

## WINNERS OF 2010 STARS IN THE ARTS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Naples, Florida (January 6, 2010) - The United Arts Council of Collier County announces that five leaders in the arts community have been selected to receive the prestigious 2010 *Stars in the Arts* awards.

The United Arts Council initiated the *Stars in the Arts* program six years ago to recognize individuals and organizations for leadership in the arts. Nominations are accepted from the public, and this year 54 nominations were received – the largest number ever. A selection committee that consists of past *Stars* winners and leaders in the arts community review applications. They carefully assess credentials and rate each nominee based on their contributions to our arts community.

Winners for 2010 are:

**Patty and Jay Baker** are known as the one of the area's premier "power couples" for community service, especially in the arts. They are avid art collectors and strongly support the performing arts. In 2007 they received the "Outstanding Philanthropists" award on National Philanthropy Day. The Bakers donated \$10 million to the Naples Museum of Art, which was re-named in their honor. Jay Baker has served on the board of directors for the Phil. Patty Baker is Fund-Raising Vice-President for the Naples Players.

**Myra Daniels** is the chairman and CEO of the Philharmonic Center for the Arts, home to the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Naples Museum of Art. Daniels founded the complex in the mid-1980s and has been a leader and innovator in the local arts community. She has been the recipient of numerous awards for her community service including the *Naples Daily News*' Jefferson Award.

**Harriet Heithaus** is an award-winning writer, editor and advocate for the arts. She currently serves as the Arts, Entertainment and At Home Editor for the *Naples Daily News*. She also is a classical music critic for the paper and serves on the editorial board. She won the William Allen White award for editorial writing and the Florida Press Club's first-place award for arts criticism in four of the last five years.

**Dr. Erich Kunzel** will be honored posthumously for his work in our local arts community. Kunzel served as the principal pops conductor of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra before his death last year. He was conductor of the Cincinnati Pops, received the National Medal of Arts, appeared on eight specials on PBS and in ten Carnegie Hall concerts. At the time of his death, he was leading the campaign to build a cultural arts center in Bayshore.

Winners will be saluted at an awards luncheon at the Naples Grande Resort on Friday, March 26. Honorary chair of the *Stars in the Arts* luncheon is WINK TV anchor, Lois Thome. Event co-chairs are JoAnn Smallwood and Roz Travis. Gold sponsors for the *Stars* event are Encore Bank and Moran Asset Management Group.

Past *Stars in the Arts* award recipients have been: Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Classic Chamber Concerts, Naples Art Association, Art League of Marco Island, Naples Players, Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus, Dolph von Arx, Clyde Butcher, Olga Hirshhorn, Andrea Clark Brown, Delores & John Sorey, Charlie Horn, Paul Arsenault, Bill Meek, Jonathan Green, Mary Margaret Gruszka, Joel Banow, Dr. Ron Bowman, Betsy & Al Harris, Jim Rideoutte, Kathy Spalding, Dr. Ron Doiron, Ted Tobbye, Elaine Vreenegoor, Bette Young, Toby Blumenthal & Bert Phillips, Peg Longstreth, & student *Star* Kylene Moran.