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Talk of

★ Orlando-based CNL Bank said it has opened its first Miami-Dade County location and appointed **Raul G. Valdes-Fauli** president and chief executive officer of that region. In January, CNL hired **Lynne Wines** as CEO of its South Florida division to continue its expansion in the region.



Denise Rubin

★ LLC is proud to announce the addition of the following real estate professionals to its top-of-the-line office at 1 Aventura Executive Center: **Erika Cannet; Violetta Gajos; Alexa**

Amat; Judy and Stuart Weinberg; Pam Friedman; Jonathan Golden; Nick Quay; Stuart Drossner; Marco Peralta; Aida Rivas; Eli Sabach; Len Werner; Sherry Bittman; Steven Adler; Helena Stamatopoulos; Jonathan Dardashti; and Xavier Burbano.

★ Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Cares, the charitable arm of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the Take Steps Walk for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America that took place Saturday, April 12, at Huizenga Plaza.



John Turco

★ Prudential Florida WCI Realty sales associate **John Turco** has been recognized as the company's number one sales associate statewide for 2007—an achievement he credits to dedication, professionalism and getting back to basics.

★ Floridian Key Homes, a new affordable community of townhomes in Florida City, will be offered exclusively by Keyes Company REALTORS®. Just 20 miles from Key Largo, the well-designed and fully-finished homes begin at \$135,000. "Keyes continues to partner with developers to enhance Florida City and Homestead," said **Andrea Leslie**, director of Keyes Development Division. "We strive to help our customers understand the benefit of value and of quality construction in combination with correct market pricing that we are offering them with Floridian Key Homes."

"We are thrilled to participate in the ongoing development of Florida City and Homestead—an area that brings a variety of lifestyle amenities at affordable prices," added **Mike Pappas**, Keyes president and CEO.

★ Prudential Florida WCI Realty-Fort Lauderdale's team of sales associates **Sheryl Hodor** and **Troy Hotchkiss**—known as The Power Team—have been recognized as the top producing team in sales volume statewide for 2007—an achievement they credit to commitment, professionalism and creativity.

Hodor and Hotchkiss were also awarded the Chairman's Circle—Diamond award by Prudential Real Estate Affiliates—the group's highest awards level recognition for annual residential sales.



Sheryl Hodor



Troy Hotchkiss

★ Miami real estate professional **Bryan Halda**, senior partner and top producer for Miami's Gray & Associates Properties, Inc., has become the go-to guy for foreigners interested in the incredible estates for sale and/or lease on Miami

Beach. Halda was voted Best Top Producer by Miami's SunPost for closing more than \$50 million in sales in 2007 and recently named to the Top Producers Speaking Panel by the REALTOR® Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches.

★ Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Florida, is pleased to announce its affiliation with Daniel DeCaro Real Estate Auctions. According to **Clark W. Toole III**, president and chief operating officer of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, "We are pleased to be able to provide this service to our customers who request an auction of their property."

★ A number of Keyes Company associates in Broward County were recently awarded membership into the Circle of Excellence and the Chairman's Circle. Among those who made the Circle of Excellence with more than \$20 million in sales were: **Marta Dupree** and The Dupree Team, Coral Springs; **Hap Pomerantz**, Coral Springs; **Raul Santidrian**, Plantation; and **Jean Kachik**, Weston. Those who made the Chairman's Circle with between \$10 million and \$20 million in sales were: **Michael J. Safrin**, Ft. Lauderdale; **Stanley Rosen**, Plantation; **Yoav A. Peretz**, Plantation; **Maria C. Toolsie**, Plantation; and **Marco A. Carrillo**, Plantation.



Marta Dupree



Hap Pomerantz



Raul Santidrian



Jean Kachik

the **T**own



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★ Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate recently hosted an international broker's forum at its annual International Business Conference at the Gaylord Palms Resort Hotel and Convention Center. According to Clark W. Toole III, president and COO, "The forum was a huge success. Coldwell Banker brokers from countries around the globe attended the event. Foreign buyers are attracted to the U.S. real estate market for many reasons: mortgage interest rates are low; the favorable exchange rate of the Euro enables many to buy more for their money here; the U.S. is politically stable; airfares are affordable; and babyboomers want to maximize their return on investment properties."

★ Cathy Lewis of the Keyes Company's Boynton Beach Branch was recently installed as 2008 secretary of the Women's Council of REALTORS® Greater Palm Beach Chapter at a gala event at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.

★ The Keyes Company has announced a strategic alliance with the highly-regarded real estate auction firm Sheldon Good & Company. In the Florida area alone, 25,000 units are available with 20,000 more coming online in the next two years, according to Mike Pappas. This increased inventory, combined with ever-tightening lending policies, has led to a shortage of traditional buyers and only 8,500 sales in the past year, he said. "As financial institutions decide that they no longer want to wade through this market in the traditional way, Sheldon Good & Company auctions will offer them a powerful, highly efficient and time-tested real estate marketing solution," Pappas said.

★ Miami-based Keller Williams Realty Premier Properties has added SunTrust Mortgage as the company's preferred lender. A SunTrust Mortgage representative will be on hand at Keller Williams' Kendall location, giving customers the advantage of an in-house financing service to facilitate their real estate transactions.

★ Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Cares recently announced its support of Ronald McDonald House Charities as the statewide initiative for 2008. Ronald McDonald House Charities is a non-profit organization providing support programs that improve the health and well being of critically ill and injured children.

★ Miami-based businessmen Vladimir Golik and Louis Erice have launched Premier Properties National Referral, a new company created to serve the needs of real estate licensees that currently are not actively participating in the business. The only cost associated with joining the company is a yearly fee of \$95, making it an attractive option for those who are unable to maintain the ongoing expenses related to working in the real estate industry such as marketing, office supplies, board dues, etc. ★

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Inform the local real estate community of your recent award, designation earned, office move or opening, special promotion, charity event, or any milestone by having it published in the Talk of the Town section of *BROKER AGENT Magazine*, and soon you'll be the talk of *your* town.

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