

## NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

### BIRD KEY YACHT CLUB

Thursday, November 18 | 11:00 am

## Those Opulent Opera Costumes!

Even if you're not an opera lover, who isn't enthralled by its sheer pageantry, including spectacular sets and magnificent costumes? Our beloved Sarasota Opera has recently acquired a treasure trove – a historic collection of 30,000 opera costumes, some worn by the likes of Luciano Pavarotti, Beverly Sills, Placido Domingo and Marilyn Horne. Our guest speaker at our November 18 program luncheon is Sarasota Opera General Director Richard Russell who will elaborate on this historic collection of costumes.

The company acquired the collection from Toronto-based Malabar Ltd., the leading provider of rental costumes to North American opera companies since the 1950s. Longtime Malabar owner, Luigi Specca, who wanted to retire from the rental business, offered the collection to Sarasota Opera due to his close working relationship with our opera company and its resident costume designer, Howard Tsvi Kaplan.

"Luigi trusted Howard and knew he would take care of the collection," said Richard Russell.

What does it take to maintain these painstakingly crafted costumes? "We are so conscientious about wanting to preserve the collection; it's as if we're storing museum pieces," Kaplan has said. Most of the collection will need a facelift to maintain the integrity of the clothes. Some are very old. "Like any archivist, you want to preserve your collection. When stitching comes undone



Richard Russell,  
Sarasota Opera  
General Director

or a bead comes loose, we fix it." Importantly, a new 50,000-square foot, climate-controlled warehouse is being built to house not only the collection, but props, sets and scenery as well.

Securing the costume collection was a feat that will ultimately save the opera company about \$100,000 in annual costume costs and generate rental revenue as the leading costume provider to opera companies in North America.

This is sure to be a popular program; sign up now at [www.artsadvocates.org](http://www.artsadvocates.org).

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again when we reach out to our members for our annual fund-raising drive. **"NOW MORE THAN EVER,"** the title of this year's campaign, truly reflects the impact of the pandemic on all the arts organizations.



We are a completely self-funded organization and rely on our members' generosity to sustain the organization financially. Our goal is to raise \$70,000 between now and December 31st. The money we raise through this campaign will determine what we can accomplish in 2022.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, we appeal to our members to make a generous donation and ask repeat donors to consider increasing their annual contribution.

**Last year we were able to award \$27,000 in scholarships. A donation of \$2,000 funds one scholarship.**

We are the pre-eminent conservator of Sarasota Art Colony art works. Expenses related to the new gallery are \$24,000 annually. A donation of \$2,000 funds one month in the gallery.

As our visibility and stature in the community have grown, so has the interest of people in joining Arts Advocates. We are delighted, of course. Now we must meet the challenge of financing our robust program of activities, our scholarships, and our Gallery. Thank you for your generosity in responding to our campaign.

On another note, it was wonderful to meet other members and friends at the first in-person luncheon last month at the Bird Key Yacht Club. More than 60 members and guests heard an inspiring talk by Vickie Oldham, President and CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Arts Center and History Museum. She documented this history in a book she co-authored called Newtown Alive and discussed plans for the new museum.

I look forward to seeing in you at an Arts Advocates program as we begin to meet in person again.

*Jeannette Paladino*  
Jeannette Paladino, President



# The Highwaymen Are Here!



Arts Advocates has received a generous gift from our Board member, Cecilia Conder and her husband, member Richard Conder. Five paintings from their personal collection, painted by The Highwaymen, are now on display in our Gallery. The reception to celebrate this gift on October 7th was filled with excitement and appreciation. We were introduced to the paintings by Cecilia, who conveyed her knowledge and passion for these unique paintings and the extraordinary artists who created them.



The Highwaymen were a group of 26 African American landscape artists, mostly self-taught from the Fort Pierce, Florida area, active from the mid-1950s into the 1980s. They painted on inexpensive Upson board or Masonite and made frames from crown molding. Because of the racial climate at the time, no galleries would accept their work. As a result, they sold their art door-to-door or from the trunks of their cars, often still wet, along Florida's eastern coastal roads.



Their renown grew internationally during the early 2000s, and the members have been recognized for their contributions to mid-twentieth century Florida culture and history.

**Julie Planck** was the lucky winner of the raffle drawing for a copy of an illustrated book documenting Florida's African American landscape painters.

We deeply appreciate Cecilia's and Richard's generous donation and invite all of you to stop by the gallery on any Saturday afternoon between 2:00 and 5:00 pm to enjoy this recent addition to our collection.

*Top left: Stephenie Frasher, Cecilia and Richard Conder  
Above: Cecilia Conder  
Left: Donna Maytham, Mark Ormond  
Marion Tillack, Jeannette Paladino  
Cecilia Conder, Julie Planck*

# Sip 'n Shop for the Holidays at Designing Women

Sip a glass of wine and nibble on hors d'oeuvres with other members and their guests as you do your last minute holiday shopping at Designing Women Boutique. You'll be helping Arts Advocates if you have presents you still need to buy while having fun.

As you know, Arts Advocates has a partnership with Designing Women as a member of its Groundworks program. We receive 60% of the proceeds from the sale of items that our members have donated. This supports our Gallery, scholarship programs, and other activities.

At our recent member reception at the Arts Advocates Gallery, you were incredibly generous in donating many items for us to bring to Designing Women: clothing, china, jewelry, decorative items and more. Thank you so much!

The shop will be open exclusively for us – from 5-7 pm on Thursday, December 9th. There is plenty of parking

and the store will be fully stocked and decorated for the holidays. It's like being in somebody's living room when you shop at Designing Women. It's so homey and beautifully furnished.

No program or speakers. Just a time to enjoy getting together with friends and maybe do a little shopping.

[So register today!](#)

## Event Information:

|               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Date:         | 12-9-21, 5-7 pm                 |
| Cut-off date: | 12-4-21                         |
| Location:     | <u>Designing Women Boutique</u> |
| Members:      | \$15                            |
| Non-Members:  | \$18                            |



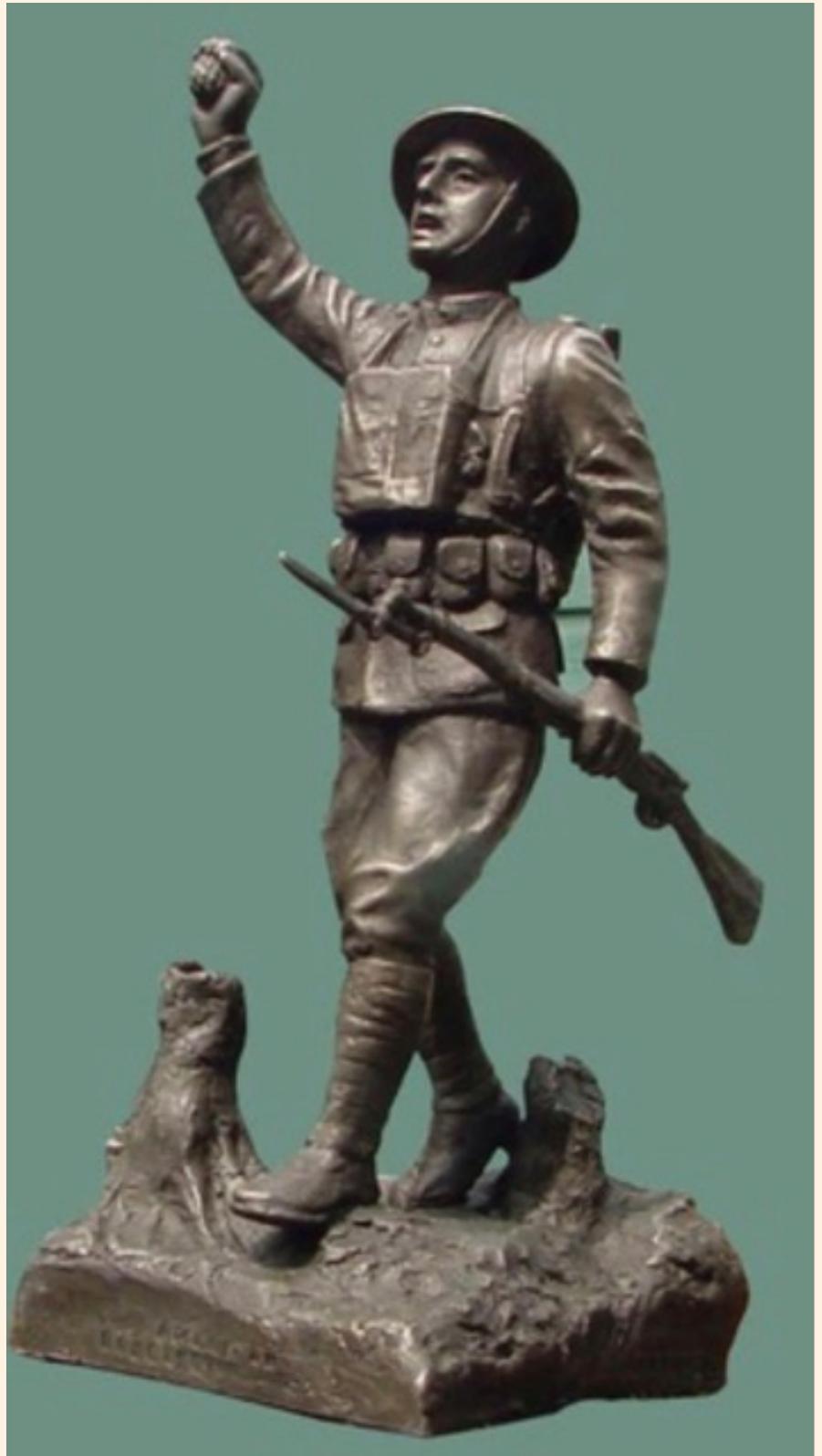
# Honoring Our Veterans

Arts Advocates is delighted that sculptor Frank Colson's wife, Diana, and son, Sean, have gifted the organization with a 12-inch bronze maquette of "Spirit of the American Doughboy," which is now on display at the Arts Advocates Gallery.

The statue is the model for the sculpture by Colson that is located at the Rev. J.D. Hamel Park at Main Street and Gulfstream Avenue in downtown Sarasota.

**To honor our veterans, the Arts Advocates Gallery will be open to the public on Veteran's Day, November 11, from 2-4:00 pm.**

Members and their guests are welcome to visit on November 11, or any Saturday from 2-5 pm.



# OUR EXHIBITING ARTIST

**Marjorie Sayer, member artist**, will be exhibiting her paintings in the Arts Advocates Gallery from Saturday, November 20th until December 11th. Her goal is to explore ways to experiment with the figure and landscape in different spatial relationships. She wants the figure to exist and be recognizable then gradually become more abstract through bold strokes of color and gesture. The result is human forms that seem to emerge then disappear.

Marjorie received her MFA from Cornell University with a semester abroad at the University of Florence in Italy. She studied for her Master's in History of Art at New York University and the University of Munich in Germany. She also painted at the Art Students League in New York. Her work has been exhibited in numerous galleries including Vermont Artisan Design, Cornell University and Art in the Park in Sarasota.

Please enjoy Marjorie's works on her website, [Marjorie Sayer Fine Art](#), and visit the Arts Advocates Gallery to see her art in person.



A selection of artwork  
by exhibiting artist,  
Marjorie Sayer



# Enjoy Our Fabulous Docent Tour



## Bring your friends and neighbors for a “Private Showing” at the Arts Advocates gallery.

Yes! You can bring your friends for an intimate look at the collection. You choose the time and date and we will accommodate. Several private tours have been held in the morning with the group then going to lunch following the tour. Connors Restaurant is right next door. Or book the afternoon and then go for Happy Hour.

The donation fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. We can host up to 16 people. Public tours are offered the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am. Learn about the Sarasota Colony Artists and our newest addition to our collection of Florida Highwaymen!

Sign up online:

[CLICK HERE](#)



or call **Stephanie Frasher at 443-454-2206** to arrange your special tour!



# Vickie Oldham Luncheon

## Newtown Alive on the Move

Vickie Oldham inspired the sell-out audience at our October luncheon at the Bird Key Yacht Club with her discussion of the important role of African Americans in Sarasota.

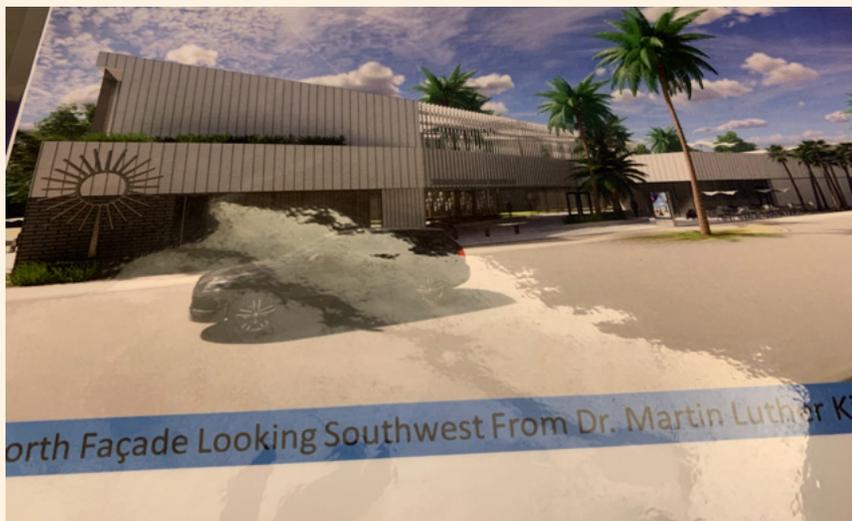
Since her return to her native Sarasota in 2016, she has spearheaded a project about the history of Sarasota's African American community. The result is [Newtown Alive](#), an exciting heritage tourism program that has developed historic markers, trolley tours, a book, a mobile app, a podcast, and a traveling exhibition.

In addition to her role as CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Arts Center and History Museum, she co-authored Newtown Alive, documenting this history. The book can be purchased on the [Newtown Alive Website](#).

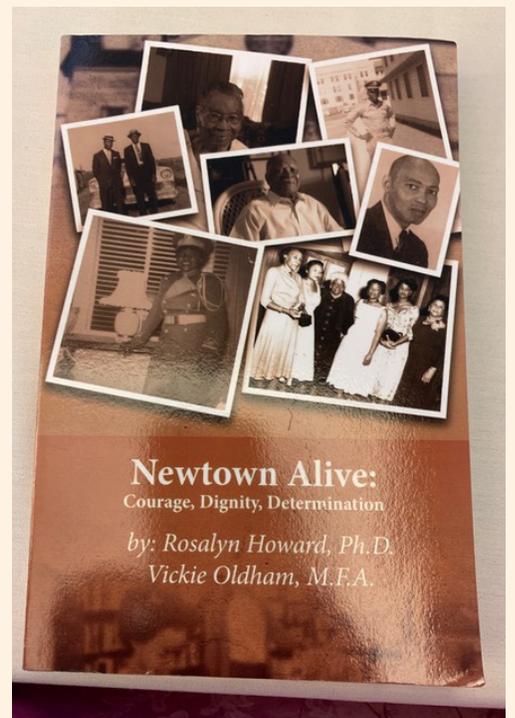
With funding from the city, the museum will be housed in the historic Leonard Reid home, currently located at Cohen Way and Seventh Street in the Rosemary District. It will eventually be moved to a nearly two-acre piece of property at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and North Orange Avenue in Newtown.



Melanie Lavender and Vickie Oldham



Proposed museum



"Newtown Alive" book

# Get Your Arts Advocates Name Badge

Proudly display your name on our Arts Advocates Name Badge. Let other members and guests know who you are at our next meeting. You can purchase your Arts Advocates name badge for \$10.17 (incl. tax) at Sarasota Trophy. Call them at (941) 921-4339. They will make the badge and then call you to pick it up at 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota.