

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Jazz Club of Sarasota with Ed Linehan

Thursday, February 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sarasota Yacht Club

\$45 for Arts Advocates members

\$50 for nonmembers



The Jazz Club of Sarasota is dedicated to preserving and promoting jazz, America's original musical art form. Our luncheon speaker, Ed Linehan, president of the club, will describe its many programs including the 46th Annual Sarasota Jazz Festival. Jazz pianist Chris Neville will accompany Ed's talk at the luncheon. Neville has led his own groups as well as accompanying Dizzy Gillespie, Al Cohn, Sonny Stitt, Jimmy Heath and Richie Cole. He has worked in numerous musicals, including a yearlong tour in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Meet & Mingle: There is social time that begins at 11 a.m. before lunch. Come early to meet other members and friends who also love the arts.

Register now for the luncheon so you don't miss this jazzy program!



February's raffle item is *Vintage Meets Virtual*, a colored pencil remake and retake of a painting by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1776), by Lynn Coppinger.

**REGISTER HERE
BY FEB. 13**



Luncheons are sponsored by Observer Media Group.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

Looking back on January's events:

Our January member artist, Jody Goldman, held an opening reception on January 3 at the gallery. Her art highlighted the importance of protecting endangered animal species and their unique habitats, drawing attention to the delicate balance of nature.

Our Talkback Tuesdays series kicked off the new year on January 13 with a presentation by Peter Tush, who shared how The Dalí Museum is using augmented reality to transform the visitor experience.

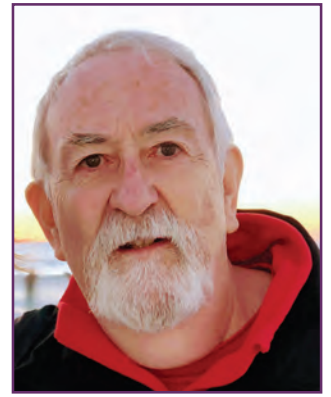
Our January luncheon, Heroes of the Silver Screen, took place on January 15 at the Sarasota Yacht Club. The event featured a lively talk by writer, producer, and filmmaker Gus Mollasis, who shared film clips of memorable screen legends such as James Cagney, Marlon Brando, and Humphrey Bogart.

Looking ahead to February 2026:

On February 6, from 4-6 p.m. in the gallery, there will be a special presentation co-sponsored by Art Center Sarasota featuring the artwork and legacy of Sarasota Art Colony artist Eugene White, known for his paintings of vintage Florida. The presentation will be led by his daughter, Annie Bixler, along with Alecia Harper, Art Center Sarasota's donor relations coordinator and centennial archivist. Admission is free, but registration is required. [Register Here](#)

Our February member artist, Lynn Coppinger, will hold an opening reception on February 7 in the gallery. Her work will be on display for four Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. Her whimsical and abstract artwork reflects a playful and imaginative spirit.

A Behind the Curtain tour at the Van Wezel will be held on February 9 from 1:30-3 p.m.



Bill Rusling, President

Our Talkback Tuesdays series continues on February 10 with a talk by Dasha Reich titled "The Flag: Nine Artists, Nine Flags." She and a panel of participating artists will share insights about the "Flags" exhibition currently on display at the Art Ovation Hotel.

Our February luncheon featuring the Jazz Club of Sarasota will be held on February 19 at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Ed Linehan, president of the club, will discuss its programs, including the annual Sarasota Jazz Festival, followed by a performance by jazz pianist Chris Neville. Be sure to register by February 13.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Observer Media Group for their generous sponsorship of our exhibitions and luncheons through May 2026.

Stay connected through our weekly e-blasts, monthly newsletters, or by visiting www.artsadvocates.org for updates and event registration.

Warmly,

Bill Rusling
President, Arts Advocates

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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FEBRUARY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

LIVING CREATIVELY: THE ART OF LYNN COPPINGER

Saturdays, February 7-28, 2-4 p.m.
Arts Advocates Gallery

Lynn Coppinger's creative journey unfolds like a vivid canvas—layered, evolving, and intimately shaped by a lifetime of experience. Having only recently devoted herself to art full-time after retiring, Lynn found herself joyfully plunged into the world of professional artistry, a culmination of decades steeped in creative industries. Her past roles span an impressive spectrum: from art director at a printing company and graphics editor for a newspaper, to residential and commercial interior designer and, most recently, managing editor of a global publishing house. This multifaceted career not only sharpened her visual instincts but also honed a keen sense of design, color, and narrative that pulsates through her artwork today.

Lynn's work defies easy categorization. Unbound by one style or medium, her pieces are deeply attuned to her ever-shifting moods and restless curiosity. From expansive, emotive abstracts to playful, whimsical compositions and grounded realism, her output embraces colored pencil, oils, acrylics, pastels, and ink alike. **"I am always learning and looking for the next obsession,"** she says, describing a process where experimentation and surprise are not just methods, but motivations in and of themselves.

On the technical front, Lynn is primarily self-taught, her artistry strengthened through years of practical application and a voracious appetite for learning. Her adaptability—the willingness to let mood or medium dictate direction—renders each series distinct yet recognizably her own, speaking to a versatility that is both discipline and freedom.



This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.

Also in February

Special Presentation Eugene White, Painter of Vintage Florida

February 6, 4–6 p.m. in the Arts Advocates Gallery

Arts Advocates and Art Center Sarasota are co-sponsoring this talk by Sarasota Art Colony artist Eugene White's daughter Annie Bixler and Alecia Harper, centennial archivist and guest curator for Art Center Sarasota. White devoted his life to painting the world around him—from Florida's working waterfronts to rural Midwestern farms.

Admission is free but registration is required.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Tour – Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage

February 9, 1:30–3 p.m.

Take a guided tour of the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel. After that, step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide will give you a peek behind the curtain and share stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Talkback Tuesdays

This series features in-depth interviews, conducted by Nanette Crist, with local creatives, educators, journalists, and nonprofit leaders who are shaping the city's dynamic creative community. Each session fosters meaningful conversations and community engagement through open dialogue with featured guests.

Hosted in the Arts Advocates Gallery, Talkback Tuesdays are from 4-6 pm. Admission is free for Arts Advocates members and \$5 for nonmembers. Registration for all programs is open now on our [EVENTS PAGE](#).



February 10

Dasha Reich

Artist and creative icon

The Flag: Nine Artists, Nine Flags

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Step into a vibrant dialogue on identity, symbolism, and creative expression with Sarasota-based artist Andrea Dasha Reich—known simply as “Dasha.” A trailblazer in abstract resin painting since the 1990s, Dasha’s luminous, self-pigmented works pulse with energy and emotion.

With her latest exhibition, Dasha revisits a theme she first explored in 1976—her tenth year as an immigrant to the United States. Now, as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, she brings together eight fellow Sarasota artists to reimagine the American flag through their own lenses. The exhibition, *The Flag*, features works by Duncan Chamberlain, Marianne Chapel, Steph Gimson, Mara Torres Gonzales, Jonathan Herbert, Jana Millstone, Anja Palombo, Ajira U, and Dasha herself.

Through candid conversation and artistic insight, Dasha, Marianne Chapel, and Jana Millstone will guide us through the diverse interpretations of this powerful symbol. From personal histories to collective memory, each piece invites reflection on what it means to belong, to question, and to celebrate.



March 10

Ronique Hawkins

Founder of Learn My History

Roots & Radiance: Learning Their History

Inspired by her late mother and her own cancer journey, Ro's work is deeply personal and fiercely inclusive. Her response to anti-Semitic backlash with love and resilience reflects her guiding principle: “An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”



April 7

Justin Gomlak

Broadway actor and education director of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

From Broadway to the Classroom: Building Creative Futures

Justin's journey is a masterclass in artistic evolution. He will reflect on his transition from Broadway to the classroom, the power of creative mentorship, and how arts education can shape inclusive, empowered futures for the next generation.

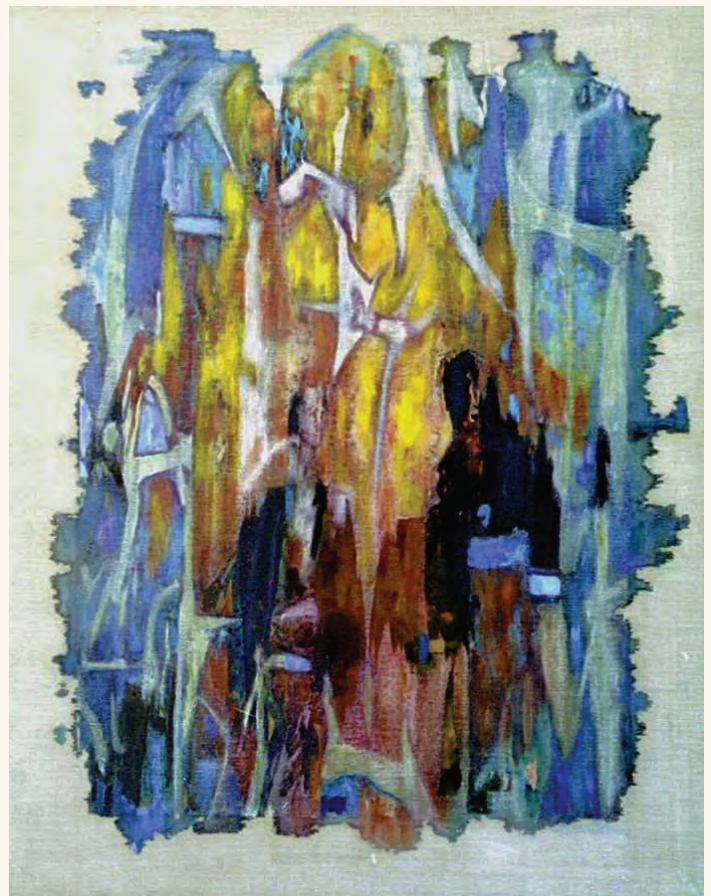
Local Exhibits Feature Works from Arts Advocates Collection

Arts Advocates has an unparalleled and impressive collection of Sarasota Art Colony paintings that is open for public view in our gallery and at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Arts Advocates is loaning works to two arts groups for display as part of their exhibition schedules.

Art Center Sarasota is celebrating its centennial season with four works from the 1950s and 1960s that are owned by Arts Advocates. *Image Scape* by Jimmy Ernst is on display until February 21. Works by Bill Hartman and Jon Corbino will be displayed in March and April. Art Center Sarasota, 707 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. [Learn more.](#)

The Ringling College of Art and Design is borrowing nine paintings owned by Arts Advocates for its **Origins: Sarasota Artist Colony 1945-1965** exhibit, on display through April 11. Works loaned from the Arts Advocates collection include paintings by artists Ben Stahl, Jon Corbino, Robert Chase, Mary Sarg Murphy, Julio De Diego, Helen Sawyer, Charles McCurry, Loren Wilford, and Lois Bartlett Tracy. The galleries at Ringling College, 2700 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, are open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

[Learn more.](#)



Top: *Center Ring* by Mary Sarg Murphy

Right: *The Portal* by Lois Bartlett Tracy

Coming in March

Exhibit

Paintings: Thesis, Antithesis, and Synthesis

March 7-28, Saturdays only, 2-4 p.m.
in the Arts Advocates Gallery

As Suzanne Havens studied art and the history of art she realized that the world of art itself moves sometimes gradually and sometimes suddenly between depicting visual forms (thesis), rejecting form altogether (antithesis), and then creating a synthesis that is something new. Havens flows from painting visual subjects, abstractions of feelings, and where visual references are evident but altered from nature to heighten her subjective emotion. You may experience joy, mystery, and rebellion via layers of flowers, feathers, sails, gardens, rocks, breezes, water, and dancers, defying the restrictions of time and space. Havens collects concepts and images through reading, gardening, making photographs for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, travel, boating, visiting art exhibits, and studying painting and photography via traditional methods and digitally.



This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.

Luncheon

The Sarasota Players

March 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Sarasota Yacht Club

Our speaker, Thayer Greenberg, is managing artistic director of The Sarasota Players, the longest-running theatre in Sarasota. Thayer will discuss The Players' season, their planned move to the Payne Park Auditorium, and their education programs which include classes, camps, workshops, and performance groups. As a special treat, several actors will attend and sing music from their production of *Les Misérables* (running February 26-March 1, 2026).

The Sarasota Players launched the careers of many performers who went on to stardom on Broadway, in Hollywood, and on TV, including Academy Award nominee Montgomery Clift, actress Jayne Meadows, comedian Paul Reubens (Pee-wee Herman), and Ashley Rose Orr who starred as Gretl on Broadway in *The Sound of Music*. You don't want to miss this special program.



[REGISTER HERE](#)



This luncheon is sponsored by Observer Media Group.

Arts Advocates Scholarship Update

The scholarship application deadline for the 2026-27 academic year is February 15. The 2026 recipients will be selected based upon their artistic talent, financial need, good character, documented academic accomplishments, clear professional career goals in the arts, extracurricular activities, and demonstrated honors (in school and from the community).

Application information is available on [our website](#).

We will celebrate our emerging visual and performing scholars on May 14 at the Sarasota Yacht Club.

Luncheon tickets and sponsorship opportunities are online now.

REGISTER HERE



Please invite your friends and associates in the community to take part in this important program.

Harrison May, 2025 Scholarship Recipient



Harrison May, a 2025 graduate of Venice High School and an Arts Advocates 2025 scholarship recipient, is a freshman music major at the University of Florida. He is a tuba player in the Gator marching band that entertains at every home football game. He says joining the band is the best decision he ever made. Being away from home could have been difficult for him, but the Gator band camp during the week before school started gave him instant friends. Harrison is also a member of the symphonic band that performs three concerts each semester, and a chamber group. He enjoys playing orchestra music such as music from *The Phantom of the Opera*, the theme from the (old) *Batman*, and *Beetlejuice*.

Harrison chose UF for a specific program that allows him to have a double major. His dual major is music and electrical engineering which allows him to graduate with a double major in five years. He has a 4.0 GPA for his first semester in college and describes his teachers as “amazing.” His goal is to work as an electrical engineer in Florida, but he says he will never forgo music by perhaps joining a local orchestra or wind band. He says he loves sharing music and will never live without the arts.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH



January luncheon speaker Gus Mollasis offered an interesting presentation titled Heroes of the Silver Screen.



Pat Golemme was the lucky winner of the January luncheon raffle, which was "Woods Hole," a photograph by Val Almeida.



Nanette Crist and Peter Tush gave an intriguing talk about the use of augmented reality in museums. Peter is the curator of education at the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Pete.



Artist Jody Goldman poses with two of her paintings during her January exhibit in the Arts Advocates Gallery.



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:

Art Ovation Hotel

[Art Exhibits](#)

The Sarasota Players

[Play On](#)

Sarasota Cuban Ballet

[Romantic Night](#)

SPAACES

[3140: The Space Between](#)

Towles Court Artist Studios

[Open Studio Nights](#)

Special thanks to the Observer Media Group for their media sponsorship of our 2025-2026 season!



save the dates

+ February 6

Eugene White, Painter of Vintage Florida
4-6 p.m.

+ February 7

Living Creatively: The Art of Lynn Coppinger
Opening Reception
2-4 p.m.

+ February 9

Behind the Curtain Tour
1:30-3 p.m.

+ February 10

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Dasha Reich - The Flag: Nine Artists, Nine Flags
4-6 p.m.

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