

THE SARASOTA

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News Leader

The Progressive Voice Of Southwest Florida

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FUENTES TO BE HONORED WITH BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING AWARD

The Jewish Museum of Florida-Florida International University (FIU) has announced that Sonia Pressman Fuentes is one of five winners of the 17th Annual Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award for women who have been successful in fields generally dominated by men.

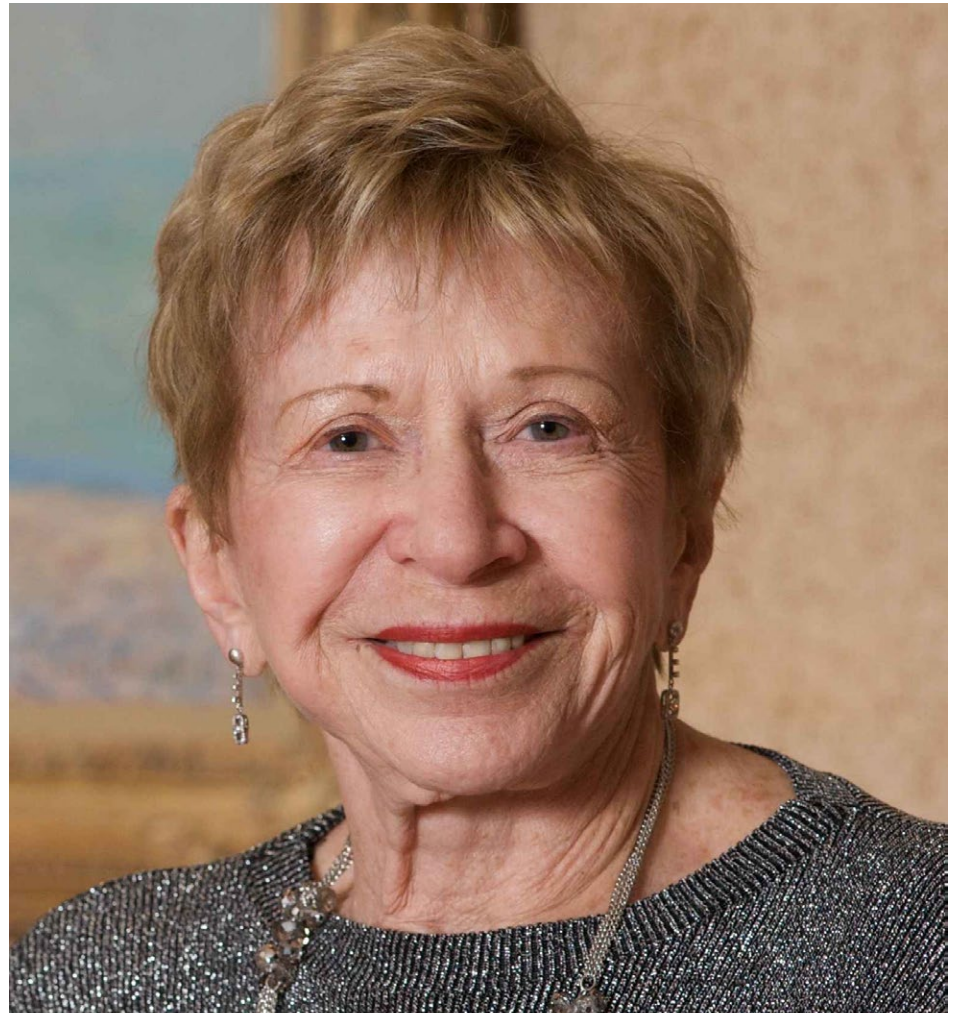
Each of the winners will be honored during a reception and ceremony at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, at the museum, which is located at 301 Washington Ave. in Miami Beach.

The event will include presentations by the honorees describing the obstacles and inspirations they encountered on their individual journeys to success, a news release says.

In 1965, Fuentes joined the General Counsel's office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as its first woman attorney. She drafted one of the EEOC's earliest Digests of Legal Interpretations, its first Guidelines on Pregnancy and Childbirth and the decision protecting employment rights of stewardesses, the release points out.

In 1966, she became one of 49 founders of the National Organization of Women. She was co-founder of both Federally Employed Women and the Women's Equity Action League, and she was a charter member of the Veteran Feminists of America as well as a longtime board member of the National Woman's Party, the release notes.

In addition to more than 20 years as an attorney with the federal government, she was the highest paid woman at the headquarters of multinational corporations GTE and TRW, the release says.



Sonia Fuentes/Contributed photo

“A woman of great energy and zest, she began a second career after retirement, lecturing on women's rights worldwide and writing a lively autobiography, *Eat First – You Don't Know What They'll Give You: The Adventures of an Immigrant Family and Their Feminist Daughter*,” the release adds.

Inspired by her own Polish family's immigration story after fleeing Berlin in 1933, Fuentes says her identity as an immigrant is central to her lifelong commitment to equity and inclusion, the release says.

The other honorees are as follows:

- **Judge Jeri Beth Cohen**, a dependency court judge in the State of Florida 11th Judicial Circuit, began her service on the bench in the criminal division at a time when few women held judiciary positions in Miami-Dade County.

- **Sherryl Susan Evans** served as deputy sheriff for Hillsborough County for more than 32 years.
- **Marilyn Hoder-Salmon** is the founding director of the Women's Studies Center at Florida International University (FIU).
- **Betsy Kaplan** is the "mother of public arts education" in Miami-Dade County.
- The Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award was established by the Jewish Museum of Florida in 1995. More than 75 winners have been honored with this distinction to date, from a wide variety of fields, including banking, politics, law, aviation, journalism, sports and entertainment, the release notes.

The ceremony will include light refreshments. The cost for non-members of the museum is \$20; for students, \$5. For reservations, contact 786-972-3175 or info@jewishmuseum.com

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is the only Museum dedicated to telling the story of 250 years of Florida Jewish heritage, arts and culture. The museum is housed in two adjacent restored historic buildings, at 301 Washington Ave. on South Beach, that were once synagogues for Miami Beach's first Jewish congregation. The museum's focal point is its core exhibit, *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida, 1763 to Present*, and its temporary history and art exhibits that change periodically.

For more information, call 305-672-5044 or www.jewishmuseum.com.

SCAT EXPRESS BUSES ADD WI-FI ACCESS

This week, Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) riders began taking advantage of wireless network access on SCAT's eight Express buses — serving Express routes 100X North Port-Sarasota and 90X North Port-Venice-Sarasota, the county has announced.

Designed for commuters, the 40-foot Express buses are SCAT's largest in the fleet, with seats for 40 passengers, a news release notes.

The Express buses have limited stops on long routes — about 70 minutes for the 100X and 85 minutes for the 90X — "so riders have time to relax, read or now access the Internet through a wireless network," the release adds. Each bus has a unique wireless network name, the release notes.

SCAT is providing riders with the following disclaimers:

- The SCAT wireless network is an open, unsecured network.
- Riders are advised to use the service at their own risk.
- Users are required to accept the county's terms of service.
- Sarasota County does not provide technical support for the riders' devices or possible connectivity problems.
- The county does not guarantee Internet connectivity or 4G performance. Performance may vary, based on the number of active users and the wireless provider's network availability.
- SCAT also asks Wi-Fi users to be courteous to other riders. For example, the staff advis-