

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

What a year we've had!

Despite the pandemic, with your support, and the leadership of our Board, team leaders, and volunteers:

- We continued meeting online every month with outstanding speakers and resumed in-person luncheons in October.
- We awarded scholarships to nine deserving students to help them achieve their dreams of a career in the arts.
- In July we launched our first ever Gallery to display our unique collection of Sarasota Colony artists. It was a game-changing moment for Arts Advocates – we've attracted a whole new audience of people who now know that we have the pre-eminent public exhibit of works by artists, starting in the late 1920's, who quite literally were the foundation for Sarasota becoming the epicenter for the arts on the west coast of Florida.
- In October, we launched a program for our member artists to showcase their artworks in our Gallery. So far, we've been fortunate to have on view the beautiful paintings of Donna Karambelas and Dan Houston and, this month, Marjorie Sayer.
- Our members Cecilia and Richard Conder donated five paintings by the celebrated African-American Highwaymen artists. Diana Colson donated the model for the Doughboy statue that is located in J.D. Hamel Park in downtown Sarasota and we purchased five additional Sarasota Colony artworks. All are on display at our gallery.
- Arts Advocates will receive a 2021-2022 Opportunity Grant from the Arts and Cultural Alliance. The Grant will support our project to expand our membership in minority communities.

Our achievements are due to your hard work. BUT it takes money, too. Many organizations experienced a sharp drop in income this year, and Arts Advocates is no exception. Our gallery, our programs, and our scholarships cannot exist without your financial support.



We are in the middle of our annual fundraising drive. If you haven't already donated, **PLEASE GIVE NOW**. I ask that you be as generous as you can so that we can continue to fulfill our mission as an organization dedicated to inspiring creativity, advancing education, and connecting the community to the arts. We do this through sponsoring creative educational and cultural programs and awarding scholarships to students pursuing careers in the arts.

Thank you.

Jeannette Paladino
Jeannette Paladino, President



Our Scholarships Need Your Help!

If you have not already done so, please send your donation to The Fine Arts/Arts Advocates year-end fundraising campaign to the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, Inc., PO Box 1432, Sarasota, FL 34230. You may also make your contribution through our [website](#). Our goal is to fully fund our annual scholarship awards (\$25,000) and continue leasing the Arts Advocates Gallery at Siesta Mall (\$24,000).

Here is a video of our 2021 scholarship winners describing their dreams for a future in the arts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac5T4yx32Qs>

Please contact Donna Maytham for question concerning IRA Roll Over, matching grants or contributions of stocks/equities. Thank you all!

The Scholarship Committee is busy preparing for another season of applicants. The website has been updated and we invite you to visit and learn about recipients from last year. They, like their predecessors, are an amazing and inspiring group of talented young people. Just click on Philanthropy to find information on our scholarship program, past recipients and the current application. If you like what you see, consider a generous donation to the Scholarship Fund!

Our students have big dreams, but the cost of tuition is formidable. Every dollar awarded is deeply appreciated by the students and their families.

For the first time we will include a one-year free membership to Arts Advocates along with their scholarship. We are excited to include these young people in our membership and hope they will be with us for a long time.

Our application process has evolved to a fully online application process this year. We hope this makes applying easier for our tech-savvy applicants. It will also allow for applicant information to be easily shared with committee members.

We have room for a few more members to sit on this committee. We would love people with experience in the arts especially evaluating graphic art, music of all kinds, dance and writing. You must be computer-literate to manage the applications.

The Spring is the busy time for the committee, with review of applications occurring in March. If we are able to meet in person this year, there will be one or two opportunities to meet with each other. We look forward to having a congratulatory celebration in the Spring as we toast the success of our awardees.

*Deb Altshul-Stark/Tonya Eubank
Co-Chairs*

2022 Scholarship Committee Members:

Julia Groom, Lynn Elgart, Laima Garbonkus, Patricia Leeson, Carol Hirschburg, Barbara Long, Maureen Shea, Jane Sheridan, and Dale Sprintz



Not to Be Missed

Join Arts Advocates docent-led tour of the Tampa Museum of Art
Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

Our tour will focus on Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s–1980s, exploring mid-20th-century abstract art from North Africa, West Asia, and the Arab diaspora—a vast geographic expanse that encompasses diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

The exhibition is drawn from the collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation based in Sharjah, UAE. Inspired by Arabian calligraphy, geometry and mathematics, Islamic decorative patterns, and spiritual practices, the artists expanded abstraction's vocabulary—thus complicating its genealogies or origin and altering how we view non-objective art.

Comprising nearly 80 works, the paintings, sculpture, drawings, and prints on view reflect the wide range of nonfigurative art practices that flourished in the Arab world over the course of four decades.

You will also have time to visit other galleries in the Museum.

The tour begins at 11:00 am and will finish about 12:30 pm. Registrants will receive museum guidelines and driving directions. The Museum is located at 120 W. Gasparilla Plaza.

Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for not-yet-members.
THIS TOUR IS LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE

[Sign up on Arts Advocates website](#)



Autumn in Yosemite Valley, 1963–1964.
Etel Adnan (Lebanon).
Oil on canvas, 20 1/8 x 20 1/8 in.
Collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation,
Sharjah, UAE

Create Dazzling Note Cards

You don't need to be an artist to join in the fun at a workshop where you will create note cards for yourself, your friends, or even to frame. That's how beautiful they'll be.

Our instructor is Judy Cole, an arts and crafts teacher with over 20 years of experience. She will bring all the supplies—you just bring your creative self to the Arts Advocates Gallery.

You'll have beads, feathers, and other ornamentation to create your personal masterpieces. At the end of the session, you'll have made at least four note cards with envelopes to go with them.



Attendance is limited, so register now for this fun event!

Event Date: Thursday, January 27th, 2022
11 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Arts Advocates Gallery
Crossings at Siesta Key Mall,
Rte. 41 and Siesta Drive, Sarasota

(Use mall entrance next to Connors restaurant and turn left)

Members: \$15
Non-members: \$20

[CLICK HERE](#)
TO REGISTER 

OUR EXHIBITING ARTIST

From Russia With Light: The Art of Violetta Chandler

Works by Violetta Chandler will be on exhibit in the Arts Advocates Gallery from Saturday, December 18th through Saturday, January 15th. The gallery is open every Saturday from 2:00-5:00 pm.

Luxuriant or ethereal light and solid drawing combined with landscape, still life painting, and portraiture characterize the works of Violetta Chandler. Her color palette is in the impressionist mode but the application of thick pigment (impasto) places her as a French Romantic Realist.

Born on the Black Sea, Violetta is a fifth-generation artist, trained by her father Yakov Tsatskin. She graduated with honors from The Odessa State Institute and has a graduate degree in Teaching and Fine Arts.

Locally, Violetta is a member of The Plein Air Cottage Painters and in 2007 was granted The Florida Preservation Award for Historic Preservation.



A selection of artwork
by exhibiting artist,
Violetta Chandler

Save the Date

The Bay Park: Our 53-Acre Blue & Green Oasis

**The Bay Sarasota Luncheon at Bird Key Yacht Club
January 20, 2022 at 11:00 am**

We are so fortunate to witness the birth of what is sure to be the defining feature of Sarasota for generations to come - a legacy that will improve air and water quality, foster the physical and mental health of the community, increase property values, tax revenues and commercial activity, and serve as a social gathering place and center for arts and cultural programs.

The Bay Park, while long aborning, is well underway now. Visitors can enjoy the restored Fountain Garden and the new half-mile Mangrove Bayou Walkway. Additional features of Phase 1 include the Living Shoreline, the Sunset Pedestrian Boardwalk, and The Lawns. Community programs such as free concerts, yoga classes and eco-walks will soon be frequent events.

We are excited to hear more about the development of The Bay at our January Program Luncheon. Chief Implementation Officer William Waddill and Chief Experience Officer Jeannie Perales of The Bay Park Conservancy will be our guest speakers.

Bill Waddill is a certified planner and landscape architect with over 32 years' experience managing the design, public engagement, and implementation process for both public and private projects, including the Bradenton Riverwalk, Siesta Beach Park, Perry Harvey Park in Tampa, Babcock Ranch Town Center in Ft. Myers, and Baker Park in Naples.

For more than 20 years, Jeannie Perales has been designing and implementing visitor-centric engagement at museums and gardens, including The Denver Art Museum, the Ringling Museum and Selby Gardens. As Chief Experience Officer, Jeannie is responsible for developing site and operating strategies that deliver a positive, memorable experience for park visitors.

Sarasota will forever be identified with this magnificent "Blue & Green Oasis." Don't miss this opportunity to learn about The Bay from the team that is creating it.

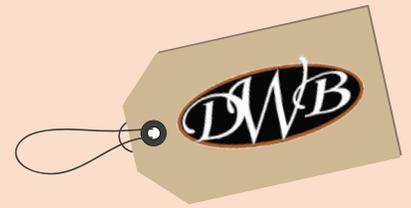
Sign up now at www.artsadvocates.org.

The Bay Park Phase 1



Sip 'N Shop December 9th

Sip a glass of wine and nibble on hors d'oeuvres with other members and their guests while you do your last minute holiday shopping at Designing Women Boutique. The shop will be open from 5-7 pm exclusively for Arts Advocates and their friends for an intimate holiday get-together.



Register at <https://www.artsadvocates.org/>



A large and lively crowd enjoyed our November exhibiting artist, Marjorie Sayer, in our gallery.

Arts Advocates New Offering!

THREE PUBLIC ART WALKING TOURS OF SARASOTA

Sarasota is a 24/7 Museum, with more than 80 pieces of public art that are free and accessible for everyone to enjoy. These works are found everywhere -- from parks to busy intersections, from the bayfront to downtown. Chances are you walk past public art every day without thinking much about it. Let's change that.

These tours, organized and led by art lovers Judy Levine, Stephenie Frasher and Nanette Crist, offer participants an opportunity to learn about Sarasota's public art legacy, individual works, and the artists who created them.

Tour 1 Downtown Sarasota Five Points Park Area

Date: January 14th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Tour 2 Downtown Sarasota City Hall Area

Date: February 14th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Tour 3 Rosemary District

Date: March 11th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm



Judy, Nanette, and Stephenie welcome you to the world of Sarasota's Public Art (Ballet Mural by Truman Adams)

The cost of each tour is \$28 for Arts Advocates members and \$30 for non-members. Reservations can be made on the Arts Advocates website <https://www.artsadvocates.org/>

Participants will receive an email with instructions about where to meet for the tours. Minimum tour size is 10 people; maximum tour size is 20 people. This is a GREAT outdoor activity to share with friends. If you are a step counter, you'll add them up.

Arts Advocates Gifted 'Doughboy' Sculpture from Colson Family

Sculptor Frank Colson's wife, Diana, and son, Sean, have gifted the organization with a 12-inch bronze sculpture of "Spirit of the American Doughboy." The statue is a replica of the life-size sculpture Colson was commissioned to create for Rev. J.D. Hamel Park in downtown Sarasota.



Veterans Day Display at
Arts Advocates Gallery

An Interview with

Andy Sandberg

CEO and Artistic Director of the Hermitage Artist Retreat,
who recently led our tour of the Retreat

Q: What is the purpose of the Hermitage Artist Retreat and why is it so important?

The Hermitage is a leading national and regional arts organization committed to fostering and inspiring the most culturally consequential art and artists of our time—spanning music, theater, literature, visual art, dance, and more.

The Hermitage is truly unique in our region in its commitment exclusively to the development and creation of new work and support for the creative process. Hermitage artists represent some of the most diverse and impactful voices of our generation—leading artists and thinkers from around the world who recognize the power of the arts to make a difference in our lives. Without artists, there is no theater... no music... no paintings... no film... no television... no novels.

Q: How does it add value to the Sarasota community?

The Hermitage offers Sarasota audiences a rare and empowering opportunity to experience performers, musicians, visual artists, writers, choreographers, teaching artists, and more who share their talents and their work in progress. What we offer is a unique look into the creative process and early development of works by notable artists from around the world.

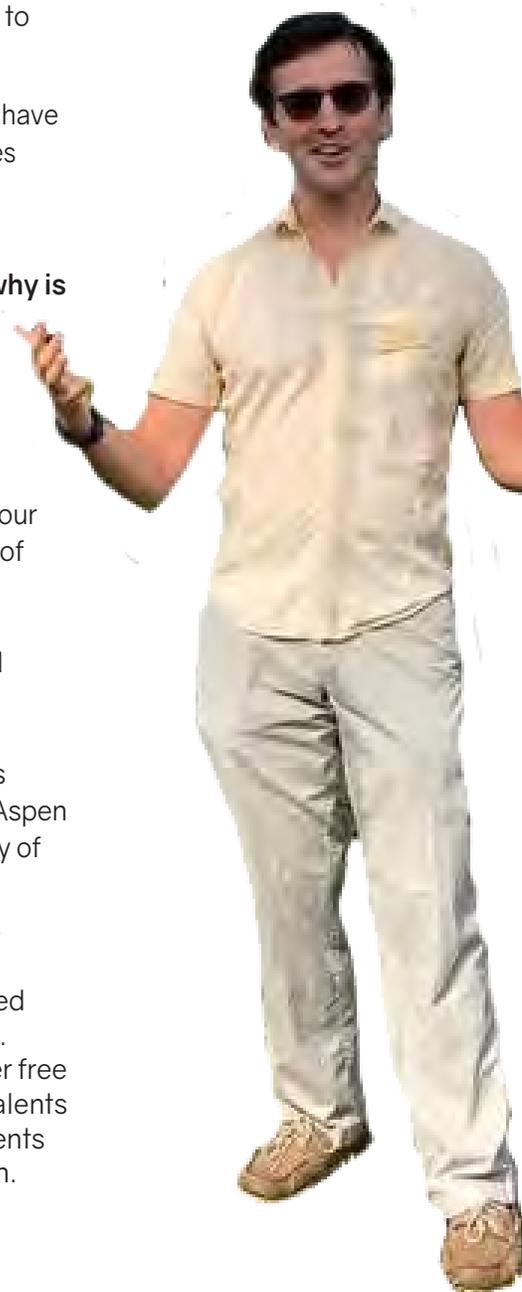
Last season, the Hermitage presented over 50 live events at venues across Sarasota County in addition to ongoing virtual programming that is available to audiences around the country.

Hermitage audiences and artists alike have frequently noted that these experiences have been a highlight of their cultural experience in our community.

Q: How are the artists chosen and why is the Hermitage different from other artistic residency programs?

Hermitage artists are selected for Fellowships by our Hermitage Curatorial Council. The Council of fourteen, separate from our staff and our Board of Trustees, is a rotating group of visionary arts leaders from across the country and around the globe. These are heads of internationally renowned theaters, museums, concert halls, galleries, and more. Past Hermitage curators have included artistic leaders from The Metropolitan Museum, The Aspen Music Festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Public Theater, and more.

The Hermitage offers artists a unique residency experience on its historic and iconic beachfront campus, located on Manasota Key in Sarasota County. Moreover, all Hermitage Fellows offer free community programs, sharing their talents and their work in progress with residents of the Sarasota and Gulf Coast region.



Q: How has the organization changed since you became the Artistic Director and CEO two years ago?

The Hermitage has been in a significant period of growth over the past two seasons, building on the organization's incredible history and launching a new chapter for the organization. We have significantly expanded our programming and partnerships both locally and nationally.

We are focused on expanding the reach of our artists, enriching and enhancing our relationships with our growing alumni base, building dozens of new collaborations and partnerships in our region, and championing the work of our artists. This has meant significant growth in infrastructure, including an expansion of our staff, finances, and databases, as well as enhancement and restoration of our nine-acre beach campus.



We have also introduced a new commission, the Hermitage Major Theater Award, which will annually commission an artist for \$35,000 to create a new work of theater. This is in addition to the Hermitage Greenfield Prize, which annually offers a \$30,000 commission, rotating between theater, music, and visual art—now entering its fourteenth season.

Visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org to learn more about Hermitage programs or to offer your support.



Richard Russell Luncheon

Opulence Delights the Audience



At our November program luncheon, **Richard Russell, General Director of Sarasota Opera**, gave us the inside scoop on how the company came to acquire 30,000 historic opera costumes. With the help of an in-depth PowerPoint presentation, Richard described the saga—how the owner of North America's largest collection of costumes came to trust Sarasota Opera's resident costume designer, Howard Kaplan, with his life's work and legacy, how the sale was consummated, and how the costumes were packed and shipped from Canada to be stored here in an air-conditioned warehouse.

They are now safely housed and will be used here as well as rented to other opera companies across North America, as well as film and TV productions. This acquisition will save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in rental costs and generate revenue through the rentals. A dynamic, charming and witty speaker, Mr. Russell captivated an appreciative crowd of Arts Advocates members and guests.



Our Growing Colony of Artists

Arts Advocates has purchased five paintings from William Hartman, Jr. by Sarasota Colony artists who migrated to Sarasota from the 1930's to the 1970s. The members have been recognized for their contributions to mid-twentieth century Florida culture and history.

The paintings include three works by members of the Petticoat Painters: Martha Hartman, Judy Axe, and Nike Parton. An oil painting by William Hartman, Sr. is in addition to his watercolor in the collection. We also now own our first painting by Wilfred, who was an active member of the Colony in the 1940's and 1950's. All are on display in the Arts Advocates Gallery.



Judy Shepherd Axe
Born Asheville, NC June 18, 1922
Died Sarasota, October 27, 2013
Skimmers, c. 1990s
Acrylic on panel
Framed 32 x 49 inches

Meet Judy Axe

Judy Shepherd took art lessons in Asheville, NC, and Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. She moved to Sarasota in 1945 to enroll at Ringling Art School. After completing her courses at Ringling she taught art at the Island School of Art in Key West. When she returned from Key West to Sarasota she married Charles William Axe and they subsequently purchased the Interior Design shop from Lillian Evans. They operated this establishment on South Palm Avenue for several decades.

Judy was the third member of the Petticoat Painters, founded in 1953 by Martha Hartman, who was a very good friend. They attended Ringling together. Axe worked in many media, becoming well known as an interior designer and artist.

Axe exhibited her work in national juried exhibitions, including the Southeastern Annual in Atlanta, The Butler Museum in Youngstown, Ohio, and the Ringling Museum of Art. She had one-person exhibitions at the Asheville Art Museum, the Longboat Key Art Center, and the Manatee Art League.

She and her husband Bill were active members of Selby Gardens and Bill was a long-time president of the Sarasota Orchid Society. They also were well known in the sixties and seventies for their participation in the Annual Beaux Arts Ball that brought the arts community together for a fun evening of creative costumes and conviviality.

Now More Than Ever **Year-End Fundraising Campaign**

If you have not already done so, please send your donation to

The Fine Arts/Arts Advocates year-end fundraising campaign to the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, Inc., PO Box 1432, Sarasota, FL 34230.

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