

CONGRATULATIONS 2018 HONOREES!

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor the following businesses and individuals for their outstanding achievements, contributions and commitment to Clayton. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments!

The success of these businesses and individuals contribute to the success and quality of life for all of us.

TINA VONDERHAAR – 2018 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Tina VonderHaar, president and CEO of Brighton in Clayton, Missouri, has been selected as the 2018 Business Person of the Year by the Clayton Chamber of Commerce.

"I am honored to receive this award because it reflects on the positive impact Brighton, our employees, and our clients are having in our community," she said.

VonderHaar, who began her career as a senior manager for Accenture before starting her own business, joined Brighton as a consultant in 2004 and later became its Chief Operating Officer. She bought Brighton in 2008 with the goal of transforming it from a traditional advertising agency to an integrated marketing consultancy. *Continued Page 6*



CORNERSTONE AWARD:

RISE

COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACE

RISE Collaborative Workspace has changed the way St. Louis women work, connect, and grow. It is a beautiful and inspiring place to focus on business, host meetings, and be productive. But RISE also functions as a connective institution, bringing like-minded professional women together to network, collaborate, develop their careers, and find authentic community. As a leader in the female-focused workspace industry, RISE attracts international attention from the likes of the Today Show, USA Today, and Bloomberg.

Since opening in February 2017, RISE St. Louis has curated a community of more than 260 members ranging in age from 24 to 78, and includes start-up entrepreneurs to corporate teams to the CEO of a \$500 million company. RISE also puts on high-value events including panel discussions with prominent businesswomen, an annual conference, and the Women of Influence Awards. International brands like Warby Parker and Nicole Miller have also chosen to partner with RISE Collaborative to connect with its incredible community of smart, strong, successful women.

EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL/SERVICE:



In 1958, RubinBrown, which at the time had only three team members, moved from downtown St. Louis to 7730 Carondelet. Just a few years later, the firm expanded into a larger space at 230 South Bemiston. It was here where RubinBrown experienced substantial growth over the next 40 years! Then in 2002, the flourishing firm expanded and moved to the soaring Shaw Park Plaza.

Today, RubinBrown is St. Louis' largest local accounting firm and the nation's 42nd largest firm! RubinBrown's 700 inspired team members work from offices in Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Nashville and St. Louis, including a satellite office in St. Louis' CORTEX Innovation District. Since RubinBrown was founded in 1952, the firm's team members establish best practices within specific industry segments and work to serve the community both inside and outside the workplace.

RubinBrown's mission is to help clients build and protect value, while at all times honoring the responsibility to serve the public interest. *Continued Page 5*

Clayton Chamber Traveled to the Scandinavian Capitals in 2018

Executive Director Ellen Gale escorted 22 travelers to Stockholm, Sweden; Helsinki, Finland; Copenhagen, Denmark and Oslo, Norway during the Chamber's annual trip abroad.

The 2019 destination will be announced soon.

More great photos on page 10



RISE Collaborative is beginning its national expansion with a new location opening in Denver in early 2019 near the Cherry Creek neighborhood, which shares Clayton's prestige as a destination for business, dining, education, and culture. As RISE eyes a third location and beyond, markets of interest include Dallas, Atlanta, and Minneapolis, among others. *Continued Page 5*

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 Socialize with us:   

State of the City

Join us as Mayor Sanger gives his final State of the City on February 13th. He will review the tremendous accomplishments that have taken place over the past six years and discuss what the future holds for the City of Clayton.

Ruth’s Chris will cater the cocktail reception from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. The program starts at 5:00 p.m. at the offices of Armstrong Teasdale. Cost to attend is \$35 and advance reservations are required.

President’s Letter

It is my honor to serve as the President of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce for 2019. First, I would like to recognize our outgoing President, Emily Cantwell, for her hard work and leadership over this past year. I also wish to thank the fantastic staff with the Chamber who continue to help us grow from year to year. The Chamber is an invaluable resource not just for the Clayton business community, but for the greater region. In 2018 alone, the Chamber held 40 events.

Walking around Clayton, it is impossible to miss the visual evidence of the continued economic growth and development in Clayton, in both the commercial and residential sectors. The reemergence of cranes in the sky speaks to the strong local economic climate, as we continue to move beyond the economic downturn of ten years past. During 2018 the Chamber held a staggering 11 ribbon cutting events, signifying the opening of new businesses or significant expansions of existing businesses. Such events are exciting for what they signify.

From tech startups to firmly established Fortune 500 companies, Clayton can proudly call itself home to countless corporate headquarters. This in turn helps sustain the top tier restaurants that are located not just in the Downtown Clayton area, but throughout the City. Clayton is, as always, an excellent example of the public and private sectors working

together to better a community, through careful planning and implementation the City’s governing officials have helped steer the community in a positive direction. Clayton can also proudly call itself home to a large number of not-for-profits and charitable endeavors.

During my time as President of the Chamber I look forward to meeting with members of our local business community both old and new, and working to ensure that the Chamber is continuing to provide quality programs and networking opportunities.

At the Chamber it is our aim to provide programming that can benefit all our business community members large and small and provide variety in such programs. I encourage everyone to try at least one program or event this year, and I am confident that you will not regret it.

I look forward to seeing you at a Chamber event in 2019.

Edward Sluys
 President, 2019



Ed Sluys

Past President’s Letter

As my term as Chamber Board President has officially come to an end, and the baton has been passed to the Chamber’s new President, Ed Sluys, I am happy to look back on a year of fantastic Chamber events. Events that included ribbon cuttings, networking events and award ceremonies. And I am anxiously awaiting and looking forward to see what the City of Clayton, and its Chamber of Commerce, have in store for 2019.

We ended 2018 by celebrating Bill DeWitt III as this year’s recipient of the Pillars in the Community Award at the Ritz-Carlton in early December. The luncheon event celebrated the contributions Mr. DeWitt has provided to the St. Louis community, while at the same time (and to the delight of the attendees) offered an exciting insight into the upcoming 2019 season, and also the new developments in Ballpark Village. This fall also brought a new class of Leadership Clayton, Corporate Challenge and numerous ribbon cuttings around the Clayton community.

In short, the Chamber was—as it always is—in the heart of the Clayton business community, encouraging its members, patrons and

businesses alike to come together and benefit from the business community we all call home.

And 2019 will be no different. Although the year has just began, the Chamber’s dance card is quickly filling up, complete with the annual Awards Dinner in February, golf outings in the spring a return of Parties in the Park in May as well as the graduation of the Leadership Clayton class.

My term as President has given me the great opportunity to meet and work with so many members of the Chamber and I remain in awe and appreciation of our community as I was one year ago. Clayton truly is a great place for businesses, large and small, old and new. And I’m proud to be a part of such a great community.

Emily Cantwell
 2018 Chamber President



Emily Cantwell

Leadership Clayton Class of 2019



Leadership Clayton is a signature Chamber program that educates and develops effective community leaders. The program provides an opportunity to learn about the Clayton community and focuses on significant issues facing our region today. Participants interact with local business leaders in Clayton and St. Louis County government, business and other civic organizations. Over the course of eight months, the class works together to create and implement a project to benefit the community. We invite you to meet the class of 2019.

JAKE BLEYENBERG

Jake has a passion for making the complicated easy to understand. In fact, it's the reason he joined the wealth management world – to communicate with clients in a way that helps them grasp complex strategies and issues. As a wealth advisor, Jake works with an advisory team to create customized wealth management plans to help ensure that clients are on track to meet their financial goals. Jake has worked in financial services since 2008 and joined Buckingham in 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2001 from Lindenwood University. A Kansas City native, Jake now lives in St. Peters, Missouri, with his wife and two children. He previously played professional soccer with the St. Louis Steamers and St. Louis Ambush, and is passing on his knowledge of the sport as coach of his daughter's soccer team.



PATRICK ECKELKAMP

As an attorney with Husch Blackwell's real estate practice, Patrick has represented lenders, developers and public bodies in some of St. Louis' most iconic projects and communities. He has counseled civic organizations such as Great Rivers Greenway, as well as Community Improvement Districts for neighborhoods including Soulard, Euclid South and the Grove. Patrick received his B.S. in Business Administration cum laude from Saint Louis University, and his J.D. magna cum laude from Saint Louis University School of Law. He is an active member of his firm's Cortex and Opportunity Zones teams, and the American Bar Association and Missouri Bar. Patrick supports the St. Louis Public Library Foundation and Rise Community Development through his volunteer efforts.



LINDSAY COMBS

Lindsay is a litigation associate attorney at Carmody MacDonald P.C. and concentrates her practice in the area of general civil litigation. In addition to both prosecuting and defending business tort and contract claims, Lindsay also has experience litigating disputes in such areas as medical malpractice and personal injury. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2007 where she received a B.S. in Business Administration. She then attended Saint Louis University School of Law and graduated Cum Laude in 2011. Lindsay has been recognized yearly as a Rising Star by Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers since 2015. She is an active volunteer for The Little Bit Foundation where she serves on the Young Professionals Board.



ABBI KIRCHNER

Abbi is an associate with the law firm Lathrop Gage LLP, concentrating her practice on estate planning, trust and probate administration and business planning. She is a graduate of Truman State University and St. Louis University School of Law. Ms. Kirchner is licensed to practice law in Missouri and Illinois. She is also a member of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis' Probate and Trust Steering Committee and a member of the inaugural class of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel's Heart of America Fellows Institute.



MICHAEL CROMWELL

Michael has been an attorney with the Clayton-based firm of Capes Sokol since 2017, focusing on commercial and product liability litigation. Prior to joining Capes Sokol, he worked at Womble Bond Dickinson in Raleigh, North Carolina, a national large business law firm where he regularly worked with clients to resolve complex, multi-party, civil litigation matters including corporate governance disputes, employment-related matters, wrongful death and personal injury cases. After graduating from undergrad and law school from the University of Oklahoma, he served as a federal law clerk for the Honorable Joe L. Heaton in the Western District of Oklahoma. Michael and his wife live in Kirkwood with their daughter, Sophia, and son, Isaac.



ELIZABETH MACANUFO

Elizabeth is the Community Relations Specialist for the School District of Clayton, where she works on communications initiatives for the District and serves as the staff liaison to the Clayton Education Foundation. She joined the District in October 2018. Elizabeth has worked in communications and fundraising roles for educational institutions for over a decade. A graduate of Clayton High School, she received her Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University in Medford, Mass. Elizabeth and her husband, James have three children Jonah (9), Ada (6) and Stella (3).



RENITA DUNCAN

Renita is a Partner in RubinBrown's Assurance Services Group. She has 10 years of accounting experience. Renita works with clients in various industries including, but not limited to, public sector, not-for-profit and professional services. In 2018, Renita was the recipient of the RubinBrown Founders' Award recognizing her devotion to inspiring team members (Harvey Brown Award). Prior to joining RubinBrown in 2008, Renita attended the University of Missouri – Columbia, where she earned her Masters in Accountancy. She is an alumnus of the 2014 class of the St. Louis Regional Chamber's Business Diversity Initiative. Renita attends Grace Church with her husband and three daughters.



CONNOR MCCARTHY

Connor is a financial advisor with Edward Jones providing comprehensive private wealth management services to business owners, commercial real estate professionals and families. Prior to Edward Jones, Connor worked for CBRE in Chicago practicing in global commercial real estate transaction advisory. Connor is a graduate of Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and serves on the Little Bit Foundation's Board of Directors.



RYAN MCKILLIPS

Ryan is a Commercial Banking Officer at Carrollton Bank, focusing on lending and deposit needs for small businesses and their owners. He has six years of banking experience in the St. Louis area. Ryan has a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Ryan's community involvement



Leadership Clayton Class of 2019

includes serving as an executive member on the young professional board affiliated with Friends of Kids with Cancer, a locally based non-profit. When not working, Ryan is an avid golfer and enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.

DAVID MORIN

David is an attorney at Danna McKittrick, P.C. He represents businesses and individuals in employment, probate, and insurance related matters. He previously served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Missouri. David received his law degree from Saint Louis University and his undergraduate degree in politics from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Outside of work, David is a member of the human resources committee for Springboard to Learning, and is also an active member of the St. Louis Gaelic Athletic Club.



CHRISTIE PINK

Director of Sales & Marketing for The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis since 2014, Christie Pink has led acclaimed launches of the hotel's renovated guest rooms and event space and Fitness Center. She is currently spearheading a transformation of The Ritz-Carlton Club Level and continues to increase hotel room and catering revenues as well. She was nominated as the brand's Western Region Sales Leader of the Year, and has received The Ritz-Carlton award for Revenue Management. Prior to 2014, Christie was National Account Sales Manager for Drury Hotels and also served as Director of Group Sales for the St. Louis Union Station Marriott Hotel. She has held numerous additional positions within Marriott International and is a hospitality graduate of Missouri State University.



JEN ROBERTS

Every day, Jen learns something new from her clients at Brighton. With a master's degree in health communications from Boston University and a bachelor's degree in communications from Saint Louis University, she spent four years in the promotional products industry working with international vendors. After that, she moved into physician alignment and hospital business development. Jen has led large cause marketing initiatives and is adept at finding national opportunities with local appeal to keep her clients top-of-mind for consumers. Serving as lead for a large fundraising campaign, Jen's leadership has led to a growth of 300% year after year in funds received, as well as launching many trademarked products - proceeds of which go directly to the fund. She is called on frequently to speak at national and local conferences on a variety of health communication topics - most recently speaking at SHSMD on Crisis Communication. Jen uses her broad business perspective and marketing insights to create revenue, exposure and growth for her clients.



CHRISTOPHER SCHEPIS

Chris Schepis is a Vice President and Relationship Manager with Busey Bank. With over 10 years of commercial banking experience, he enjoys helping local businesses meet their financial goals and objectives. Chris is a member of the Association for Corporate Growth, where he serves as an ambassador, welcoming new members and guests to the organization. In his spare time, Chris enjoys spending time with his family and remodeling their home.



ANDREEA SHARKEY

Andreea is an Associate with Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, P.C assisting clients in a variety of litigation matters. She attended Washington University School of Law where she was the Co-Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, a member of the Public Service Advisory Board and the Women's Law Caucus. Prior to law school, Andreea graduated from St. John's University in New York City with honors holding degrees in History and Government. Andreea lives with her husband in the City of St. Louis and supports local community organizations and women's leadership groups.



ANNE TORTI

Anne is the Accounting Manager for the KellyMitchell Group, Inc. In her role, Anne is responsible for overseeing month-end closing processes, preparing the financial statements and recommending and implementing process and internal control efficiencies. Anne graduated from St. Louis University in 2011 with a Master of Accountancy and obtained her CPA license in 2013.



Cornerstone Award: Cont. from Pg. 1



Also central to RISE's vision is to create a pipeline for success for the next generation of female leaders. Through its nonprofit arm, RISE Society, high school girls can participate in a mentorship program where they are matched with an adult member of RISE Collaborative to provide advice and support around the teen girl's career and personal interests. RISE Society also provides leadership programming for women early in their careers, as well as events and scholarships to RISE Collaborative.

To learn more, visit RISEworkspace.com.

Excellence in Retail/Service: Cont. from Pg. 1



RubinBrown Founder Harvey Brown is still involved in the business and comes into the offices in Clayton often. "We have grown tremendously over the last six decades and we are very appreciative of the continuous support and partnership with the Clayton business community," said Brown.

"We are very grateful and honored to be recognized for service excellence," said Fred Kostecki, St. Louis Office Managing Partner. "Our team works hard every day to serve our communities and be our best for others. We sincerely thank the Clayton Chamber as well as our clients and friends in the Clayton community."

Ribbon Cuttings



Perimeter Solutions
8000 Maryland Avenue



Mercy - GoHealth Urgent Care
8321 Maryland Avenue

TINA VONDERHAAR – 2018 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Cont. from Pg. 1

In 2010, she was selected by the St. Louis Business Journal for its prestigious Most Influential Business Women Award, which honors businesswomen in the St. Louis area who have shown an unsurpassed dedication to their careers and their community.

Founded in 1989, Brighton is a full-service marketing and creative agency with more than 80 employees. Key industries served include agriculture, healthcare, life science, consumer package goods and pet care.

“Brighton brings together the best parts of an ad agency – inspired creative – with the best parts of a consulting firm – strategic thinking – to help our clients think differently about their brand and how to engage customers,” said VonderHaar. “It’s creative that means business.”

VonderHaar’s background has helped shape Brighton’s business approach, which begins with insights that guide the strategic direction of a brand and build toward a comprehensive planning, development and management framework, connecting people to the brand with relevant content at a relevant time.

Brighton offers key services including strategic consulting, branding, advertising, influencer engagement, content creation, digital marketing, interactive design and development and in-house audio and video production.

VonderHaar noted that the agency’s clients, which include global and national leaders as well as regional and local firms, present unique challenges and opportunities. “Whether helping with a single project or managing an entire brand, my philosophy is the same — tactical execution is only as good as the thinking that goes into the plan,” she said. “I believe building a successful brand means building long-term relationships with customers. It’s not just a conversation; it’s a relationship. I’m proud that Brighton has built relationships throughout agriculture, consumer, healthcare and life sciences.”

Relationships aren’t limited to the office; they’re also vital to fostering growth in the community, and why Brighton supports several important St. Louis community nonprofit organizations.

The emphasis on building relationships also has had a positive impact internally at Brighton, resulting in it being named a Top Workplace of Greater St. Louis by the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

“I believe a great culture begins and ends with hard-working, but fun-loving, people,” said VonderHaar. “The 80-plus Brightonians who call this place their home away from home are just that. It never ceases to amaze me how they come together to get a job done, and done well, no matter what the deadline or budget. But they also like to have a good time. The reason that recognition is so special to me is because it is evidence that we artfully blend exceptional work with a healthy dose of fun.”

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Mayor's Message

It is not unusual for people that I have just met to express how much they love Clayton. Whether they live or work in Clayton the accolades are the same. A great downtown, a wide array of restaurants and retail specialty shops, great walkability, clean streets, safe neighborhoods, beautiful parks and unparalleled customer service just to name a few.

It is no accident that all of the pieces that make Clayton what it is come together harmoniously, and the great work of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce plays a critical role in that success. The generosity and civic engagement of the Clayton business community is incomparable in our region, and along with the unique partnership of the Clayton Century Foundation, millions of dollars have been raised to support amenities that would otherwise not be provided for in our city budget. There is no doubt that Clayton would not be the great place to live, work, play and get educated were it not for the support of the business community. I as Mayor along with the Board of Aldermen are appreciative of the time, efforts and resources that so many of our corporate citizens generously provide.

This is the final Chamber Newsletter message from me as Mayor of Clayton. In April a new Mayor will be elected and I will be termed out after having the honor and privilege to serve in that role for the past 6 years. The time has gone by very quickly, much has been accomplished, and I am confident that much more will be achieved in the years ahead. My thanks to all of you who have generously volunteered your time and expertise, our city would not be the same without you.

A fun and exciting schedule of events has been planned by both the City of Clayton and your Clayton Chamber of Commerce for 2019 and I hope that you enjoy and participate in them.

Best wishes from me and the Board of Aldermen for a safe and happy 2019.

Harold Sanger
Clayton Mayor

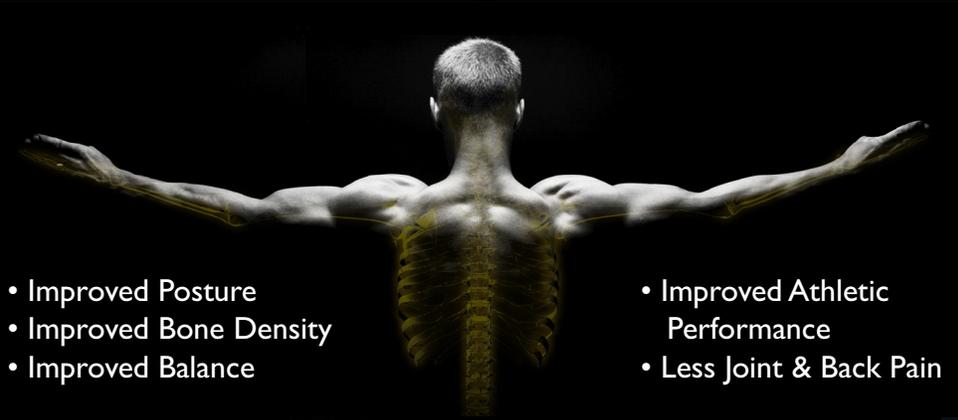


Harold Sanger

Share Your News

If you have information you wish to share with our members, please send a Press Release and photo to Mary-Ellen Tobin at mtobin@claytoncommerce.com.

We will make every effort to include your information in an upcoming edition and reserve the right to edit.



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The 2018 Best of Clayton presented by Centene Corporation drew a record-breaking crowd to the Clayton Plaza Hotel. Attendees and vendors had the opportunity to learn more about the thriving Clayton business community and make new business connections.



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- Elizabeth Real Estate Group, LLC
- FastSigns
- First Mid Bank & Trust
- Kakao Chocolate
- Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co.

- National Blues Museum
- Radiance Float & Wellness
- School District of Clayton/ Clayton Education Foundation
- Scott Credit Union
- SERVPRO of Clayton and Ladue
- The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis
- Two Twelve Clayton
- Universal Creative Concepts
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News From Our Members

DANNA MCKITRICK, P.C.

Danna McKittrick, P.C. announced the addition of Joshua S. Rose to the litigation team.



MIDWEST BANKCENTRE

Midwest BankCentre expanded the reach and scope of its wealth management services to customers across all asset levels through a new partnership with the St. Louis office of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Wealth Advisors.





The Clayton Chamber honored William (Bill) DeWitt III, president of the St. Louis Cardinals, as the 2018 Pillar in the Community presented by Centene Corporation.

Mr. DeWitt accepted the award at a luncheon December 6th at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis.



Ellen Gale, Chamber Executive Director; Emily Cantwell, 2018 Chamber President – Lathrop Gage LLP; Bill DeWitt III, 2018 Pillar in the Community – President of St. Louis Cardinals and Ed Sluys, 2019 Chamber President – Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O’Keefe P.C.

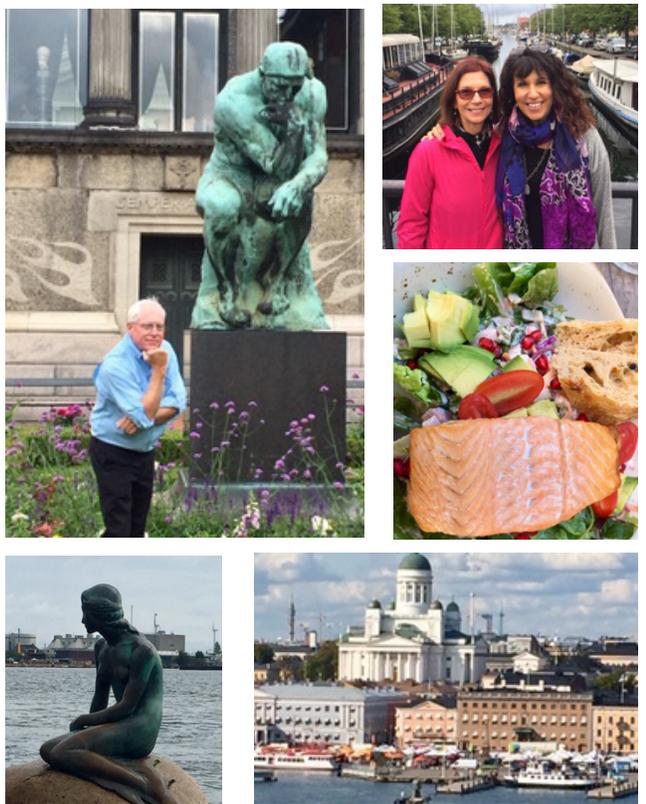
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- Session II - June 17 to June 28
- Session III - July 1 to July 12

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2019 DATES TO KNOW



STATE OF THE CITY
February 13

WINE, WOMEN & WEDGES
March 7

PARTIES IN THE PARK
May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14 & September 11

CORPORATE CHALLENGE
September 28

BEST OF CLAYTON
October 28

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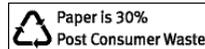


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