

APRIL LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Banned Books

Bookstore 1 Sarasota

Georgia Court, Owner

Bryn Durgin, Assistant Manager & Director of Programming

Thirteen years ago, Georgia Court was dismayed to learn that Sarasota's only downtown bookstore was closing. Not being able to imagine a city without such an important fixture, she opened her own! Bookstore1Sarasota was born.

Today, the highly successful store hosts several of its own **book clubs**, including one with an intriguing focus: banned books. This monthly gathering is "dedicated to reading and protecting the most important and threatened books of our generation." Organizer Bryn Durgin has gathered a selection of these titles and reinforces that these books are always available for purchase for inclusion in private libraries.

Book bans in public schools have recurred throughout American history. Over the past few years, the scope of such censorship has expanded. The Banned Books Book Club at Bookstore1Sarasota explores some of these controversial titles and discusses them in terms of free expression, First Amendment rights and parental oversight.

Come hear what interesting content your Sarasota neighbors are reading at our April 18th luncheon.



Georgia Court (top) and Bryn Durgin

Date: Thursday, April 18 | 11am-1pm
Place: Sarasota Yacht Club, 1100 John Ringling Blvd.
Cost: \$45 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#) 

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Arts Advocates,

March has been an eventful month for us, filled with art experiences and engaging activities. We kicked off the month with **Lynn Armstrong Coffin's** art show on March 2nd. On March 11th we held a well-attended **donor appreciation event** at Meg Krakowiak's art gallery on Palm Avenue. A special thank you to Meg for graciously providing her gallery as our venue and to Donna Maytham and Carol Darling for their organization of the event.

Our gallery witnessed an extraordinary series of events throughout March, drawing great attention from our community. We welcomed Roger Lightle and Roy McLendon, Jr., to exhibit and sell their **Highwaymen art collection** on March 2nd and 3rd. They, along with Curtis Arnett, an Original Highwaymen artist, graced our gallery again from March 22nd to 24th. In a heartfelt ceremony on March 23rd, Arts Advocates, along with Mayor Liz Alpert and other esteemed guests, honored Roy McLendon (posthumously), Roy McLendon, Jr., Curtis Arnett and Roger Lightle for their dedication to preserving the legacy of Highwaymen artists.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated Arts Advocates volunteers who contributed to the success of these events, particularly our Highwaymen Committee co-chairs, Stephenie Frasher and Cecilia Conder.

Our member luncheon in March featured a presentation by George Nickson and Samantha Bennett, founders of **EnsembleNewSRQ**, Sarasota's modern chamber music company.

Arts Advocates also hosted various gatherings, including a National League of American Pen Women meeting, the Johnson Singer Foundation

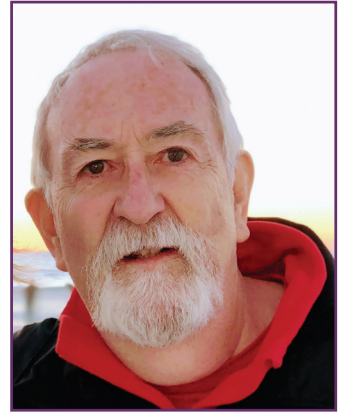
meeting, a beaded necklace workshop by Judy Levine, and an art and backstage tour at the Van Wezel.

In celebration of Women's History Month on March 27th, we were honored to welcome Dr. Renee Mills, daughter of Mary Ann Carroll, **the only female Highwaymen artist**, who delivered a compelling lecture on her mother's legacy.

Our sponsorship of the **Sarasota Film Festival** (SFF) Arts "sidebar," focusing on visual arts, performing arts and architecture, has been finalized. The SFF runs from April 5th to April 14th, promising a dynamic and engaging program.

Stay informed by checking our weekly eblasts and monthly newsletters, and remember to visit our website www.artsadvocates.org to register for events aligned with your interests.

With warmest regards to all,
Bill Rusling
President, Arts Advocates



Bill Rusling, President



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Community Foundation of Sarasota County 2024 Giving Challenge

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND DONATE ONLINE!

The 2024 Giving Challenge runs from 12 noon Tuesday, April 9,
until 12 noon Wednesday, April 10!



HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TO ARTS ADVOCATES:

1. Have your credit or debit card ready
2. Click on this link: [Arts Advocates Giving Challenge](#)
3. Make your donation!
Gifts from \$25 to \$100 will be matched by The Patterson Foundation.
A generous Arts Advocates member is offering a matching gift up to \$5,000!
4. Give yourself a thumbs-up for supporting the arts in Sarasota!

MARCH MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

ELISABETH TROSTLI: *FIERCE AND FABULOUS*

In April, the Arts Advocates Gallery presents Elisabeth Trostli's Fierce and Fabulous exhibit of digital paintings on canvas and paper. Each of Ms. Trostli's diverse, fierce and fabulous women holds the key to the secret wisdom and strength of the Feminine, inviting the viewer to follow their own journey of visual discovery.

ARTIST'S VISION: This new collection, created in 2022, conveys the artist's ideas about the strength and beauty inherent in us all. Ms. Trostli combines her profound understanding of the true nature of the fantastical, and her exceptional skill as a digital artist and surface designer to convey a unique, totally original artistic vision. A closer look is needed to appreciate lovely elements from which the luminous images emerge.

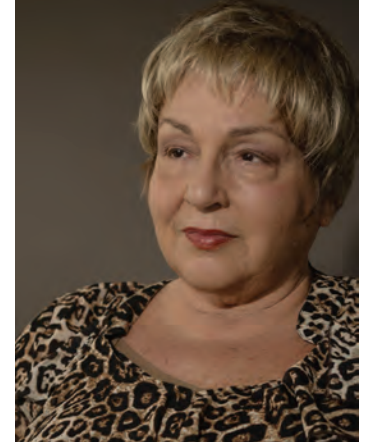
THE INSPIRATION: The paintings in this exhibition are inspired by the artist's own visual references and travels; vintage scientific engravings; Steampunk; Pre-Raphaelite and Baroque sources; Celtic, Asian and African mythology; medieval knights and armor; tribal textiles; and Victorian jewelry.

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, April 6 | 2-4pm

EXHIBIT DATES: Every Saturday in April | 2-4pm

PLACE: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

COST: FREE



APRIL ART TALK AND DEMO

In conjunction with her show, artist Elisabeth Trostli will present "From Digital Painting to AI," when she will discuss and demonstrate her artistic process in the creation of her work on the computer. Surrounded by unique images of intricately detailed fantasy portraits of women warriors, geishas, divas and angels, you will be amazed by the possibilities of digital artistry. This event is FREE, but please reserve a seat by clicking on the link below.

Date: Tuesday, April 9 | 4-6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



SARASOTA FILM FESTIVAL

SFF FILMS SPONSORED BY

ARTS ADVOCATES



Art Thief

April 9, 6:15pm, Regal 8

April 10, 3:30pm, Regal 3

Inspired by the true events surrounding the 1990 robbery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, *Art Thief* delves into the art world in entertaining, thrilling fashion.



Liv Ullmann: A Road Less Travelled

April 6, 6:00pm, CinéBistro

April 11, 3:00pm, Regal 3

From her early days in acting to her life with Ingmar Bergman and beyond, the actress Liv Ullmann reflects on her life, accompanied by clips from her films, news footage and intimate contributions from some of Liv's close companions and admirers.



Merchant Ivory

April 13, 6:00pm, CinéBistro

Footage from more than fifty interviews – including fresh takes from Vanessa Redgrave, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham Carter and the spry 95-year-old Ivory himself – give voice to the actors and technicians who helped define Merchant Ivory's Academy Award-winning work.



My Name is Alfred Hitchcock

April 8, 6:00pm, CinéBistro

April 10, 1:30pm, Regal 7

As "Hitchcock" (actor-impersonator Alistair McGowan) rewatches his films and reflects on them in all his sardonic humor and tongue-in-cheek pomposity, the viewer takes a journey through his vast career.

ART FILMS SPONSORED BY ARTS ADVOCATES



Naked Ambition: Bunny Yeager

April 11, 8:30pm, Regal 7

April 12, 4:00pm, Regal 3

Whether by popularizing the bikini, shaping the image of Playboy or inventing the selfie, photographer Bunny Yeager was a trailblazer whose work bucked against conservative 1950s America and helped pave the way for both the feminist movement and the sexual revolution.



Porcelain War

Florida Premiere. U.S. Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival

April 9, 8:15pm, Regal 7

April 12, 12:00pm – Regal 7

Amidst the chaos and destruction of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, three artists defiantly find inspiration and beauty as they defend their culture and their country.



Taking Venice

April 7, 6:00pm, CinéBistro

April 9, 4:00pm, Regal 7

At the 1964 Venice Biennale, the world's most influential art exhibition, a trio of insiders embarks on a plan to make emerging artist Robert Rauschenberg – with his combinations of junk off the street and images from pop culture – the winner of the Grand Prize.



The Mammoth Hunt

International Premiere

April 7, 1:00pm, Regal 7

April 8, 2:00pm, Regal 8

In 1968 Lithuania, a thinly-veiled anti-Soviet play was condemned. The director fled to America, where a group of actors locked themselves in a theater and filmed the play. *The Mammoth Hunt* chronicles the attempt to track down the film, gather recollections from surviving participants, and revisit post-Soviet Lithuania.

Excerpted from the Sarasota Film Festival 2024 Film Festival Guide.

Tickets for these and other Festival films are available at www.sarasotafilmfestival.com.

DESIGNING WOMEN BOUTIQUE GROUNDWORKS

DONATED ITEMS HELP FUND ARTS ADVOCATES PROGRAMS



Three years ago, we were invited to participate in Designing Women Boutique's (DWB) unique GroundWorks program, designed to help local nonprofits raise funds to support their missions.

How does it work? Members and friends donate lightly-used upscale items such as clothing, shoes, purses, artwork, tableware and furniture to Designing Women in the name of Arts Advocates. When the items are sold, DWB donates back to us a generous **60% of the sale price**. In 2021 and 2022, **your donations have resulted in a return of over \$10,000 to Arts Advocates!** We are expecting a significant increase when 2023 sales totals come in.

Spring is here and it's the perfect time to search your closets and cupboards for lightly used items to donate to DWB! Please don't hesitate. Take your items to:

Designing Women Boutique
1226 North Tamiami Trail, Unit 101
Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm; Saturday, 10am to 3pm.

Tell an employee that you have a donation for the GroundWorks program from Arts Advocates. If you cannot deliver your smaller items or you are donating furniture, please contact Carol Hirschburg, Art Advocates' GroundWorks Team Leader, at carolhirschburg@gmail.com. She will arrange a pickup at your convenience and at no cost to you.

Arts Advocates is grateful to DWB for including us in GroundWorks, and to our members and friends for making our participation a success.



Behind the Curtain:

EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE



Take a guided tour of the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel. After that, step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide will give you a peek behind the curtain and share stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

Tours begin in the main lobby and cost \$15 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Van Wezel box office or by calling (941) 263-6799. Private group tours can be arranged by calling (941) 955-7676. Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/ outreach programs.

Dates: Monday, April 15
Monday, May 20
1:30-3pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION TO MIXED MEDIA AND COLLAGE WITH A FLORAL FOCUS

Instructor Susan Hurwitch has developed a creative process that combines the logic of piecing together collage materials with the freedom of intuition as a guide. In this fast-paced workshop, students will create one 6x9-inch floral piece on watercolor paper, with color serving as a catalyst for the viewer to share in the journey toward a sense of joy and happiness. Susan provides hands-on instruction in a supportive environment. All skill levels are welcome. Students should bring paintbrushes, acrylic paint and a plastic tablecloth. All other supplies will be provided by the instructor.

Date: Saturday, April 27 | 12-2:30pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery
The Crossings at Siesta Key
3501 S. Tamiami Trail

Cost: \$45

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



FIRST LADY OF THE HIGHWAYMEN

Recently in our gallery we hosted a special presentation by Dr. Wanda Renee Mills, daughter of Mary Ann Carroll, the only woman among a group of 26 African American artists now known as the Florida Highwaymen. Mills gave a lecture about her mother's life and career as "The First Lady of the Highwaymen."



Mary Ann Carroll



Dr. Wanda Renee Mills

"EIGHT OVER 80"

BARB SANDER HONORED

Barb Sander – Arts Advocates member, previous Board member, and Van Wezel art docent for over 17 years – has been honored with a Special Recognition "Eight over 80" award from Aviva Senior Living. Aviva's mission is embracing the vision of active aging, and Barb is an ideal example!

Congratulations, Barb! And thank you for your years of continuing active service to Arts Advocates.

Barb with her daughter Cindy Siegel at the awards ceremony



Please Save The Date



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 11:00 AM
SARASOTA YACHT CLUB

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER
MS. SARA CURTIS ROBINSON

Ms. Robinson is the Vice President for Advancement at Ringling College and its arts and culture programs in the community, including the Sarasota Art Museum, Town Hall Lecture Series, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and Englewood Art Center.

Our 2024 scholarship award winners are invited to attend and present examples of their work.

Watch for your mailed invitation!



MAY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

MICHAEL COHEN: WHAT LIGHT DOES WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING

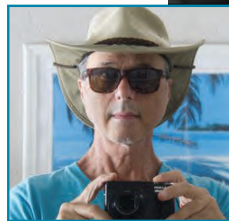
Artist's Statement: Most often, the sun supplies my "paint and canvas." My work examines how we perceive light and darkness and their interesting relationship, creating forms and patterns, almost as yin/yang elements. My work attempts to capture those things that "light does when nobody's looking": fleeting scenes we sometimes fail to appreciate as found-art. The subject of my photographic work isn't typically a person or object, but rather the *light* itself, its reflection, or, in the case of deep shadows, the *absence of light*. The very meaning of photography is to paint or draw with light, which is how I see my work.

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 4 | 2-4pm

Exhibit Dates: Every Saturday in May | 2-4pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key
3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Cost: FREE



MAY ART TALK

REIMAGINING FAMOUS WORKS OF ART

Kehinde Wiley is known for his works that take their inspiration from famous European paintings. But Wiley is not alone in "flipping the script" in his work. Many Black, female and other artists are "updating" iconic paintings to see themselves in the picture.

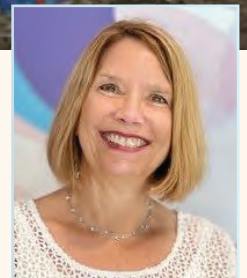
This presentation will focus on artists who have created alternative versions of paintings depicting American history. These artists' revised narratives reflect the different lenses through which they view our past and their hopes for our future.

Presenter and Arts Advocates member **Nanette Crist** is a docent at Sarasota Art Museum and leads public art walking tours with Judy Levine and Stephenie Frasher. She also pens an art-heavy blog: www.nanettesnewlife.blogspot.com.

Date: Tuesday, May 7 | 4 – 6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery
The Crossings at Siesta Key, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers



REGISTER HERE. 

HIGHWAYMEN EVENT HAS LARGEST ATTENDANCE IN GALLERY HISTORY



◀ Arts Advocates collaborated with the City of Sarasota to honor the legacy of the Florida Highwaymen. Event organizers and city officials who attended the recognition event included (L-R) Arts Advocates President Bill Rusling, Arts Advocates Arts Engagement Director Stephenie Frasher, Mayor Liz Alpert, Arts Advocates Board of Directors member Maria Cecilia Conder, Sarasota Public Art Manager Mary Davis Wallace, Arts Advocates Vice President Carol Darling and City Commissioner Kyle Battie.



◀ Awards were co-presented by Arts Advocates President Bill Rusling and Sarasota Mayor Liz Alpert to Original Highwaymen Curtis Arnett and the late Roy McLendon, Sr., as well as to Roy McLendon, Jr. (pictured right).



▲ Collector Roger Lightle was also recognized for his ongoing support and promotion of the Highwaymen and their art.

► Hundreds of art lovers have discovered the Arts Advocates Gallery, thanks to the historic Highwaymen exhibit and sale held there for five days in March. The event was a major success for the artists.



► This piece by Original Highwayman Sam Newton was donated to Arts Advocates for its permanent collection by Roger Lightle. Pictured (L-R) are Roger and his wife Pui presenting the painting to Arts Advocates President Bill Rusling.



▲ Some of Roy McLendon, Jr.'s, paintings on display in the gallery.



◀ EnsembleNewSRQ founders Samantha Bennett and George Nickson performed at our March luncheon and discussed their mission to encourage the development of new works through commissions and other efforts.



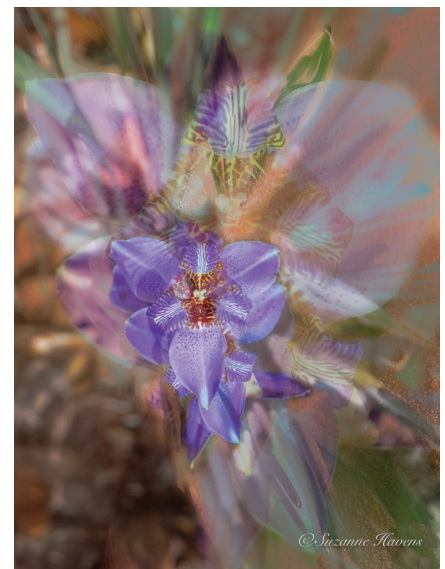
▲ At our March luncheon, Jeannette Paladino (right) won the raffle prize, this stunning painting titled *Radiant Sunrise* by member artist Cecile Moran (left).

▶ Member artist Lynn Armstrong Coffin enjoyed an enthusiastic response to the exhibition of her "Full Circle" works in the gallery.



◀ Arts Advocates President Bill Rusling, Sarasota Film Festival Director of Marketing & Development Petra Ratner and Arts Advocates Board member and Past President Jeannette Paladino at the SFF Kickoff Party. Arts Advocates is sponsoring the Arts Sidebar of eight arts films.

▶ This stunning photograph, *Walking Iris Montage* by photographer Suzanne Havens, will be the raffle prize at our April 18 luncheon. Register for the luncheon for a chance to win!





As a core element of its mission, Arts Advocates helps raise awareness of local arts organizations. Please support and enjoy these upcoming programs in our community. Click on the links for more information:

Ringling Museum

[The Greatest Show on Earth Gallery](#)

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

[Exhibitions](#)

Sarasota Film Festival

[2024 Film Festival Guide](#)

Asolo Rep

[Dial "M" for Murder](#)

Sarasota Orchestra

[Yang Plays Mozart](#)

The Sarasota Players

[The Secret Garden](#)

save the dates

- + **April 5-24**
Sarasota Film Festival | Various times
- + **April 6**
Elisabeth Trostli Reception | 2-4pm
- + **April 9**
Art Talk: Elisabeth Trostli | 4-6pm
- + **April 9-10**
Giving Challenge | 12n-12n
- + **April 15**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm
- + **April 18**
April Luncheon: Banned Books | 11am-1pm
- + **April 27**
Floral Collage Workshop | 12-2:30pm
- + **May 4**
Michael Cohen Reception | 2-4pm
- + **May 7**
Art Talk: Reimagining Famous Works of Art
4-6pm
- + **May 16**
Scholarship Luncheon | 11am-1:30pm
- + **May 20**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm