

APRIL LUNCHEON PROGRAM

PETER ROTHSTEIN'S BOLD VISION FOR ASOLO REP

When Peter Rothstein became producing artistic director at Asolo Repertory Theatre in 2023, his vast experience gave him just the background he needed to guide Asolo Rep, the largest Actors' Equity not-for-profit theater in the Southeastern US, to exciting new heights.

For 25 years, Rothstein served as the founding artistic director of Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis. He directed 92 main-stage productions, including 14 world premieres. Peter is the creator of *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, which received a Drama Desk Award for its off-Broadway debut. It has since been staged in more than 50 cities. Its broadcast version has been seen around the globe, airing on PBS.

Peter has worked extensively as a director of theater, musical theater, opera and new work development. He served on the board of directors for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and has been a panelist and evaluator for many national theater festivals and awards. He holds degrees in music and theater from St. John's University and an M.F.A. in directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Asolo Rep productions span a diverse repertoire of new plays, bold reinterpretations of contemporary and classic works, and provocative musical theater experiences. It serves as a springboard for successful productions to travel to Broadway and other regional theaters throughout the country.

Asolo Rep takes full advantage of its ongoing partnership with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor

Training, which is ranked among the top 10 actor training programs in the country. Conservatory students undergo a rigorous three-year Master of Fine Arts program, culminating with the third-year students' inclusion as part of Asolo Rep's mainstage company. This

unique collaboration has proven to be a successful formula for producing the highest quality professional theater while providing first-rate training for America's next generation of actors.

Now in his second full season here, Peter will share his vision for Asolo's future at our April 17 luncheon. Join us and get to know the talented and dynamic leader of one of the cornerstones of Sarasota's arts community!

Date: Thursday, April 17 | 11 am-1 pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 for members/\$50 non-members



[REGISTER HERE.](#)



Luncheons at the Sarasota Yacht Club are sponsored by Observer Media Group.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

Here is a synopsis of the many wonderful events Arts Advocates held in March:

Our member artist for March/April is Libby Hawk. Her show, "Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk Paintings," opened on March 1 in the Arts Advocates Gallery and will remain up through April 26.

Our March art talk, "Late Bloomers - Contemporary Women Artist Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years," was presented by Judy Levine in the gallery on March 4 and was attended by 40 people.

Our March 20 luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club featured speaker Barbara A. Ramsay, chief conservator of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Her fascinating presentation described how old paintings are restored.

Looking forward to April 2025:

This year Arts Advocates will be sponsoring the arts film section of the Sarasota Film Festival, which consists of four films documenting artists' contributions to the arts.

Our April 17 luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club features Peter Rothstein, producing artistic director of Asolo Repertory Theatre. Rothstein will share his vision for Asolo's future.

Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage takes place on April 21 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Take a guided tour of the paintings and

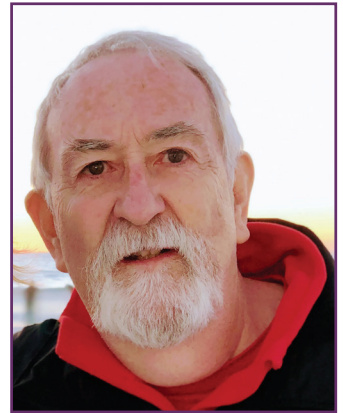
sculptures owned by Arts Advocates, then step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide gives you a peek behind the curtain.

Our April 29 art talk is "Portraits Then and Now," from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in our gallery. Presenter Suzanne Havens is a painter and photographer who is passionate about art history, and she will share captivating images and insights.

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.

Warmly,

Bill Rusling
President, Arts Advocates



Bill Rusling, President

Ask the President

Questions? Comments?
Suggestions for luncheon speakers, art talk subjects, or other ideas for next season?

[CONTACT BILL HERE](#)



The Arts Advocates Gallery is located inside the Crossings at Siesta Key mall, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Enter the mall through the doors next to Connors Steak & Seafood and turn left.

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APRIL SALON

Private Lido Key Art Collection

Pat and Ron Taylor have been collecting art for over 50 years, focusing on post-WWII abstract expressionists and figurative painters and contemporary art which developed out of these post-WWII innovations.

Their particular interest in paintings and objects lies in color and surface texture, and their sculptural objects expand on form and perception.

The collection, parts of which are displayed in homes in Sarasota, Chicago and Colorado, is wide-ranging. It includes art from the American Abstract Artists group in NYC and the Bay Area Figurative Movement in San Francisco, with paintings by Giorgio Cavallon, James Weeks, David Park, Esteban Vicente and Hunt Slonem.

Contemporary pieces acquired locally in Sarasota include a Highwaymen painting by Sam Newton, Asian art collages by Jo Nelson, and paintings and constructions by other local artists.

Their Sarasota collection also includes paintings and objects from their travels throughout Vietnam, Morocco, Senegal, Europe, and Asia —often accompanied by delightful stories of acquisitions.



Date: Friday, April 11 | 11:30 am-2 pm

Place: Location will be emailed to registrants

Cost: \$50

REGISTER HERE.



Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage

These interesting, guided tours provide a closer look at the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel, and provide a peek behind the curtain along with stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

The final tours of the season are April 21 and May 19 from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Tours begin in the main lobby and cost \$15 per person. Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/engagement programs. Tickets can be purchased at the Van Wezel box office or by calling (941) 263-6799. Private group tours can be arranged by calling Justin Gomlak, Van Wezel's director of education and community engagement, at (941) 263-6754.



ART TALK

Portraits Then and Now

Suzanne Havens is a painter and photographer passionate about studying art and art history. She provides insights from both the artists' and critics' perspectives, offering a fast-paced journey through Western art. Suzanne's presentation is filled with captivating visual images aimed at engaging all audiences.

Date: Tuesday, April 29 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 non-members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Freedom by Suzanne Havens

APRIL EXHIBIT

Libby Hawk's Exhibit Continues Through April

SATURDAYS THROUGH APRIL 26 | 2-4 PM
ARTS ADVOCATES GALLERY

"Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk Paintings" challenges norms about two- and three-dimensional art daring viewers to engage differently with works on canvas and paper. Libby Hawk's provocative abstracts on paper and canvas vibrate with color and texture, at once subtle and bold. She says, "I'm drawn to the challenges posed by working with diverse media – changing it up is essential to realize innovative ideas."

Libby will give a presentation about her art on April 5 at 3 pm, and there will be a closing reception on April 26.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.



Feed Your Curiosity About Florida Art and Artists

If the recent art exhibits at Sarasota's City Hall sparked your interest in Florida art and artists, we provide the opportunity to see more.

Last year's Highwaymen display at City Hall was enthusiastically visited by record crowds. The Highwaymen were a small group of African American painters who, when not allowed to show their work in galleries of the 1950s and '60s, displayed their landscape paintings propped against their parked cars along Florida highways.

The current City Hall exhibit features Sarasota's own Petticoat Painters, one of the oldest women's art groups in the country. Established in 1953 when women also had difficulty exhibiting in galleries, the group continues to show the work of their 20 select members, whose admission is by invitation only.

If you'd like to see more original paintings from both noteworthy groups, visit the Arts Advocates Gallery. Admission is free and docents are available.

The Petticoat Painters will be showing their works in our gallery in May, Saturdays only, from 2 to 4 pm.

Member artist exhibits in the gallery are sponsored by Observer Media Group.



**PETTICOATS
ARE
SHOWING**

DIANE SCHMIDT
ELLEN MASON
JANA MILLSTONE
JANET MISHNER
JANICE NEWMAN
JUDY LYONS SCHNEIDER
KATHY WRIGHT

KEIKO ROMERSTEIN
KIM ANDERSON
MARY GRANDPRE'
MEG PIERCE
NANCY HIELSCHER
SUSAN COVERT

Arts Advocates Gallery
Four Saturdays In May 2025
MAY 3 MAY 10 MAY 17 MAY 24
2 - 4 pm

**Petticoat
Painters**
petticoatpainters.com



Skimmers by Petticoat Painter Judy Axe

MAY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 2025 Scholarship Awards Luncheon is the annual celebration of our student scholars. Students will be introduced and some will perform. Our guest speaker is Courtney Smith, visual and performing arts director at Booker High School. Courtney was named 2023 Teacher of the Year, and she is a former Fine Arts Society/Arts Advocates scholarship winner.

The scholarship committee selected eight young scholars from Sarasota and Manatee counties to receive \$5,000 each for the 2025-2026 academic year. The committee evaluates applicants based on exemplary artistic talent, financial need, good character, documented academic accomplishments, clear professional career goals in the arts, evidence of extracurricular activities, and evidence of honors (in school and from the community). We are proud to support students in furthering their education in all fields of fine arts.



Date: Thursday, May 15 | 11 am-1:30 pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45-\$150

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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SILK PAINTING AND TOUR OF ISLAND GALLERY

Roll up your sleeves and enjoy a medium that is full of surprises. Create a one-of-a-kind silk eyeglass case as artist Dawn Gerardot Putman demonstrates painting techniques. Then tour Island Gallery, full of one-of-a-kind art, photography, silk paintings, and other unique items by local artists.

Date: Saturday, May 10 | 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Place: Island Gallery, 456 12th Street West, Bradenton

Cost: \$30 for members/\$35 non-members



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Creative Portraits Playshop

Learn how to make creative portraits with your digital camera by watching, listening, and doing it yourself with help from Suzanne Havens. Use various types of lighting: continuous, flash, and moving flashlights. Experiment with lighting placement, intensity, color temperature, modifiers, and reflectors. Participants will take turns being the model, posing the model, dressing the set, lighting, choosing camera settings for different effects, and more.

Date: Saturday, May 17 | 10:30 am–3 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: \$100

REGISTER HERE.



MAY ART TALK

THE ART OF SEEING AND DEVELOPING A CREATIVE EYE

– DAVID TEJADA'S PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY

David X. Tejada shares his journey as a professional photographer, capturing raw moments from corporate and industrial assignments for Fortune 500 companies, as well as behind-the-scenes lighting setups. He'll take you through his time leading travel workshops around the world for *Popular Photography Magazine*, where he guided photographers to capture unique global landscapes and cultures.

Date: Tuesday, May 27 | 4–6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 non-members

REGISTER HERE





Please Tell Us What You Think

Later this month, you will receive a survey via email through which the board and team leaders would like to learn your thoughts and opinions about the activities of Arts Advocates. Your responses are very important and highly valued as we chart our future. You'll be asked about our programming, the timing of our events, and event topics. What do you want from Arts Advocates? What would make a membership more valuable and meaningful to you? This is your organization. Please complete the brief survey when you receive it so your feedback is included.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH



Barbara A. Ramsay, chief conservator of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, was our March luncheon speaker. On the screen is an image of two conservators working on the preservation of a painting.



Libby Hawk poses with one of her works during her show opening in March. "Revise Assumptions/Libby Hawk Paintings," continues through April.



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

Florida Studio Theatre

[Jersey Boys](#)

Sarasota Film Festival

[Film Schedule](#)

Sarasota Jewish Theatre

[Celebrating Nancy Roucher](#)

Sarasota Orchestra

[Celebrate John Williams](#)

Village of the Arts

[The Village in Bloom Art Walk](#)

Special thanks to the Observer Media Group for their media sponsorship of our 2024-2025 season!



save the dates

+ April 11

Salon: Private Lido Key Art Collection
11:30 am-2 pm

+ April 17

Luncheon: Peter Rothstein,
Asolo Repertory Theatre
11 am-1 pm

+ April 21

Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel
from the Art to the Stage
1:30-3 pm

+ April 29

Art Talk: Portraits Then and Now
4-6 pm

+ May 10

Silk Painting and Tour of Island Gallery
10:30 am-12:30 pm

+ May 15

Luncheon: Scholarship Awards Winners
11:00 am-1:30 pm

+ May 17

Creative Portraits Playshop
10:30 am-3:00 pm

+ May 19

Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel
from the Art to the Stage
1:30-3:00 pm

+ May 27

Art Talk: The Art of Seeing and Developing
a Creative Eye – David Tejada's
Photography Journey
4:00-6:00 pm