

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

BOOKER HIGH SCHOOL VPA PROGRAM

with Greg Rumph and Booker High School
Visual & Performing Arts Program students

Join us for an inspiring luncheon with local artist and Booker High School assistant principal Greg Rumph, who will share his journey and passion for art alongside talented visual and performing arts (VPA) students from Booker High School. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear Greg's insights on creativity, his artistic process, and the stories behind his work including a series of jazz drawings he completed recently. The event will also showcase the exceptional artistry of Booker High's VPA students, celebrating their dedication and talent.

Don't miss this chance to connect with our local art community and be part of a conversation that highlights creativity and collaboration.

Greg has two paintings in the permanent collection of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, as well as in many private collections. Art Advocates also owns one of his paintings which is on display in our gallery.

His work has been featured in Sarasota Magazine, the Sarasota Herald - Tribune, Savoy Magazine, and others. His work was also recently featured on the PBS show, Arts Plus.

The lunch offering includes assorted meat, cheese, and vegetable wraps; fresh fruit; and dessert. This is an open-seating event.



Date: Thursday, February 20
11:30 am - 1 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

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

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

Here is a synopsis of the many wonderful events held in January:


Creative Liberties Studio, our January artists, opened their show on January 4 in the gallery. The reception was held on January 11 with an overflow crowd attending.

An art talk featuring Kathryn Chesley was held at the gallery on January 14 with 60 people in attendance. She discussed her "Life and Times Portrayals" of 10 historic Sarasota women including Mable Ringling, Bertha Honore Palmer, and Marie Selby.

Our January 16 sold-out luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club featured speaker Morris (Marty) Hylton III, president of Architecture Sarasota. He presented his organization's efforts to document, preserve and promote the region's built and cultural heritage. Beverly Burger was honored with our first "Volunteer of the Month" award.

Stephenie Frasher, in coordination with Ringling College's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), presented a sold-out talk in the gallery on January 17 on the topic of the Florida Highwaymen, "Pioneers of Art and Enterprise."

Looking forward to February:

Member artist Susan Klein's exhibition of magnificent landscape paintings,  "PLACES," opens Saturday, February 1 at 2 pm and runs through Saturday, February 22.

Rick Sanders' art talk, "Robert Chase, Sarasota Legacy Artist and Icon," will be held at the gallery on Tuesday, February 4, 4-6 pm.

Our February 20 luncheon will be held at the gallery. Our speaker is Greg Rumpf, assistant principal at Booker High School, who will speak about preparing the next generation of artists.

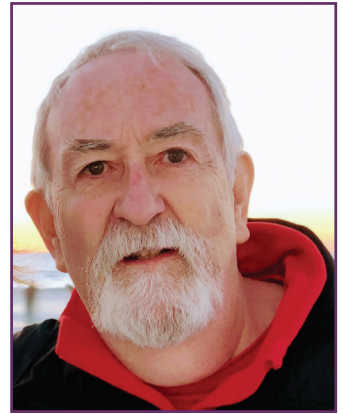
On February 21, Arts Advocates will hold a private tour of the Sarasota Opera House, 10:30 am-noon.

Join us on February 24 for a tour of the Van Wezel, "Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to Stage," from 1:30-3 pm.

Unfortunately, Marilyn Carminio's lecture about "The Many Lives of Romeo and Juliet" that was scheduled for February 8 has been canceled.

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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DONATE TO DESIGNING WOMEN BOUTIQUE THE EASY WAY

Are you attending the luncheon on February 20 at our gallery? If so, we have an easy way for you to donate a gently used item such as a handbag, item of clothing, or jewelry to the Designing Women Boutique (DWB) – simply bring it with you. Why? Because through Arts Advocates' membership in DWB's GroundWorks program, when your item is sold **DWB will donate 60% of the sale price to Arts Advocates.**

When we receive your item, one of our volunteers will deliver it to DWB and return a receipt to you so you can deduct the amount you judge the item to be worth from your income tax.

The funds we receive from DWB are used to cover expenses for the gallery as well as for our programs such as scholarships, exhibits, and art talks. So please check your closets and cupboards for that special item you no longer use – but that will delight a DWB shopper – and contribute to our mission of promoting the arts in Sarasota.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on volunteers to plan programs, serve as docents and hosts at the gallery on Saturdays, serve as board members and chairs, secure and hang member artist exhibits, and other tasks. During the January board meeting, it was decided to recognize a volunteer at each luncheon. Our first Volunteer of the Month is at the gallery almost every Saturday, provides flowers for member artist receptions, co-chairs the Hospitality Committee that arranges and hosts the luncheons at the Sarasota Yacht Club, and assists the gallery exhibit chair. When she isn't volunteering, she is maintaining the five acres surrounding her house. We are pleased to recognize Beverly Burger as the January Volunteer of the Month.



FEBRUARY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

SUSAN J. KLEIN “♥ PLACES”

AN EXHIBIT OF WILD AND SCENIC LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS OF NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY LOVED PLACES

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 1-22 | 2-4 PM
Arts Advocates Gallery

Award-winning artist Susan J. Klein was born in Dayton, Ohio, and now lives in Sarasota. She has been painting and exhibiting for over 50 years, consistently winning awards and recognition. Her painting career began with a B.A. degree in studio art from Youngstown State University. After earning a Master of Fine Arts from Kent State University, she taught at Youngstown State University and the University of Akron while continuing her painting career. During this time, she also owned and directed The Steel Street Experimental Gallery in Youngstown, Ohio, and reared three daughters with her husband, Al. Moving to Florida in 1990, she discovered the wonders of the Florida landscape in the imagery at Myakka River State Park and the beaches of the Suncoast.



Klein was inducted as a member of the historic Petticoat Painters in 2000. Trips to Europe and the American Southwest, along with national park artist-in-residencies, enriched and expanded her oeuvre. Her painting, “Clay Gully Creek,” was selected to be exhibited at the American Embassy in Rome, Italy, from 2001 to 2004; and the painting “Resurrection Fern” was displayed in Sofia, Bulgaria from 2008 to 2010, both as part of the United States Department of State Art-in-Embassies program. Klein was a recurring participating artist at the Grand Canyon Celebrations of Art, a plein air event. Klein’s paintings are included in prestigious public and private collections, nationally and internationally. She has several self-published books: National Park Artist, Artist-in-Residency Experiences and Full-Color Images of Paintings by an American Landscape Artist, and Myakka Chronicles, an Exhibition in Print of Over 130 Paintings Created Over 30 Years.



Everglades Apple

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.

ART TALK:

ROBERT CHASE, SARASOTA LEGACY ARTIST AND ICON

Robert "Bob" Chase was a remarkable individual whose life and work intersected with several notable personalities, including Marie Selby, Cecil B. DeMille, Charlton Heston, and Emmett Kelly. Bob, a World War II Air Force veteran, moved to Sarasota in 1947 to attend the Ringling School of Art under the G.I. Bill. For this art talk, we will interview Rick Sanders, Bob's son-in-law, who has taken on the responsibility of preserving Bob's stories, photographs, and artworks.

Date: Tuesday, February 4 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

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

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!

Tours are February 24, April 21, and May 19 from 1:30 to 3 pm. 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 Justin Gomlak, Van Wezel's director of education and community engagement, at (941) 263-6754.

Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/engagement programs.



ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Thanks to you, our generous donors, the annual fundraising campaign raised \$57,945 to support our mission.

PATRONS

\$10,000 and Up

Joan Endrizzi
Marian Storm Endowment Fund
Donna Maytham
Brian Stark & Debra Altshul-Stark

PRODUCERS

\$2,500 TO \$4,999

Patricia Golemme
Patricia Taylor

DIRECTORS

\$1,000 TO \$2,499

Community Foundation of
Sarasota County
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Laura Feder
Maureen Shea
Nancy Stukenberg

CREATORS

\$500 TO \$999

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SUPPORTERS

\$200 TO \$499

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Josephine Hennelly
Bob & Peggy Marcus
Jeannette Paladino
Sheree Pertile
Julie Planck
Nancy Roucher
Bill Rusling
Ed & Mary Schreck
Waddy Thompson

ENTHUSIASTS

UP TO \$199

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Anna Burke
Carol Camiener
Carol Darling
Betty Ferguson
Joan Fox
Judy Herman
Cosette Kosiba
Jim & Barbara Long
Donald Lockett
Darcy Sheldon
Wendy Gail Surkis



MARCH LUNCHEON PROGRAM

ART CONSERVATION AT THE RINGLING MUSEUM

Have you ever wondered about the painstaking process of restoring an old painting? Can you imagine the pressure you'd feel cleaning and applying paint to a priceless masterpiece? This, and much more, is the life's work of our March luncheon speaker, The Ringling Museum's Chief Conservator Barbara A. Ramsay.

The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art inspires visitors from Sarasota and around the world with its art, architecture, and antiquities. One of the museum's key responsibilities is the preservation of its historic architecture and collections. Art conservators identify potential risks and aim to prevent damage to works of art so restoration treatment will not be required. When intervention is necessary, conservators carry out detailed analyses, careful testing, and delicate treatments to help stabilize the structure of the pieces and improve their appearance in keeping with the artists' intentions. These specialists adhere to a professional code of ethics in all aspects of their work.

In her presentation, Barbara will outline the role of the art conservator and reveal details of some recent painting conservation treatments. Sign up now for this fascinating program!

Date: Thursday, March 20 | 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.



MARCH MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

“REVISE ASSUMPTIONS/ LIBBY HAWK PAINTINGS”

SATURDAYS, MARCH 1-29 | 2-4 PM

Arts Advocates Gallery

Libby Hawk's exhibit challenges norms about two- and three-dimensional art daring viewers to engage differently, slowing down the exhibit experience. She creates provocative abstracts on paper and canvas, vibrating with color and texture, at once subtle and bold.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.



ART TALK

LATE BLOOMERS: Contemporary Women Artists Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years

When we consider late bloomers we immediately think of Grandma Moses, who achieved artistic greatness in her 80s. Creativity does not turn off later in life! Judy Levine will present influential women artists still working into their 80s, 90s, and 100s, and discuss what keeps them creating and what are the impediments that stalled their artistic recognition.

Date: Tuesday, March 4 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers



[REGISTER HERE](#)



ART TALK

DIANE FARBER Collecting Contemporary Glass: A Passionate Pursuit

Art enthusiast Diane Farber attended annual art fairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, developing an appreciation for various forms of artwork. In 2005, a friend introduced her to a glass gallery which sparked a passion for contemporary glass art. What began as a casual interest evolved into a dedicated passion. Her collection is diverse and each piece carries a personal story.

Date: Tuesday, March 11 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE](#)



SALON

Diane Farber's Glass Collection

Following up on her art talk at the Arts Advocates Gallery, Diane Farber will open her home to Arts Advocates members for a viewing of her glass collection and entertain us with connections to and stories about the artists whose work she has collected.

Date: Tuesday, March 18 | 1:30-3 pm

Place: Address will be sent to registrants

Cost: \$50 per person

[REGISTER HERE](#)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH



Creative Liberties studio artists at their opening reception in January.

Left to right front row: Donna Bergman, Ava Young, Judy Levine, Debra Lambert, Dante Garcia, Henry Martin, Barbara Gerdman.

Left to right second row: Nancy Turner, Sheryl Taub, Emily Barr, Elizabeth Goodwill, Lee Oberlander

Kathryn Chesley and Stephenie Frasher during Kathryn's art talk, "Becoming Ladies of History."





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:

ArtCenter Manatee

[American Watercolor Society 157th International Traveling Exhibition](#)

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota

[Imani Winds](#)

Englewood Art Center

[Scenes of the Sunshine State: Florida Landscape Exhibition](#)

La Musica Chamber Music

[Spanish Journey with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center](#)

Tree Fort Productions

[These Shining Lives](#)

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



save the dates

+ February 1

Reception: Susan Klein's "♥ PLACES" Exhibit
2-4 pm

+ February 4

Art Talk: Robert Chase, Sarasota Legacy
Artist and Icon
4-6 pm

+ February 20

Luncheon: Greg Rumph, Booker High VPA Program
11:30 am-1 pm

+ February 21

Sarasota Opera House Tour
10:30 am-12 pm

+ February 24

Behind the Curtain Van Wezel Tour
1:30-3 pm

+ March 1

Reception: Libby Hawk "Revise Assumptions/
Libby Hawk Paintings" Exhibit
2-4 pm

+ March 4

Art Talk: Late Bloomers: Contemporary Women
Artists Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years
4-6 pm

+ March 11

Art Talk: Diane Farber – Collecting
Contemporary Glass: A Passionate Pursuit
4-6 pm

+ March 18

Salon: Diane Farber's Glass Collection
1:30-3 pm

+ March 20

Luncheon: Barbara Ramsay, The John & Mable
Ringling Museum of Art
11 am-1 pm