year, General Manager of the Year (two times) and various other of Intercontinental Hotels Group highest honors and achievements. There is no telling what is next for Leslie Power as she navigates the tumultuous roads of hospitality, but we do know that her recognition of people, creativity and devotion to the guests she serves will continue to bring her continued success and the visitors of Sarasota a little taste of Southwest Florida hospitality.

1223 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-487-3800 | srqhotel.com

"I absolutely love what I do and feel passionate about helping others to hear better. I have many physicians and patients who refer to our office knowing they will receive the best in hearing healthcare."

—Dr. MARY THORPE

NOMINEE | 2016

DR. MARY THORPE, AU.D., FAAA
HEAR CARE AUDIOLOGY CENTER

HEARCARE AUDIOLOGY IS DEDICATED TO RECONNECTING PATIENTS TO THEIR LOVED ONES THROUGH THE JOY OF BETTER HEARING. As a Doctor of Audiology with over 35 years of professional experience, I have been fortunate to serve the Sarasota community by providing exceptional hearing healthcare to many individuals. Our practice follows best practice standards in the audiology profession which separates us from other providers in the area. We provide comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, and always include verification of correct hearing device fittings for each individual as well as all necessary follow up care. I absolutely love what I do and feel passionate about helping others to hear better. I have many physicians and patients who refer to our office knowing they will receive the best in hearing healthcare. I am fortunate to be able to serve this population and the rewards that come from helping others to hear better are amazing. My mother had a hearing loss that was left untreated and I witnessed her difficulties communicating with others. This experience with my mother led me to seek a profession where I could help others communicate with their loved ones. Being an audiologist has been incredibly satisfying and I feel very grateful to have found a lifelong joy as a hearing healthcare provider.

2800 Hillview St., Sarasota, FL 34239 | 941-677-1075
315 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285 | 941-225-2326
myhearcare.com

EILEEN OLSON
Director of
Operations

DR. MARY THORPE,
AU.D., FAAA

NOMINEE | 2016

KAREN MCKEIVIER

SENIOR DESIGNER/OWNER | CABINETSCAPES

MY PHILOSOPHY IS TO EMPOWER creative people, usually women, to stop worrying about what other people think of the way they are designing the world. Express yourself freely, bravely and fiercely! Life. Is. Short. It's about holding myself accountable to my vision and values and not making choices that are out of alignment in the name of earning money, as if somehow building wealth, doing business and being in alignment are mutually exclusive. They are not. I place my biggest level of importance on building relationships. It is my belief that your personal brand expresses your soul at the deepest level and the way you do business must align with your values and beliefs. It requires listening to yourself and taking action. Your influence, your voice and your choices will contribute to the way the design industry leads going forward. Having a leadership role as President of the Sarasota Design District, I have to stand for something and I firmly believe that creative people make creative people more creative. I have been designing custom cabinetry in Sarasota for 14 years, it is my art and expression.

I thank the creative community for the nomination and the recognition, it's huge! **425 Central Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236**
941-925-2500 | cabinetscapesfl.com

"It is my belief that your personal brand expresses your soul at the deepest level and the way you do business must align with your values and beliefs."

