

FEBRUARY MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Friday, February 14, 2020
Bird Key Yacht Club

Time:	9:30 -10:15	Business Meeting
	10:15 -10:30	Coffee
	10:30 -11:30	Program
	11:30	Break
	11:45	Lunch

Menu:

Pork Tenderloin Medallions with
Mushroom Cream Sauce, Steamed
Asparagus, Yukon Gold Potatoes
or

Pasta Primavera with
Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce

Rolls and Butter

Dessert - Peach Cobbler à la Mode

Cost: \$29 includes tax and tip.

Deadline for reservations is
February 7, 2020.

To register for lunch, go to:
www.artsadvocates.org

*(Please note: Our special luncheon
guest will be Cheryl Mendelson,
CEO of the Van Wezel Foundation.)*

valentine's day "songs of love"



John Miller



Jonathan Spivey

As a treat for Arts Advocates this year, our February meeting will be held on FRIDAY, February 14th! A Dynamic duo from the Sarasota Orchestra has arranged to entertain us with a very special program of love songs.

John Miller, Principal Bass, has performed as a soloist with orchestras in New York and Florida. He regularly performs with a variety of jazz groups, and is the leader of the Sarasota Jazz Ensemble. Over the years Mr. Miller has also made several recordings. As a member of the New World Symphony in Miami he has performed in Japan, the UK and Costa Rica.

Jonathan Spivey, resident pianist of the Sarasota Orchestra, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance, and is a national finalist in the Music Teachers' National Association Auditions. His concert appearances besides Florida include Long Island, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in NYC, Norway, Sweden, and Korea. Dr. Spivey has been the pianist for the New Artists Piano Quartet of the West Coast Symphony, a founding member of a trio in Tampa, and is on the associate piano faculty of the Sarasota Music Festival.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT THE PERFECT PLACE



PLEASE NOTE: The following article is longer than intended but I hope that as you read you will bear with us in order to gain a better understanding of why we would even consider relocating our Collection. There are many factors involved, a number of which are outside of our control, but, as ever, a challenge is also an opportunity.

THE COLLECTION

For more years than we can remember, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall has been the perfect place to exhibit our wonderful art collection. Aside from the fact that we have never been able to make clear to the public that the works are the property of The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, we have enjoyed a productive collaboration and partnership with the Van Wezel. We shared the cost of promotional materials, the backstage portion of the tours helped draw the public in to enjoy our Collection and only an annual \$5,000 sponsorship of the Van Wezel was required. What could be better?

We could not foresee that as the Van Wezel changed direction their relationship with us also might change. If the Van Wezel does not perceive a benefit to housing our Collection, then what is their incentive to collaborate?

THE NEW PERFORMING ARTS HALL/THE BAY

When considering long term plans, we met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Van Wezel Foundation and she confirmed that there is no exhibit space in the new complex for our Collection. She did propose that they would be interested in our organization donating funds for a substantial sculpture or painting to be displayed in the foyer or another prominent place.

Some members have suggested that providing a major sculpture or sculptures for The Bay is another opportunity we need to consider as the bequest does not designate where the art we purchase must be exhibited.

A STRATEGIC SHIFT AT THE VAN WEZEL

Meanwhile, there have been changes at the Van Wezel that inadvertently impact our tours. The Van Wezel is city owned and is a profit-making venture. As a result, the venue has increased the number of big Broadway musicals and engaged popular entertainers that require larger and more complicated sets, lighting and scenery. It sometimes takes more than a day to "load in." The result? Almost no backstage tours!

With a decline in backstage tours, our entire relationship with the Van Wezel has changed. Since the tours do not benefit them, they are no longer interested in sharing promotional costs with Fine Arts and, as a result, there is less incentive to collaborate and less incentive for visitors to take only the art portion of the tours.

The Van Wezel Foundation has a number of days when school children attend performances. It is the law that when school children are present other persons may not enter the theatre. On these days, we risk having our tour guests turned away at the door.

Booking one of our Art Tours is increasingly challenging. The Van Wezel Box Office does not take tour reservations but only refers callers to an individual administrator who directs visitors to "just show up" on the appropriate Monday. In the event that this intermediary is not available, it is almost impossible to reserve a tour or, for that matter, gain entrance to the theatre. Adequate access to the Van Wezel is not ever assured.

THE BEQUEST

When we received the more than \$1,000,000 bequest from Barbara Hintzpeter exclusively for the purchase of art, we knew that this gift would be transformative. We could not foresee just how our organization would change. We soon learned that everything was about to change! For example, overnight we became a large corporation with over \$1,400,000 in assets. Also, when Fine Arts engaged a professional appraiser, she concluded that we are out of wall space at the Van Wezel and that we should store or sell some of our art.

She recommended that, to do justice to the more than 50 works currently displayed, we need to consider storing some works and rotating them in and out of the exhibit. She stressed that we would benefit from capitalizing on our artists from "The Colony" or as she called it "The Sarasota School of Art". This shift would require regrouping the works in a more thematic arrangement.

Additional funds are required to implement these suggestions and none of these costs may be absorbed by the bequest. We must properly maintain our Collection and many of our most important works need improved lighting. The Collection Committee is currently researching the cost of lighting, exploring what would be involved in installation and permission to proceed with the project. We have learned that engaging professionals to move and hang art is an expensive proposition.

COLLECTION STRATEGIC PLAN

Linda Bruemmer is currently leading a committee charged with creating a strategic plan for the Collection. In this article, we have only touched on the many variables the committee is discussing including the estimated rising sea level (The Grand Foyer of the Van Wezel is beneath sea-level) and the possible repurposing of the Van Wezel. We have asked the Committee to dig deeper into redefining the Collection's vision and mission, explore other exhibit venues and engage in creative thinking about the future of our Collection.

Additional information will be forthcoming but meanwhile we welcome your recommendations, questions and comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna C. Maytham".

Donna C. Maytham, President

speaking of the arts....



February 27 • 7:00 p.m
Art Ovation Hotel
1255 N. Palm Avenue, Sarasota

It's almost ready! The world premiere of *Knoxville* is being developed right now at Asolo Rep. It is a coming of age story, based on James Agee's Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiographical novel *A Death in the Family*. Three of Broadway's celebrated collaborators are working on it – Tony Award Winning **Lynn Ahrens** (lyricist), Stephen Flaherty (music) and Director Frank Galati. This team is a reprise of the trio responsible for the Tony Award winning *Ragtime*.

The play takes place in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1915. Jay Follett stands with his son Rufus on a hill, watching the trains travel through the quiet night below and teaching him about life. When an unexpected turn of events leaves Rufus' family spinning, he and his mother Mary embark on a journey through the mysteries of life and death, faith and doubt, in order to come to terms with what they have lost and what they have found.

How do you create the mood, capture the characters, and advance the narrative of this kind of story? What effective lyrics do you use? What is the process for creating songs that reflect the drama happening on the stage? Come to the next **Speaking of the Arts....** and get the answers to these questions and more.

Lynn Ahrens will be in conversation with Celine Rosenthal, Associate Artistic Director at Asolo Rep, at our next **Speaking of the Arts....** on **February 27** at **Art Ovation Hotel**. The cash bar and socializing start at 6 and the conversation starts at 7.

Lynn Ahrens has garnered Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her unforgettable lyrics and has been nominated for two Academy Awards and Golden Globes and Four Grammy Awards.

The James and Maryann Armour Family Foundation has generously agreed to fund this conversation with Lynn Ahrens. **Speaking of the Arts....** and Arts Advocates are indebted to the Armour family for their kindness.

The poster features a portrait of Lynn Ahrens on the left. To the right, the text reads: "SPEAKING OF THE ARTS PRESENTS A CONVERSATION WITH LYNN AHRENS". Below this, it says "Asolo's Celine Rosenthal will talk with Broadway's Lynn Ahrens about:" followed by a list: "• Inspiration", "• Collaboration", "• Creation". Further down, it states "As they design the new musical Knoxville, opening April 10 at Asolo Rep". Ticket information is provided: "Tickets/more info: artsadvocates.org/ahrens or 941.330.0680" and "Cash Bar 6:00 pm • Program 7:00 pm". A price list is shown in a black box: "\$50 Arts Advocates members", "\$60 Non-members", "\$100 Preferred seating/ champagne reception". The Art Ovation Hotel logo is at the bottom right, and the text "The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, Inc." is at the bottom center.

Go to the Arts Advocates website to buy your tickets. Members and their guests can buy tickets for \$50; Non-Members for \$60 and Patrons for \$100, which includes a champagne reception with Lynn Ahrens and Celine Rosenthal.

Suzanne Weitz

workshops and educational tours

February and March 2020

To see a full description of each event, please go to the website, click on registration, scroll down to the event you would like to view and click on "Details."

Tour of the Sarasota Art Museum - Annemarie Russell WAITLIST

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 02-05-2020

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

40 Members and Guests | \$25

**Optional lunch after tour*

Intentional Creative Painting Workshop - Donna Papenhausen

FEBRUARY

Thursday 02-27-2020

1:00 - 3:00 pm

10 Members and Guests | \$45

The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art

MARCH

Tuesday 03-03-2020

Tour: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

30 Members and Guests | \$35

Tours of Ringling College of Art and Design

MARCH

Wednesday 03-25-2020

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

20 Members | \$30

Photographing Your Art for Sale or Shows - Linda Bock-Hinger

MARCH

Tuesday 03-31-2020

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

40 Members | \$30



2019 FUNDRAISING REPORT

In 2019, Arts Advocates raised \$73,585. Over 50 members contributed and every member of the Board of Directors made a donation. We received our first donation from a corporation, Cumberland Advisors, and the largest gift ever received from a private foundation, The Maryann and James Armour Family Foundation. This sets new records.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our many generous donors and give special recognition to members making leadership gifts of \$500 or more:

The James and Maryann Armour Family Foundation, Martha Ballard, Kristine Bundrant, Cynthia Burnell, Cumberland Advisors, Joan and Fred Endrizzi, Tonya Eubank, Kris Gardel, Carol Kopeck, Katherine and Frank Martucci, Donna Maytham, Sarah Skebba and Michael Bernstein, Dennis and Julie Smith (in honor of Dean Mitchell), Deborah Altshul-Stark, Nancy and Wes Stukenberg, Edris Weiss and Suzanne Weitz.

Special thanks to new member Waddy Thompson, author and formerly Director of Development at the Whitney Museum in New York, Marjorie Floyd of Sarasota's Strategic Marketing, Norman Meunier, Cynthia Burnell and Betty Ferguson, Arts Advocates.

We also want to express our appreciation to Sarah Skebba and Michael Bernstein for hosting our first donor Sunday Brunch.

itzhak perlman in recital

Arts Advocates are supporting the Itzhak Perlman performance at the Van Wezel on Saturday, March 21 at 8 PM. Come and hear this master violinist in concert!



We have ten tickets for the performance, located in Row 14.

Arts Advocates will accept a donation of \$100 per ticket for this stellar event. You will also get a chance to meet Itzhak Perlman in an after-the-concert reception.

Contact Suzanne Weitz (suzanneweitz@aol.com) to reserve your ticket.



- The Speaking of The Arts...committee worked straight through the New Year's weekend to prepare ads for the February 27 Program Book. Our ads will be displayed at the Burns Court and Lakewood Ranch Theater as well as at the Urbanite Theater performances. Hat's off to Suzanne Weitz, Bo Galford and Barbara Blackburn.
- Welcome to our new Finance Committee members: Joan Endrizzi, Martha Ballard, Cynthia Burnell, Tonya Eubank, Marilyn Richey, Louise Tesmer and Marjorie Floyd our non-profit consultant.
- The Collection Strategic Planning Committee is making great progress under the leadership of Linda Bruemmer. This Committee is currently searching for possible new space or spaces to exhibit our wonderful Collection. Linda has arranged for docents from The Ringling to tour our Collection at the Van Wezel and then be invited to participate in Focus Group sessions where we can benefit from their comments.
- Congratulations to Jerry Chesley for displaying his talents at the Art Ovation Hotel. Also, thanks to Jerry and Vern Weitz for finalizing purchase of the Dean Mitchell paintings.
- Kudos to Tonya Eubank, Liz Trostli and Mark Muse for providing all of these fascinating Member Activities. I know of no other organization that offers its members such a wide range of choices!

save the date

+ February 5

Tour of Sarasota Art Museum
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

+ February 14

Member Meeting and Luncheon
9:30 am - 12:45 pm

+ February 27

Intentional Painting Workshop
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

+ February 27

Speaking of the Arts...
7:00 pm

SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS!

**Thursday, May 21st,
10:30 - 11:30 am**

Bird Key Yacht Club

Please join us to experience the exceptional talent of our 2020 Arts Advocates' Scholarship recipients.

Arts Advocates is justly proud of helping these young artists continue their education and embark on careers in the arts. This very popular annual program will provide the opportunity for you to enjoy the remarkable talent that earned these deserving students our support.

We ask that you consider sponsoring a lunch for one or more scholar(s) and/or parent(s). You may indicate the number of these special guests you will sponsor on your registration form (instructions will be included on the registration form).

Early reservations are suggested. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce prospective members to Arts Advocates.

take note

- On Tuesday, February 25 at 9:30 am at the Arts and Cultural Alliance Building, international consultant Ken Polotan will facilitate a day-long workshop that will include lunch. Ken will lead us through discussions about how to thrive in the digital age. To register for this workshop please contact Donna Maytham at Donna@artsadvocates.org.



Arts Advocates members enjoyed a fascinating presentation by author Charlotte Perret at the January 16 General Meeting. Her talk detailed the lives of Carnival families who were masterful creators of the astonishing Parisian street phenomena of 1900.

WEB UPDATE:



We've had a few bugs in the artsadvocates.org "Shopping Cart" since it was launched last month. While we've made adjustments, it's not performing as we'd like and was taken down from the website. For the near future, please register and pay for each activity individually, as we did prior to adding the cart.

Group Registration Review – How to register yourself/other members/guests at one time

- Click on "Register – Group" at bottom of chosen activity
- Enter number of registrants, click "next"
- Enter your name in Member 1, name of other member/guest in Member 2. There will be room for as many registrants indicated in step above; click "next"
- Complete the "Billing Information" and click "Process Information"
- You will receive an email confirming registration details

Any questions, please contact Tonya Eubank, teubank@hotmail.com,
–Cynthia Burnell



"Friday Morning in the Quarter"

This watercolor by Dean Mitchell is the beautiful replacement unanimously voted upon by Arts Advocates members at the January 16 General Meeting. It will be added to our Collection.

where are they now?

Interview with Past Scholar and Artist, Nora Rule Barber

Artist, instructor and 1990 Arts Advocates scholarship recipient Nora Rule Barber lives and works in Spring, TX, just north of Houston. She graduated with honors from Ringling College in 1992, after earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fine and Studio Arts with a major in Ceramics and a minor in Sculpture.

When asked about the impact our scholarship had all those years ago, Nora comments *"My family did not have a lot of money to send me to college, so receiving that scholarship made all the difference in the world. Even with your financial assistance, I still worked several jobs on and off campus to pay for art supplies and room & board. I had to stretch every dollar and I thank you for your support."*

A fond memory Nora shared of her time at Ringling was when she, along with 17 other fine arts students, created ceramic figurines of themselves and placed them in a time capsule which was then buried beneath the photography studio that was being built. With so many changes to the campus over the past 30 years, she wonders if construction crews have unearthed those figurines?

Upon graduation from college, Nora began working in production art. One of the companies that she worked for sold to major furniture stores throughout the world, but that work left her unfulfilled. She states, *"I felt like I was only making my employer money; I wasn't doing any good for others. I knew I wanted to serve a purpose with my art and it was then that I decided to teach high school art in Broward County, FL. My art teachers in high school made a tremendous impact on my life and I wanted to pay it forward to the next generation of artists."* She adds, "Inspiration is everything and can make the mundane extraordinary. I was so happy to share my love of art with those students so they could learn to view things through an artist's eye." Between her 9 years as a high school art teacher and many more years teaching private and community classes in two states prior to Texas, Nora has educated more than 2,000 students. She has indeed paid it forward as some of those students have become art teachers themselves and others have become professional graphic designers and working artists.



Back in Texas, Nora is a member of The Lone Star Art Guild, The Woodlands Art League and Conroe Art League and has garnered numerous ribbons in shows for her work. To learn more about Nora and her art, please click here to visit her website: <https://norasfinearts.com/>

Elizabeth Rose

Please go to www.artsadvocates.org/what-s-new to read Nora Rule Barber's full story