

Gate Hospitality brings in new membership director



Kimberly Patterson Younkin

Kimberly Patterson Younkin joined Gate Hospitality Group in January as the Director of Membership for both Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club and The River Club.

Younkin has over 12 years of experience in hospitality, including nearly five years with Hyatt Hotels. Her expertise covers hotel sales, food and beverage sales, marketing and revenue management. She is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in hospitality and tourism management with a specialization in event management and marketing.

Younkin is a Jacksonville native who grew up in the Tampa Bay area and returned to Jacksonville in 2008. She enjoys spending time with her two sons, hosting tailgate events throughout the nation, traveling, sports, and boating.

A voice for arts education turns 25

In celebration of providing quality arts education – including dance, music, theatre and the visual arts – to more than 27,000 kindergarten through eighth-grade students in Duval County for 25 years, this year Cathedral Arts Project is launching a summer camp which will feature multidisciplinary arts classes for 6- to 11-year-old students.

Founded by Gail Weltsek in 1993 and a small group of parishioners at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, CAP began with one dance class for 10 students at a nearby transitional housing facility to provide an opportunity for meaningful arts education to children who otherwise would not have access to the arts.

The original dance class was taught at the Cathedral until an elementary school principal asked if a similar program could be offered to the students at her school. The small group of parishioners grew to eight volunteer board members who worked with every school that was willing to participate. Within three years, CAP

had partnered with 15 elementary schools, providing free dance classes.

By 1999, programming had expanded to include the visual arts and violin and, following such rapid growth, CAP decided to incorporate and was designated as a 501(c)(3) charity in 2000. Shortly afterward, Kimberly Hyatt was hired as president and CEO.

Multidisciplinary programs are now offered at more than 20 schools and community centers each year, professional development sessions are offered to local artists and educators, and CAP has become a voice for the importance of arts education.

CAP has received recognition as a leader in arts education at the local, regional and national levels – including funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to support a visual arts program for incarcerated youth.

“Everyone’s childhood should include exposure to an arts education. For 25 years, the Cathedral Arts Project has provided students with multiple artistic languages to



Heather Moore



Kimberly Hyatt

express their creativity and show their emotions in positive ways,” said Heather Moore, board chair. “Our students are given the opportunity to explore their talents and develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. It has been an honor to serve as CAP’s Board Chair as we advocate and build support for every student to experience a quality arts education.”

The Cathedral Arts Project will highlight its 25th anniversary with the 14th annual Spring for the Arts, Friday, April 27, at the River Club. The signature fundraising event for the organization has generated nearly \$5 million for arts education programs since its inception and will feature performances by current CAP students as well as alumni.

Congregation Ahavath Chessed to welcome new senior rabbi in July

After an eighteen-month search, which began July 2016, Congregation Ahavath Chessed has announced a new senior rabbi will join The Temple July 1.



Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar

Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar comes to Jacksonville from Temple B'nai Sholom in Huntsville, Alabama, where she has served since 2009 following her ordination at Adath Israel Congregation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The 21-member search committee, co-chaired by Joanne Cohen and Judy Poppell, interviewed three candidates before confirming Bahar as the next senior rabbi. Bahar succeeds Rabbi Joshua Lief, who served from 2008-2016. During the two-year interim, the congregation was served by Rabbi Rick Shapiro from July 2016 to June 2017, and by Rabbi Matthew Cohen, associate rabbi at The Temple.

Bahar was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she was a member of Rodef Shalom Congregation. She attended Brandeis University and graduated with a degree in philosophy and minor in Women's

Studies and Jewish Studies. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem.

Bahar was recently named as one of 33 inspirational rabbis in the country by the Jewish Daily Forward. Her interests include biblical archaeology, Jewish Law, Mussar Texts, prophetic literature and rabbinic literature. Bahar and her husband, Uzi, have three children, Aiden, David and Daniel.

Congregation Ahavath Chessed was formally chartered in 1882, moving to its current site at 8727 San Jose Blvd. in 1979 and now numbers 700-plus families.

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Frank Castillo

Feeding Northeast Florida appoints new CEO from ranks

Frank D. Castillo, former COO/CFO for Feeding Northeast Florida, steps into a new role as the organization's new president and CEO, after leading the organization as interim CEO since September 2017.

“We are thrilled to name Castillo as Feeding Northeast Florida's president and CEO,” said Feeding Northeast Florida Board Chairman Josh Martino. “Castillo deeply understands the issue of food insecurity, as it affected him personally growing up. His commitment to the cause, vision for the future and record of accomplishment at Feeding Northeast Florida sets him up for success in this role.”

Castillo joined Feeding Northeast Florida in November 2015 as vice president – finance and administration. In June 2017 he was named COO and CFO. He joined the Food Bank after more than 20 years of financial and administrative experience in the private sector, where he successfully turned around struggling or emerging companies in Silicon Valley and in North Florida.

Castillo received a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. He also holds a Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary of Oviedo, Florida.

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