

BUSINESS

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Recognizing community LEADERS

Executive
Women
honors
four who
make a
difference

BY EUNICE BAROS

Florida Weekly Correspondent

FOUR LOCAL WOMEN — EXCELLING IN CRIMINAL defense law, education, and mental health treatment and helping the underprivileged — will be honored by Executive Women of the Palm Beaches at the group's 34th annual Women In Leadership Awards on May 11 at the Cohen Pavilion of the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

"The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches is excited to announce the honorees who were

SEE LEADERS, A16 ►

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Participants meet once a week from May 23-August 1, 2017. Program session includes eight classes and one, all-day retreat.

Reservations are required. Space is limited to 30 participants per session. For more information on class fee, or to register, please visit jupitermed.com/mindfulness or call 561-660-1828.



MOVING ON UP

“When we all give back, the quality of life improves for all of us.”

— Sheila Kinman,

Vice president for development of The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

Name: Sheila Kinman

Title: Vice president for development of The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

Location: West Palm Beach

BY MARY THURWACHTER

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Having worked and lived in Iowa most of her life, Sheila Kinman says she was ready for a change when she accepted a position as vice president for development with the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

“My husband, Eric, and I were looking for a new place to live, and Florida, with the sunshine and beach, was high on our list,” said Mrs. Kinman, who began working for the foundation two months ago.

“Everything is so new, but the people are just as nice,” she said. “The community as a whole has been very welcoming and the team and board of directors here has been wonderful.”

As vice president for development, Mrs. Kinman links Community Foundation donors to philanthropic causes, facilitates legacy and planned gifts and establishes charitable funds that impact the community and nation.

“I get to connect donors with causes they care about and it’s very rewarding,” Mrs. Kinman said. “When we all give



TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Sheila Kinman began her career in Iowa and worked seven years for the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, where assets grew to more than \$440 million.

back, the quality of life improves for all of us.”

She works closely with the foundation’s programming team to join donors who are interested in co-investing to local charities for greater leveraged impact.

Her biggest challenge, she said, will be

increasing visibility for the foundation and the services it provides.

As one of the largest community foundations in Florida, the foundation manages an endowment of \$154 million, and has been serving the region for more than 40 years.

Along with its donors, the foundation makes grants, awards scholarships and leads community efforts to improve the lives and opportunities of residents — both now and in the future.

Previously, Mrs. Kinman was chief advancement officer at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

During her seven-year tenure, the foundation’s assets grew from \$163 million in 2009 to more than \$440 million.

She also focused on developing strategic relationships with professional advisers and grew the Greater Des Moines’ Charitable Investment Program to more than \$70 million in assets during her time in the city.

Mrs. Kinman and her husband, Eric, live in Jupiter with their two cats, Popo and Lulu.

For more information on the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, visit www.yourcommunityfoundation.org.

Sheila Kinman

Age: 43

Where I grew up: Parkersburg, a small town in northeastern Iowa

Where I live now: Jupiter

Education: B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa in Communications; a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy for The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

What brought me to Florida: The position with the Community Foundation of Palm Beach & Martin Counties and the sunshine

My job today: Vice president for development

My first job and what it taught me: Special events coordinator for Junior Achievement; coordination of a lot of moving parts.

A career highlight: As I was transitioning from Des Moines, Iowa, to West Palm Beach, there was an amazing amount of recognition for the impact I had on my community through facilitating charitable giving over the course of seven years.

Hobbies: Travel — my husband and I love to explore.

Best advice for someone looking to make it in my field: Being donor-centric in everything you do is vital to a long and trusting relationship with your constituents.

About mentors: I don’t officially, but I’ve had the benefit of working with many high performing individuals and the three traits I find that they have in common are strong listening skills, they have a great deal of empathy and put others before themselves. ■

LEADERS

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selected from a record number of outstanding nominees,” said Amy Morse, a lawyer and one of three co-chairs for the event. “The dedicated women represent the public, private, volunteer and nonprofit sectors as examples of the strength and character of female leadership in Palm Beach County.”

They include:

* **Nellie L. King,**

of Jupiter (private sector), a noted criminal defense attorney, past president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers who mentors young female lawyers and who supervised significant work with former President Barack Obama’s Clemency Project. The clemency initiative focused on minimum-mandatory sentencing policies, which resulted in the incarceration of thousands of Americans for nonviolent drug offenses, many of whom were serving life sentences. Ms. King also is a past president of the Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She serves on the Board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Boys Town South Florida and the Criminal Justice Commission.



KING

* **Jean A. Wihbey, Ph.D.** of Palm Beach Gardens (public sector), provost for Palm Beach State College’s Lake Worth campus. As the campus’ chief executive officer, she is responsible for providing leadership and inspiration to a campus of more than 9,000 students

and 225 employees. Dr. Wihbey ensures the quality and relevance of the campus’ academic programs, oversees campus operational activities, and leads through encouraging ideas and strong relationships, said Natalie Alvarez, a luncheon co-chairperson. “She is actively involved in the PGA Corridor Association Board of Directors as president, the North Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business Steering Council, and the Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Board of Governors,” said Ms. Alvarez, a vice president at Sabadell Bank & Trust in Palm Beach Gardens.

* **Sharon Gill** of Lake Worth (volunteer sector), founder and CEO of Oasis Compassion Agency, which helps the underprivileged with a food pantry, clothing, housing, skills development and job placement. Ms. Gill left Jamaica for the United States at age 21 with \$56 in her pocket. Decades later, she is the COO of the Gill Law Firm and at Oasis has assisted more than 10,000 individuals in Palm Beach County become self-sufficient, motivated, empowered and successful members of the community, added attorney Michelle DeLong, one of the three co-chairpersons of the luncheon. Ms. Gill serves on the boards of the Women’s Chamber Foundation, EmpowHer of the Palm Beaches, Umom and Palm Beach Atlantic Alumni.

* **Linda DePiano,** Ph.D. of Palm Beach Gardens (nonprofit sector), CEO of the



WIHBEY



GILL

Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health in West Palm Beach and a champion for mental health in Palm Beach County for more than 34 years, said Executive Women of the Palm Beaches President Lori Fischer. Dr. DePiano oversees 385 professionals who provide a full range of services, including a 44-bed psychiatric hospital, mobile crisis team, outpatient services, housing, and addiction and co-occurring programs (treatment for people who have substance use disorders, as well as mental health disorders). “In addition to her responsibilities at the center, she also is a leading advocate of addressing mental health and related issues throughout our community,” said Ms. Fischer.

The Women In Leadership Awards are presented by Executive Women of the Palm Beaches in recognition of local women who have sustained outstanding accomplishments and displayed generosity of spirit, commitment to integrity and diversity, and genuine connectedness with others in the community.

Keynote speaker for the luncheon will be Capt. Mark Kelly, commander of Space Shuttle Endeavour’s Final Mission (2011), space and aviation contributor for NBC News/MSNBC and husband to former U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. A highly decorated astronaut since 1996, Capt. Kelly’s career with NASA includes spending more than 50 days in space and commanding both



DEPIANO



KELLY

the Space Shuttle Endeavor and the Space Shuttle Discovery. He is one of only two individuals who has visited the International Space Station on four different occasions.

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation, said Realtor Virginia Spencer of Illustrated Properties, who is the organization’s past president and honorary chair of the luncheon.

Tickets are \$130 for EWPB members; \$150 for friends and guests; and \$80 for students.

Major event sponsors include Whole Foods, Florida Power and Light, philanthropist Frances Fisher and artist JoAnne Berkow, PCN Bank, Sabadell Bank & Trust, Domnick Cunningham & Whalen, Jupiter Medical Center Foundation, Office Depot, CEMEX and the Chesterfield Palm Beach, and many other community organizations. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

“It is an honor to recognize the 2017 nominees for the impact they have made in Palm Beach County,” said Ms. Fischer, EWPB president.

The nominees included Ellen Andel, Maureen Ashe, Tami Baldinger, JoAnne Berkow, Carrie Browne, Jessica Cecere, Viviane Conner, M.D., Rachel Pappert Docekal, Ed.D. Nancy Dockerty, Leora Freire, Terry Gearing, Sharon Gill, Pamela Gionfriddo, Pamela Goodman, Gina Grandinette, Carey Haughwout, Michele Jacobs, Lisa Johnson, Kim Jones, Johanna Kandel, Rani Mathura, Denise Nieman, Emily Pantelides, Tina Philips, Judge Pierman, Sally Ross Soter, Melody Spano, Val Stanley, Jeanmarie Whalen, Marilynn Wick, Tenna Wiles, Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., and Mary Wong.

To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit www.ewpb.org/wila or call Executive Women of the Palm Beaches at 868-7070. ■