

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

### BIRD KEY YACHT CLUB

Thursday, February 17 | 11:00 am

## Conducting Your Way Through a Pandemic: Rehearsing, Podcasting, Educating

What activities fill up the hours of your week? For our February guest speaker, the days are consumed by rehearsing, podcasting and educating, even in a pandemic. And she excels at all of them!

Dr. Robyn Bell will tell us about how she and her colleagues in various performing arts groups navigated the pandemic – highlighting the differences between what professional organizations experienced versus what educational organizations experienced – and the invention of a platform that helped them all stay connected.

As conductor and music director of the Pops Orchestra of Sarasota and Bradenton, the Bradenton Symphony Orchestra and the State College of Florida Symphonic Band, she is known for her innovative thematic programming and informative, witty and entertaining audience talks.

Dr. Bell is also a distinguished music educator, serving as Director of Instrumental Studies at the State College of Florida.

Along with her teaching and conducting duties, she hosts a podcast called The Suncoast Culture Club, “your weekly dose of what’s happening in the performing and visual arts on Florida’s Suncoast.” The podcasts are filled with interviews, reviews, discussions, behind-the-scenes tidbits and insider info about music, art, theater and dance in our community.



*Dr. Robyn Bell,  
conductor and music  
director of the Pops  
Orchestra of Sarasota  
and Bradenton.*



Dr. Bell has a master’s degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Tennessee and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. She has received the Silver Baton Award from Women Band Directors International and the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association.

[CLICK HERE to register for the luncheon](#)



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to February and our return to in-person meetings. We will continue to evaluate our programming based on current information about Covid. You will be notified if our plans change and we need to move to online programs once again. I'm optimistic – but fingers still crossed!



Our Five Points Walking tour was a smash success with a waiting list and the upcoming tours are already sold out. Look for additional tours in the coming months and be sure to register early if you want to get in on the fun.

Our luncheon speakers in January – Bay Park Conservancy's Chief Implementation Officer William Waddill and Chief Experience Officer Jeannie Perales – updated us on The Bay's progress. They've extended an invitation to attend a series of free programs at the Bay that include musical concerts, sunset performances, yoga, and nature tours.

The Arts Advocates Gallery will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 5, from 2-5 pm and our member artist, Elisabeth (Liz) Trostli, will be exhibiting her works and painting in the window. The public docent tour is conducted, as usual, on the first Wednesday of every month. Plan to visit and bring your friends.

We are gratified that Dr. Sarah Pappas has donated two paintings by her highly regarded husband, George Pappas: "Greek Time" and "Beauty and the Beast."

*Jeannette Paladino*  
Jeannette Paladino, President



## Read Our Blog

Click on this link to read our blog post, "What Does a Curator Do?"

## The board of directors deeply appreciates the generosity of the following donors:

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#### ENTHUSIASTS UP TO \$199

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Karen Geck  
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Norman Meunier  
Nancy Roucher  
Elisabeth Rusling  
Annarita Scott

**Total \$61,879**  
**THANK YOU!**

# THE 2022 GIVING CHALLENGE

## YOU CAN BE A PHILANTHROPIST WITH A \$25, \$50 or \$100 DONATION

It's well-known that nonprofit organizations have suffered financially throughout the Covid pandemic. Arts Advocates is no exception.

Many of our programs that require in-person attendance have been suspended, depriving us of this income, while our expenses continue. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to create a strong financial footing when normal operations resume.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County will again this year sponsor “The Giving Challenge,” an online fund-raiser for nonprofit organizations, to be held from noon April 26 to noon April 27. Through the generosity of The Patterson Foundation, individual contributions of \$25, \$50, and \$100 will be doubled.



We will soon be sending you specific directions on how to donate, and we hope you will spread the word to friends, relatives, neighbors, and business associates. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Arts Advocates.

# EVENTS

## Newtown Alive Trolley Tour

February 16, 2022

Vickie Oldham, Newtown Alive Founder and Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition President, will take us back in time on this interactive, 2-hour trolley tour about the settling of Sarasota. Learn about black settlements along the Manatee River before the Civil War in Spanish-held Florida. Hear the songs they sang to keep their spirits high and their stories of courage. Snake-infested land was cleared by people of color for planting and harvesting in what is now Sarasota.

In 1884, land was plotted by an African American man to start building the infrastructure of Sarasota for land developers. This tour includes the history of Newtown. We will learn about the past, present and future, including an initiative to open an African American Art Center and History Museum.

Cost is \$45.00 for Arts Advocates members and \$50 for non-members.

The minimum to hold this tour is 20 people. Registration and payment are due by February 8.

Tour begins at 10 AM at the Leonard Reid House, 1435 7th Street, Sarasota, which is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Should this location change we will be notified.

After the tour, Miss Susie's food truck will offer an optional southern-style lunch for purchase.

Costs are about \$12-\$15.

[Register online.](#)



## Docent Led Tour of David Budd

Sarasota Art Museum, Tuesday, February 8 at 11 am.

Join Sarasota Art Museum (SAM) docents Judy Levine and Stephenie Frasher for a private tour of the David Budd exhibition. David Budd was a Sarasota Colony Artist.

### *David Budd: Motion Within Stillness*

Living in Sarasota in the early 1950s and new to painting, Budd was set on the course of abstraction after viewing Hans Namuth's film, Jackson Pollock 51. The film uncovered the acclaimed artist's approach to making art—all experienced from a canvas-eye view. Budd's experience of Pollock's process, which was spontaneous, gestural, and physical, became critical to his understanding of an artist's relationship to their materials.

Only three years after this initial observation, Budd was living and working in New York amongst Pollock and other Abstract Expressionists. Budd's fascination with the painting medium led to continuous evolutions of his practice—from wide-sweeping motions to short strokes; multi-colored to black-and-white. While other Abstract Expressionist artists posited themselves and their work as grandiose and heroic, Budd's intentions were self-effacing and focused on the potential and materiality of the paint itself—its richness, viscosity, versatility, and energy.

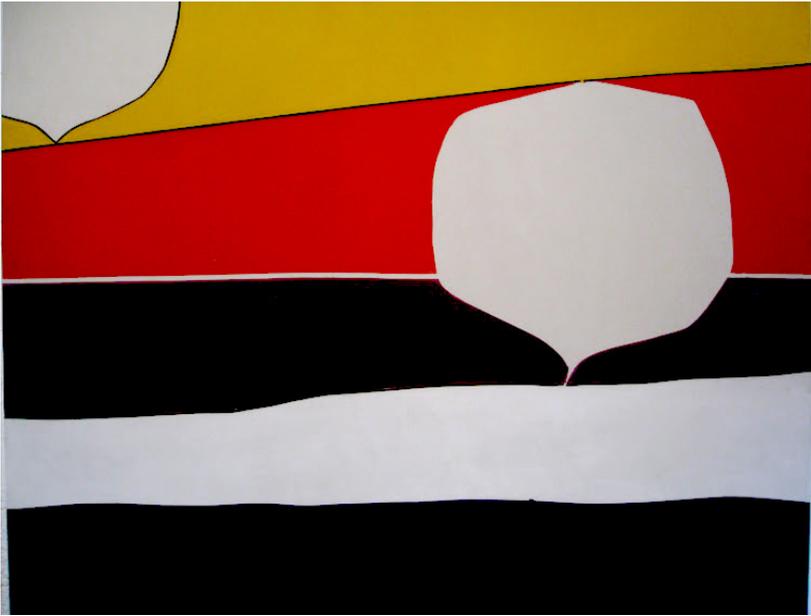
Cost is \$20. For non-members of Arts Advocates it is \$25.

Admittance to the museum is free for members of SAM. Non-members will also pay the museum's \$15 admission fee.

[Register online.](#)

# EVENTS

## Discovering David Budd: The Forgotten Abstract Expressionist – “IceHouse Show 2014”



The Session will be held in the Arts Advocates Gallery on **Saturday, February 26 at 2:30pm.**

David Budd, Sarasota Colony Artist, set himself apart from the Abstract Expressionists of the time. He created his own art, never imitated any of those well-known artists (Pollack, DeKooning, Rothko), and followed his own path.

Join Judy Levine and Stephenie Frasher as they present works from Budd’s “IceHouse Gallery Show,” held in Sarasota, in April of 2014. These photos, which have not previously been shown, were taken by noted Photographer Jack Winberg and Judy Levine. There are over 50 detailed shots in the collection.

The photos present a survey of Budd’s works, beginning with his early gestural style, and then moving into his signature style that we can see on exhibition in his paintings at the Sarasota Art Museum.

[Register online.](#) The session will be limited to 20.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

# WORKSHOPS *Join the fun!*

## Acrylic Pouring Workshop

Arts Advocates Gallery

March 22, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Join artist Sandy Koolkin for this fun workshop. Acrylic pouring, also known as flow art or fluid art painting, is a form of abstract art that uses acrylic paints with a runny (fluid) consistency. Layers of acrylic paint are poured into a cup, which then react with each other when combined to create organic free-flowing abstract compositions. When poured onto the canvas or surface, the imbalance of different paint densities creates interesting and visually stunning reactions.

Beginners welcome—no art experience necessary.

Must wear smock or apron.

Arts Advocates members \$25

Non-members \$30

The registration fee includes all supplies.

We must have a minimum of 10 registrants to hold this workshop.

[Register online for this workshop](#)

## iPhone Photography Workshop

Arts Advocates Gallery

February 28, 2022 | 1:00-2:30 pm

It's said that the best camera in the world is the one you have with you. And now, with the iPhone's increasingly sophisticated lens and editing tools, it is commonly used by professional photographers as well as by amateurs. In this workshop, you'll learn how to compose and take extraordinarily good photos and edit them to perfection. Topics covered include the proper iPhone settings and controls, composition, night photography, videos, and special effects. Just bring your fully-charged iPhone and an interest in learning how to use the remarkable photographic tool that you carry every day!

### *The Speaker*

Alan Freedman, a communications and public affairs professional, has taught how to use iPhones with skill and confidence to nearly 700 OLLI at Ringling College students, as well as lecturing at libraries and other venues. His courses include iPhone Photography, iPhone for Beginners and iPhone for Experienced Users. His most recent course is "50 Things You Didn't Know Your iPhone Could Do," an exploration of entertaining, productive – and yes – sometimes even quirky, features hidden in your iPhone.

Arts Advocates members: \$25

Not-yet members: \$30

Registration deadline: February 21

We must have a minimum of 6 registrants to hold this workshop.

[Register online.](#)



# MEET COLONY ARTIST NIKI PARTON

In 2013, an article appeared in “Home and Real Estate” that described artist Niki Parton’s home as “A clapboard house with floor to ceiling windows set on 130 feet of waterfront property facing Siesta Key’s Grand Canal.” As a plein air painter, she could frequently be seen from the water working at her easel with her German Shepherd resting at her feet. Here she had her own studio where she both painted and taught art.

Born in New York State, Niki moved to Siesta Key in 1955 after serving in The Women’s Army Corp. Previously, she had studied at the Art Students League in New York and at the Ringling School of Art. She became a member of Sarasota’s Petticoat Painters and was a founding member of “Art Uptown,” an artist-owned gallery in downtown Sarasota.

Her family remembers that Niki “specialized in scenes of old Sarasota such as buildings, bridges, circus tents and natural scenes at Myakka State Park, Lido Beach and the Celery Fields.”

She is best known for her vivid use of color and her ability to express Florida’s feeling of light and air. Like many artists, she found that the quality of light is different in Sarasota.



In a 1976 interview with the Herald Tribune, Niki said that “painting should involve looking at the deeper rhythms and deeper meanings in nature. Art is learning to see deeper and I try to show my students what nature has to teach and how to depict people in relationship to their environment.”

Art Advocates recently acquired a work by Niki Parton and this painting is included in the exhibit of Colony Artists currently on display in the gallery in Siesta Mall.

# FIVE POINTS WALKING TOUR EXPERIENCE



## Up Close and Personal with Downtown Sarasota's Public Art

by Sandy Williams

Wow! This walking tour, led by our own Arts Advocates experts, was a true eye-opener. How many times have you been downtown and never really seen our wonderful assortment of outdoor art? Well, we made some fabulous discoveries on a new walking tour created and led by members Stephenie Frasher, Nanette Crist and Judy Levine.

I was happy to reserve a spot on their inaugural tour of the Five Points area near the Art Ovation Hotel. The 90-minute tour was an easy walk (with rest stops) that included wall murals and sculptures, many "hidden in plain sight." Our guides offered interesting backgrounds not only of the art but of the renowned artists. Some of the artists are Sarasota residents while others live across the globe. I don't recall ever being so surprised and impressed with it all.

My favorite was the Palm Avenue Parking Garage! Did you know the elevator lobbies on each floor are magnificently painted with a different cultural theme, each by a different artist? Fascinating.

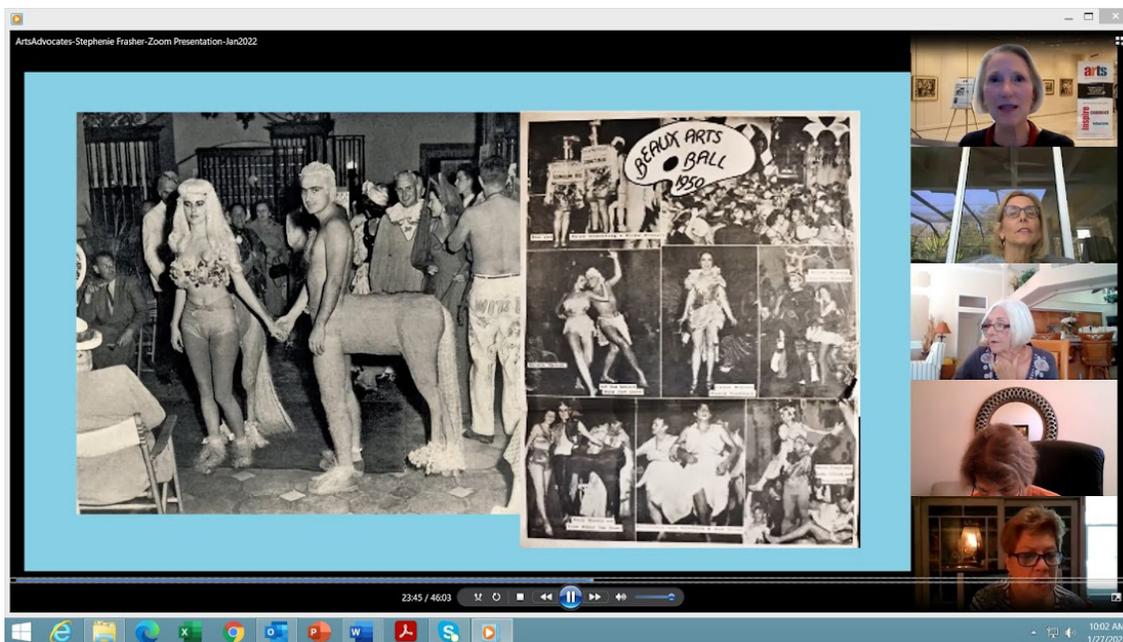
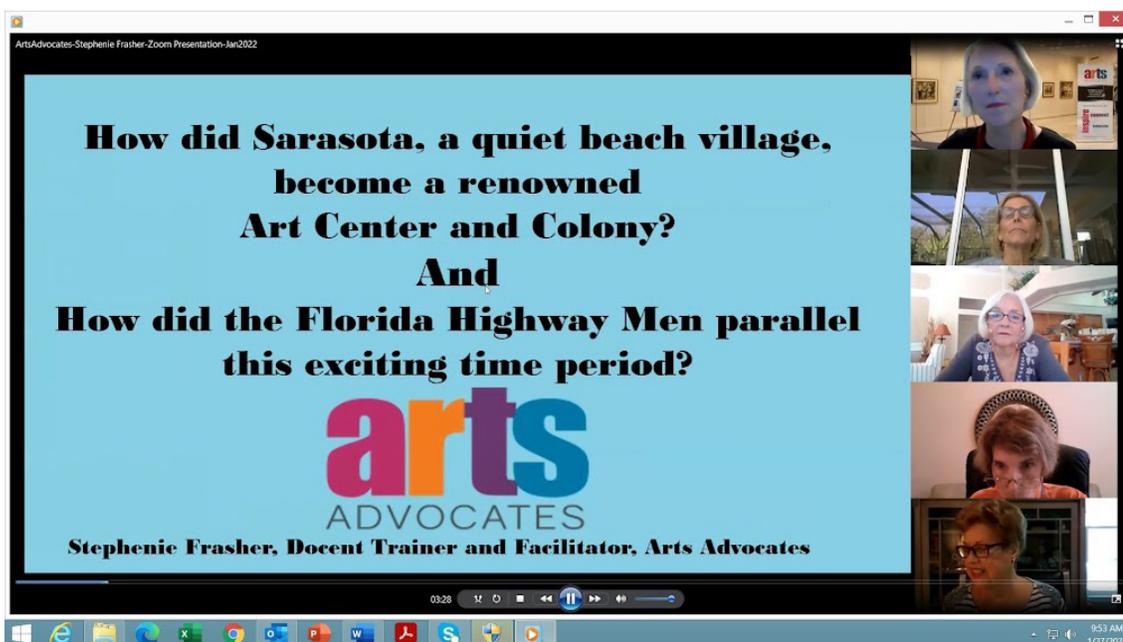
We are so fortunate to live in a city where the arts are so strongly supported, both publicly and privately. We are also fortunate to be members of an organization with so much talent.

# Welcome Club presentation

Free to members

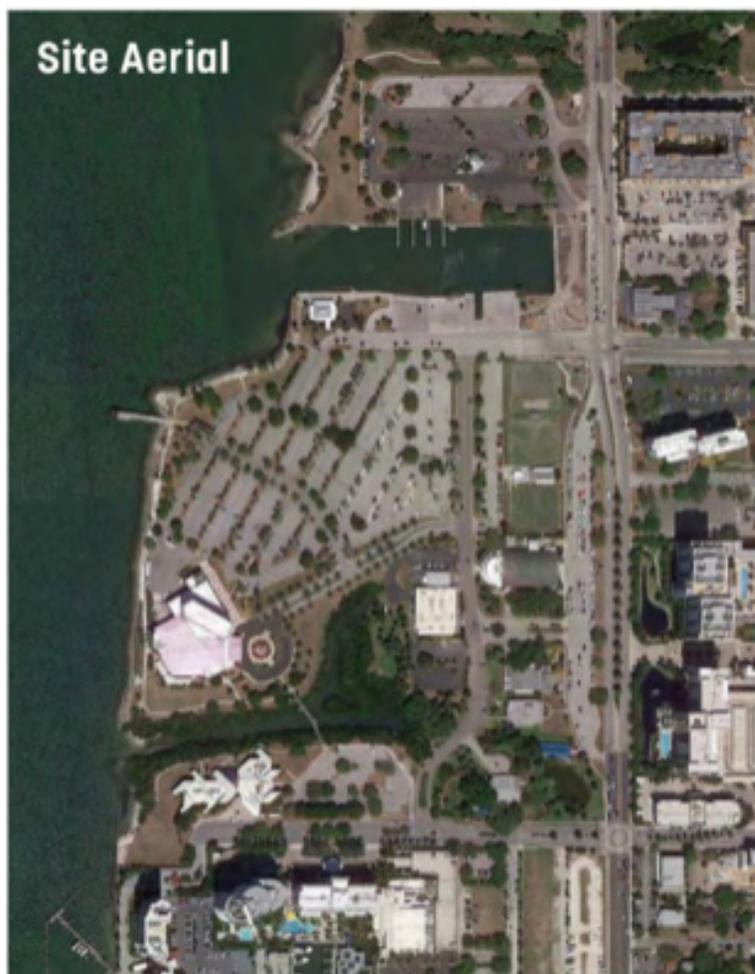
## Zoom recording for members

Stephenie Frasher, Arts Advocates' docent team leader, presented a Zoom session on the Sarasota Colony Artists and the Florida Highwaymen to the Welcome Club of Sarasota, on January 20. The topic was "How did Sarasota, a quiet beach village, become a renowned Art Center and Colony? And "How did the Florida Highway Men parallel this exciting time period?" The Zoom session was recorded and will soon be available for viewing by Arts Advocates members.

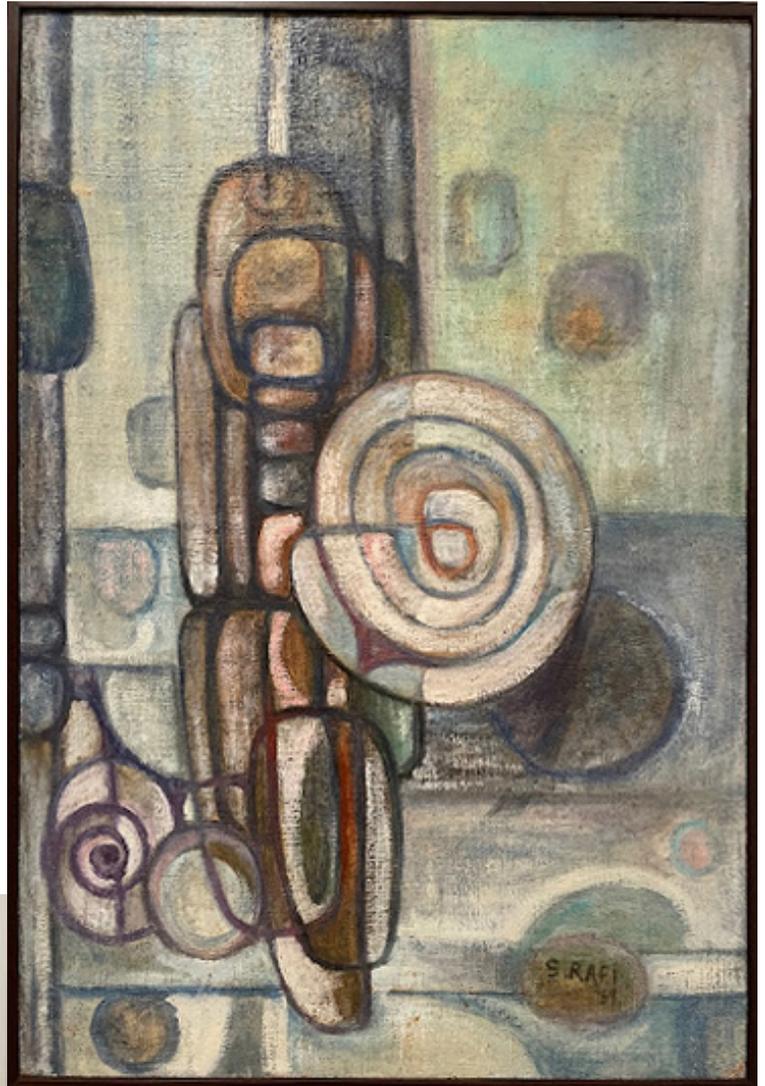


# The Bay Luncheon

Over 40 Arts Advocates members tuned in via Zoom on January 20 to see and hear about plans for the spectacular blue and green oasis known as Bay Park. Chief Implementation Officer Bill Waddill and Chief Experience Officer Jeannie Perales showed pictures of park features, some of which are already in place. “Arts and Culture” is one of three broad categories of experiences (think free concerts, plays and art exhibits) designed to draw people of all ages to the park. For further information, check out their website, [thebaysarasota.org](http://thebaysarasota.org).



# Tampa Tour



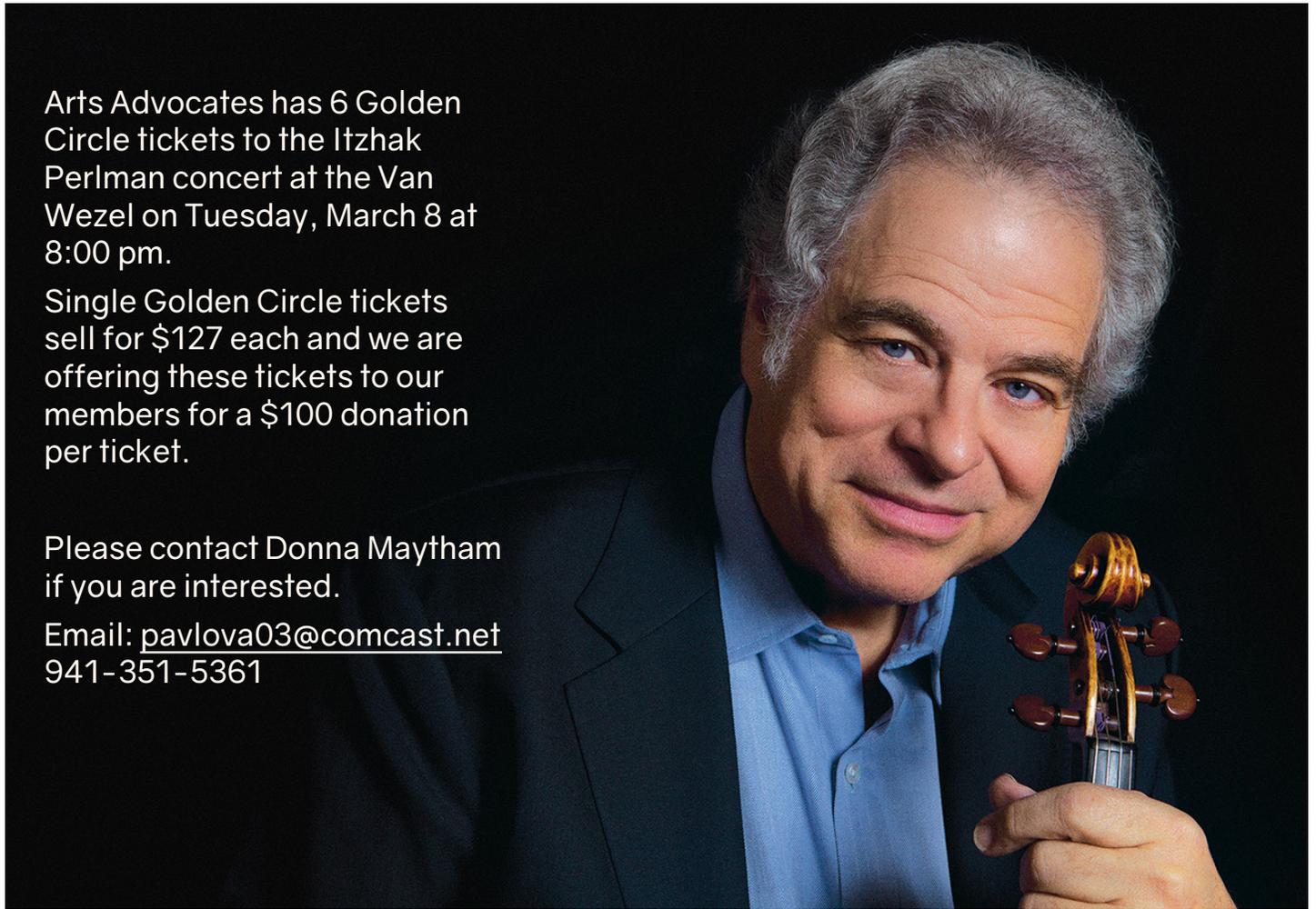
Jeannette Paladino, Teresa Kravitz and Barbara Hyde with their docent (in mask) at the Tampa Museum of Art tour.

Arts Advocates has 6 Golden Circle tickets to the Itzhak Perlman concert at the Van Wezel on Tuesday, March 8 at 8:00 pm.

Single Golden Circle tickets sell for \$127 each and we are offering these tickets to our members for a \$100 donation per ticket.

Please contact Donna Maytham if you are interested.

Email: [pavlova03@comcast.net](mailto:pavlova03@comcast.net)  
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