



DECEMBER 2024

# Join Us For Our Annual Holiday Extravaganza

This year's Holiday Bazaar will be held in the Arts Advocates Gallery on Saturday, December 7, from noon to 5 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to party in a festive atmosphere while shopping for one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list!

Get into the spirit of the season with complimentary wine and sweet treats. You'll find jewelry, giftable artwork, calendars, notecards and more – tons of treasures and creative keepsakes perfect for friends and loved ones.

This year we are thrilled to offer a silent auction of several fabulous pieces of art donated by member Judy Fiala from her extensive private collection! Don't miss this rare opportunity to own (or give) some exceptional artwork!

A promotional poster for the Arts Advocates Holiday Bazaar. The background is a light blue gradient. On the right side, there is a stylized illustration of a pink flamingo wearing a red Santa hat with a white pom-pom and a small blue heart on the side. The flamingo's neck is long and curved. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The title 'ARTS ADVOCATES HOLIDAY BAZAAR' is in large, bold, black, all-caps letters. Below the title, the items for sale are listed in red, all-caps letters: ORIGINAL ART, GIFTABLES, JEWELRY, PHOTOGRAPHY, CALENDARS, SILENT AUCTION, and SWEETS &amp; TREATS. The word 'ARTISTS:' is in black, all-caps letters, followed by a list of names in red, all-caps letters: JANET APPEL, LYNN COPPINGER, STEPHENIE FRASHER, DONNA GROSSMAN, JUDY LEVINE, ROBERT MANTEIGA, MARIE-LOUISE MCHUGH, HELENA POTO, ALLISON SMALL, ELISABETH TROSTLI, and DIANE VARINDER. At the bottom, the date and time 'SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 NOON TO 5 PM' are in white, all-caps letters. Below that, the location 'ARTS ADVOCATES GALLERY, THE CROSSINGS AT SIESTA KEY MALL, 3501 S. TAMiami TRAIL, SARASOTA' is in white, all-caps letters. The bottom right corner of the poster features a small illustration of a green wreath with red bows.

# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

As you all know, our primary source of funding comes from our generous members. This funding allows us to award scholarships; keep the gallery open; provide our members with a multitude of activities such as art talks, tours, and luncheons; and collaborate with other like-minded non-profit organizations. I would like to thank all our generous members who have recently donated.

I hope everyone had a very festive Thanksgiving celebration and enjoyed our great November activities.

On November 2 there was a standing room only opening of our member artist Robert Manteiga's exhibit, "From Street Photography to Street Art – A Photographic Journey."

On November 11 we held a tour of the Sarasota Ballet at the FSU Center of Performing Arts which included the backstage area and the costume shop.

On November 19 there was a very well attended art talk by Holly Freedman: "Listening to Women – The Origin, The Women, The Future."

On November 21 we held our 55th anniversary luncheon featuring Kathryn Chesley who portrayed Martha Hartman, artist and founder of the Petticoat Painters. After lunch there was

an auction for one of Hartman's original paintings which was donated by her son, Bill Hartman.

Looking forward to December:

We will hold our annual holiday bazaar with art, gift items, and a silent auction on Saturday, December 7, at the gallery from noon to 5pm.

Our December member artist, Frances Powers, will open her show at the gallery on December 7 as well, and her reception will be on December 14.

Stay informed by checking our weekly eblasts and monthly newsletters and remember to visit our website, [www.artsadvocates.org](http://www.artsadvocates.org), to register for events aligned with your interests.

With warmest regards to all, and wishing you a wonderful holiday season.

Bill Rusling

President, Arts Advocates



Bill Rusling, President

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## DECEMBER MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

# FRANCES POWERS

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 7-28 | 2-4 PM

Reception is December 14  
Arts Advocates Gallery

Frances Powers' work has always encompassed organic forms derived from nature. Living in Florida, with its abundance of flora and fauna, is inspirational for her work which can be either stylized landscapes, or landscapes that include architectural forms and flora and fauna.

Powers has been doing mixed media digital paintings for the last 20 years. A piece can begin with a photograph or a visual idea that evolves as a digital painting. The painting is done on the computer using Corel Painter and Adobe Photoshop. If using a photograph, she reworks the image to add, subtract and rearrange elements. Once a piece is completed on the computer, she prints it and uses colored pencils or oil pastels to complete the work.

The work in this exhibit consists of her flora and fauna pieces which are completed using colored pencils. These are more precise and detail oriented although not photo realistic. Even though they are colorful, they retain a softness made possible by using colored pencil. In this exhibit, she is also showing paintings done using oil pastels, which results in a more intense, looser, less realistic feel.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.



Two Vases

# POWER YOUR PASSION

When you are planning your Arts Advocates year-end donation, please consider including a note to designate your contribution toward funding scholarships, the gallery, programs, or any other aspect of our mission that particularly inspires you. As in the past, donations that are not specifically designated will be added to the general operating fund.

**Because of your generosity, Arts Advocates was able to award \$55,000 in scholarships, maintain our gallery space, care for the collection, and manage our operating expenses effectively and responsibly in 2024.**

If you wish to discuss using your donation as a match, donating stock, using your annual IRA distribution or donor advised fund, please contact **Donna Maytham** at **941-351-5361**.

We deeply appreciate your support.

## FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*"By far, the most valuable asset I am getting from higher education is human connection. I have met people that inspire me for their talent, hard work, discipline, sensibility, and immense ability to have fun with even the most tedious assignment! And once again, music has been the perfect channel to create the most beautiful moments with them. That is why I am so grateful for your support, for allowing me to live all these amazing experiences and create lifelong memories."* ~ **Maria Medina, pianist, Berklee College of Music in Boston**



*"My future education and career goals will put my experiences into action with a goal of making high-quality dance instruction a priority for underserved communities. In addition to a B.F.A. in dance, a minor in arts in the communities will provide a way to engage young artists in dance as an outlet to express their emotions and to build community. My hope is to provide "pop-up" classes in areas and schools of need and provide a language of dance to people who have never encountered it before or may not have the resources to consistently train. With the support of this scholarship, I am able to pursue the degree program I have set my sights on at Marymount Manhattan College in New York."* ~ **Emmalee Bunnell, dance**



*"The arts provide so much to our society, from music and dance to visual art, theater, and creative writing. The arts have helped me grow as a musician and as a human being. For as long as I can remember, I have dedicated my life to music, found joy in the arts, and promoted the reasons why it is so important for our society to appreciate the arts. I would love to continue advocating that for the next generation for years to come. Thanks to Arts Advocates for allowing me to pursue my dream at Stetson University."* ~ **Danae Tran, violinist**



## JANUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

# ARCHITECTURE SARASOTA: Transforming Places and Inspiring Lives

Morris (Marty) Hylton III. President, Architecture Sarasota

Sarasota, as we all know, has a strong tradition of supporting and celebrating arts and culture. Since the mid-20th century, the community has been globally recognized as an epicenter of innovative modern architecture and design, often referred to as the Sarasota School of Architecture. Our guest speaker in January is Morris (Marty) Hylton III, president of Architecture Sarasota. His presentation will explore the organization's efforts to document, preserve, and promote the region's built and cultural heritage.

Architecture Sarasota coordinated the acclaimed lecture series, Downtown Sarasota: Hindsight, Insight, and Foresight, that was cited by the city as a catalyst for launching a new master plan process. The organization is putting together a second lecture series and an exhibition documenting the history and evolution of downtown Sarasota and exploring challenges that will need to be addressed with a new master plan.



***“What we choose to preserve, adapt, and build will resonate for generations to come.”***

Marty Hylton has more than 25 years of experience documenting, conserving, and advocating for cultural heritage. Trained as an architect and historic preservationist, Marty specializes in collaborating with community stakeholders to develop strategies and programs to preserve and manage resources.

Sign up now to learn what Architecture Sarasota is doing to preserve our architectural heritage and define the future of downtown Sarasota!

Date: Thursday, January 16 | 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.

## JANUARY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

# CREATIVE LIBERTIES STUDIO ARTISTS

SATURDAYS, JANUARY 4-25, 2-4 PM

In the Arts Advocates Gallery, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

The 19 studio artists of Creative Liberties Artist Studios & Galleries will have their work on display. The artists represent many different mediums including painting, fiber art, paper art, jewelry making, photography, resin and printmaking. There is an opening reception on January 11 from 2 to 5pm. Guests can meet the artists, view and purchase their work, and learn more about Creative Liberties.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.



## ART TALK:

# KATHRYN CHESLEY – BECOMING LADIES OF HISTORY

Bertha Palmer, Marie Selby, Mable Ringling, Martha Hartman – these are but a few of the engaging presentations that Kathryn Chesley brings to life.

A theater educator, playwright and trained actress with a love of history, Kathryn performs “Life and Times Portrayals” of 10 historic women in full costume with many original artifacts. Kathryn will share with us how she develops each character, and the research required.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 14 | 4-6 pm

**Place:** Arts Advocates Gallery

**Cost:** Free for members/\$5 nonmembers

REGISTER HERE



## Behind the Curtain Tours at the Van Wezel Resume in January

We are pleased to announce the Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage tours will resume in January. These guided tours provide a closer look at the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel, and a peek behind the curtain along with stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

**Tours are January 13, February 24, April 21, and May 19 from 1:30 to 3pm.** 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.





Stephenie Frasher and guest speaker Holly Freedman had a very successful presentation of the art talk “Listening to Women: The Origin, The Women, The Future.” The image on the screen shows the 80 women who have participated in OLLI at Ringling College’s Listening to Women series since its inception in 2019.

There was a huge turnout for the opening of Robert Manteiga’s November exhibit, “From Street Photography to Street Art – A Photographic Journey.”



Judy Fiala, Jerome Chesley and Kathryn Chesley take a moment for a photo during our November luncheon celebrating our 55th anniversary. Kathryn was the guest speaker, presenting her original Life and Times portrayal of painter Martha Hartman.



Arts Advocates member Laura Feder was the lucky high bidder for Martha Hartman’s original painting, “Windows,” during our November luncheon.



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

## Art Center Sarasota

[December Exhibits](#)

## Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota

[James Ehnes and Friends](#)

## Hermitage Artist Retreat

[Cross Arts Collaborative: Opera and Theater](#)

## Ringling Museum of Art

[Holiday Splendor](#)

## Venice Theater

[Venice Laughs](#)

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



# save the dates

## + December 7

Holiday Bazaar  
12-5 pm

## + December 7-28

Frances Powers' Exhibit  
Saturdays only 2-4 pm

## + December 14

Frances Powers Reception  
2-4 pm

## + January 4-25

Creative Liberties Studio Artists Exhibit  
Saturdays only 2-4 pm

## + January 11

Creative Liberties Studio Artists Reception  
2-5 pm (*note special end time*)

## + January 13

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

## + January 14

Art Talk: Kathryn Chesley – Becoming Ladies of History  
4-6 pm

## + January 16

Luncheon: Morris (Marty) Hylton III, Architecture Sarasota  
11 am-1 pm