

### *President's Message*

#### *Serendipity*

... the word that best describes the events of the past year or so. We have embraced a metamorphosis, created a new opportunity for building friendships among members, and reinforced our mission and objectives.

And, since The Fine Arts Society began with the purchase and collection of fine art, with the serendipitous addition of our recent bequest (to be used solely for art purchase), we can redirect our interest back to our collection while at the same time focusing on the future of The Fine Arts Society and the next 50 years!

Two task forces: A Collection Assessment task force and an Investment task force have been created to maximize the power of this bequest to fulfill our mission. Recommendations from these task forces will be reviewed and decisions made in early 2019.

One by one, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration plans are being revealed each month. You have heard about our Balloon Pop and Wine Pull – two new opportunities to carry home special treats from our celebration. And, plans for entertainment are in motion.

Remember to save the date of March 3, 2019 from 4-6 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (*Note the new venue!*). The excitement builds as we get closer to this momentous occasion!

This summer, a group of members met to look through our scrap books for the past 49 years. It was great fun to discover a sample of the small, handwritten personal note that Marion Storm mailed to her friends inviting them to join a group to support and stimulate the Fine Arts in Sarasota.

We found many interesting and precious documents from the early days. With those as a springboard, we began to discover ideas that can be used as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, simultaneously, to focus on the future and toward raising our profile in the community.



To that end, as I mentioned last month, we have adopted collaboration as our theme for this year. We expect some firm commitments with New College in January. The collaboration with Van Wezel is still in the beginning stages – but communication continues. There are six or seven additional opportunities identified to be pursued in 2019. One seems very hopeful, and more information about that group will be provided at the January meeting.

Our Education Committee has put together an exciting group of 3 tours for 2019. They will fill quickly – so make sure you register soon! See their article in this newsletter.

The Creators & Collectors Salons will continue for 2019 with the salons announced at our November meeting. A registration form is attached. I advise you to register early so you don't miss out.

Look for the articles about both opportunities in this newsletter.

I send a very heartfelt Thank You to the Board members who worked so tirelessly over the summer to reinvigorate our meetings – bringing new opportunities for special treats at each of our meetings; enthusiastic attention to our members: long-standing and new; and to exploring new fundraising concepts for the future.

And, as 2018 draws to a close, a very special Thank You to each and every one of the Fine Arts Society members for your participation in our fall events. Your dedication and commitment to supporting these activities is what makes them so enjoyable and successful!

Wishing all of you a very happy Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing you again in January 2019!

Holiday cheer to all!

Vern

# Fine Arts Society of Sarasota 2018-2019 Board of Directors

## Officers - Executive Committee

President	Vern Livingston Weitz
1st Vice President	Susan Andrae
2nd Vice President	Donna Maytham
Treasurer	Alice Allen
Recording Secretary	Martha Ballard
Corresponding Secretary	Debbie Grovum

## Standing Committees

Collection Tours & Docents	Cindy Woodling
Community & Educational Outreach	Suzanne Weitz
Creators & Collectors Salons	Donna Maytham
Education Tours & Trips	Kim Warren/Barbara Blackburn
Finance/Compliance	Patti Reskin
Hospitality - Membership	Bobbie Schott/Donna Maytham
Membership	Roberta Hamilton
Newsletter	Susan Andrae
Permanent Art Collection	Judy Fiala
Planning/Transition	Judy Rush
Programs	Kristin Gardel/Tonya Eubank
Scholarships	Elaine MacMahon/Elizabeth Rose
Yearbook	Judy Fiala

## Special Committees

The Bay	Carole Crosby
50th Anniversary Celebration	Barbara Blackburn/Kristi Bundrant

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



## The 50th Anniversary Celebration Party

Sunday March 3, 2019

4:00 - 6:00 PM

The Hyatt Regency

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**FINE ARTS SOCIETY**



The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota is proud to form Partnerships with these Organizations. We are delighted to sponsor Pilobolus at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on January 22, 2019

## FINE ARTS DONATIONS ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Alice Allen reports she is receiving donations from \$50 to \$5,000. With the addition of three members to the Marion Storm Circle, total donations are now \$24,000. What exciting news. Our most sincere thanks to those of you who have already responded. Because of you Fine Arts can continue to award scholarships and outreach grants.

Keep in mind that all donations to Fine Arts are fully tax deductible and, in addition, a brokerage account has been opened at Northern Trust so that members may make donations by transfer of stock.

At the November General Meeting, we honored Jean Allen who was the first member to make a donation. In the coming days and weeks, we will be acknowledging all of our donors in Fine Arts publications so they too can be properly thanked.

Donna Maytham



# THE FINE ARTS SOCIETY OF SARASOTA CREATORS AND COLLECTORS 2019 SALON REGISTRATION FORM

TO REGISTER:

1. Please print out this entire page, then check the boxes next to Salons of your choice.
2. Complete the FASS Member Contact Information Form below
3. One Reservation/ person - and one check - for each Salon
4. Make out your check(s) to: "The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota"
5. Please print NAME and SALON NUMBER clearly on each check
6. Reservations will be honored by date the check is received by Norman
7. If you prefer, you may also Register at the upcoming General Meeting

Please use US Mail to send your completed forms and checks addressed to:  
**FINE ARTS SOCIETY - SALONS**  
c/o NORMAN MEUNIER  
3117 Key Way, Sarasota FL 34239

# 15 ☐ **Look, Show and Tell + Lunch**  
Wednesday, Jan 23, 2019 11am - 1:00pm  
35 maximum (Members and Guests) \$50.00

# 18 ☐ **Dancing with the Sarasota Stars**  
Wednesday, Mar 27, 2019 2pm - 4:00 pm  
45 Maximum (Members and Guests) \$50.00

# 16 ☐ **Look, Show and Tell + Brunch**  
Sunday, Jan 27, 2019 11:30am - 2:00pm  
35 maximum (Members and Guests) \$50.00

#19 ☐ **A Cornucopia of Art -  
The Huberman Collection**  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 2:30pm - 4:00 pm  
30 Maximum (Members and 1 Guest) \$50.00

# 17 ☐ **Grand Salon at Bird Key**  
Monday, Feb 4, 2019 3:00pm - 5:30pm  
40 maximum (Members and Guests) \$50.00

#14 ☐ **The Colson's - Celebrating the Holidays on  
Hillview**  
Friday, Dec14, 2018 10:00 am-1:00 pm  
40 Maximum (Members and Guests) \$50.00

## CREATORS & COLLECTORS SALONS SERIES FASS Member Contact Information

Member's Name (Please Print CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(C) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please note any special dietary considerations \_\_\_\_\_



## MEMBERSHIP IS JUMPIN'

Roberta Hamilton, Membership Chair.  
Trish Berberich, Norman Meunier, Evelyn Miller,  
Nancy Sugg, and Bev Wood

The events and activity opportunities offered by the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota are attracting terrific new members and many of them are shown below. PLEASE bring your friends and acquaintances to our meetings and let them experience for themselves all your organization has to offer. We always have membership application forms at the meetings and of course, one can find a form on the Fine Arts Society website.

Collaborations with other arts groups who support the arts for all ages are in the works so our network expands AND you are a part of it.

### *New Members...*

*Maureen Donovan*



*Dr. Jerzy Kolcan*



*Katherine Martucci*



*Mary Ellen Mc Mahon*



*Faith Perkins*



*Marie Squatrito*





Branan Mercer Artist

## Education Committee Field Trips

**Morean Center For Clay**, in St. Pete on Wednesday, JANUARY 9. 10:00am-12:00pm

We will tour the Morean Center housed in an old train depot, tour the facilities where 40+ artists work, view their public gallery as well as their private second floor gallery, observe the firing of their anagama kiln (and more), and have the opportunity to place our hands on an actual piece of the Berlin Wall! Carpools will leave Sarasota at 9:00 am. If you are willing to drive, please let us know at the time you make your reservation.

**Hultman Glass Studio** in Sarasota on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 12. 10:30am-12:30pm

Visiting glassblower Ed Schmid (Washington) will be delighting us with his skill in one studio while local master artists will demonstrate flameworking in an adjacent studio.

**Sarasota Contemporary Dance** on Wednesday, APRIL 3. 10:00am-11:30am

Founder and Director Leymis Bolanos Wilmott will speak after we experience a dance rehearsal in their new studio.

Each trip is \$15 per person.

An optional lunch at a nearby restaurant will be offered after each tour.

Either sign up at the next general meeting or Make Your Reservation Now by mailing a check made out to FASS for one, two, or all three of the tours. Please note the tour(s) your money is reserving.

Note: The Morean trip is before our next general meeting, so you must contact Barbara to reserve your spot. For questions contact Barbara at 941-993-0513 or [msbarbyb@msn.com](mailto:msbarbyb@msn.com)

Mail to:

Barbara Blackburn  
5280 Descanso Court  
Sarasota, FL 34238



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? KARISSA RATZENBOECK, Violinist with The Venice Symphony



This month I am delighted to profile Karissa Ratzenboeck, a two-time FASS Scholarship recipient. First in 2008 when she attended Pine View School and then again in 2009 as a student at Florida State University. Karissa earned a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance from FSU's College of Music and is now a violinist with The Venice Symphony. She also teaches violin by private instruction and at summer music camps to students throughout Sarasota County.

Karissa has shared the stage with many great musicians and vocalists including Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Johnny Mathis, Kristin Chenoweth, The Ten Tenors and Trans Siberian Orchestra, among others. She has also performed at Carnegie Hall – an exceptional accomplishment that many musicians never achieve in a lifetime of performing. How do you get to Carnegie Hall from Sarasota? Let's start at the beginning:

At the tender age of 4 years old, Karissa Ratzenboeck held a Suzuki violin in her tiny hands for the first time. It was placed there by her violin teacher Dr. Linda Vasilaki – and from that moment on, Karissa's life was changed forever. At the ripe age of 6, she was performing on stage with the Florida West Coast Youth Symphony. Then, after years of hard work and continuous practice, Karissa's dedication was rewarded when she won the Young Artists' Concerto Competition in 2006 and made her solo debut at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in 2007. Next stop, performing at Carnegie Hall as Concertmaster of the Florida West Coast Youth Philharmonic at the age of 17. When asked to describe her memories and feelings of that momentous accomplishment, Karissa recounted seeing the orchestra in place and making her entrance onto the stage alone. "I remember gorgeous gold ornamentation throughout the concert hall, the floor to ceiling curtains on the stage, the red velvet seats and the rich smell of wood from the instruments and the building itself. It was exhilarating. When you're prepared, you are not afraid or nervous. You put your heart into it and just make music."



The following year as Karissa was preparing to graduate from Pine View, the economy was in a meltdown and there was not enough money to send Karissa to Juilliard or other schools out of state. Fortunately, Karissa had been donating her time and community service hours on the music scene in Sarasota for many years. Organizations throughout Sarasota recognized her talent and devotion to playing music and they helped fill the tuition gap with scholarships and other support. "My brother Derek had been a Fine Arts Society scholarship recipient in 2000 and 2001 and he encouraged me to also apply. I was shocked at the tremendous generosity from organizations like the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota. To know how many people believed in me was an honor and I am so very grateful for all of the opportunities their support has given me. Performing is like my oxygen and can't imagine living any other way," notes Karissa. She adds, "I am so fortunate to have grown up in a community so rich in the arts. It exposed me to so many talented musicians and allowed me to study with the best of the best instructors and conductors."

While Karissa's parents Harald and Monika are not musical, music was an important part of their respective family histories and they made sure it was also a part of their children's lives. Karissa's brothers Marcus and Derek are also both accomplished musicians. Derek is a violinist with New York City



Ballet and Marcus is Concertmaster of The Venice Symphony. Music has been a strong lifelong connecting force for these three siblings.

So, what is a typical day in the life of a concert violinist? "Ideally, I spend 2-3 hours practicing on my own and 3 hours of rehearsal for performances. When I play in the orchestra for the St. Petersburg Opera, that alone can be up to 6 hours of rehearsal. Professional musicians must prepare like professional athletes do...get adequate rest, take care of our bodies and keep optimally healthy to deliver the best performance."

Asking a musician to name their favorite composer is equivalent to asking a mother to tell you which of her children is her favorite (but I did it anyway!). While Karissa stopped short of narrowing the list down to just one, I did learn that for her, Bach sonatas and partitas are the gold standard and Mozart is a perennial favorite.

And now for the Full Circle Moment: Twenty years after holding her first Suzuki violin, Karissa at the age of 24 and her childhood music teacher, Dr. Linda Vasilaki, performed together professionally during Symphony on the Sand with the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra. Since that time, Dr. Vasilaki has helped Karissa to build her own private instruction program. By teaching young musicians, Karissa can now pay it forward and honor those who helped her grow in her own lifelong musical journey – Dr. Vasilaki, Daniel Jordan, Jan and Ron Balazs, Damien Pegis, Kenneth Bowermeister, Jim Cliff, Beth Newdome, Eliot Chapo and Dr. Alex Jimenez among others. Karissa enjoys working with the next generation of musicians and helping them to find their inspiration. Her message to her students is "Don't let anything stop your dreams – even financial challenges. It's not easy to make it in the arts, but if you carry the love and persistence and determination, you will get there. Even if you fail in auditions or competitions, failure is not the end – it's part of the process on the way to success."

Brava, Karissa!

Attention FASS Members: This is an exciting year for The Venice Symphony as they welcome newly appointed Music Director and Conductor Troy Quinn. Why not attend a performance with your Fine Arts Friends this season? To find out more, click this: <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/events/>

Elizabeth Rose and Elaine MacMahon  
Scholarship Co-Chairs







## Artists Among Us

### Kasia Bruniany

Always fascinated by images, I pursued a life-long career in fine art, television set design, and graphic design. I grew up in Poland where I received an MFA degree in Art and Design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow.



In the middle of my career I moved to the United States (Pittsburgh, PA) where I continued to work successfully as an art director and a fine artist. Since moving to Sarasota in 2013, I have left my designer career that spanned two continents to concentrate exclusively on my painting. Over the years, my work has appeared in solo and collective exhibitions in the US and Europe and is displayed in homes across the country.

I've always been a diverse artist who shifted between representational and abstract works. A couple of years ago, while painting landscapes inspired by the Sarasota skies, I went beyond the horizon and ventured into abstract art. Through the ephemeral nature of light and clouds, I discovered a love for intuitive painting. Using emotions as my filter, I strive to reveal the magic of the world and to escape to a place I want to be. In my oil paintings, viewers have the freedom to see something that no one else sees. I always love to hear your interpretations -- so please stop by the Dabbert Gallery on first Friday gallery walks.





## Even More Fun Facts about the FASS Art Collection

As celebration of the FASS 50th anniversary year, the FASS Art Collection Docent Team is sharing 50 fun questions/facts you may not know (or have forgotten) about our art collection. Here are the fun facts 21-30.

21. And 22. Two of the Founding Members of the Petticoat Painters: Mary Sarg Murphy "Center Ring" and Shirley Clement "White Dress".

23, 24, 25, and 26. Four Magazine Illustrators: Jerry Farnsworth "Night Wind" did a portrait of Hitler that was the first color cover for Time Magazine, Thornton Utz "Dooby Bird" and "Princess Grace of Monaco" did over 50 covers for The Saturday Evening Post, Ben Stahl "Alice Mattoch of Spirit Lake" and "Thunder on the Beach" did art for The Saturday Evening Post and American Artist, Loran Wilford "Land's End" illustrated for Colliers, Cosmopolitan, and Good Housekeeping.

27 and 28. Two Military Service Members: Frank Eliscu "Chase of the Sea Urchin" and "Great Blue Heron", Syd Solomon "Stravinsky" and "Sentinel Rock".

29. A Leader in the Op Art movement: Richard Anuskiewicz "Red to Blue Portal" and "Blue to Red Portal".

30. A Geometric Abstractionist: Steven McCallum "Turgid Prominence"

Want to know more? Come to a Docent led FASS Art Collection Tour.

Where: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall main lobby near box office

When: First Tuesdays of each month at 10 am. Next ones Dec 4 and Jan 8.

How: Remember to Wear your FASS nametag. No reservation required for these monthly public tours.

Want to learn to be a docent? Contact Cindy Woodling, Docent Chair 2018-19, [woodlingc@aol.com](mailto:woodlingc@aol.com).

