TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT
Keren Gee
Keren Gee works at Seminole Coconut Creek on a project to develop a children’s museum and children’s business development/education/sponsorships and charitable donations. 

Through her position with the Seminole Coconut Creek, Gee was able to support local charities via donations and, in addition, she attended and showed support to more than 400 charity events this past year. When matching with the community, Gee mentors young girls in Broward and Palm Beach Counties who struggle with addiction and abuse issues.

Sandra Foland
Sandra Foland has been CEO of Barry’s Signs Manufacturing, formed by her and her husband for the past 23 years. Her goal is to build a name to represent excellence in building and designing custom signs. Barry’s Signs Manufacturing is a family business, with 7 employees, to provide signs for local businesses.

Michael Petit
Michael Petit is in his seventh year in general management, information technology and marketing. Essences is (new) essences (new essences) with operations in Florida and the United Kingdom, in its second CEO position and his fourth years after moving to its current facility in 2006. Although 2008 was a tough year for the area, Petit reports that Barry’s Signs Manufacturing is growing strong again. Revenue is up 25 percent with projects in the pipeline for the next two months. A Past Chair and Board member of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Foland has held leadership positions in many local and national organizations, including the Executive Learning Community (EXC) and the Sherry’s Medical Library Development. She’s a member of the North Campus Advisory Board (University of Miami), and her Zone (National Council of Washington, DC Board of Directors).  

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches recognizes and celebrates our community’s champions and the impact they’ve had on our community at The Chamber of Commerce of The Palm Beaches’ Business Awards Breakfast, presented by Fifth Third Bank, on Fri., May 20 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Tickets nowraped the Event of the Year Award went to Evan Flick of Cleveland Clinic Florida. Nominate Botanical Gardens won the Non-Profit of the Year and Cultural organizations and Families First of Palm Beach County won the Professional Health & Human Services of the Year. Edward Schmidt of Table 26 received the Individual Business Person of the Year Award. The first-ever Young Professional of the Year Award went to Thomas Bean of PFL. The Honorable Harry A. Johnston, Jr. received the Community Leader of the Year Award. This event recognizes and rewards their commitment to excellence. Those honored today also serve as excellent examples of the best of the best in our community,” said Denis Grady, Chamber President and CEO.

2016 BUSINESS AWARDS PRESENTED

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce has voted to support an exciting new project located on South Dixie Highway. Carefree 6 @ Flamingo is a new property development to be located at 2000 & 2001 South Dixie Highway (at the old Carefree Theater is located on a portion of that property). Applications to be filed with the City of West Palm Beach will request approval for the development of an integrated multi-use project including a significant cultural amenity to the City and Palm Beach County – an art house and foreign film movies with on-site theaters, one of which will entail a dedicatedIMAX® theater.

The project also proposes to include multi-family residential apartments, ground floor restaurants and retail space, attendant parking and other amenities. The principal of the developer is Charles S. Cohen, President of Cohen Brothers Realty Group – who is based in New York and owns and maintains significant assets and holdings in South Florida.

MEMBER RENEWALS

Fifth Thirdbreak Bank
The Atlantic Palm Beaches
RBC Private Client Group
St. Mark’s Episcopal School
Northwood School
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Fitzgerald & Co.
McLeod McCarthy & Associates
Gayle Morrison Interior Design

Front Left: Russell Green (executive vice president, Seaboard Bank), Business of the Year, 2015; William Perry, Non-Profit of the Year; Health & Human Services; families First of Palm Beach County; June 14, 2016; Small Business Person of the Year, Edward Schmidt, Table 26; Young Professional of the Year, Thomas Bean, Florida Power and Light; Community Leader of the Year, The Honorable Harry A. Johnston, Jr.; Non-Profit of the Year, Monkeys, Botanical Gardens, Allen Blumstein; Chair, Chamber Chair Don Kielkieski. Not shown: Health/Sience/Calama community of the Year, Evan Flick, MD, Cleveland Clinic Florida. All Photos courtesy Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.
The leadership of the Chamber of Commerce extend its sympathies to the Pruitt family upon the passing of William H. Pruitt on May 22. Bill served on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches for over 10 years and was its President in 2007. He graduated from the University of Florida where he played football until the Korean War. During the war Bill served as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. After returning from Korea, he attended law school at the University of Miami where he received his JD degree. Bill practiced law for 45 years until his death. Bill served in leadership roles for many organizations. He was a Board member and Treasurer of the South Florida Fair, serving as Chairman of the Board from 1999-2001. He served as a coach for many youth baseball teams and served on numerous PTA Boards, including that of Leadership West Palm Beach. He served as Master of Ceremonies for Chamber-Association community events. His sense of humor and engaging personality were appreciated by countless groups. Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 5 from 2-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. at Palm Beach West Funeral Home in Royal Palm Beach. A funeral/committal service will be held on Monday, June 6, at 11 a.m. at Family Church, 300 South Hager Drive, West Palm Beach.

Fourth District Court of Appeal Groundbreaking

"Welcoming remarks from Chief Judge Cory J. Gillette framed the day when LBAD broke ground on the new courthouse in Florida’s judicial history in making the project, as highlighted by Judge jimonknows, take three years of cooperation and partnership at all levels of government.

The new courthouse will take 18 months to complete and will feature a time capsule filled with relevant historical documents to be opened in 100 years.

Trustees gather at The Palm Beach Zoo

Chamber Trustees were invited to the Palm Beach Zoo for a walk after the In Memoriam: William H. Pruitt. The event opened with a presentation on the history of the Zoo’s mission. Andrew Allen is president and CEO of the Palm Beach Zoo, spoke of continuing the conversation around the growth of their corporate partnership program.

On Friday, April 29 the 2016 class of Leadership West Palm Beach enjoyed Community & Culture Day, which began with a presentation at the Children’s Museum of Palm Beach followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the Kravis Center and SunFest. The afternoon’s itinerary included tours of the Norton Museum of Art and the Palm Beach Zoo. Thank you to the community & Culture Day chairs: Dan Gittere, VSP Marketing Graphic Group; Julia Murphy, Compass, Inc.; and Rosanna Calderon, Stellar Signs & Graphics; and Benjamin Power & Light, The Palm Beach Post, Rookers & Associates, and BB&T. For more information about the Leadership West Palm Beach program, contact Sandy Pallies at spullens@palmbeaches.org.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN 5K/10K WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Women of all ages enjoyed the cool temperatures, blue skies and tiaras at the Women for Women 5K/10K on Saturday, May 7. The race, presented by Good Samaritan Medical Center, featured a custom timing medal, live DJ, women’s. tech shirt, kids 100-yard dash and kids corner. First place in the 5K was Shannon Fox of Jupiter with a time of 21:10 and Sara Gomez in the 10K with a time of 40:39. The Clerk’s office won for most team members, with 64.

Leadership West Palm Beach enjoys Community & Culture Day

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Congratulations to all the participants and supporters who came out to celebrate friends and family.

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