



# Boca Raton Forum

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

VOL. 26 No. 19

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MCCARTY MAKES A COMEBACK

5

'AGNES OF GOD' AT FAU

28

FOOD AND WINE FEST COMING

29

## Concert, tree lighting kick off the holidays

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Tickets are on sale for the area's two iconic holiday concerts with sing-alongs at venues in the city and West Boca.

The 13th annual Gingerbread Holiday Concert by the Lynn University Philharmonia returns from campus to the Great Hall in the Boca Raton Resort & Club at 3 p.m. Dec. 13. Among the repertoire will be the concert suite from "Polar Express," a Chanukah medley and solos and a sing-along of six holiday songs led by 9-year-old Seanna Pereira.

Santa Claus will pose for photos at 2 p.m., and champagne and gingerbread cookies supplied by Publix will be served before the 90-minute performance. Tickets are \$35 in advance only at [events.lynn.edu](http://events.lynn.edu) or the box office at 561-237-9000.

This is the major fundraiser for Lynn's Conservatory of Music students.

"Moving back to the hotel gives us a better opportunity to raise more money for scholarships," said Marilyn Swillinger, president of the Friends of the Conservatory of Music. "The money goes to 103 Conservatory of Music students."

Visit [give.lynn.edu/friendsoftheconservatory](http://give.lynn.edu/friendsoftheconservatory) for higher levels of sponsorship.

Yalyn Savignon, who won the Lynn Concerto Competition, is first violinist in the 80-member Lynn Philharmonia.

"I like the sing-along part and we get to interact with the audience," she said. "I feel like we give back to the sponsors and the people who are helping us for college."

Guillermo Figueroa is the Philharmonia's music director and conductor.

The Florida Intergenerational Orchestra under the direction of founder Lorraine Marks-Field will wrap its 10th anniversary season with Holiday Extravaganza at 3 p.m. Dec. 6 in O'Shea Hall

continues on 16

### FOR THE VETERANS



**AT THE CONCERT** Harvey Adaigele Jr. takes in Boca Raton's annual Veterans Day concert with the Florida Wind Symphony. The event took place in Mizner Park.

STAFF PHOTO/HAL COPELAND

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

## Fedele now Boca chamber chairman

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It was Jerry Fedele's first Boca Chamber meeting as chairman, so there were football jokes, the Steelers vs. the Patriots. Fedele's from Pittsburgh.

But as president and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital, his move up from chairman-elect is having a ripple effect. It was announced from the dais at a Boca Raton City Council meeting after Fedele exchanged the gavel with Randy Noble.

"This has been the best 12 days of my life," chamber president and CEO Troy McLellan joked at the Nov. 12 breakfast before 230 members and guests at Via Mizner Golf & Country Club.

"People said, 'Why are you doing this?'" Fedele said, telling a story with the punchline: "The more you put in, the more you get out of it."

"This is a community. This is a hospital. This is a chamber that's been good to me," he said.

Earlier, Fedele said his one-year term as board chairman of the 1,500-member chamber

continues on 16

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continued from 1

will be staying the course.

"It's much more difficult to lead in a time of prosperity and stability. The challenges are different," he said.

"Overall, the economy is in better shape and we're headed in the right

direction. We've gotten through the tough times and we've both succeeded," McLellan said, citing the hospital's growth.

Both men said they're on the same page, and their immediate goals for the chamber are growing the membership, participation in groups and

events, and exposure for businesses. They'll keep an eye, as always, on the business community's stake in what government is doing.

"We want to make sure the city is in alignment with our goals," McLellan said.

"The hospital has to exist in a thriving communi-

ty," Fedele said.

He said he'll make the time to lead the chamber's executive board, which meets 12 months a year.

"What can I bring to the table? I've had the opportunity to be in a high-profile position. I know a lot of people and have good, productive relationships. I want to bring

those to the chamber to achieve our goals."

Their relationship goes back seven years, when Fedele arrived in town tasked with rescuing a troubled hospital. Boca Regional has since opened new buildings, renovated the emergency room and attracted medical staff, among other steps.

"Troy took me to lunch and pledged his support. He really did do that," Fedele said. "He said, 'You're new to the community' and he took me under his wing."

"You have to say, 'thank you very much'" when a Jerry Fedele agrees to be chairman," McLellan said.



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continued from 1

on Our Lady of Lourdes Church

campus at 22094 Lyons Road in West Boca. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. for a pre-concert talk with maestro Marks-Field at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children younger than 12 are free at the door or in advance at 561-482-8206.

"The musical selections are geared to an audience of all ages, including interactive experiences," said Marks-Field. "We play the 'Radetsky March' and the audience claps along and I cue them in when the orchestra plays soft or loud.

"One of our signature

pieces it the 'Syncopated Clock,' and we hand out rhythm sticks and I always invite the audience to come up," she said. "It's a nice experience to feel a part of an orchestra and it can even be a child's first experience to play with an orchestra."

The larger orchestra is 65 members from a 9-year-old viola player to a French horn player who's 96. The 25-member chamber orchestra will play "Toy Symphony."

"We have all little instruments and it's very animated and the audience loves it," Marks-Field said. "We do some Chanukah music and light the candles."

Vocal soloists will include Vanessa Simpson and Vince Zabik, who will lead the holiday sing-along.

"We put the words in the program. That's why we call it an interactive concert," Marks-Field said.

In addition, Handel's "Messiah" will be performed at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 in the University Theatre at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road.

The FAU Chamber Singers with alumni and professional orchestra members will perform, according to the university. Tickets are \$15 at fauevents.com or by calling 800-564-9539.

continued from 5

said. And being in solitary confinement in

Miami was freezing cold and isolating. She saw the July Fourth fireworks on the beach through window slits in the building.

"I felt like an alien spectator watching life go by," she said.

Once in Texas, she had to get used to constant noise, but made her up mind to "look at the bright side. It was still my life." She decided to read, learn a language and lost 50 pounds.

"Both of us learned how to treat adversity. It's a choice," she said. "I was terrified, but what I

learned to do is exchange fear for curiosity."

Her focus now is making sure people charged with a crime also have criminal intent.

"Congress did away with that," she said, citing statistics and examples of additional crimes on the books for things like walking a dog on too long a leash in a federal park.

"I want people to understand we've gotten a little out of hand in this country criminalizing people," she said. "There are 24 million adult felons... and this affects their whole family."

McCarty was sentenced to 42 months in federal prison and three

years' probation for honest services fraud. She took a program that shaved nine months off her time, according to <http://marymccartyconsulting.com/>, a consulting service she and her husband have built to help people prepare for prison and get back on their feet once they're out.

Their brochures, Mary McCarty: Compassionate coaching for incarceration preparedness, were on each table, but she didn't talk about it. She said Florida is the worst state for restoring rights to felons, including the right to vote, certain licenses and even renting an apartment.