



The Docket

SARASOTA COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION
MAY 2021
VOL. 38, NO. 5

*Celebrating all
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The best job I've ever had

“Being a mom has made me so tired. And so happy.”
—Tina Fey

Just two weeks ago we celebrated my daughter's twelfth birthday, which is also the twelfth anniversary of my becoming a mom. Those infant days seem like so long ago, but as I watch young lawyers like YLD President Sara Castro navigate the early days of motherhood along with the stresses of being a young lawyer, I am reminded of how exhausting and stressful it was.

Yet somehow you push through that never-ending fatigue of the first years and emerge on the other side, amazed you are raising a small person in this crazy world. And while it does get easier in many ways, the parenting issues and responsibilities become more complex. You are no longer worried about whether your child will ever sleep through the night; instead, you are worried about whether you can continue to fend off the requests for cell phones and the perils of social media. There are many days now I would take a sleepless night over an argument about what “everyone else” in middle school is allowed to do!

Yet, I wouldn't trade any of it. Being a mom is not easy, and

SCBA
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Jennifer Grosso, Esq.
Bentley Law Firm, P.A.

balancing motherhood with a legal career is even harder, but motherhood is the best job I've ever had. As I watch my colleagues send their kids off to college, I try to appreciate and capitalize on this limited window I have right now with my kids. It goes so quickly. Some days are easier than others, and some nights become workdays after the kids are in bed. But every minute is worth it. Often tired, yet so happy.

Happy Mother's Day to you and yours. Celebrate it. And for those young lawyers in the early stages of motherhood, talk to those who traveled the road before you. I promise you'll learn something and gain some perspective. I know I did.

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Want to be reminded of upcoming SCBA events while you

scroll through Facebook? How about a glimpse of past events you missed? Maybe even some local legal news and events? Please “like” our Facebook page to receive future updates and photos by clicking here:

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Welcome, new members!

The following represents each new member's name, law school, year of admission to The Florida Bar, and law firm association.

- **Katherine McCurdy:** Western Michigan Thomas Cooley of Law; *Expected Graduation May 2021*
- **Mariam Morshedi:** Boston University School of Law; *Subscript Law*
- **Audrey Randall:** St. Thomas University; 2004; *Audrey F. Randall, P.A.*
- **Forest Sutton:** Stetson University; 2020; *Office of the State Attorney*

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Mother's Day: It's not all flowers and candy

This month one theme of The Docket is Mother's Day, which falls on Sunday, May 9, this year. In researching for this article, I came across an interesting history behind the origin of Mother's Day—a more complicated and slightly darker origin story than you may think when looking at our present-day holiday. Mother's Day was originally created to honor a mother who lost multiple children to epidemics during the late 1800s in the Appalachian region of Virginia.

In 1908, a Virginia woman named Anna Jarvis held a celebration intended to honor mothers and began campaigning for the day to gain wider recognition, which led to President Woodrow Wilson's 1914 proclamation declaring the second Sunday of May "a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." Anna was inspired to organize the celebration by the memory of her mother, Ann Jarvis, a mother to 11 children, only 4 of whom survived infancy. Tragically that was a common situation in the Appalachian region at the time, largely due to epidemics that were spread by poor sanitary conditions. Upon her sixth pregnancy, Anna's mother began to work to improve the infant mortality rate, organizing events at which doctors educated local mothers on hygiene practices. The events were called Mothers'

YLD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Sara Castro, Esq.
Farr, Farr, Emerich, Hackett, Carr, & Holmes, P.A.

Day Work Clubs. Ann Jarvis passed away on the second Sunday in May in 1905.

Once Mother's Day was established and became widely acknowledged, Anna Jarvis became displeased. The accounts of her reasons vary, but a common theme runs through—she was unhappy with the use of the day by organizations, both commercial and non-profit, to generate revenue. According to the BBC, in reaction to an increase in the price of carnations, Jarvis issued the following press release: "What will you do to rout charlatans, bandits, pirates, racketeers, kidnappers and other termites that would undermine with their greed one of the finest, noblest and truest movements and celebrations?" She made copyright claim to the phrase and apparently fought at least 33 lawsuits over the issue. Towards the end of her life, she even went door-to-door in an effort to have the day rescinded. Jarvis fought the commercialization of Mother's Day with her inheritance funds and, by the end of her life, she had depleted her funds and ended up in a sanitarium. Although historians say she never took funds from the florist industry or attempted to profit from the day herself, there are rumors that the floral and card industries may have paid for her care in the sanitarium through the end of her life in 1948.

Sometimes motherhood doesn't look like the Hallmark version

There have been many other celebrations of motherhood and potential persons to whom credit should be given for the holiday, both domestically and around the world. However, this particular series of events that led to recognition of the holiday in the United States should remind us of some important parts of motherhood that are often overlooked. Sometimes motherhood doesn't look like the Hallmark version; sometimes it looks like a mother with children you can't see—like Ann Jarvis who had to continue living beyond the years of the 7 children she lost. Although our healthcare is greatly improved today, many women still suffer loss through miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of a child. Mothers are still lost due to complications with childbirth, with the death rate for Black mothers in the United States being almost 3 times that of non-Black mothers (with no corresponding correlation to level of education or income). Some mother-child relationships are strained, and some have lost their mothers too early in life or do not have a mother figure. Many spend countless hours and endure endless tests and medical procedures (not to mention emotional energy) privately trying to become mothers while putting on a brave face dealing with the rest of life's day-to-day activities. Many badly want to be mothers but are simply not able to.

So, whatever Mother's Day looks like for you, I hope you are able to find some peace and enjoyment in the day, whether in the traditional sense by celebrating motherhood or by just taking some time to take care of yourself for a change. After all, especially after the year we have all just been through and the pandemic not quite yet over, we should all give ourselves some grace and indulge in some self-care.

As always, thank you for remaining a member of the Sarasota County Bar Association and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

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The sun will rise

We are lurching towards normalcy, so I decided to look back at last year's Docket to see what was being written. Bryan Kessler wrote that "'The New Normal' will be 'Back to Business' in no time, although Tony Mowry may already be installed as the South County Division President when it does." He also quoted Victor Hugo from *Les Misérables*: "Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise." Well, it took longer than most predicted, but I think we can all see the dawn light creeping over the horizon.

This space typically is reserved for talk of past and upcoming events—my guess is that next year's Docket articles will be celebrating the legal community here in South County. This year, however, we have had the opportunity to diverge from that script. This month we commemorate American military personnel who died in war. To honor fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsman, I drew from a favorite military podcast of mine, where the host simply reads the names of those military members killed in action over the previous year and then plays "Taps." Below is a partial list of local Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen killed in action from Vietnam to

SOUTH COUNTY PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Anthony G. Mowry, Esq.
Mowry Law Office

Iraq. Many more Sarasotans paid the ultimate price as well as sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters of our community. We remember them this month.

Army First Lieutenant **Richard Grover Cleveland** of Venice, died November 17, 1968,

Vietnam. Army Captain **Denis Nicholas** of Venice, died January 15, 1967, Vietnam.

Army Sergeant **David Keith Deen** of Nokomis, died November 9, 1966, Vietnam.

Air Force Captain **Robert John Edgar** of Nokomis, died February 5, 1968, Vietnam.

Marine Private First Class **David Keith Wyrick** of North Port, died April 17, 1968, Vietnam.

Marine Sergeant **Peter Woodall** of Sarasota, died April 27, 2007, Iraq.

Army Private First Class **Christopher M. North** of Sarasota, died April 21, 2007, Iraq.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 **Kyle E. Jackson** of Sarasota, died January 13, 2006, Iraq.

"We are the Dead. Short days ago; We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow; Loved and were loved, and now we lie; In Flanders fields." Your sacrifices are not forgotten.

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LEGAL AID OF MANASOTA

Celebrating 30 years of service to the community

By **LINDA HARRADINE**
CEO, Legal Aid of Manasota

Isaac Newtown famously said, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Looking back at the history of Legal Aid of Manasota, this rings very true.

Thirty years ago, in 1991, a few dedicated lawyers practicing in our community created what is now known as Legal Aid of Manasota (LAMS). Recognizing that the legal needs of the most vulnerable residents in Sarasota and Manatee counties were not being met, they created our non-profit civil law firm to focus solely on our community and to serve only local residents. Since that time, LAMS has been the designated pro bono program, proudly serving veterans, foster children, the chronically ill, disabled

persons, senior citizens, and families who have fallen on hard times.

LAMS and its pro bono partners have been instrumental in providing a critical safety net for our community by: (1) preserving homes and preventing homelessness; (2) providing economic and financial stability; and (3) improving safety and security for families.

For the past 30 years, LAMS has been the legal emergency room for the most vulnerable in our community. Our pro bono volunteers have donated tens of millions of dollars in free legal services and have provided countless economic benefits to our clients and the community. A 2016 study conducted on behalf of the Florida Bar Foundation found that every dollar of legal aid funding produces over \$7 dollars worth of economic impacts. This is an

astounding return on investment.

Everyone benefits from a system that treats people the same, no matter their economic situation. Legal Aid advocates for systemic reform, educates the public on their legal rights and responsibilities, and promotes health, safety and financial stability. We quietly, and profoundly, impact the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. The limited dollars we receive go directly into providing client services.

As the CEO of Legal Aid of Manasota for the past 20 years, I feel as though I am standing on the shoulders of those who came before me. Those who saw a community need and were determined to address it. I can attest to Legal Aid's role as agents of social change, a process that has built on community needs of the underserved.

See **LEGAL AID**, Page 15



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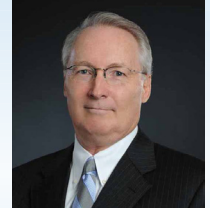
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Face to face with Karimu Hill-Harvey, CDI Chair

EDITORS' NOTE: We introduce a new feature in *The Docket*: "Face to Face," where we profile and ask questions of current Bar leaders to allow our readers to get to know them on a more personal level. We have been unable to meet in person since the onset of the COVID19 pandemic. We look forward to a time soon when you can see these amazing people "face to face" and ask them your own questions!

F2F: Can you tell us a little about your personal/professional experiences that prompted you to become an active member of the SCBA and the CDI?

KHH: I originally moved from New Jersey to Sarasota for the beautiful weather! Once I arrived here, I saw Sarasota as a place of great potential, but I did not see many other African Americans involved in the Bar. My late husband, Balozzi R.M.Z Harvey, was a diplomat to the United Nations, an influential community organizer and activist, and a leader to many worldwide organizations. He dedicated his life to building cultural bridges; promoting economic trade and investments; technology advancement and political development between Pan-African diaspora communities and developing countries; and forging relations between people of all nationalities and races both domestically and internationally. He was my mentor and a huge influence on my life. My husband encouraged me to attend law school and to pursue a career as a lawyer and a judge. After he passed away, I knew I had to continue his mission to carry forth as so much more remains to be done. My involvement in the SCBA and the CDI are just a few of the ways I seek to honor his memory and to leave a legacy to my future generation. My daughter Nurisha Harvey recently took the bar exam and my grandchildren Amari Lopez and Aliciana Harvey-Lopez have been serving as a Teen Court volunteers for the past few years. It is important that "each one teach one" so that we pass down valuable and solid principles to future generations.

F2F: What are some of your past

FACE to FACE



Bar experiences that you have found most fulfilling?

KHH: I have served as Chair of the Council for Diversity & Inclusion for the past two years. I have enjoyed spearheading the CDI's panel discussions/town halls centered on diversity issues that affect our legal community. I am still getting calls and emails about previous panels, and I think the monthly discussions have made an impact in our community. An accomplishment that is worthy to highlight is my assistance with the Garland scholarship program, which is finally fully endowed. I also love working with the students at the Booker Law Academy as the children are our future. My goal is to continue to be an influential role model to encourage their young minds to pursue the practice of law and help make their dreams a reality. If you don't plant the seeds, nothing

will grow...but you have to continue to nourish the plants as well.

F2F: What are three things most people don't know about you?

KHH: 1. I had the privilege of hosting Nelson and Winnie Mandela at my home in New Jersey when he was freed from prison in South Africa. I also had the privilege of meeting the Honorable Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in-person at the White House.

2. I am an active member of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron's "Luffing Lassies" and I love getting out on the water. I am the first African American female member of the Squadron. I am also a certified archery instructor, love to play golf, and go to the shooting range.

3. My late husband made over 200 trips to Africa and the Caribbean. I accompanied him on many of those trips. We collected hundreds of pieces of art and artifacts. Our collection has been described as "one of the premier private collections of African art" and has been featured in the New Jersey Star-Ledger newspaper and other news outlets.

F2F: What do you enjoy most about the SCBA?

KHH: The camaraderie and the willingness of everyone to share and discuss their opinions. It feels good to be involved with an organization that genuinely wants to make a change. I am enjoying retirement, and I am encouraged to see younger attorneys/Bar leaders advocating for change and addressing the inequities within the profession and society at large.

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TEN IDEAS FOR Mother's Day FUN

By **WARREN H. CHIN, Esq.**
Eastmoore, Crauwels, & DuBose

Motherhood is a job like no other filled with great pride and, on occasion, unwavering exhaustion. Unlike a typical job, motherhood is a career that is never finished and motivated by pure love. I can speak from personal experience (unfortunately) and say that mothers sometimes go unappreciated for all that they do. Mother's Day is around the corner and we should celebrate the amazing mothers out there.

Here are a few fun Mother's Day ideas to remind that special someone how loved and appreciated they are:

1. Picnic or Sunset at New College

New College has a great bayfront park that includes grassy sitting areas and paved walkways lined with Adirondack chairs. It is a perfect – and free – location to lay out a blanket for a picnic with mom. For an easy picnic lunch pick up a couple of Publix subs and fresh fruit. If a picnic is not for you then stop by for a beautiful sunset before heading off to dinner.

2. St. Petersburg Pier

My wife Natasha and I recently went to the updated St. Petersburg Pier and were blown away. The Pier has many different activities from viewing the free public art works to fine dining at the Teak restaurant. Our favorite spot was the rooftop bar overlooking the water; however, beware of the strong wind gusts. The Pier has plenty of different activities to celebrate moms with all different tastes.



Warren H. Chin, Esq.
Eastmoore, Crauwels, & DuBose

3. Zoom Wine Tasting

Being a mom is hard work and trust me they could use some wine. This is especially true during the Covid-19 pandemic. The YLD recently hosted a Zoom wine tasting through Michael's on East and it was a blast. The Zoom wine tasting enables socially distanced fun for moms who are at high risk or moms in another city.

4. Mother's Day Brunch

Breakfast in bed is a classic, but if you want to add a twist take her to brunch. Sarasota has many excellent brunch spots. Natasha and I enjoy Shore on St. Armand's Circle. The truffle fries are addicting! Other fun brunch spots include Boca, Jack Dusty at the Ritz, Station 400, Bricks, Ophelia's on the Bay, and Columbia.

5. Cook a Family Recipe

Every family has a recipe that gets passed down from generation to generation. Celebrate Mother's Day by teaching the kiddos in the family the secrets to making grandma's famous dish. Make sure mom does not do the dishes.

6. Walks, Bike Rides, and Runs

Food is a big centerpiece for everyone's Mother's Day and the Covid weight gain is real. Go outside with mom for some exercise before it gets too hot and humid. A few great places to walk, ride, or run are: The Ringling Bridge, Celery Fields, Benderson Park, Legacy Trail, and Rothenbach Park. If your day is already packed with fun, then you can walk your neighborhood after dinner.

7. Throw Away the Screens

It seems like we are always staring at a screen between our phone, Zoom conferences, our work computer, and television. This Mother's Day throw out your screens for the day – or at least part of it. Enjoy quality time with your mom by solving a puzzle, playing a board or card game, reading a book, or tending to the garden.

8. Scavenger Hunt

Take mom on a scavenger hunt that leads to her favorite places or spots like a coffee shop, a cafe for lunch or the spot in the park where she takes a morning run. At each place, give her a note, drawing, or letter from a different member of the family telling her how much she means to them. The kiddos can also be involved by making something for mom and getting to surprise her with these notes.

9. Head to the Beach

Natasha and I sometimes overlook and take for granted the great beaches we have less than a mile away. We go months without going and I bet your family is the same. This is a free and easy activity that mom will surely enjoy. Go early because it seems like "Season" is now permanent.

10. Nothing

Moms are busy and the work never ends. Giving mom alone time and allowing her to do "nothing" is a great treat. Buy her a book or set up a Netflix playlist for a Sunday binge watch. You can also include a scented candle or facemask to help her relax.



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MOTHER'S DAY AND THE LAW

Holiday provides fodder for visitation disputes

By **KAYLA C. TIPPLE, Esq.**
Schipani & Norman, P.A.

Another Mother's Day is fast approaching, which usually conjures warm and fuzzy feelings towards the moms in our lives (which we may not always have at other times of the year), but family law always has its way of making the best of holidays, messy, to say the least.

Many times, in parenting disputes, we get caught up fighting over which parent gets which holiday. This can be a claws out, ferocious battle in some cases. You would think that of all of the holidays to fight over, it would be a safe assumption to say that Mother's Day and Father's Day are undisputedly going to mom and dad respectively. However, it is not always quite as simple as that, because people are not as simple as that.

So what variations are there? For starters, there is sometimes a dispute over the timeframe to celebrate the holidays. Some families only celebrate on actual Mother's Day. Others prefer to celebrate with a "Mother's Day Weekend." Still others just want an hour or two for a meal on Mother's Day and not the entire day. So, depending on the family, what is usually a "given" could end up consuming more time than anyone would like.

One mediation, not too long ago, we argued for nearly an hour over a "Mother's Day WEEK" that the mom insisted she was entitled to receive. Not only did she want the children for this entire week, she wanted her soon to be ex-husband to commit in writing to providing the children an allowance for gifts. Plural. She wanted a gift every single day during this weeklong celebration of her mothering. She went so far as to ask that it be written into the Parenting Plan that dad would wrap all of the gifts until the children were of a suitable age to wrap them on their own. In case you are wondering, he did not agree to that, though I sincerely hope he helps his kids wrap



Kayla C.
Tipple, Esq.
*Schipani &
Norman, P.A.*

**Anna Jarvis, the founder
of Mother's Day, believed
that a mother is "the
person who has done
more for you than anyone
in the world."**

at least one present for her as I am sure it mattered a great deal to her.

Contrast that to another case where the mom held fast to her belief that Mother's Day meant that she should have the day off from the children. She believed that she was a mother first and foremost every single day of her life and that for just one day of the year, she should be able to put it to the back of her mind and only focus on herself. I had never heard that one before, but I suppose there must be others that hold this belief too. As my own mother says, it takes all kinds. It was not so farfetched, and the father in that case was happy to oblige, until he realized she also expected him to take Father's Day off, and then the gloves came off for another battle over what should be a simple holiday to designate. She believed, and argued, that having that day off from being a parent was important to the mental health of both of them as parents. While she initially sounded selfish, when we dug a bit deeper it turned out the idea was not as outlandish as we originally thought.

Once we can get past the time frames you might think the issue is settled. Most of the time it

is. However, there is always a case or two that takes it a bit further. When you think about it, do we really just celebrate our own mothers on this day? What about grandmothers? Aunts? Our siblings and cousins that have become mothers throughout the years? In-laws? Some families like to have big celebrations, others just keep it to their own immediate family. This is not usually an issue until the children's time must be divided between the two parents, and then things can get complicated if we let them.

We also cannot forget about stepmoms. Sometimes, a stepmom is as close or closer to the children than their own mother, and the father will go to bat for her getting some time on this holiday as well. After all, she fills the roll of mom usually half of the time. Rarely does this go over well with the mom and I gently encourage the dads in this situation to let it go and celebrate a different day. But to be fair, there are amazing stepmoms out there that deserve our thanks and admiration on this special holiday.

It is certainly no secret that we are all different. All of these stories, and the stories you have for your own families, have meaning and value. We do not live in a one-size-fits-all world and there is not a right way or a wrong way to celebrate this holiday. So, this Mother's Day, celebrate the way that fits you and your family. Celebrate the moms that matter and that have made a difference to you.

Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, believed that a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world." I would not be who or where I am today without my own mother, so for me, this day will be about her (but for us, it is a "Mother's Day Weekend"). Whoever that person is for you, your mother, your stepmother, your grandmother, an aunt, a close friend, a sibling, even a father that filled the role of mom for you, may your Mother's Day celebrations be safe, fun, and cheerful this year!

Betsy Pennewill
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'No Conflict TV': Easy on the brain, fun to watch

By **ADAM B. PORTNOW, Esq.**
Law Office of Adam B. Portnow,
P.L.

With all the stress of work and home life, especially in the time of COVID-19, we are always looking for ways to reduce stress and address our personal health. With so much content on TV and streaming platforms, there is an overwhelming amount of content to waste lots of time browsing through for something to watch. This article features a few shows that I call "No Conflict TV" and they are all must-watch programs. In each of these shows, there is no in-fighting or family drama, no contests between opposing parties, and no red wedding-esque surprise death scenes to leave you stunned. These shows are easy on the brain and fun to watch. *Schitt's Creek* has more drama. Sounds boring? It isn't.

Somebody Feed Phil (Netflix)

Somebody Feed Phil follows nebbishy food lover Phil Rosenthal as he eats his way around the world. Phil was the creator and executive producer of the sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond* which ran from 1996 to 2005 and which I've never seen a single episode. His excitement is palpable as he explores beautiful world destinations and samples the regional favorite dishes and features famous chef's new take on regional classics in more haute cuisine settings. The expression of joy on Phil's face as he tastes something for the first time and his excitement for travel and culture are addicting and satisfying in a way that Anthony Bourdain could not capture with his nonchalant approach to the food and travel genre. As Phil eats his way through each episode, he will talk with the locals, gaze at the local architecture, and marvel at everyone and everything. *Somebody Feed Phil* is fun, funny, and inspirational, leaving the viewer hungry and desperately wanting to travel again. (Also check out the show's predecessor, *I'll Have What Phil's Having*, originally aired on PBS, now also available on Netflix.)



Adam B. Portnow, Esq.
Law Office
of Adam B.
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The Repair Shop (Netflix)

The Repair Shop is a British reality television series where family heirlooms with deep sentimental value that are seemingly beyond repair are almost magically restored to like-new condition by expert artisans. This show plays heavy on people's love for nostalgia and history. Some of the heirlooms you will see being repaired include broken ceramics, clocks with 50 years of grime and missing parts, 60s-era furniture, and a 100 year-old battered Louis Vuitton steamer trunk. That anyone can give these items new life is a marvel. The artisans featured in the show are true masters of their crafts and amazing to watch in action as they all work in a communal environment inside and around a charming old barn that emphasizes the show's nostalgic leanings. Clients retell their personal stories and family history of each piece and what it means to them. When they return to pick up their repaired items they are often awestruck. Even if you are not into do-it-yourself projects, you will find *The Repair Shop* very accessible and addicting. Time spent on the minutia of the repair itself is fascinating, even for the casual, non-crafty viewer. Currently, only Season 3 is available on Netflix, but it is a good one.

James May: Our Man in Japan (Prime Video)

James May: Our Man in Japan is a perfect combination of travel/food doc and British wit. May is a British TV personality most widely known for automotive show *Top Gear*. At a very digestible six episodes, May travels through the entirety of the Japanese islands from north to south, flexing his limited handle on the language while learning local custom, and of course, indulging in the cuisine. May shows deep respect for Japanese culture while making some very witty and astute observations about some of its peculiarities. He hilariously embarrasses himself in true gaijin ("foreigner") fashion many times throughout the show, participating in a sumo workout in full regalia, wiping out while dog sledding in the

northern mountains of Hokkaido, and even at one point getting pulled over by the police. May even gets to participate in the annual Kanamaru Matsuri festival (Google it at home, not at work). The show does a great job of combining the well-preserved aspects of Japanese culture while showing off the very modern developments in Japanese society. The show really picks up in episode 3 with the introduction of Yujiro, May's tour guide. If you have any interest in Japanese culture and appreciate British wit, check this out.

Night on Earth (Netflix)

This nature documentary series uses low-light cameras to capture the nocturnal activity of wildlife across the globe. The nighttime theme makes this show unique among the many recent nature documentaries. Instead of the vibrant colors of other nature docs like *Our Planet* and *Planet Earth*, *Night on Earth* with bathe you in gray and blue tones—the perfect palette to fall asleep while on the sofa.

If you are looking for shows to fall asleep to, I recommend nature show *Moving Art*, also on Netflix, or *Slow TV*, a Norwegian offering available on YouTube, with such adventures as a seven-hour train ride from Bergen to Oslo.

LEGAL AID

Continued from Page 7

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See **LEGAL AID**, Page 19

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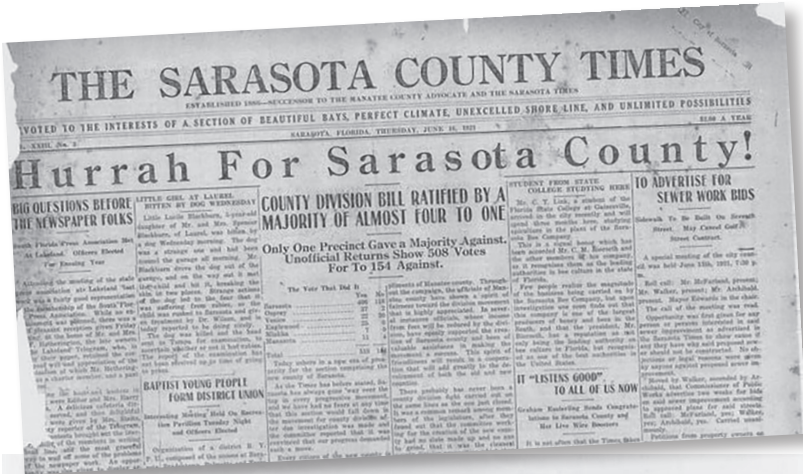
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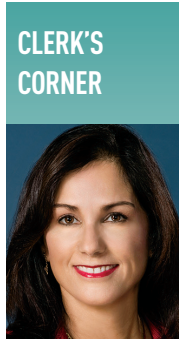
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Original splendor: Preserving our historic courthouse



On July 1, 2021, Sarasota County will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with documentary films, county-wide events, historical tours and library programs geared toward commemorating our past while looking ahead to our future. Here at the Clerk's Office, we are noting the Centennial by adding historical markers throughout the building and producing a short documentary film, Original Splendor, highlighting the historic county courthouse and the work that's been done over the years to preserve this landmark for our community. To view the film, which is showcasing in this year's Sarasota Film Festival, please visit www.SarasotaClerk.com/Centennial.



Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of Court and County Comptroller

The origins of our county have been well-documented by numerous historical groups in the region. Originally a part of Manatee County, citizens throughout the county were dissatisfied by a lack of good roads and inadequate representation in Tallahassee. After a series of public hearings during the summer of 1920, Sarasota County came into existence and began its journey as a newly formed district one year later.

Initially, the vision for the county was to govern from a new courthouse, which would include all branches of county government. For more than five years, the county operated out of the Hoover Arcade along Main Street and from a temporary building on Oak Street. It wasn't

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CLERK

Continued from Page 17

until February, 1927 that construction for the county courthouse was complete and open for business; its architectural style celebrated throughout Sarasota.

In 1925, the county commissioners hired renowned architect Dwight James Baum to design the courthouse building. Back in the 1920s, architecture was aspirational and the Florida land boom and roaring 20s made for a perfect combination to introduce the Mediterranean Revival Style of architecture to the community. Baum first visited Sarasota in 1922 and drew the attention of John and Mable Ringling, who hired him to design their beautiful home, Ca' d'Zan. He was also commissioned to design several more buildings, including the Sarasota Times Building, El Verona apartments and hotel, and the First Presbyterian Church, all of which have all become beloved landmarks of our community. Baum's famed designs resulted in Sarasota becoming known as a cultural tourist destination throughout the world.

The Sarasota County Courthouse, which is now called the historic courthouse, was really majestic for its day. From intricate iron work styled by Spanish designer Samuel Yellin to the terrazzo floors, wide rotundas, marble walls and the incredibly detailed tower, the historic courthouse is a beautiful representation of the Mediterranean Revival Style prevalent in its day. When the building was opened, there was a great sense of pride throughout the community, and its combined details really don't exist in public buildings today.

But the Florida climate is not friendly to structures such as the historic courthouse, and after decades of rain, intense sun, high winds and humidity, the building fell into disrepair, especially the tower, which required major restructuring to ensure its integrity for the future. In addition, with the growth of our community, entities such as the Sheriff's Office, county jail, judiciary and other government agencies vacated the historic courthouse in favor of their own facilities.

These changes created opportunity for renovations and remodeling to accommodate the Clerk's Office,

The Sarasota County Courthouse, which is now called the historic courthouse, was really majestic for its day.

which is the only remaining agency in the building. From the first renovation in 1955 to the most recent one in 2017, architects, designers, artisans and craftsman have all worked together to preserve this courthouse and return it to its original splendor. Peeling back the layers of our history and discovering the original architecture of the building has been a personally rewarding experience and I am grateful for the financial support of the county commission to fund the vital renovations and maintain the building's history.

I am hopeful the choices we made during the renovations, as well as the desire to appreciate and restore landmarks throughout the county, will enable future generations to enjoy and celebrate the historic courthouse for the next 100 years.

Sarasota County is a special place for many people. For me, I raised my family here and have had the pleasure of serving as a public trustee of our community as the Sarasota Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller since 1987. From providing essential services in-person to offering digital services 24/7, the role of the Clerk's Office has evolved during my tenure, and I have seen our government and the judiciary flourish during the last 34 years. Going to work every day in the historic courthouse still inspires me, even after all these years. If you've not yet had a tour of the building, the Centennial year is the perfect time to do so.

I'd like to thank the contributors to our Centennial documentary film who shared their stories and voices to this incredible project, including Judge Kimberly Bonner, Judge Stephen Dakan, Dan Bailey Jr. with Williams-Parker, Glenn Darling with Hall Darling Design Studio, historian Jeff LaHurd and Sheriff Kurt A. Hoffman.

LEGAL AID

Continued from Page 15

serve. I hope you will join us we celebrate our 30th anniversary this year and the giants before us who had a dream to make equal access to justice a possibility in our community.

The Judge John M. Scheb Inn of Court is now accepting applications for the 2021–2022 Inn year. The Inn's members include judges, lawyers, legal educators, and law students. Part of the Inn's purpose is to promote excellence in legal advocacy, foster greater understanding of the law, provide educational experiences that improve and enhance the skills of lawyers and judges, help the development of law students, promote collegiality among us, and carry ethical values from one generation to another. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Emily Garriott at Emily_k_Garriott@progressive.com to request an application.

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