

FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8-14, 2014

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. VIII, No. 26 • FREE

INSIDE



'The Intergalactic Nemesis'

A brand-new old-timey stage show. **C1** ▶



Art Walk

And more snapshots around town. **C23-25** ▶



Nakashima illuminated

"Free-edge" artist's work in demand. **A12** ▶



The breast of everything

Fight cancer at these local events. **A26** ▶

Download our **FREE App** today

Available on the iTunes and Android App Store.



Reverend keeps working to right wrongs

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com



SUAREZ

Israel Suarez has come down to the crossroads in his life: he's reached the age of threescore-and-ten (70).

As an ordained minister, Rev. Suarez well knows that

his age is a biblical measure for a life completed from cradle to grave.

But the man isn't done. He needs a few more years to do a lot more good, especially with youth and family services, he says from his position at the helm of the Nations Association Charities in East Fort Myers.

"I can't quit," he insists, shrugging. "I

Can't. Quit. I'll die here." A survivor of three heart attacks, he does not speak vainly.

So now this, his do-good-and-have-fun baby: the third annual "Taste of the Nations." It's a fundraising food extravaganza to be celebrated on from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26,

SEE REVEREND, **A8** ▶

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

COMMENTARY A2
OPINION A4
ANTIQUES A12
NEWS OF THE WEIRD A13

HEALTHY LIVING A28-29
PETS A30
BUSINESS B1
REAL ESTATE B15

ARTS C1
EVENTS C6-7
SOCIETY C23-25
CUISINE C27

WEATHER & TRAFFIC
EVERY 10 MINUTES ON **2 NEWS TODAY**



Mary Yankaskas

Partner - **Physicians Primary Care**

Name: Mary Yankaskas

Title: Managing partner, physician

Business: Physicians Primary Care. We are the largest independent primary-care practice in Lee County.

Years in Southwest Florida: 22

Closest family: I am blessed with three children — Katie, Jen and Tom. I am one of six siblings with an 89-year-old mother whom we can still laugh and pal around with. Also, my friend Chris, who reminds me of the importance of taking time for myself.

Hometown: Millington, N.J.

Describe yourself in one sentence or phrase: Personable and always on the go.

Describe your role or roles in business and/or the community: First, I am a mom, striving to keep my kids moving forward. As managing partner, I help guide our practice in the changing world of health care, to, first and foremost, take excellent care of our patients, and second, keep up with the continual government-mandated health-care changes. I am also a member of Saint Cecilia's Catholic Community and several other small groups.

How do you come up with new ideas? I allow the creativity around me to influence me.

What single issue is most important to you? Patient care and satisfaction.

Your most influential role model, and why? My mom, who taught me from a young age to be an independent and strong woman.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Always a physician.

Your favorite childhood memory: Vacationing on Long Beach Island with my best friend, Maggie.

Your first job: Bill's Greenhouse when I was 14 years old.

If you could chat with anyone in history for 20 minutes, with whom would it be? My dad, who passed away more than 20 years ago. There is so much of his story that I do not know.

What do you enjoy doing most with your family or friends? Visiting over a good meal. Hanging out on the couch with my kids.

Tell us something few people know about you: I was a baton twirler in high school.

Personal hobbies: Reading, kayaking, sailing.

Favorite all-time book: Too many to choose from — "Charlotte's Web," "Jane Eyre," "From Good to Great"



step and stumble brought me to where I am today.

Movie: "The Big Chill".

TV show: "Antiques Roadshow".

Music: Classic rock and roll.

Most important lesson you've learned in life: There are three sides to every story.

If I could do one thing in my life over again, it would be ... Nothing. Every

What advice would you give to another woman relocating here? Find different groups to get involved with, whether it be through church, work, school, charity or your neighborhood — that way you have the chance to meet different people and appreciate the breadth of our community. You can then decide what to be a part of and where to make a difference.

Melissa Congress

Co-Owner - **Congress Jewelers**

I listen to others and try to be creative by filling the need. I have enough confidence that I am able to voice my opinion, but I am also good at summarizing others' ideas and creating an atmosphere where groups can build upon several ideas.

What single issue is most important to you? My family, but I am also concerned with our environment and conservation.

Your most influential role model, and why? My mother, Helene Weiss. As a military wife of a two-star general, she made each of her 17 moves in the military positive. She always adapted, made new friends and found many ways to become involved in the communities they lived in. This made my brothers and I the people we are today.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A talk-show host.

Your favorite childhood memory: In fourth grade, our teacher was pregnant, so I helped organize a special day for her. We collected money, went on a special shopping trip to the PX and even held a gift-wrapping session for my class to surprise her.

Your first job: Sales management for Proctor & Gamble in Atlanta.

If you could chat with anyone in history for 20 minutes, with whom would it be? Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

What do you enjoy doing most with your family or friends? Sitting around the dinner table and talking about our days!

Tell us something few people know about you: My nickname growing up was Messy Missy, I can't sing, and I attended five different schools from K-12 since I my Dad was in the Air Force.

Name a trait you consider overrated, and a trait that's underrated: Overrated: Gossip; Underrated: Spending time with old friends.

Personal hobbies: Riding my bike, making mandel bread and collecting shells.

Favorite movie: "The Wizard of Oz".

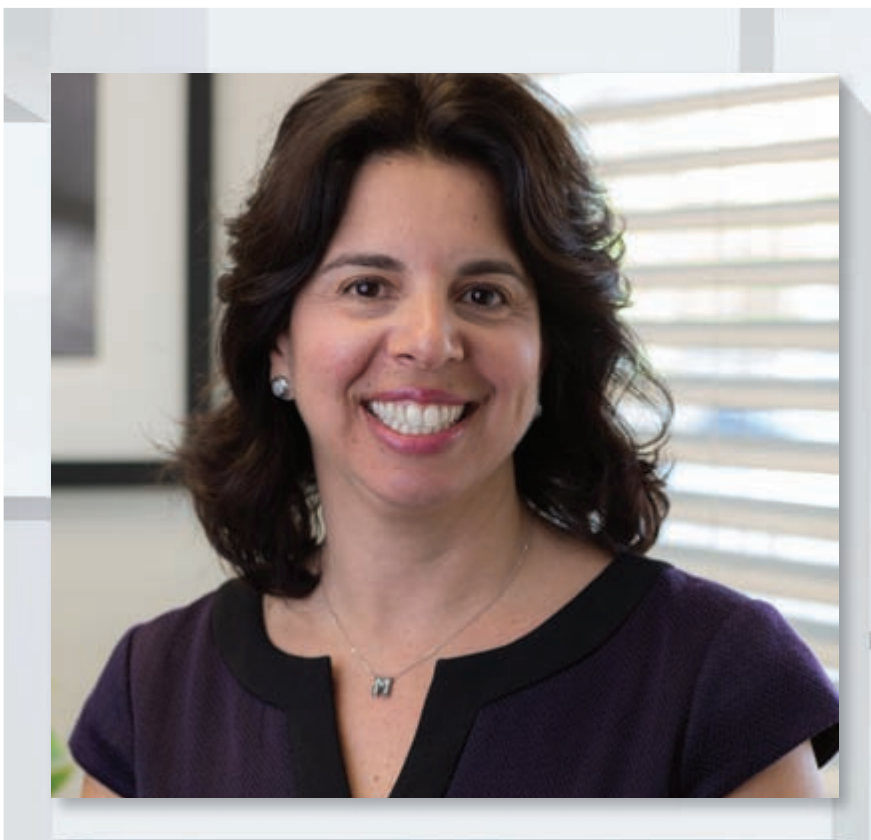
TV show: "The Good Wife".

Music: Whatever my husband is listening to.

Most important lesson you've learned in life: The Golden Rule.

If I could do one thing in my life over again, it would be ... Get an MBA.

What advice would you give to another woman relocating here? Twenty-five years ago, when I moved here to be with Scot, I joined the Junior League. I met so many new friends and saw firsthand the leadership of great women role models who are still involved today.



Name: Melissa Congress

Title: Board president for The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW)

Business: Co-owner, Congress Jewelers

Years in Southwest Florida: 25

Closest family: Husband Scot Congress; children Whitney, Andrew, Dana and Rebecca Congress; dogs Maui, Sugar and Roxy.

Hometown: Springfield, Va.

Describe yourself in one sentence or phrase: I am inclusive, friendly and resourceful.

Describe your role or roles in business and/or the community: While I have worked in our family business, it has always been important for me to be involved in my community. Currently, I serve on the boards of CROW, Sanibel Community Association, Charitable Foundation of the Islands and SanCap Cares.

How do you come up with new ideas?