

# *first coast* Register

*February - March 2017*

*Ponte Vedra • Nocatee  
Jacksonville  
The Beaches • St. Augustine  
& Amelia Island*



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**PREVIEW**



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### MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE OVERLOOKING 12TH HOLE OF THE MARSH LANDING CC

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### IMMACULATE HOME ON PONTE VEDRA BLVD

This beautiful 5 bedroom, 4 bath custom home has been lovingly cared for and maintained. Sitting on 3 private acres, which are left natural, makes this property truly one of a kind. \$1,925,000



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## about this magazine

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## on the cover

Couples can wed beneath the boughs of an old oak tree at Jacksonville's Bowing Oaks Plantation. Photo by Lauren Peele. Read more on page 12.



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# One of Us!

## GLO SMITH

by JENNIFER LOGUE

photo by JASMINE MARSHALL

*Glo Smith recently returned from attending the inauguration of President Donald Trump. A former Florida congressional candidate, Smith has more than 30 years of public, social and entrepreneurship experience that includes working for Florida's Governor Rick Scott and Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll. Prior to joining Lt. Governor Carroll's staff, she served as a supervisor for a Community Base Care Agency in Clay County, where she led in developing the agency's policies and procedures for Florida's Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Program.*

### **What prompted you to run for U.S. Congress?**

Growing up in the poorest part of Jacksonville, I was no stranger to poverty as a child. In my early childhood, my mother relied on government provisions and commodities to care for and feed our family. Regardless of the social and financial hardship we faced, I was determined to succeed with the moral support of my family, friends and faith. In 2013, I realized that someone needed to provide the constituents in Congressional District Five with an alternative to the status quo. The real unemployment rate, especially among African-American men and the young adults in some parts of the district, was much too high. So were the number of people receiving entitlement programs, the crime rate and the high school drop-out rate. I wanted to help bring about a positive change in the district. I knew the conservative values and principles I learned from my father worked, and could provide the opportunity we needed to make things better.

### **What were the defining factors in your life growing up that attracted you to the Republican Party?**

My stepfather, an educated man with a degree in engineering, played a major role in my decision to become a Republican. He believed in limited government, fiscal conservatism, free enterprise, and individual liberties and responsibilities. He appreciated and



respected the Constitution. He worked as a supervisor at the Jacksonville Shipyards, owned two small businesses and real estate in our community. My father taught us that we could be anything that we wanted to be if we worked hard. He wanted us to receive a high-quality education or learn a trade. He believed that these things, with God's help, would pave the way for a better future. Because of his success, I knew that I wanted the same opportunities for myself and others.

### **What is the biggest lesson you learned from your campaigns for Congress?**

I ran for Congress in 2014 and 2016. It is a bit hard for a Republican to win a heavily Democratic district. I found that the history of the Republican party is often overlooked or not known. Although many of the constituents have a different political ideology, for the most part, I find that we want the same things for our families and community.





*During the presidential campaign, there was a lot of talk in the media claiming that support for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees was divided sharply along racial lines. As an African American supporter of Donald Trump, what was your experience during the campaign?*

On several occasions, I was advised not to talk about President Trump in the district. I had an obligation, however, to support the person that I thought would be better for all Americans. I lost a lot of votes because of my support for Mr. Trump.

**Many people believe that racial conflict in America is at its worst point since the 1960s. Do you concur with that assessment?**

I think each of us has a moral responsibility to bring people together and to love and care for one another regardless of our differences.

Black History Month is a great time to reflect on just how far we have come, and how far we need to go. We think about our family's heritage, how things were, how we want things to be, and about our children's future.

We as black people, especially those from the South, are strong and resilient people. We came through and survived slavery, Reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and Jim Crow laws. We must tell our story so that our people and the world will never forget or repeat history. We share our story so that every person, no matter the color of their skin, will know that they can be anything they want to be, and accomplish any goal according to God's will for their lives.

**Do you have any plans to seek elective office again?**

No. I would, however, like to see more women and minorities run for office.

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Amelia Island ushers  
in ninth annual  
**RESTAURANT  
WEEK  
CELEBRATION**

Photos by PRI PRODUCTIONS



Amelia Island's ninth annual Restaurant Week kicked off the New Year with a slew of specialized menus, festivities and culinary events showcasing the flavorful faire of First Coast destination. This year's celebration saw the participation of more than 30 of Amelia Island's most popular restaurants, among them Crab Trap, 29 South Eats and Marina Seafood Restaurant, and the introduction of new featured tours, cooking classes for adults and children and special demonstrations and events.

The 10-day culinary showcase is one of the island's most anticipated events, according to Gil Langley, president and CEO of the Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Restaurant Week has become one of our most anticipated annual events and is the perfect time for hungry visitors and locals try some of the island's new culinary hotspots and enjoy their old favorites," Langley says.

The 2017 Restaurant Week introduced a new special event with the kick-off "Distillers Dinner" held Jan. 19. Hosted at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation, the dinner featured a selection of clear, blonde and brown spirits to usher in the 2017 celebration. Executive Chef

Daven Wardynski and his culinary team walked visitors through the distillation process with a four-course dinner paired with cocktails centered around vodka, gin, whiskey and rum.

Another new event introduced during Restaurant Week was the Mixology Tour with Amelia Island Downtown Tasting Tours. Throughout the month of January, Amelia Island Downtown Tasting Tours included four stops at local bars wherein guests enjoyed a lesson of brief history of the bars in addition to specially prepared cocktails.

Throughout the week, adults and children alike were welcome to join cooking classes hosted by Amelia Island Culinary Academy, among them Parisian- and pasta-themed classes.

Capping the celebration off was "A Bourbon Affair" held at The Ritz-Carlton of Amelia Island. The craft cocktail event celebrated specialty spirits with samples of small-batch and house-infused bourbons, whiskeys and craft cocktails alongside fresh sushi and sashimi, wine, hors d'oeuvres, infusions and flights of select bourbons, scotches and sake and demonstrations by Johnny Love, head mixologist at The Ritz-Carlton.



Above: The Omni Amelia Island Plantation banquet team greets guests at the restaurant week kickoff's Distillers Dinner.

Right: Menu detailing the evening's fare carved into wood

Below: The first of a four-course meal served at the Jan. 19 Distillery Dinner



Below: The first of a four-course meal served at the Jan. 19 Distillery Dinner





# Women's Food Alliance *holiday party*

The Women's Food Alliance presented Peterbrooke Chocolatier founder Phyllis Lockwood Geiger with its 1st Annual Pinnacle Award at its recent holiday gathering, held Dec. 19 at The Grille @ South Hampton Golf Club.

In accepting the award, Geiger shared vignettes about her journey with Peterbrooke, inspiring guests with her vision for "what comes next."



Ana Barreiro and international food journalist and cookbook author Pat Mack



WFA Founder Leigh Cort and Ana Barreiro of Key Lime Mousse, Inc.



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Phyllis Geiger



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## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson appears as a legal commentator on CNN, HLN, GMA, and Fox News. She has been awarded the very highest possible rating, the AV preeminent rating™, from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys.

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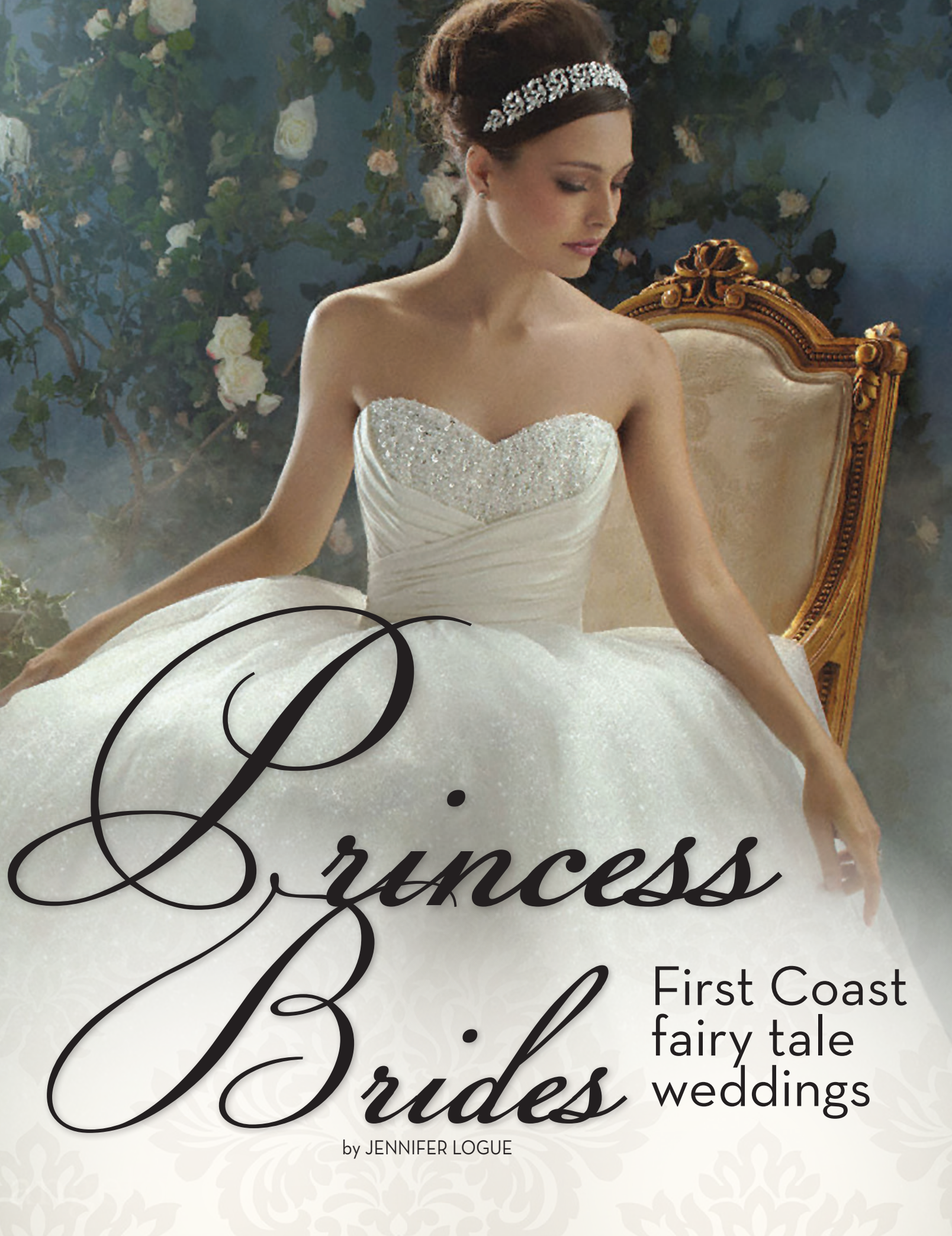
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*Princess  
Brides*

First Coast  
fairy tale  
weddings

by JENNIFER LOGUE





Flagler College,  
photo by Rob Futrell

In 2015, American couples spent an average of \$32,641 on their weddings. And for many brides, a good percentage of that budget was spent creating a day they've dreamed of since childhood: a fairy tale wedding.

Here on the First Coast, brides have a number of options for bringing that fairy tale to life – from the perfect dress to magical venues. Here are just a few of the many local options for bringing Happily Ever After to life.

### PRINCESS PERFECT

What could be more in keeping with a fairy tale than a wedding dress fit for a princess? A Disney princess, to be exact: Alfred Angelo is the exclusive designer of the official wedding gowns inspired by the beloved

Disney versions of the classic fairy tales of old. From Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty to Snow White, Belle, Jasmine and more, the Alfred Angelo Disney bridal line allows every bride to channel her favorite Disney heroine. Available at Alfred Angelo's Jacksonville store, the collection also includes complementary "Royal Maiden" bridesmaid and flower girl dresses.

Each year, Alfred Angelo releases a new gown for each princess, and since the line was first launched in 2009, the designer has expanded the princess roster to include newer favorites such as Tiana, Rapunzel and Elsa.

"The dress that's generating the most traffic right now is Mulan – she's our

newest princess," says Bailey Smith, director of corporate alliances for Alfred Angelo. "We'll also be adding Pocahontas in the fall. We're really excited to be adding these two princesses."

Priced from \$1,000 to \$1,900, Disney gowns are anything but off-the-rack, Smith says.

"Once a bride selects her princess, the gown is cut exclusively for her," she says, "and they're available in sizes up to 26W."

And the best-selling Disney gown of all time?

"That would be #205 – Cinderella!" says Smith, noting that the bridal line's popularity is not hard to fathom.

"It's strictly because of the Disney connection," Smith says. "Every bride wants



to be a princess on her wedding day.”

### DOWN THE AISLE

First Coast brides seeking a magical setting for their nuptials have a variety of venues from which to choose. For those seeking a reception site that evokes the fairy tale castles of old, Flagler College offers an opulent setting in the heart of St. Augustine. With its Spanish Renaissance architecture, the former Gilded Age resort is home to several function spaces, including the elegant Ponce de Leon Ballroom. Available from late May through early August, the ballroom’s ornately carved columns, soaring ceiling and magnificent Tiffany stained glass windows adorn a space that can host up to 300 guests for a seated dinner or 400 for a cocktail reception.

“Flagler College serves as the perfect backdrop for a fairy tale wedding,” says Tonya Creamer, Flagler College event coordinator. “Our chandeliers hang with a touch of grace suspended in front of our Tiffany stained glass windows reminiscent of the scene when Beauty dances with The Beast. The whole

ballroom drips with gold features King Midas himself could have touched.”

### INTO THE WOODS

For the bride who envisions a more pastoral fairy tale setting, Jacksonville’s Bowing Oaks Plantation offers a rustic, romantic venue. Located in Jacksonville’s Bayard neighborhood, Bowing Oaks combines state-of-the-art luxury amenities for the bridal party with the simple elegance contemporary brides crave.

Among the facility’s offerings: three outdoor settings for the wedding ceremony, where vows can be said in an outdoor pavilion or beneath the boughs of a towering, old-growth oak tree.

Continuing the rustic theme, the plantation’s 4,000 square-foot ballroom features wide-width Pecky cypress walls and custom-made cypress tables.

And for those couples dreaming of riding off into the sunset after their perfect fairy tale wedding? It’s possible.

Notes Bowing Oaks owner Jim Efstathion: “We had a bride who brought her horse!”



Alfred Angelo photo

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# Cordially invited

Dulles Designs expands to First Coast

by JON BLAUVELT

Stationery designer and protocol expert Emilie Dulles recently expanded Dulles Designs to Ponte Vedra after recognizing the demand for her company's work in the Jacksonville area.

"Through the grapevine, we heard that 'old school' Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra families were starving for a high-end, custom stationery and printing option," says Dulles, who started offering her services in Ponte Vedra Oct. 1.


With the use of uniquely rare and custom cotton and European papers, Dulles Designs produces elegant invitations, stationery and traditional printing for families, boutique firms, offices and gala events.

Dulles grew up in the event design and elegant printing industry via

her family's business that was started in Switzerland in the late 1980s. As a result, she brings 25 years of engraved and letterpress event and stationery experience to the First Coast.


Beyond calligraphy, engraving, hand-edging and colored beveling, Dulles also specializes in "white glove" guest lists, event design and organization and meticulous mailing and RSVP management for celebratory occasions, especially weddings.

"This level of high end 'social secretary' service is really what Dulles clients come to us for," says Dulles, who generally caters to country club families that come from generations of formal entertainment and decorum. "Elegant design and printing is a bonus."

  
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When working with families on their wedding stationery, Dulles says the process is quite simple, because her company manages everything from start to finish. Unlike website-only vendors, she says her company helps families navigate through the entire process, including guest list management, privacy, protocol, logistics, timelines, map making, event communications roll-outs and final week and day of emergencies.

Dulles says one of the more common trends today is for families to do the opposite and create their own wedding stationery and collateral using online printing with common fonts, web graphics and flimsy paper. In these situations, she says brides, mothers of the bride or wedding planners typically manage the guest list and RSVP list. Although less expensive, Dulles says this route is quite often a recipe for a headache, whereas her services allow the family to relax before the big day.

Dulles typically initiates the wedding stationery process by sending out save-the-date cards once the wedding venue is secured and contracted, which Dulles says should be six to 15 months before the wedding. Then, six to nine months before the wedding, her team

designs and produces wedding invitation sets and rehearsal dinner invitations. Dulles says the third and final phase, which includes the production of weekend and day-of pieces – such as hand-drawn maps, ceremony programs, welcome bags and dinner pieces – should start three to six months before the wedding. In general, Dulles likes to start early so clients can enjoy the process and have the necessary time to decide what they really want.

Dulles says a typical wedding project, which includes 16 to 20 different projects, costs her clients anywhere from \$10,000-\$30,000. In addition to weddings, Dulles Designs offers its services for surprise, birthday and anniversary parties, as well as business launches and celebrations and gala events.

“What we do is provide peace of mind to both our clients and their guests,” says Dulles, who also has a presence in Palm Beach; Charleston, South Carolina; Washington D.C.; and New York City. “When you communicate everything effectively at the right time in clear, concise and gracious language, it makes the whole process a lot easier for everybody.”



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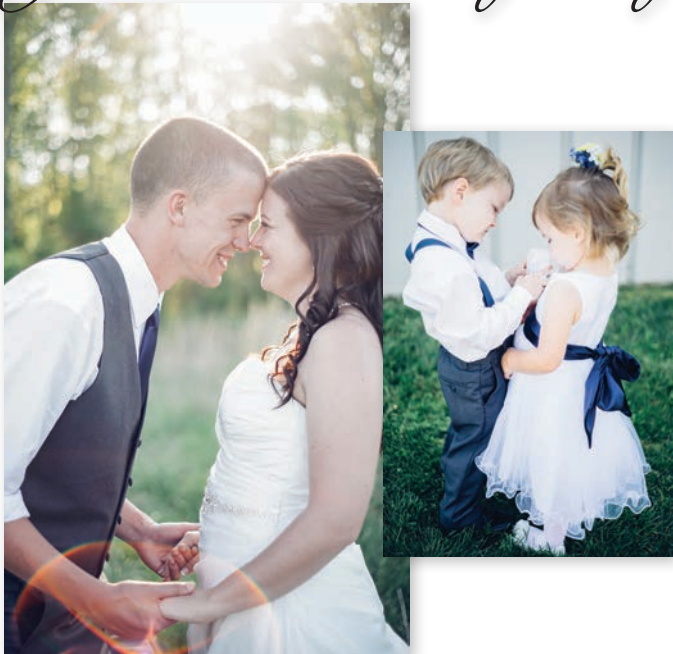
by JASMINE MARSHALL

First Coast dwellers have long known the strength of the artistic pulse in each of its communities, breeding musicians, oil masters and culinary genius alike — and the photography scene is no different, as several area shooters are out to prove this bridal season.

Borrowing inspiration from their natural surroundings and the unique juxtaposition

of urban and historic locations that exist in spades on the First Coast, these photographers continue to master their own distinct styles. Bringing a variety of disciplines — among them landscape, natural, portrait and event photography experience — to wedding portraiture, these shooters make a case for going small and local on the big day.

*Joshua Brangenberg*  
www.joshuabrangenberg.com



Joshua Brangenberg is a Jacksonville-based photographer whose method borrows elements from candid- and documentary-style media. Specializing in wedding, engagement, portfolio and landscape photography, Brangenberg's goal is to capture moments meant to be remembered.

"With my work, I try and capture those memorable moments," he says. "Even while doing portraits, I try and create a fun, relaxed atmosphere that

will leave fond memories years down the road."

Brangenberg advises couples to consider the photographer themselves as much as their skills when deciding on who will document the big day.

"When choosing a photographer, make sure you like their personality," he says. "On your wedding day, you spend a good portion of the day with that person — you might as well spend the day with someone you like!

*Lisa De Clercq*  
www.lisadeclercq.com



Lisa DeClercq's photographs are decidedly tropical. The Jacksonville Beaches-based photographer utilizes foamy shores, sunsets and palm trees for quintessential coastal

sets. DeClercq specializes in wedding and portrait photography in addition to head shots, maternity and baby photography.



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# Mallory Aussem

[www.evergoldphotography.com](http://www.evergoldphotography.com)



Mallory Aussem is a St. Augustine-based photographer with a dream-like style.

"I love nature and I'm constantly inspired by it," Aussem says. "It amazes me how the sun is able to create so many different tones and moods — but that's the beauty of it. I love working with early morning or dusk lighting — I love the airy, moody golden look."

Named for Aussem's affinity for golden-hour sunlight and the idea of timelessness,

her style combines gentle saturation with pale washes of color, giving her work a vintage film look that conjures images of memories made and those still to come. Aussem specializes in wedding and engagement photography.

Aussem's protip: "For all the amazing couples, just be you! I often try to not tell my clients how to pose because I simply want who they are to show through the images. Be romantic, kiss, laugh, dance, hug — soak in every moment!"

# Rob Futrell

[www.robfutrell.com](http://www.robfutrell.com)



St. Augustine-based photographer Rob Futrell has a style that toes the line between editorial and cinematic; with wife and partner Jill, the two have a style made distinctive

by a playful use of light and color to create whimsical images. Futrell specializes in engagement, wedding, portrait and event photography.





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# a slice of the *First Coast*

Locally-owned bakeries bring tasty, unique styles to weddings

by JASMINE MARSHALL

Hardcore foodies already know one of Florida's best kept secrets is the First Coast. From Main Street to A1A, there's no shortage of locally-owned eateries serving acclaimed culinary fare for every palette—and this wedding season, bakeries in the area are making a case for themselves.

## *Alleycakes*

[www.alleycakes.com/contact](http://www.alleycakes.com/contact)



Photos courtesy of Alleycakes

**1517 Atlantic Boulevard  
Neptune Beach, FL 32266  
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Sat. – Noon – 5 p.m.**

Alleycakes' menu runs the gamut from cake pops and French macarons to layered wedding cakes in a variety of

flavors and styles. Borrowing influence from rustic “naked” cake trends to ornate stacks decked in flowers, this Neptune-beach based bakery specializes in stylish sweets that toe the line between traditional and modern.

## *Kakes by Katie*

[www.kakesbykatie.com](http://www.kakesbykatie.com)



Photos courtesy of Kakes by Katie



**(904) 716-9915**

Kakes by Katie, a “cottage food business,” is helmed by St. Johns-based professional home baker Katie Smith-Gibbs.

Distinguished by a clean style, floral accents and minimal design, Smith-Gibbs bakes, decorates and delivers cakes personally.



# Choux Cake Studio

www.chouxbakery.com

# Classic Cakes



Photos courtesy of Choux Cake Studio



Photos courtesy of Classic Cakes



**4458 Marquette Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
(904) 955-398**

This nationally-recognized custom bakery operates out of Avondale and boasts seven

years of operation. Choux's style is marked by creative pops of color and unorthodox patterns borrowing inspiration from fashion and nature.

**4152 3rd St. S.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
(904) 246-6408**

Spearheaded by Chef John Krupinski and wife Carol, Classic Cakes is a Jacksonville Beach-based bakery specializing in wedding

and groom cakes. Fashioning sugar and fondant into flowers, shells and glitz, Classic Cakes brings more than two decades of experience to the table in addition to Krupinski's Johnson & Wales Culinary School pedigree.





First Coast Opera presents  
*Madama  
 butterfly*

Local company aims to make opera accessible to all ages

by JENNIFER LOGUE



Photos courtesy of First Coast Opera



Photos by Jennifer Logue Martin and Maria Sepulveda



Curtis Tucker has heard all the misconceptions people have about opera.

“There are all those old opera myths,” says Tucker, the artistic director for First Coast Opera. “There’s ‘Oh, there’s gonna be a fat lady’ or ‘I can’t understand what’s going on’ or ‘I don’t know what to wear.’”

Tucker and his ensemble did their best to dispel those myths recently, when First Coast Opera presented a fully-staged production of Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly.” Presented Jan. 6 and Jan. 8 at Flagler College’s Lewis Auditorium in St. Augustine, the production featured a professional cast of 20 performers accompanied by a live orchestra.

As English subtitles were projected above the stage, the performers brought to life the classic tale of a young Japanese geisha who welcomes the chance to wed a brash American naval officer stationed in Nagasaki. The American, however, fails to recognize the legal or cultural significance of their traditional Japanese union and returns home to take a “real” American bride, resulting in tragedy.

Focusing as it does on themes of cultural misunderstandings and the ways in which Americans are perceived by citizens of other

nations, “Madama Butterfly” seems as timely today as when it debuted in 1904. It is that type of universal experience, Tucker said, at which opera excels in communicating.

“Opera is all about emotion,” he says. “It combines all art forms, with the music really heightening the emotions. If we do our jobs on stage, the audience has really felt something.”

Now in its 17th season, First Coast Opera recently was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its next production: a double bill featuring two courtroom comedies. On March 16 and 18, First Coast Opera will present Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Trial by Jury” alongside “The Trial of B.B. Wolf.” Composed by Tucker and written by Nelson Sheeley, the family-friendly opera puts the Big Bad Wolf on trial for his notorious exploits.

It’s a reflection, Tucker says, of First Coast Opera’s goal of making opera accessible to all ages and all audiences.

“We’re trying to grow the company,” he says, “and bring opera back to what it originally was – an art form for the people.”



Opera singer Kirsten Chambers and First Coast Opera Artistic Director Curtis Tucker



Valerie Joi Fiddmont and Angela Fisher







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[Unitykim@gmail.com](mailto:Unitykim@gmail.com) / [www.unitychristianarts.com](http://www.unitychristianarts.com)  
for more information.





# Spring Fashion

by JENNIFER LOGUE

From the Big Apple to the First Coast, the first signs of spring are appearing in department stores and boutiques, as last fall's fashions make way for the latest looks.

Some of the trends that graced the runways at Fashion Week in New York City include:

**Stripes:** Designers from Marc Jacobs to Diane Von Furstenberg adorned their models in boldly striped shirts, skirts, dresses and jumpsuits.

**Florals:** Equally colorful were the floral prints found in lines from Jason Wu, Tory Burch and other designers. In addition to dresses and skirts, flashy florals were also to be found complementing another spring trend: the trenchcoat.

**Nautical:** It was "Anchors Aweigh" on many runways, with models on parade in sailor suit-style dresses with a fashion-forward edge.

**Yellow:** Hello, yellow! The hue was a hit at Fashion Week, with shades ranging from sorbet to canary turning heads.

## First Coast fashion

Look for these trends to begin popping up locally, along with spring looks particularly popular with

First Coast fashionistas.

"There's a ton of fun fashion coming in as we are moving into spring," says Emily Rhodin, owner of Scout & Molly's Boutique in Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beach. "Pleats and micro pleats appear to be making a pop on the scene: The micro pleats are appearing mostly in skirts but also hints of them on tops and dresses."

The off-the-shoulder, cold shoulder and cut-out tops so popular last fall will continue to be on trend this spring, Rhodin says, while the shirt dress will become even more popular as career wear.

"For the casual run-around look, the t-shirt dress with gym shoes is an easy way to elevate your style – especially if the dress can be belted and worn with a wedge to dress it up," Rhodin says.

In addition to stripes, look for gingham prints to make a comeback in 2017, while the bright yellow so vivid on the New York runways will share space on the rack alongside apparel in shades of island blue, flame, lapis blue and greenery.







Photos courtesy of Scout & Molly's Boutique



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# CUTTER & CUTTER *grand opening*

by JENNIFER LOGUE

## Spanish master ROYO travels to Ponte Vedra for exhibition of his work

Local residents had an opportunity to meet one of the art world's noted stars Jan. 20, when acclaimed Spanish painter ROYO visited Ponte Vedra Beach for the grand opening celebration of the Cutter & Cutter Fine Art gallery in Sawgrass Village.

The artist, who traveled from Valencia, Spain for the event, participated in the gallery's ribbon-cutting ceremony before visiting with guests and art collectors, who came to Ponte Vedra to view a special exhibition of works the artist painted especially for the occasion. In addition to attending cocktail receptions held Jan. 20-21, ROYO also signed copies of his book showcasing his works.

"It's significant for Cutter & Cutter to have an artist such as ROYO, a world-class master, join us all the way from Valencia, Spain," says Len Cutter, founder of Cutter & Cutter. "The art world and its collectors know well the impact he has had on our business, and we predict the impact he will have on Ponte Vedra and Greater Jacksonville is about to unfold."

Throughout the gallery's grand opening weekend, guests perused ROYO's works while enjoying the opportunity to speak with the artist

through an interpreter.

"He has a certain aura about him when he comes to town," says gallery partner Mark Cutter. "He has such a knowledge of and love for art history. (Collectors) really come out because they know there's something special about him."

In addition to the portraits for which he is well known, ROYO created a number of landscapes specifically for Cutter & Cutter, many of which depict the cherry, almond and orange trees that adorn his home in Spain.

ROYO is also a collector, Mark Cutter added, noting that in many of the artist's works, his models display antique fans and 150-year-old silk shawls.

"They're not props," he says. "They're a part of his life."

That sentiment was echoed by the artist himself during a gallery talk with collectors and guests. When asked about his inspiration and reasons for painting, the artist gave a brief answer in Spanish, which his interpreter translated.

"It is his life," she says simply. "He has to do it."



ROYO displays one of the paintings he created especially for Cutter & Cutter at the gallery's formal grand opening celebration. From left: Mark Cutter, Matthew Cutter, ROYO, Sonya Cutter and Len Cutter.





Janice and David Miller  
of Marietta, Georgia



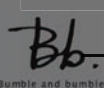
Photos by Jennifer Logue  
George McCaughan, Moppy McGee,  
Bill McGee and Leslie McCaughan



ROYO with gallery  
founder Len Cutter



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# 40TH ANNIVERSARY *Art & Antiques Show*

by JENNIFER LOGUE

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital marked the 40th anniversary of its annual Art & Antiques Show in December with four days of lectures, exhibits and events at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center.

Antique dealers from across the nation and around the world gravitated to the event, which featured a guest lecture by Academy Award-winning actress Goldie Hawn, expert demonstrations and a children's fashion show featuring current and former Wolfson patients.

Among the highlights of this year's Art & Antiques Show was the black-tie opening party. In keeping with the show's 40th anniversary, the gala event featured a 1970s theme, complete with a mirrored disco ball and '70s-style décor.

The Women's Board was founded in the 1970s after twin girls Abbie and Annie Martin were born prematurely and Wolfson Children's Hospital lacked the necessary equipment to care for both infants. Abbie Martin lived just eight days.

Since that time, The Women's Board has raised nearly \$30 million to support the hospital's programs and equipment needs through events like the Art & Antiques Show, the Florida Forum lecture series and more.



Amy Reese and Baptist Medical Center Board Member Kyle Reese



Annmarie Komatineni and Rebecca McKelvey



Natasha and Darin Roark





Carolyn Zisser, Jamie Buckland, Debbie Buckland and Elliot Zisser



Johnson Sarber, Hannah Bellingrath, country music singer Rion Paige, John T. Martin and Rieves Martin





Seana McAfee, Pat Delaney, Marie Mussallem, Alex Mussallem, James Mussallem, Kristie Mussallem, James Mussallem, Emmeline Chopourian and Charles James Mussallem



Penny and Dr. Robert Ellison, and Henny and Dr. George Schoonover



Virginia Norton and Alicia Dorsie-Frank



Women's Board founder Ellen Cavert with granddaughter and current president Grace Sarber







photos by JENNIFER LOGUE

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| <b>JUNE 26th-30</b>     | <b>Dance IT ALL Camp</b>   | <b>8:45am-1pm</b> | <b>\$175</b> | <b>ages 4-7 &amp; 8-12</b>   |
|                         | <b>&amp; Summer Ballet Intensive pre/teen INT/ADV-week #2 \$300</b>            |                   |              | <b>beg/int</b>   |
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|                         | <b>&amp; Summer Broadway/Jazz/Tap Intensive pre/teen INT/ADV-week #3 \$300</b> |                   |              | <b>beg/int</b>   |
| <b>JULY 17th-21</b>     | <b>DANCE IT ALL Camp</b>   | <b>8:45am-1pm</b> | <b>\$175</b> | <b>ages 4-7, &amp; 8+ pre/teen</b>   |
|                         | <b>&amp; Ballerina Princess Camp</b>   |                   |              | <b>beg/int/adv</b>   |
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# Cummer Beaches

“A Night at the Museum” was the theme of this year’s Cummer Beaches gala, held Jan. 21 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

Guests attending the black tie event had an opportunity to enjoy reproductions of works from the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens’ permanent collection as well as artwork created by local students who participated in the museum’s education programs. The evening also included a cocktail reception, dinner and entertainment provided by the Jacksonville University Department of Musical Theatre.

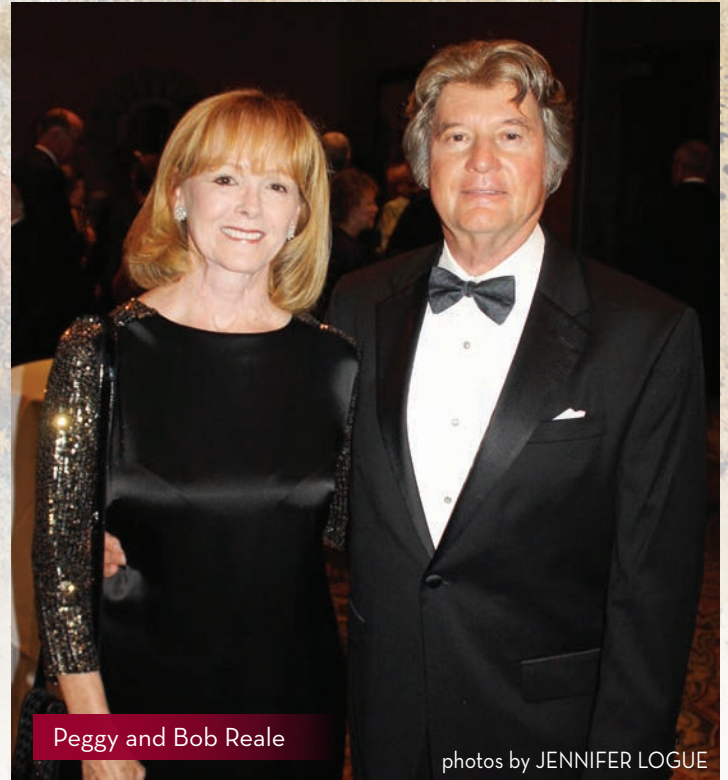
“Cummer Beaches is an affinity group of the Cummer Museum,” says Lori Ann Whittington, the museum’s director of advancement. “Proceeds from this event enable us to bring students from the Beaches to the museum for tours and to participate in our education programs.”

Cummer Beaches President Becky Johnson notes that the museum’s offerings also include programs for those with special needs as well as individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease. It is the focus of the Cummer Beaches group, she says, to raise the visibility of those programs and encourage more Beaches residents to visit and take advantage of all the Cummer has to offer.

“The Cummer is really a wonderful community of art,” Johnson says. “Our group’s number one priority is just building awareness of what a local gem we have in the Cummer Museum.”

# Gala

by JENNIFER LOGUE



Peggy and Bob Reale

photos by JENNIFER LOGUE



Richey and Sandra Smith with Pete Doolittle



Jim and Jennifer Byron with Bill Struck





Diane Jacobsen, Heidi Smith and Trina Medarev



Cummer Beaches President Becky Johnson and Marianne Stein, chair of the education committee



Barbara Miller and Donna Heffner



Barbara Gibbes, Judy Struck and Frances King

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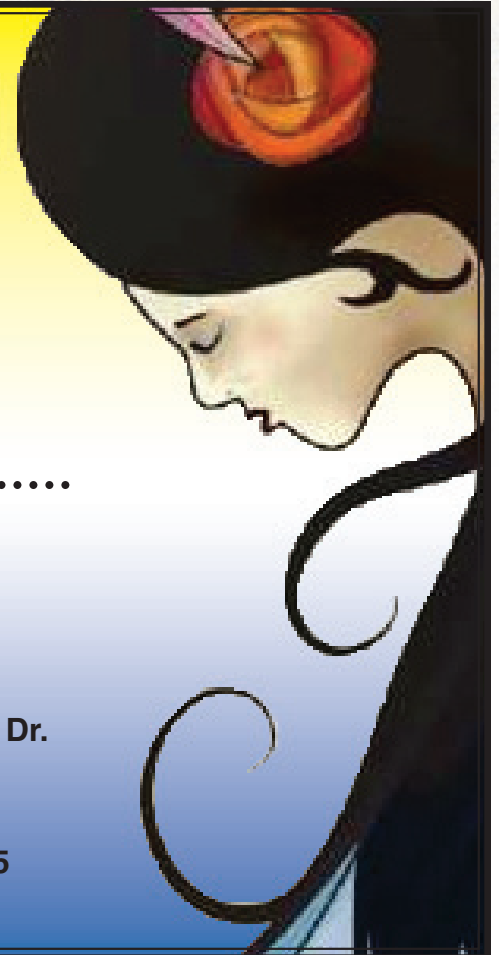
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# THE 2017 BEAM

# Beach Ball

by JENNIFER LOGUE

Cocktail attire and flip flops was the fun fashion dress code at the 2017 BEAM Beach Ball. Held Jan. 21 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, the 7th annual event benefiting the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) featured both silent and live auctions for such luxury experiences as a trip to Belize, a tour of Napa Valley wine country and a week in Park City, Utah.

BEAM Executive Director Susan King noted that proceeds from the event will benefit BEAM's programs that assist low-income Beaches residents, including

its two food pantries that supply not only BEAM programs but numerous other local organizations with food for distribution to those in need.

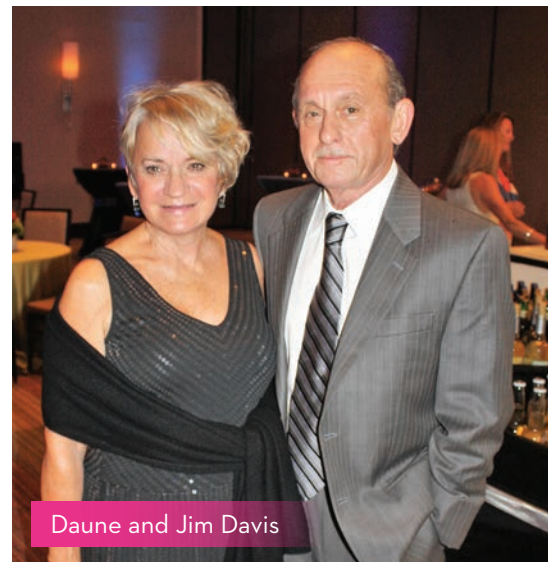
"I'm very pleased with support we've seen from the community," King said at the Beach Ball. "It's a great evening."

Those sentiments were echoed by Beach Ball guest Shelby Hicks.

"BEAM is a wonderful organization," she said. "I'm proud of this community and all that they do."



BEAM Executive Director Susan King and Ken Kirschner



Daune and Jim Davis



Debbi Sumner and Becky Graves



Julie Vontz, Maureen McKinney and Nancy Weaver





Dianne Kirschner with Rodney and Annie Smith



Justin Thompson and Kavier Stahl



Shelby Hicks, Laurie Harrison and Kimberly McHenry



Walter Krupinski

photos by JENNIFER LOGUE



# River Garden

# Gala

photos by DAN HARRIS PHOTO ART



SunTrust Regional President Brian Parks and guests

Nearly 600 guests entered a world of pure imagination Nov. 12, when the River Garden Foundation hosted its 24th Annual Gala to benefit the residents of River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health and Aging Center.

Sponsored by SunTrust Bank and held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, the event featured a Willy Wonka theme, with guests enjoying chocolate-dipped strawberries, champagne and take-home gifts from Sweet Pete's Candy Café. The gala also featured cocktails, dinner, dancing, and both live and silent auctions, raising a total of more than \$195,000.



David and Linda Stein and Senator Aaron and Abby Bean





Dr. Douglas and Melissa Storch



Event chairs Stephen and Jackie Goldman with sons Alec and Andrew

2017

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ON THE FIRST COAST

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UNITED WAY

# EMERGING LEADERS

OF ST JOHNS COUNTY

# EMERGING LEADERS KICK OFF

## United Way of St. Johns County grow next generation of community philanthropists

by JENNIFER LOGUE

St. Augustine's Lightner Museum was the setting for the United Way of St. Johns County's kick-off event for its new "Emerging Leaders" group for young professionals.

Held Jan. 19, the cocktail reception gave attendees a chance to network with other young business and community leaders while viewing the museum's collection of decorative arts. Guests also had a chance to learn more about the types of events the Emerging Leaders group will offer: According to United Way Resource Development Director Victoria Reynolds, the plan is to offer at least one social/networking event, one volunteer opportunity and one professional development session each quarter, with events held across the county. While aimed primarily at professionals ranging from 21 to 45, Reynolds said, the group's activities will be open to all.

"It's really an opportunity to network and remove the stigma that St. Johns County is just a lot of older folks," quipped Brendan Flores, who co-founded the Emerging Leaders group with Reynolds. "We do have a lot of rising stars here and this group will give us the opportunity to connect."



Erin Minnigan and Victoria Reynolds



Damien Haitzuka, Brendan Flores and Agustin Vautier





Erika and Rob Cook



Jimmy and Leah Grignon



Greg Voss, Lin Jones and Samuel Ruiz

photos by JENNIFER LOGUE





# Chamber of Commerce Holiday Merriment Party

by JENNIFER LOGUE

## Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin honored as 'Chamber Member of the Year'



St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez (right) presents Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin with the Chamber Member of the Year Award.

The Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Gallery in Sawgrass Village was the setting for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's "Holiday Merriment Party" for its Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, entertainment and a buffet provided by Chef Tommy McDonough of Flavor Palette as they viewed the gallery's art displays and networked with other business and community leaders.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the chamber's top two awards. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez presented the Grace Hayes Ambassador of the Year Award to Lori Adams. Named in honor of longtime Ponte Vedra Recorder Editor Grace Hayes, the award recognizes a chamber ambassador who continually

supports member businesses and the efforts of the chamber.

An independent Cabi fashion consultant, Adams thanked the chamber for its support of her business and the benefits chamber members receive to help them grow and succeed.

"Membership has its privileges!" Adams said.

The Chamber Member of the Year Award, meanwhile, was



Photos by Jennifer Logue  
Chef Tommy McDonough of Ponte Vedra Beach's Flavor Palette provided the food for the Chamber of Commerce holiday gathering.



Len and Sonya Cutter with some of the Charles Lotton art glass available at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art.



presented to Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin. The vice chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board, Griffin stressed the decades-long relationship the Recorder has enjoyed with the chamber.

“As Ponte Vedra’s community paper since 1969, we’ve worked hand in hand with the chamber to highlight and support local businesses,” Griffin said, “and I’m very honored to receive this award.”



Entertainment was provided by Ryan Crary.

photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN



Rob Schlingmann, Jennifer Belisario, Sarah Hewett and Ed Mercel



Lin Jones and Dr. Sharyl Truty



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Forward March, Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes and preserves St. Augustine's historic military heritage, hosted its third annual St. Augustine Military Ball Jan. 14 at the Mark W. Lance Armory.

Guests at the black tie and military dress event enjoyed dinner provided by The Black Molly Restaurant, music performed by The Chris Thomas Band, and a silent auction.

Proceeds from the ball benefited the organization's renovation of the historic Hamblen property in downtown St. Augustine, which is home to the C.F. Hamblen American Legion Post 37. The nonprofit envisions the renovated legion post serving local veterans with a venue for social engagement, fine dining and special community events.

Bill Dudley, the Forward March, Inc. 2017 Outstanding Military Achievement Award recipient, served as the ball's guest of honor. The current president of the St. Johns County Veterans Council, Dudley served in the Air Force for 10 years with deployments during several world-changing events, including the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. After active duty, Dudley pursued a career in the aerospace industry, where he held positions as president and CEO for several companies in the United States, United Kingdom and Singapore.

Forward March, Inc. plans to hold the St. Augustine Military Ball on an annual basis to support veterans and active duty personnel and to instill a feeling of civic responsibility in the community's local youth.



# FORWARD MARCH, INC.

hosts third annual

St. Augustine

# Military Ball

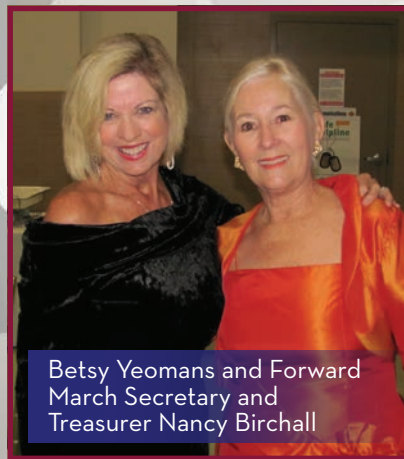
by JON BLAUVELT



Al De Toledo, Mimi and Karen Selig, Jack Merwin and Forward March board member Karen Glenos with her husband Jimmy



Colonel Cary Cowan with his wife Tracy



Betsy Yeomans and Forward March Secretary and Treasurer Nancy Birchall



Judi Cowan, Louise Bird, Jeffrey Leibovitz and Pamela Tsitos



Sergeant First Class Paul Abel, Captain Thomas Ashlock, Katherine Wallace, and Rob and Kendell Hardwick



Lorri and Charlie Lassiter





Local nonprofit organization Forward March, Inc. hosted its third annual St. Augustine Military Ball Jan. 14 at the Mark W. Lance Armory.



Nease Junior Navy ROTC members Sean Soudrette, Robin Mendenhall, Brandon Mayberry, Erin Durant and Heather Jett



Forward March, Inc. 2017 Outstanding Military Achievement Award Recipient Bill Dudley with his wife Nancy



Captain Keith Acin and Navy Captain Charles LeBron



The Chris Thomas Band

photos by JON BLAUVELT



# JACKSONVILLE MARINE AWARDED ROBERT A. METTE MEMORIAL AWARD AT ANNUAL MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

photos courtesy of RICHARD METTE



Lance Corporal Ramses Marte-Espinosa recently received the Robert A. Mette

Memorial Award at the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Richard Mette presented the award alongside Major Joseph T. Ludick,

who won the award in 1996 and is now a member of the presidential helicopter squadron in Quantico, Virginia.

"This year marks 60 years that this award has been presented within our community," Mette says. "I found this year's Marine Corps Ball even more special by having such a distinguished past award winner jointly handing out this year's Mette award."

The Robert A. Mette Memorial Award has a long-standing history in the Jacksonville community that dates back to 1956, when Private First Class Bobby Taylor of Jacksonville Beach was the first Marine to win it. It's presented every year to a local Marine, like Marte-

Espinosa, who has proven outstanding leadership, sportsmanship and initiative while attending annual field training.

"I put out more than 110 percent for that training," says Marte-Espinosa, who enlisted in the Marines in 2012. "I feel rewarded for the amount of effort I put out. I did my job."

Originally from the Bronx in New York City, Marte-Espinosa has been a member of the 4th Assault Amphibian

Battalion's Bravo Company for about three and a half years. He is currently studying international business at University of North Florida.

The Mette Award honors Bob Mette, who died of acute spinal meningitis at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina Aug. 12, 1956. He attended Landon High School in Jacksonville, where he was actively involved in sports and the community, and was the first member of the school's 1956 graduating class to pass away. Mette received his Landon diploma on June 8, 1956, in Jacksonville and died just 65 days later at Camp Lejeune.

After Mette's death, John Lanahan, who was the commanding officer of his Marine unit and also a past city council president for Jacksonville, established the Robert A. Mette Award in memorial.

Over time, Richard Mette has presented the award on behalf of his brother and family to preserve his brother's memory. In 1999, he also helped to establish a memorial scholarship to complement the award and help local Marines with their college studies and funding.

"I am most thankful and honored to be able to keep this cherished award intact, and to honor the many local Marine winners over the years in behalf of my brother and my family," Mette says. "We are most proud of our local Marine unit and all the service that they give each day to our community and country."



Richard Mette (third from right) with First Sergeant Jose A. Beltran, Major Simon J. D'Urso, Captain Luis Jones, Lance Corporal Ramses Marte-Espinosa, Major Joseph Ludick and First Sergeant Marc Courtney



# Nocatee welcomes

# 2017

photos courtesy of NOCATEE

Nocatee residents rang in the New Year in style, when hundreds of residents attended the community's popular annual New Year's Eve gala. Held at Crosswater Hall, the evening featured specialty cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing to music provided by DJ Jonathan and a midnight champagne toast. Guests also got a jump on their 2017 New Year's resolutions by placing them on the "Nocatee Resolution Tree."



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