



**DR. BROOK BELLO
LESLIE LOFTUS
UMBREEN KHALIDI-MAJEED
KATY MCBRAYER
CANDICE MCELYEA AND
ALICIA KING ROBINSON
VERONICA BRANDON MILLER
SUSAN MOSELEY
CAROL SCHOFF
NIKKI SEDACCA AND
MONTANA TAPLINGER
THE WOMEN OF
SABAL PALM BANK
KATHRYN SHEA
CHRIS VOELKER**

A TRIBUTE TO

WOMEN WHO ROAR

**THEIR
STORIES.
THEIR
SUCCESSES.**

Our Women Who Roar participants share their stories of insight, inspiration and empowerment as we recognize their success as influential and impactful leaders in Sarasota and Bradenton. Women have been contributing their passion, financial leadership and pioneering spirit to our hometown since the famous Chicagoans Marie Selby and Mable Ringling arrived, and their business and philanthropic legacies continue today.

CREATIVE MARKETING FEATURE SECTION :: SRQ MAGAZINE



"Soaring above the deep challenges of my past trauma by God's grace has inspired me to see the greatness in everyone. Especially the victims we work with everyday and each one of these children is more than a conqueror and when they discover their true identity as survivors for the first time, it's awe-inspiring." —Dr. Brook Bello



DR. BROOK BELLO

FOUNDING CEO | MORE TOO LIFE, INC.

WHAT'S STRIKING ABOUT WOMEN LEADERS is that they have to be resilient and resourceful, and often wear multiple hats. They must exemplify a new model of leadership. Dr. Brook Bello of MoreTooLife.org is that kind of leader. Far past surviving child-trafficking and thoughts of suicide and pain, Dr. Bello has gone on to earn her PH.D in pastoral clinical counseling in 2017 and licensing accreditation under the mounted pressures of being a CEO, moving to a new state and a new town; Sarasota where no one knew her. Her tenacity to press through and serve a vast population of child and young adult victims with a team that has been hand-picked has not been easy but worth it. Dr. Bello has written urgent care curriculum and notably male-focused education that ignites men of honor and is one of the first agencies of its kind to hire men to join the service team. Derek Thompson and Chris Hill, (pictured) are such men, along with board-chair Chris Groeber, board president David Arkless, formerly of Manpower Worldwide and currently Arklight Consulting, are essential in ending the demand of trafficking and sexual violence while working with victims and high risk youth as they discover what a man of honor looks like.

Dr. Bello is a recipient of the lifetime achievement award from the White House and President Obama, Advocate of the Year from Attorney General Pam Bondi, presented by she and Governor Rick Scott, and recently chosen by GOOGLE as a Google Next Gen Policy Leader. Bello shared; "understanding what this violence does to our children I am very passionate about our cause, while knowing we need to constantly learn and share new practices from our federal, state and agency partners." A regular practice of yoga, deep meditation and prayer keep her balanced.

1750 17th Street - Bldg. F. Sarasota | 941-227-1012 | moretoolife.org



"I am honored to be included amongst this wonderful and accomplished group of women. I take great pride in my work and in my community. It is a privilege to have been of service, and to have this recognition."

—Leslie Loftus

WOMEN IN BUSINESS NOMINEE | 2018

LESLIE LOFTUS

PRINCIPLE | LOFTUS LAW

LESLIE LOFTUS OPENED LOFTUS LAW IN 2013, after having worked to establish a new family law department within an existing local law firm. She began her career as a commercial litigator over 30 years ago and began devoting her time to representing clients in family law matters exclusively after moving to Sarasota in 2002. Ms. Loftus and her team of professionals offer a concierge, client-driven approach to each case. She enjoys working with her clients and collaborates with them to ensure that they have articulated, agreed-upon, legitimate, and realistic goals. Ms. Loftus believes communication is key and she provides her clients with a range of options designed to meet their objectives, reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of each option and providing her recommendation. Ms. Loftus believes strongly in seeing that the client is empowered and fully-informed.

No lawyer can guarantee what results might be obtained in court. Going to court to resolve family law disputes is expensive and a lot of wear and tear on a family that is already going through significant changes. Thus, Ms. Loftus believes it is in her clients' best interest to resolve family law issues, if possible, outside of the courtroom. Should this prove impossible, Ms. Loftus is happy to advance her clients' legal matters to court. At all times, Ms. Loftus presents her clients' positions in a vigorous, thorough manner designed to achieve success without sacrificing professionalism.

Ms. Loftus is also passionate about community involvement and devotes time to serving the local community. Currently, she is honored to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of Florida House on Capitol Hill, a member of the City of Sarasota's Board of Adjustment, a member of the Sarasota Tiger Bay Club's Board of Directors, and chair of the 12th Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Panel.

783 South Orange Avenue, Suite 300., Sarasota | 941-444-7278 | loftuslaw.net





"My philosophy on life . . . observe, be curious, ask thoughtful open-ended questions and genuinely engage . . . guaranteed you will learn something new." —Umbreen Khalidi-Majeed

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UMBREEN KHALIDI-MAJEED

CEO & STRATEGIST | PARKSIDE ASSISTED LIVING
AND MEMORY COTTAGE

UMBREEN KHALIDI-MAJEED IS AN ENTREPRENEUR and part of a family of determined visionaries that focus on improving the lives of the elderly in Southwest Florida. She continues Dr. Nasir Khalidi's legacy, through Parkside Assisted Living and Memory Cottage, a full-service residential community that cares for residents with Alzheimer's and dementia. Umbreen is an enthusiastic learner and encourages her team to research, develop and adopt innovative and collaborative therapies for her residents and their families. She believes that there is life beyond a diagnosis.

2595 Harbor Boulevard, Port Charlotte | 941-766-7444
parksidedassistedlivingandmemorycottage.com



"As an at-risk youth in Sarasota, Teen Court promoted self improvement, self esteem and mental well being in my troubled life through unique programs including Camp X-RAYD (examining Realities About Your Decisions.) Having come full circle, I'm passionate about giving back to Teen Court and impacting our community by providing the same positive influence I received as a teen."

—Katy McBrayer

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KATY MCBRAYER

REALTOR® SRS | MICHAEL SAUNDERS & COMPANY

SARASOTA REALTOR, KATY MCBRAYER, believes in a community-first approach. This civic-minded nature has helped her blend her personal and professional goals, resulting in a community oriented career as one of the top agents for Michael Saunders & Company. McBrayer works to ensure the best for her clients, while also serving on the Board of Directors for Teen Court - a local non-profit that helped shape her life. McBrayer's sense of social responsibility has led her to speaking out and telling her story in an attempt to make a difference all around her hometown of Sarasota. By sharing, McBrayer hopes to shine a light on the possibilities that exist in a community where individuals and businesses prioritize the growth and support of those around them. She has received several awards in her capacity as a real estate agent, including the 2017 Circle of Excellence Award; however, she remains most proud of her community involvement accolades, most notably the Dennis Wood Memorial Award for exemplary community service. McBrayer believes doing what you love isn't work, especially when it makes the world around you a better place.

61 S. Blvd of the Presidents, Sarasota | Mobile: 941-400-2406
BestofSarasotaRealEstate.com





"Life is a wild rollercoaster but no matter what comes your way, daily doses of appreciation, laughter and compassion in equal parts will keep you sane and happy." —Candice McElyea

CANDICE MCELYEA AND ALICIA KING ROBINSON

THREE SIX OH PR

FOR CANDICE MCELYEA AND ALICIA KING ROBINSON, celebrating and supporting women is not just a part of business – it is a way of life. Before this dynamic duo was drafting news releases and managing social media accounts, they were both born as the oldest of three females in their respective families. In their personal and professional lives, these ladies have been learning from and supporting strong women long before Three Six Oh PR launched in 2012. A serendipitous introduction brought them together in 2014, and ever since, these two have been complementing each other's strengths and telling stories of movers and shakers in Sarasota and beyond. The team at Three Six Oh PR, a full-service public relations firm, assists a diverse client roster from construction and law firms to health care organizations and nonprofits, among others. Candice, the founder and president, and Alicia, the director of public relations, each graduated from the University of Florida. These media mavens take pride in producing earned press mentions in Florida, Georgia, Illinois and California. They credit their success to invaluable female mentorship they've been the fortunate recipients of from their families and at work. In an ever-changing and chaotic world of real-time news, they've found a knack for uncovering newsworthy nuggets about their clients and sharing their stories with the world. They've learned that relationships are the key to success in business and have strong ties to the community. The two share a passion for philanthropic causes, including children's issues, college readiness and the arts.

1358 Fruitville Road, Suite 310, Sarasota | 941-232-9046
threesixohpr.com

"Take the road less traveled, always buy the shoes, embrace life's imperfections and believe in yourself." —Alicia King Robinson





"Leaders set examples and examples influence others. This is a cycle that should happen in such a way that it builds people up, shows kindness, encourages and edifies them so they can duplicate this attitude in others."

—Veronica Brandon Miller

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE | CLASS OF 2017

VERONICA BRANDON MILLER

VICE PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION | GOODWILL MANASOTA

STRONG VISIONARY. STRONG COLLABORATOR. STRONG VOICE. THESE ARE THE ESSENCE AND STRENGTHS OF VERONICA BRANDON MILLER. Veronica's personal and professional accomplishments are a testament to her dedication, hard work and innovation. With more than 25 years of creative vision and unparalleled expertise in community engagement, branding and marketing, Veronica has leveraged resources and raised funds for numerous charitable organizations. As the vice president of Goodwill Manasota's Foundation, she has created and implemented multiple strategic development plans and secured donations to advance the organization's mission of changing lives through the power of work. Of the notable programs and initiatives she has created, including the award-winning Veterans Services Program and Community Ambassador Program - which has engaged more than 2,500 community leaders - she is proudest of the 330 collaborations she has spearheaded in the community. She firmly believes that creating synergy is the best platform for building a better, stronger community. This is evident when she uses her significant strengths to forge new partnerships: her nickname is "The Queen of Collaborations." Veronica hosts a radio show on WSRQ called "Tell Me Something Good"; the program promotes the "good" that is happening in our community, featuring corporate and community partners who are committed to giving back. She also appears bi-monthly on ABC7's variety show, "Suncoast View," to share "Good News from Goodwill."

2705 51st Ave. E, Bradenton | 941-355-2721 | experiencegoodwill.org





*"The only constant is change.
That's what we are here for."*

—Susan Moseley

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE | CLASS OF 2017

SUSAN MOSELEY

PRESIDENT | MOSELEY INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT, INC.

HELPING WOMEN THROUGH FINANCIAL LIFE CHANGES. Listening, truly hearing women's concerns about risk and their money, is at the top of Susan Moseley's priority list. Moving into retirement, dealing with the loss of a spouse through death or divorce, making elder care decisions for family members are all important transition points and require special knowledge of the financial, emotional, and planning needs of women facing these decisions. Looking between the numbers in a portfolio, Susan Moseley finds people. Each individual has a unique outlook, set of circumstances and risk tolerance. Working with a caring team to solve for a unique answer is the best way to approach life changes. Helping people transition through new chapters of their lives is what the team at Moseley Investment Management, Inc. is best at and what Susan Moseley finds highly rewarding.

1630 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota | 941-745-2799
moseleyinvestment.com



CAROL SCHOFF

SALES REPRESENTATIVE | SIR SPEEDY SARASOTA

CAROL SCHOFF IS A DEVOTED MOTHER, grandmother, great grandmother, co-worker and friend. She joined Sir Speedy Printing and Marketing after a 20 year career in the hospitality industry. For the last 18 years, Carol has provided her clients with printing and marketing solutions with exceptional customer service. Carol has been an active member of our local Chambers of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureaus as well as the Florida Public Relations Association, of which she is a former board member, Member of the Year and President's Award recipient. Carol is a consistent top performer in the Sir Speedy network of franchises and has been recognized multiple times as the Southeast Region's Salesperson of the Year, as well as a 5 times million-dollar sales representative. This year Carol was chosen as the recipient of the Don F. Lowe Salesperson of the Year Award, which is given to a salesperson who has demonstrated professionalism in his/her sales career, who supports the National Salesperson Program and participates in events, who's customer service focus brings credit to his/her franchise location and brand, and for his/her contributions to the success of others in the salesperson network. Carol is a true sales professional whose unwavering commitment to serving her customers inspires everyone she meets.

3939 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota | Office: 941-922-1563 | Mobile: 941-356-3886
sirspeedysarasota.com

"I am a relationship builder and my clients are extremely important to me. I have built my business through networking and by treating my customers like family. When your clients are your friends, there's no such thing as "going to work." —Carol Schoff





SABAL PALM BANK

KATHY COLLUMS, DOROTHY "DEE" BARTH, TISH (SCOTT) MURPHY, CARRIE LEWIS, VICKIE D EINWAG

"The success Sabal Palm Bank has enjoyed is directly related to the exceptional women that play a significant role in running our company. Our talented group of female executives amaze me every day with their wisdom, insight and leadership. I could not be prouder or feel more fortunate to have the opportunity to work with this group of professionals." —President & CEO, Neil D. McCurry, Jr.





SABAL PALM BANK WAS FOUNDED IN 2006 with the exclusive purpose of providing exceptional service to the businesses and individual citizens within our local community. It was, and still is, our strong belief that a financial institution that is owned and operated within the community will always put the needs and interests of our area first. We strive to be a business that provides challenging and rewarding careers for its staff. Our team has many key players with one group of strong, experienced women bankers leading the charge. This group of five women represents over 180 years of banking experience, most of it right here in this community, and we want you to get to know them better.

KATHY COLLUMS is a founding officer and shareholder of Sabal Palm playing a big part of the success of the bank. She is a Senior Vice President and Sarasota City Executive focusing on lending and relationship management. Kathy has over 40 years of banking experience and embraces this community with all her heart. She is an active member of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of the Sisterhood For Good, a donor advise fund which supports many local non-profits.

VICKIE D EINWAG is also a founding officer of Sabal Palm and is currently a Senior Vice President and the bank compliance officer. Her task is a mighty one of keeping the bank on the straight path through all the regulatory requirements of banks these day. Her success is evident in the bank's 5 Star Bauer Rating. Vickie has 44 years of banking experience all in Sarasota and Manatee County.

DOROTHY "DEE" BARTH joined the bank in 2013 and is Vice President overseeing bank operations and continued growth of staff and services. Dee brings her 41 years of banking experience to the team with lots of energy and humor. She loves being part of a successful team and contributing to find solutions to better the process. Dee gives back to her community through her church, working with Pines of Sarasota, supporting Breast Cancer Awareness and any mission the bank undertakes.

CARRIE LEWIS joined the team in September 2017 in our Venice Office. She is an Assistant Vice President focusing on business development in that market. She is very active with the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce serving on 2 committees awhile also co-chairing American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Awareness events for all of Sarasota County. This

mission is dear to her as a breast cancer survivor and knowing all this organization does for those struggling with this horrible disease. Carrie moved to Florida from Nevada and brings 19 years of banking experience to our team.

TISH (SCOTT) MURPHY is the newest member of the team just joining April 2nd of this year. She is not new to banking-only to Sabal Palm with over 38 years of banking experience all in Sarasota County. Before joining Sabal Palm, Tish worked for SunTrust Bank, Colonial Bank and was a founding officer of Insignia Bank which recently sold to Centennial Bank. She will be working primarily with Carrie in the Venice Market making a dynamic duo to support the bank's growth plans in the south county market.

All these ladies bring years of expertise in highly personalized customer service in the banking industry and have come together to form a dynamic team that will help lead the bank to continued success. The focus is on building and nurturing long-term relationships with every customer which leads to a strong bond with our customers to help them achieve their financial dreams.

Sabal Palm Bank | 1950 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
941-361-1122 | sabalpalmbank.com





"By finding exceptional artists in a variety of mediums, we connect their creativity and ingenuity to those who appreciate and recognize their talents. We work tirelessly to curate a welcoming space that allows our artists' passions to flourish and continue to develop."

—Left to right: Co-owner Montana Taplinger, Co-owner and Founder Nikki Sedacca, Operations Director Laveda Keesling, Assistant Director Molly Lindberg



NIKKI SEDACCA AND MONTANA TAPLINGER 530 BURNS GALLERY

530 BURNS GALLERY STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE in every endeavor, whether curating new and innovative art exhibitions from their roster of over 30 artists, hosting jewelry trunk shows in dazzling variety, planning events that bring the community together, or installing unique artwork in clients' home. The strength of 530 Burns Gallery lies in the team of four outstanding women from very different backgrounds, yet who share the same passion for connecting beautiful works of art to each person who walks into the gallery. Co-owner and founder Nikki Sedacca, a jewelry designer by trade, brings her creative vision, leadership, eye for color and design, refined sense of style, and experience to the gallery's offerings. Co-owner Montana Taplinger's infectious energy and natural leadership motivate and push the team forward, while generating fresh marketing and event planning perspective and ideas. Laveda Keesling's education in gemology and lifelong career in the jewelry industry, as well as her organization, logic and efficiency keep day-to-day operations at full speed for clients. Molly Lindberg's knowledge of art history, youthful energy, savvy tech skills, and love of the story behind each work, guide clients to the pieces they will most highly treasure. Together, the four fearless ladies of 530 Burns Gallery create a space of vivacious passion and connected creativity. Their vibrant energy motivates them to work hard to connect each client to a work of art that resonates with their unique taste and style.

530 Burns Gallery 530 Burns Lane, Sarasota | 941-951-0620 | 530burnsgallery.com **Nikki Sedacca Gallery** 17 Winter Street, Edgartown, MA | 508-627-5373 nikkisedaccagallery.com Featured work: Kathe Fraga, *Beyond the Lace Curtains*, Acrylic and Mixed Media on Frescoed Panel, 36 x 24.



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KATHRYN SHEA

CEO | THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

AS A YOUNG GIRL, KATHRYN SHEA— the CEO of The Florida Center for Early Childhood—was interested in and committed to working on social justice issues. When she eventually decided to become a social worker, she had no idea where the path would lead. Her commitment to social justice has only grown stronger and she has become more engaged in legislative and social policy advocacy. She believes we all have a responsibility to make this world a better and more just place. Her strong belief that women have an equal place in the church led her to become an ordained Roman Catholic Woman Priest in 2015. She says that every day she strives to live the teachings of Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.” When thinking about moving to this area 17 years ago – and not knowing anyone – Kathryn said she is amazed at the number of great relationships she and her family have formed. Her work at The Florida Center continues to challenge and inspire her, and she loves how the non-profits in this community work together and support one another. Her involvement with the Community Alliance of Sarasota County has opened her eyes to the many challenges this community faces, but also to the commitment of partners who want to make this a better place for everyone regardless of race, age, or socioeconomic status. Kathryn said she feels very blessed to live in such a wonderful community.

4620 17th St., Sarasota | 941-371-8820 | thefloridacenter.org

“I believe we are all born leaders. We just have to reach inside ourselves and be brave enough to accept the challenge.” —Kathryn Shea





*"Never look back unless
you want to go that way."*

—Chris Voelker

CHRIS VOELKER

PROPRIETOR | STATE STREET EATING HOUSE + COCKTAILS

SAVVY RESTAURATEUR AND COMMITTED ANIMAL WELFARE ADVOCATE, Chris Voelker goes through life grabbing all that it brings with fortified gusto and inquisitiveness. She also believes that the swim upstream is actually the most exhilarating and rewarding—which is most likely a major component of why she's become a game-changing player in Sarasota dining. Voelker is inspired by opportunities to make a difference—whether it be in charitable work, personal relationships or work challenges. Consequently, her trailblazing efforts and sincerity remains transparent—being deeply involved in charitable organizations that cover health (The Lung Association, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation), animal welfare (President of the Board of The Humane Society of Sarasota County), and the arts (Urbanite Theater Board of Directors). If that wasn't enough to fill up her week workload, she adapts to a seven-day schedule and continues to run one of Sarasota's most happening and sought after downtown restaurant/lounges—with 30 dedicated employees and in her humble opinion, "serves some of the town's best food and cocktails." (SRQ's Best of Local Competition agrees). Voelker has a true talent for bringing a vision to reality, which makes her an exciting leader to add to your female inspiration board. As busy as her life is though, she still manages to spend quality time with her husband, her beloved pooches, her close-knit group of gal pals, and enjoy the area's bountiful art scene.

1533 State Street , Sarasota | 941-951-1533 | statestreetsrq.com