

NOVEMBER MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 21, 2019
Bird Key Yacht Club

Time:	9:30 -10:15	Business Meeting
	10:15 -10:30	Coffee
	10:30 -11:30	Program
	11:30	Break
	11:45	Lunch

Menu:
Turkey à l'Orange, Wild Rice Pilaf and
Haricot Verts

Baked Pepper Stuffed with
Black Bean and Corn Salad, Roasted
and Grilled Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Dessert – Apple Crisp à la Mode

Cost: \$29 includes tax and tip.

Deadline for reservations is
November 15, 2019.

To register for lunch, go to:
www.artsadvocates.org

why creativity matters

This presentation describes the importance of creativity and right-brain skills to success in a future that will be irrevocably impacted by the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the ways in which Ringling College of Art and Design is preparing its students to be leaders in such a future.



Dr. Larry R. Thompson

Dr. Larry R. Thompson,
president of Ringling
College of Art and Design
since July 1999, champions

the need for businesses to embrace creativity to thrive in the 21st century global economy. A lawyer and an educator, Thompson previously served as Special Assistant to the President of Ohio State University; CEO of Flint Cultural Center; and founding Executive Director and CEO of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Thompson is former President of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) and currently serves on its Executive Committee; is the former Chair of the President's Council of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF); and serves on the boards of many local arts and civic organizations. Dr. Thompson has been the recipient of numerous academic and humanitarian honors and awards for his service as a visionary leader and educator.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT WHO CARES?



You do! Because of you, in 2018 we were able to allocate \$46,333 for scholarships to students pursuing careers in the arts. We also distributed an additional \$43,551 in outreach to inspire and support qualifying arts organizations. Donating a grand total of \$89,884 more than fulfilled our purpose as a charitable organization.

This level of funding was made possible primarily through your contributions to the 2017 Metamorphosis and 2018 “Because of You” fundraising campaigns. However, in order to reach the \$90,000 goal, returns from those two campaigns were supplemented by withdrawing surplus funds from our bank accounts. Going forward we may not always have surplus cash to help meet our philanthropic targets.

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?

In the near term, income from the “Speaking of The Arts...” series, members’ response to the annual year-end letter and generous donors willing to underwrite special projects, are all necessary to continue funding our charitable projects.

As a non-profit corporation, we are exempt from paying taxes because of the positive impact we have on our community. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to think beyond the benefits we offer to you, our members, and focus on what we are contributing to the community at large. Your financial support is critical if we are to fulfill our mission.

In mid-November, you will receive a letter asking for your annual donation. Our scholars are depending on each of us to help them pursue their dreams and hopefully graduate debt-free. Our community is depending on us to continually “Inspire creativity, advance education and connect the community to the arts”.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna C. Maytham".

Donna C. Maytham
President



Pictured at the Donor Appreciation Brunch held October 13 honoring The Marion Storm Circle and The Founders Circle donors are hosts Michael Bernstein and Sarah Skebba with Donna Maytham, Arts Advocates President.

Speaking of the Arts...

We are so excited to be nearing the inauguration of Speaking of the Arts...., our major fundraiser featuring the incomparable Marin Alsop, conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra! Marin is guaranteed to be an inspiring speaker.

Recently, she was featured in the Wall Street Journal as one of six luminaries who spoke about the power of music. Alsop told us "In Leonard Bernstein's Harvard lectures, he said 'I believe that the first word uttered by humanity was not spoken, it was sung.' For me that explains how there's something in our DNA that's hardwired for music – it's something that we are inherently predisposed toward doing....I find that music enables me at particularly difficult moments to open up to this world of possibility and sense of joy. Nothing else gives me that feeling."

As Arts Advocates, we support artists like Alsop, who in return, inspire us and open a window on the arts. In this lecture, we get a glimpse into the world of music. Marin was one of Bernstein's favorite students, a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, a child prodigy who entered Julliard pre-college at 7, decided to become a conductor at 9 and entered Yale at 16.

In Baltimore, Alsop has generated tremendous excitement about the Orchestra. She created "OrchKids," an education initiative that provides music education, instruments and mentorship to more than 1,000 inner city youth. For adults, Alsop conducts the BSO Academy, a summer fantasy camp for adults. The biannual "Rusty Musicians" event is another adult program which gives amateur players the opportunity to play music with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Be among the members of Arts Advocates who support our Scholarship Recipients and Outreach efforts by purchasing a ticket TODAY! You don't want to miss Marin Alsop's "Adventures On and Off the Podium" on November 13 at the Art Ovation hotel. The lecture begins at 7 PM, with a cash bar available from 6 PM on.



November 13 • 7:00 p.m

Art Ovation Hotel
1255 N. Palm Avenue, Sarasota

Marin Alsop will share stories from her career, including the triumphs and challenges she experienced on her way to becoming the first female music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

- \$75 Arts Advocates members
- \$85 Non-members
- \$125 Preferred seating/champagne reception

Tickets/more info:

Go to www.artsadvocates.org/alsop

Sponsored by
The James
and Maryann
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The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, Inc.

Mark your calendars! **meet the artist – dean mitchell**

December 3, 2019 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Betty J. Johnson North County Library

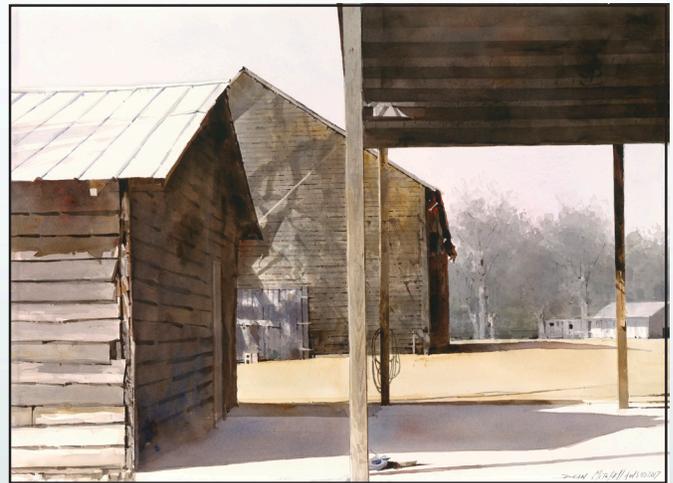
2801 Newtown Road, Sarasota

Featuring

Stranger at the Cabildo, Tobacco Barn Shadows at the Ball Farm

and

Four pieces from the Fine Arts Collection



take a bow

- Our courageous members who are determined to get comfortable with the new technology!
- Maryann Armour for her belief in the project and for underwriting the “Speaking of The Arts...” series.
- The entire Arts Advocates Board of Directors for meeting throughout the summer and accumulating over 500 hours of volunteer time each month.
- Cynthia Burnell for offering her expertise and making relentless efforts to create a new website that is interesting, interactive and state-of-the-art.
- Suzanne Weitz, with support from Barbara Blackburn and Bo Galford, for planning and launching our “Speaking of The Arts...” series.
- Faith Perkins for publishing 10 newsletters including June and September, not to mention preparing and distributing numerous emails.
- Waddy Thompson for contributing his professional expertise to the fundraising campaign.
- Sarah Skebba for generously opening her beautiful home to host the recent Major Donor Brunch, and also the Summer Workshops.
- Kristine Bundrant, Vern Weitz and the entire Collection Committee for volunteering summer hours to assess and appraise our works of art as well as brainstorming about how to make the Collection more accessible to the community.
- Kristine Bundrant for moving our storage to a safe place and then working with Norman Meunier to discard an accumulation of “stuff”.
- Tonya Eubank and Kris Gardel for planning and implementing 6 fascinating Summer Workshops and Tours.
- Judy Fiala for designing and creating the seventeen centerpieces we will be using throughout the year at our luncheons.
- To Martha Ballard for helping hammer out the bylaw revision.
- Kudos to Felicia and Gary Donson of the boutique marketing firm, Think Donson, for designing and developing the Arts Advocates brand.

save the date

- + **November 6**
Guided Tour Elling Eide Center
10:00 - 11:30 AM
- + **November 12**
Book Folding Workshop
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- + **November 13**
Speaking of the Arts...
6:00 - 9:00 PM
- + **November 14**
Member Art Show RECEPTION
Arts and Cultural Alliance Building
5:00 - 6:30 PM
- + **November 21**
Member Meeting and Luncheon
9:30 AM - 12:45 PM



Our guest speaker, artist and scientist Ken Knowlton discussing his presentation with Judy Fiala, Arts Advocates member at the October 17 General Meeting and Luncheon.

workshops and educational tours

FALL 2019

REGISTER HERE

#2 Guided Tour of Elling Eide Center

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 | 10-11:30 AM, please arrive by 9:45
8000 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

The Elling Eide Center is a private research library and nature preserve overlooking Little Sarasota Bay. Dedicated to the study of classical Chinese literature and art, the Center fills a unique role in the cultural and scholarly landscape of its Florida coastal location.

Our docent-led tour will give our members a comprehensive look at the Center, the 72-acre waterfront preserve which brings together Old Florida and new modern architecture. Sarasota architect Guy Peterson, FAIA, designed the Center's research library, which shares the landscape with a rich assortment of native and exotic plants.

The Center's collection amassed by Eide over six decades contains comprehensive library holdings and special collections of rare books, manuscripts and artwork that represent a significant new resource for Asian Studies scholars.

40 max. (Members and Guests) \$30
Optional lunch at Mattison's 41 after the tour
www.ellingoeide.org

#3 Book Folding Workshop

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 | 11AM-1PM

Artist: Elizabeth Goodwill, Home of member Sarah Skebba

The art of folding books is a meditative and cathartic process. Students will learn the basics of folding, scoring, and repetition that leads to a successful folded book. All students should bring a few hardbound books to fold. Please do not bring dictionary thick books or religious texts as they have very thin paper. Students will start with a book and leave with a sculptural work of art. She will also talk about ways to embellish, decorate, and display finished folded books. Remember this is not book destruction. We are not destroying books but giving them an additional purpose in our lives.

Supply List: Students need to bring a mechanical pencil, a bone folder or dull knife or spoon, a clear flexible ruler, notebook notes, and a few hardcover books to fold (book pages should be test weight, not newsprint, and does not crack when folded). Please do not bring a book that has a loose spine or binding or paperbacks.

Elizabeth Goodwill has an MFA from New Mexico State University in printmaking and book art. She is the Education Director at Art Center Sarasota and an exhibiting artist.

25 max. (Members and Guests) \$35
www.cleverbookmousestudio.com
www.artsarasota.org/elizabethgoodwill

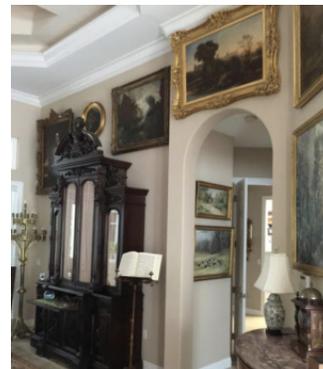
Salon: An Afternoon with Jim Craig and Randy Johnson

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Time: 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Location: Craig-Johnson Home

"Fine Arts Consultant" is what Jim Craig's bio reads as his occupation and oh! – what a life he has led! Educated in Paris, at the Juilliard School, at the College-Conservatory of Music/University of Cincinnati and at the University of South



Carolina, this fine southern gentleman has had an extensive and distinguished career in the realm of the fine and decorative arts.

He is an accomplished author having written *"The Arts and Crafts in North Carolina 1699-1840"* and has been actively involved as a Trustee of the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, a Board member of the Chamber Opera Theater of New York and a patron of the Metropolitan Opera of New York amongst many other positions.

He and his husband Randy Johnson have amassed an exquisite and diverse collection that fills their stunning Sarasota home. This rich body of works is comprised of traditional and contemporary paintings, pastels, works on paper, sculpture, antique stained glass, antique American and English furniture, silver, crystal and porcelain. Numerous paintings of their vast collection include the works of some of the most successful painters of portrait, genre, landscape and abstraction of the last two centuries.

Please join them in a salon that is not to be missed! Wine and delectable edibles will be served.

Driving directions to their home will be provided a week prior to the event.

30 Maximum - Members and Guests | \$50
To Register: www.artsadvocates.org/activities/activities-list-view

Collection News



The Collection Committee announces a GIFT of four **Victor Lundy** watercolor paintings of the Blue Pagoda! Make sure you attend the November 21st Arts Advocates meeting to vote on these acquisitions. The donors, Janet Minker and her husband, Elliot Himelfarb, will be with us again to talk about Victor Lundy, his architecture, and his art. Billy Richards, former city councilman will join them with more stories about Lundy.

Victor Lundy was an important member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, and especially noted for *The Blue Pagoda*, an early classic. Also, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Bahia Vista, The Herron House in Venice, and the Warm Mineral Springs Resort in North Port were his creations. His varied body of work was hard to match. He was also an artist and painted these four watercolors as visual aids for his proposed bid as architect for the Blue Pagoda.



- The newly revised and amended bylaws were approved at the October General Meeting. Tellers, Sarah Skeebea, Faith Perkins and Kristi Bundrant, reported that a quorum was present. Aside from three members who chose to abstain, all of the members present voted to approve the bylaws.
- Hard copy Membership Directories will be available at each General Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please contact Betty Ferguson at bcamerest@yahoo.com and she will put a copy in the mail to you.
- Directory information is also available on the Members Dashboard section of the website where you may update your contact information. Having the Directory online allows us to keep the information current and enter new members as soon as they join.
- Monthly General Meetings are scheduled as follows: Coffee Service begins at 9:00 am, the Business Meeting starts at 9:30 and is followed by a break for coffee at 10:15. The program begins at 10:45 and lunch will be served at 11:45. This gives you an opportunity to take part throughout the morning or to select the meeting segment that is of most interest to you. This agenda also allows us to offer our outstanding programs to the general public for a fee of \$25 per person.
- New ARTS ADVOCATES Name Badges may be ordered from Sarasota Trophy. Send an email to order@sarasotatrophy.com with your name and phone number. They will contact you to take your credit card information and arrange delivery options.
- ARTS ADVOCATES was featured on "Arts Plus" WEDU PBS October 10 portraying its wonderful aspects to a 16-county audience. Please use this link to access the segment if you missed it! <https://www.wedu.org/artsplus/#/cove/8956f7c6-72e8-4072-9085-824a61a5042b>
- To learn more about Viktor Lundy, the artist of the Blue Pagoda paintings, please reference a recent book: Viktor Lundy: *Artist Architect*, edited by Donna Kacmar, Princeton Architectural Press, 2018. The link to the video about him is: <https://www.gsa.gov/node/79085>
- For information concerning the 'Member Art Exhibit' November 4 - December 13 at the Arts and Cultural Alliance Building, please contact Jerry Chesley jchesley33@aol.com
- Prominent members of the art and educational communities will be invited as guests to attend our General Meeting luncheons. Guests will be asked to say a few words about their organizations and their positions. If there is someone you would like to invite as a special guest, please contact Donna Maytham.
- We ask your help in making our membership more diverse and inclusive. Please consider inviting a guest or guests who help us reach this goal. Complimentary lunches are available for special guests. If you have someone in mind please contact Donna Maytham.

where are they now?

Interview with Violinist Matt Dendy

Matt Dendy was a five-time Fine Arts Society scholarship recipient from 2005–2009. He graduated from Booker High School in 2005 and attended The University of South Florida where he was Assistant Concertmaster. In 2010, Matt earned his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance.

It's well known that music can have a profound influence on our lives and that is certainly true for Matt. After attending a concert featuring violinist Joshua Bell performing with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Matt told his parents he wanted a violin for Christmas...not the typical request from a toddler! At just 3 years old, Matt knew that he wanted to play the violin. Thankfully Matt's parents (or maybe Santa Claus) granted his wish and that year Matt found a violin under the tree and started taking Suzuki lessons. At the age of six, he began playing with the Florida West Coast Symphony Youth Orchestra and has been performing ever since.

When asked about the contribution his multiple Fine Arts Society scholarships made on his education, Matt notes *"Your scholarships played a huge role in my ability to attend college. Without that support I would not have been able to pursue my music education. And even with the substantial financial assistance from the scholarships, I still have student loan debt 10 years after college. Thank you for helping to reduce that burden."*

Upon graduation from USF, Matt began his professional music career playing for the Asolo Repertory Theatre and played as a first violinist for The Venice Symphony. He also performed regularly with The Pops Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota, Southwest Florida Symphony and the Florida Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra. Matt also played for national and international music festivals and toured Florida with prominent artists like Johnny Mathis, Mannheim Steamroller, Celtic Woman and The Irish Tenors. Despite these many opportunities, Matt found himself needing to supplement his musician's income by working as a waiter between performance jobs. He explains, "Even if a musician secures a principal position with an orchestra, it's difficult to earn enough income. Not only because those opportunities don't open up often, but when they do, the positions may not be full time. Under those circumstances, it's difficult to have that be your sole source of income."

It was while waiting tables that Matt saw musicians happily playing live music every night in the restaurant. That was when Matt took a left turn in his career. "I never thought I would play a 5-string electric violin, but I decided to shift my focus and

build a business for myself called SRQ Violinist. In order to practice new music and expand my

repertoire of songs I started playing on the sidewalks of St. Armand's Circle. People were encouraging and eventually I got my first recurring job playing during brunch downtown at State Street Eating House. That was three years ago and other gigs have since been added including The Cottage on Siesta Key, Art Ovation hotel, Whole Foods Brasserie Honore, Sarasota Waterworks, art galleries and other venues. I'm very happy I have control of my career choices and can support my family." He adds, *"Combined with my private engagements playing at weddings and other events, I now earn a living playing live 25-30 times a month all year long. I've enjoyed playing on yachts, private islands and other unique venues and the interaction with people is great. I get to play all types of music, from classical to jazz to current popular songs."*

Matt will often use a loop pedal to record himself in a live setting on keyboard and percussion and then play his violin to accompany that music. To see and hear Matt performing, click the following link: <https://youtu.be/HVU22Ww2oWl>

To view Matt's calendar of upcoming performance venues or to contact him about a private engagement, click the following link: <https://www.srqviolinist.com/>

Matt and his wife Kim, a third-grade teacher at Fruitville Elementary, live in Sarasota with their daughters Grace, age 5 and Olivia, age 4. If you see Matt performing around town, please stop and enjoy his music and congratulate him on behalf of the members of Arts Advocates!

Elizabeth Rose

