

JANUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE SARASOTA: TRANSFORMING PLACES AND INSPIRING LIVES

with Morris (Marty) Hylton III, president, Architecture Sarasota

Sarasota is well known for its 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 this month 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.

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

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.

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. From 2002 to 2007, Marty served as strategic initiatives manager for the World Monuments Fund – an international non-profit with a mission of saving endangered heritage. While at WMF, he oversaw recovery efforts along the Mississippi Gulf Coast

following Hurricane Katrina. For 14 years, Marty served as director of historic preservation at the University of Florida where he launched a program dedicated to documenting historic buildings and communities. More recently, he was the inaugural National Park Service Historic Architect for Climate Change where he helped create the Climate, Science, and Disaster Response Program.



ARCHITECTURE
SARASOTA

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.](#)



Lunches at the Sarasota Yacht Club are sponsored by Observer Media Group.



Win This Painting!

Our January luncheon raffle item – a brightly colored floral watercolor painting by Chiara Ana – was generously donated by Judy Fiala. This 22.5" x 15" painting is on heavy white watercolor paper, signed by the artist, and is unframed.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

I hope everyone had a very festive and fulfilling holiday season and that you enjoyed our December activities.

A great “thank you” to all Arts Advocates board members and member volunteers who tirelessly and generously supported all our activities over the last year – your efforts are very much appreciated!

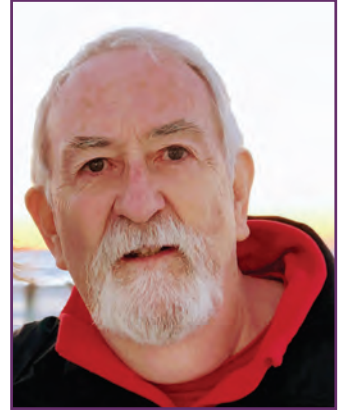
This month, our member exhibit showcases Creative Liberties Studio artists. The show will display the art of its 19 members, who create in many diverse mediums such as painting, fiber art, paper art, jewelry, photography, resin, and printmaking.

Our January 14 art talk features Kathryn Chesley who will discuss how she becomes ladies of history through her “Life and Times Portrayals” of 10 historic women, including Mable Ringling, Bertha Honore Palmer, and Marie Selby.

Morris (Marty) Hylton III, president of Architecture Sarasota, is the featured speaker for our January 16 luncheon. His presentation will explore the organization’s efforts to document, preserve, and promote the region’s built and cultural heritage.

On January 17, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College will present Stephenie Frasher’s popular talk about the Florida

Highwaymen in our gallery. This event is offered as part of OLLI’s winter semester. To register for “The Florida Highwaymen: Pioneers of Art and Enterprise,” you must sign up through OLLI.



Bill Rusling, President

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.

With warmest regards to all and wishing you a wonderful and fruitful 2025.

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](#)



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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 5 pm. 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 non-members



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Behind the Curtain Tours at the Van Wezel Resume

We are pleased to announce the Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage tours resume this month! 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 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.



THE FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN: PIONEERS OF ART AND ENTERPRISE

In 2004, 26 Florida Highwaymen artists were inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. The Highwaymen, self-taught artists who began painting in the mid-1950s, overcame the social conditions of the Jim Crow South and thrived as painters and entrepreneurs. Unable to sell their works in galleries, they sold their paintings from the trunks of their cars along Highway A1A. Join Stephenie Frasher for an in-depth look at six of the 26 Highwaymen artists: Alfred Hair, Al Black, Rodney Demps, James Gibson, John Maynor, and Sam Newton. The lecture will feature closeup looks at the artists' paintings, video clips of the artists demonstrating their painting style, and personal tales of being part of the Highwaymen.

This is offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College as part of their winter semester. You do not need to be a member of OLLI to register for this event.

Date: Friday, January 17 | 1-2:30 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: \$15

[REGISTER HERE](#)



IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO DONATE

In the February issue of our newsletter, we will acknowledge and thank everyone who donated to the 2024 year-end fundraising campaign. It is not too late to make a donation.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of each and every donor. Your contributions ensure that Arts Advocates can fund the gallery, award scholarships, support the arts in Sarasota, and fulfill our financial obligations.



We're Celebrating a Happy New Year with Designing Women Boutique's GroundWorks Program

January 1 marks the beginning of Arts Advocates' fifth year as a member of Designing Women Boutique's (DWB) GroundWorks program. This valuable collaboration enables us to support our mission with funds earned when our members donate lightly used upscale items such as clothing, shoes, purses, artworks, tableware, and furniture to DWB in Arts Advocates' name. That is because when the items are sold, **DWB donates 60% of the sale price to Arts Advocates. We are proud that, due to the generous donations of our members, we have earned more than \$12,000 over the last four years**, and we thank DWB for giving us this excellent opportunity to participate in GroundWorks.

The funds we receive from DWB are specifically used to support our gallery, programs such as scholarships, art talks, special exhibits, and many others. That's why we are urging you to search your closets and cupboards for items you can donate to DWB.

You may take your donations to DWB, 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, or Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Tell an employee that you have a donation for the GroundWorks program from Arts Advocates. You may claim your donations as deductions on your tax return. If you cannot deliver smaller items, or you would like to donate furniture, please contact Carol Hirschburg, Art Advocates' GroundWorks team leader, at carolhirschburg@gmail.com. She will arrange a pick-up at your convenience and at no cost to you.

We appreciate your generosity and wish you a Happy New Year.



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

BOOKER HIGH VPA PROGRAM

Greg Rumpf, assistant principal, Booker High School

Greg Rumpf oversees the award-winning and state-of-the-art visual and performing arts program that prepares students in pre-professional dance, film and animation, music, production and design, theatre, and visual art training. Greg has two paintings in the permanent collection of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, as well as in many private collections. 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](#)



FEBRUARY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

SUSAN J. KLEIN "PLACES"

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 1-22 | 2-4 PM

Arts Advocates Gallery

Upon moving to Florida in 1990, Susan J. Klein discovered the wonders of the local 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.

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](#)



LECTURE: THE MANY LIVES OF ROMEO AND JULIET

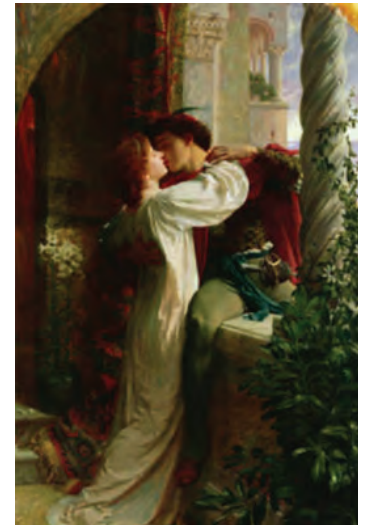
The story of Romeo and Juliet is an enduring theme in the arts. In this lecture, Marilyn Carminio will take us on a journey to Verona, Italy to the home of our protagonists while exploring the theme of love in art. Through video clips, we will look at how the story of Romeo and Juliet has been portrayed in the theatre, ballet, sculpture, music, opera, painting, and cinema. Additionally, we will look at what social psychologists say about love at first sight, unrequited love, and heartbreak.

Date: Saturday, February 8 | 2-4 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: \$25

[REGISTER HERE](#)



SARASOTA OPERA HOUSE TOUR

Our private tour of the Sarasota Opera House covers the beginnings of the Sarasota Opera and its history, the apprentice program, youth opera program, the history of the building, the inside scoop about Sarasota Opera’s world-class productions, the renovation project, the costume shop, backstage, on stage, and how things behind the scenes work.

Date: Friday, February 21 | 10:30 am-noon

Place: Sarasota Opera House

Cost: \$15 for members/\$20 non-members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

A few of our Holiday Bazaar vendors



Frances Powers
exhibited in December



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:

Asolo Rep

[Ken Ludwig's Lady Molly of Scotland Yard](#)

Florida Studio Theatre

[The Cancellation of Laura Fein](#)

Sarasota Ballet

[Quintessential](#)

Sarasota Orchestra

[Ravel's Bolero](#)

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

[Fences](#)

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



save the dates

+ 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

+ February 4

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

+ February 8

Lecture: The Many Lives of Romeo and Juliet
2-4 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