

OCTOBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Sarasota Contemporary Dance

Leymis Bolaños Wilmott, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

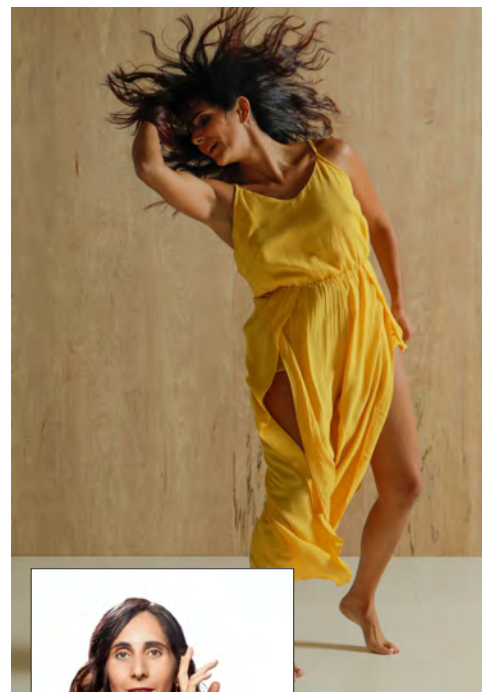
Armed with Master of Fine Arts degrees in Performance/Choreography from Florida State University, Leymis Bolaños Wilmott and fellow grad student Rachel Inman founded the first contemporary dance company in Sarasota. Now known as Sarasota Contemporary Dance, they are entering their 18th season, recognized for Wilmott's imaginative and high-energy choreography. These performances are often collaborations with musicians, choral groups and even museums such as The Ringling and The Dali. In Sarasota, SCD offers over sixteen ongoing weekly classes to the community, for all levels and ages.

Wanting to share the power of dance with a wider community, Ms. Wilmott was first in the state to receive a Healthcare Certificate in Dance and Healing from the University of Florida. This allowed the incorporation of Dance for Parkinson's and Dance for Autism classes into SCD's specialized program offerings, already serving those with physical challenges. In 2014 SCD was awarded the Arts & Culture Alliance's Leadership Award for Arts in Healthcare.

Ms. Wilmott is a professor of Dance at New College of Florida and currently serves as Vice President of the Florida Dance Association. Locally, she has choreographed for the Asolo Theatre, Westcoast Black Theater Troupe and numerous school productions. Additionally, her work has been performed around the country and internationally.

As an exclusive highlight for our luncheon program, this superstar will perform examples of her unique contemporary dance!

Join us to meet and discover more about Sarasota Contemporary Dance and this amazing woman named "one of the most powerful people in the Sarasota Arts."



Leymis Bolaños Wilmott

Date: October 19, 11am-1pm
 Place: Sarasota Yacht Club
 Cost: \$45 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Let's Meet!

Shared experiences are a key component of bringing people together and making friends. Our members join to interact with people who find art a source of inspiration and joy. Arts Advocates brings people together at our gallery to view the collection and listen to our Art Talks, at our Salons to view private collections and at our luncheons to hear about topical issues in the Sarasota art world.

But our goal is to get our members to interact with one another. When our monthly luncheons begin again in October at the Sarasota Yacht Club, we are going to seat new members with Board members and/or Team Leaders to put faces to names. Another chance to interact will be at our second Book Club discussion because we share experiences through books. We chose *The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and da Vinci's Italy* by Laura Morelli. It will be interesting to discuss why the author chose to tell the story the way she did.

And, to kick it up a notch, we've added a party for new members on November 8th in the Gallery. It's an opportunity for our newest members to meet other arts appreciators and learn about our many activities and projects.

Sharing experiences with someone brings you closer together. We hope to see you at these events. Please be sure to introduce yourself to me. I'll take it from there!

Carole



Carole Schwartz, President

3 Months of Arts Advocates Membership Free!

Get three months added to your yearly membership if you renew when attending an Arts Advocates luncheon. That's 15 months for the cost of 12 months, no matter when your membership renewal is due. So register for our October luncheon now and renew your membership when you check in at the registration desk.

Meet Your Leadership Team

Third in a Series

This series will introduce you to the Arts Advocates Leadership Team – a group of dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to foster the growth and vitality of our nonprofit organization. Each subject was asked to state his or her current role in the organization, reveal their personal passion in the arts, and describe how they've benefited from their involvement in Arts Advocates. Enjoy getting to know your fellow members! As you will see, their love of the arts is heartfelt and their special interests span across all the arts.



Deb Altshul-Stark

I am serving as a Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee. My life is enriched by appreciation of other people's talent, whether it be the theatre, film, music, visual arts or dance. I am awed by other people's creative talents. As I am fairly new to Sarasota, being

part of Arts Advocates, in particular the Scholarship Committee, has provided a way to meet people, learn more about Sarasota and have a meaningful way to feel engaged with the community.



Evelyn Levin

After early retirement from a business career in the drug testing industry, my husband and I started spending more and more time at our second home in Florida. We moved permanently to Sarasota in 2008 from New Hope, Pennsylvania. The variety of cultural opportunities

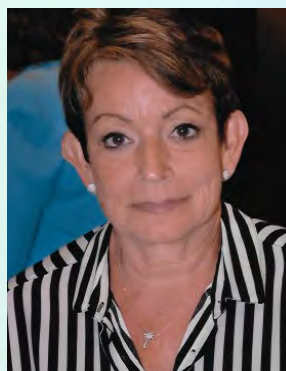
available in Sarasota continues to be a gift that enriches our daily lives. I particularly enjoy theater and the visual arts. My search for a way to repay that gift led me to join Arts Advocates. Currently I serve as Recording Secretary on the Arts Advocates Board. In previous years, I have been a Board member-at-large working on strategic planning, programs, new member orientation and on the nominating committee. A side bonus from my membership in Arts Advocates has been meeting so many like-minded people and being able to contribute in small ways to meet our Arts Advocates common goals.



Mark Ormond

I am the consulting curator of the Art Collection, which means I maintain the list of works in the collection, research and write label copy and advise on purchases while overseeing the installations at the Arts Advocates Gallery in the Crossings at Siesta

Key, the Van Wezel, City Hall and other venues. I appreciate all the art forms in Sarasota; however, I focus on the visual arts. I have known about the Fine Arts Society – now Arts Advocates – for many years since moving to Sarasota in 1994 to work at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. It was only after I stepped down from my Curator of Exhibitions position and twenty-year teaching position at Ringling College in 2019 that I was able to give more time to Arts Advocates. I enjoy all the new people I have met, as well as the multitude of programs and talks.



Betty Ferguson

I am the Membership Chair. My greatest passion for the arts is probably the ballet. However, any type of art – whether it be a piece of art on a wall, a decorative piece of art, a movie, a play, etc. – is my happy place. I have gotten to know more people through

this organization who, like me, love the arts in general. I have been able to participate in many forms of art activities, and the best part is getting to know each other as friends.

GALLERY ARTIST LYNN COPPINGER

*“I did not choose to become an artist.
I have always been one.”*

Lynn Coppinger is a self-taught artist. She is mostly a realist artist, but loves delving into abstract as well. Her favored medium currently is colored pencil, but she also frequently uses graphite, acrylics, pastels, watercolor, oils, and inks. She studied Interior Design at The Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Ohio.

She enjoyed a long career at a medical publishing company, during which time she helped architects design a 13,000-foot interior space, including floorings, wall coverings, finishes, furniture and artwork. She was also the company’s art director and designed all the book covers, marketing materials, brochures, newsletters, and portable convention show booths.

Lynn was promoted to Managing Editor of the publishing company, which afforded her the opportunity to travel, meet fascinating people and recruit medical professionals as authors. However, her artistic talents took a back seat in such a corporate and technical environment.

After retiring to Florida, her love and passion for art, in every form and medium, came flooding back. The need to create became paramount. Like everyone else, Lynn became semi-isolated during the pandemic and there was finally time to focus on doing what she loved. She unboxed all her dusty old art supplies, recreated herself and began a brand new artistic career. Today Lynn’s work is on exhibit in several galleries in Bradenton, Sarasota and on her website.

Lynn’s show opens on October 7th and runs through October 28th. A reception will be held Saturday, October 14th, from 2 to 4pm. Come and see this fabulous exhibition every Saturday in October from 2 to 4pm or by appointment.



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION:

The Night Portrait by Laura Morelli

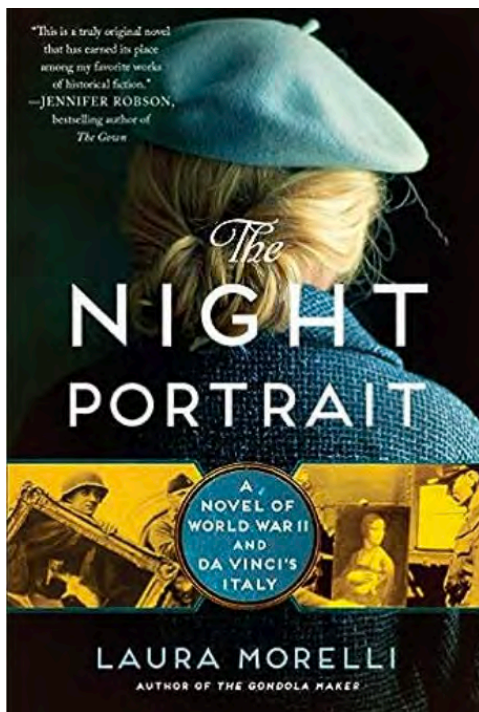
OCTOBER 10, 2023 | 1:30 PM

Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

REGISTER HERE.



Join us for our second book club get-together. We will be discussing “The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and da Vinci’s Italy” by Laura Morelli. It is an exciting, dual-timeline historical novel about the creation of one of Leonardo da Vinci’s most famous paintings, Portrait of a Lady with an Ermine, and the woman who fought to save it from Nazi destruction during World War II.



WIN THIS PAINTING!

Our October luncheon raffle prize is this beautiful painting titled “Chanel Number 5,” donated by the artist, Lynn Coppinger. See more about Lynn on page 4.

You must be present at the October 19th luncheon to enter the raffle.



Art Talk: VISUALIZING SOCIAL ISSUES: THE ART OF PATRICIA ANDERSON TURNER

OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 4-6 PM

Join us as Patricia Anderson Turner reveals her inspirations and process in her award-winning multimedia artworks. Addressing social and political issues with mixed media and textile art, her subjects are as varied as war, mental illness, social media, climate change, the rise of white supremacy and gun control, among other thorny issues of our times.

Turner's career highlights include a First Place at the Verona Museum of Modern Art in Italy, 2011, as well as top honors in multiple museums. She exhibited for eight years in the Reece Museum's political "FL3TCH3R Exhibit" with awards in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022. She has also exhibited and received awards at the Museum of Modern Art in Tallahassee, the Foosaner Museum, and many more. Several of Turner's pieces are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Michigan State University, the Human Rights Art Exhibit. She has been featured in scholarly publications such as Quilts and Human Rights, which featured a foreword by Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Arts Advocates member Nanette Crist will be interviewing Patricia. Last season Patricia gave a similar presentation for OLLI's Listening to Women program which Nanette moderated. Nanette writes an art-heavy blog that can be found at nanettesnewlife.blogspot.com.

Date: Friday, October 13, 2023, 4-6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: \$20 members/\$25 non-members



REGISTER HERE.



ARTS ADVOCATES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Where Are They Now?

BRUCE MERKLE

FILM, STAGE AND TELEVISION ACTOR

2006 Scholarship Awardee

When asked to give advice to young people wanting a career in acting, Sarasota native Bruce Merkle said, **“First of all, know who you are before you play someone else. Develop a point of view. When deciding what jobs to take on, don’t be picky – jump in and try everything!”**

Bruce knew he wanted to be an actor from the time he started to walk! He began acting classes when he was seven years old at Florida Studio Theater and participated in The Players Summer Camp program. During his years at Booker High School Visual & Performing Arts Program, he was enrolled in the theater program which emphasized academics for half of the day while allowing for a deep dive into the Arts for the other half. Following high school, Bruce attended Florida State University’s BFA musical theatre program, and New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. He made good use of his time during Covid by completing his degree in Communications.

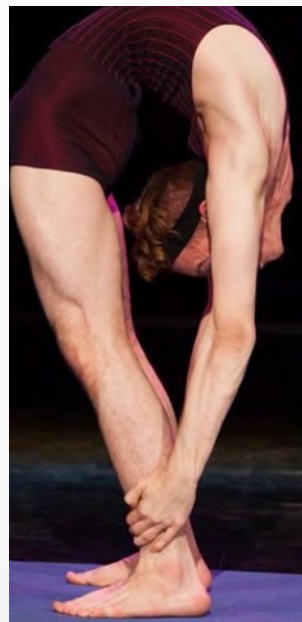
Bruce currently is a member of the Sunday Company of the Groundlings Theater in Los Angeles. The Groundlings is a training ground for many actors who have gone on to prestigious careers in the movie and television business. As part of the Sunday Company he develops and performs a new sketch comedy show weekly. (As an aside, Paul Reubens, aka: PeeWee Herman, also was a Sarasota native and member of the Groundlings.)

Bruce has appeared in roles in numerous television hits including: *How I Met Your Mother*, *This is Us*, *The Goldbergs*, *Rules of Engagement*, *Conan*, *Victorious* and *RuPaul’s AJ and the Queen*. One of his favorite acting experiences was performing musical sketches on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* for three years.

Bruce originated the role of Olaf in the Disney multi-million-dollar stage production of *Frozen, Live at the Hyperion*. He collaborated closely with Tony-nominated director Liesl Tommy, head of animation John Lasseter and Academy Award-winning composers Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez. Together they crafted the first live version of the character. Over a five-year period, he performed the character of Olaf live for over two million people.

When Bruce is not acting he is a practicing yoga! This past December, he competed in the International Yoga Competition in India and placed 4th in the world! Recently he combined his yoga and acting skills to secure a position as a double for Michael Fassbender in David Fincher’s *The Killer*, which aired on Netflix in September 2023.

To Arts Advocates he says: Thank you for your support of students in the arts! The arts add value to society and you all help make that possible.



Behind the Curtain: EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE

OCTOBER 16 & NOVEMBER 13 | 1:30-3 PM

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!

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 **(941) 955-7676**. Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/outreach programs.

Dates: October 16
November 13
1:30-3 pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15



SALON AT THE SIESTA KEY HOME OF LESLIE BUTTERFIELD

NOVEMBER 7 | 2-4PM

Designed by Carl Abbott - an original member of the Sarasota School of Architecture - for Leslie Butterfield and her family, this unique home was completed in 2015 in collaboration with the Butterfields to create their dream home. The result is a space where they live, dine and entertain outdoors, launch their kayaks on the north end of Siesta Key, and enjoy sweeping views of the waters surrounding the Key.

Leslie will lead us on a tour of the home and discuss the collaboration and process of the design, followed by a viewing of artwork by both Leslie and other artists.

Continuing the theme of collaboration, we will be treated to the latest creation for *Art in Common Places*, a non-profit founded by Leslie, Teresa Carson and Cynthia Burnell. A series of broadsides, combining an image and a poem, are displayed in public places throughout Sarasota, designed to resonate with viewers on both emotional and intellectual levels. Glenn Schudel, a writer and professor at Ringling College, and Laine Nixon, local visual artist, will discuss their *Art in Common Places* piece, "Revision," and how they worked together to produce it.

This is a "Members Only" Event

Date: November 7, 2023, 2-4pm

Place: Address will be provided to registrants prior to event

Cost: \$50



[REGISTER HERE.](#)



COMING IN NOVEMBER: HONORING OUR VETERAN ARTISTS

Art Talk: PURSUING ARTISTIC DREAMS AFTER A MILITARY CAREER

NOVEMBER 10 | 4-6PM

This Art Talk features John Quigley, Mark Wiseman and Jessica Hartman who, following military careers, are pursuing their dreams of careers in art.



Above Left: John Quigley,
Above Right: Mark Wiseman,
Left: Jessica Hartman

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



Date: Friday, November 10, 4-6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

GALLERY EXHIBIT : FEATURING ARTS ADVOCATES VETERAN ARTISTS

Diana de Avila has created over 2000 digital art pieces rooted in fractal geometry, drawing inspiration from the convergence of quantum physics, chaos theory, and divine order. Her cosmic digital art, both dynamic and serene, delves into various technological expressions of art.

Mark Wiseman is in the Graphic Design program at Ringling College of Art & Design. His art style is a blend of graffiti and calligraphy known as calligraffiti – a worldwide phenomenon that began appearing in streets and has increasingly migrated into galleries around the planet.

Jessica Hartman is finally realizing her dream of attending Ringling College of Art & Design after nine years as an air traffic controller for the US Navy. Her goal is to work for a major animation company upon graduation.

John Quigley is an Illustration major at Ringling College of Art & Design with an emphasis on Visual Development. He uses mixed media techniques to bring together his love of photography, painting, and the thrill of finding new ways to use overlooked materials.

Diana, Mark, Jessica and John will be the featured artists in the Arts Advocates November Veteran's Exhibition in the Gallery. Please join us for the opening reception on Saturday, November 4th, from 2 to 4 pm. The exhibit will be open every Saturday from 2 to 4pm through November 25th. Plan to stop by to see their stunning artwork!

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Sarasota Performing Arts Center Update

NOVEMBER 16 | 11AM-1PM



Are differing reports making you wonder what exactly is planned for Sarasota's Bay Park? Will the Van Wezel continue to stand? Will a new Performing Arts Center actually be built? If so, how will it all fit and who will design it?

Come to the Arts Advocates luncheon on November 16th and **GET THE FACTS**. Staff and Board members from the Sarasota Performing Arts Hall Foundation will discuss all the details!

Date: Thursday, November 16, 11am – 1pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



VAN WEZEL MASTER CLASSES

VARIOUS DATES NOVEMBER 2023 THROUGH APRIL 2024



Our partners in the Van Wezel Art & Backstage Tours are offering Master Classes for each of the Broadway shows being presented at the Van Wezel this season – Pretty Woman, The Cher Show, Hadestown, Ain't Too Proud, Jagged Little Pill, Little Women, Hamilton and Shrek! These fun classes will be taught by Broadway veteran Justin Gomlak. No dance experience necessary; just come and enjoy!

Follow the link to learn more and sign up:

<https://artworksanywhere.org/masterclasses/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ARTS ADVOCATES HOLIDAY BAZAAR

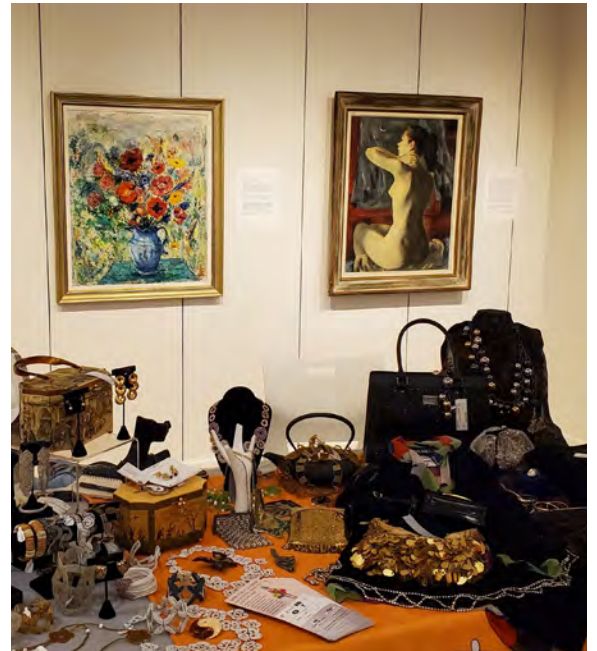
DECEMBER 1 | 12-4PM

ARTS ADVOCATES GALLERY, THE CROSSINGS AT SIESTA KEY

Join fellow Arts Advocates members and guests for a festive Holiday Bazaar! Artisan members will be there to display and sell their paintings, jewelry and other art works.

Enjoy holiday music, wine and treats while you shop for unique holiday gifts! You'll also have the opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow members and other guests.

This event is FREE for members and the general public.



Local Arts Calendar



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:

Ringling Museum

[Working Conditions photography exhibit](#)

Ringling College Gallery

[Impressions & Responses and Faculty Exhibition](#)

The Players Centre

[Ruthless, The Musical](#)

Manatee Performing Arts Center

[Cuban Project: Historias](#)

Leymis Bolanos Wilmott's personal story of forced migration from Cuba

save the dates

- + **October 7**
Lynn Coppinger Exhibit Opening
2 - 4pm
- + **October 10**
Book Club: The Night Portrait
1:30pm
- + **October 13**
Art Talk: Visualizing Social Issues
4 - 6pm
- + **October 14**
Lynn Coppinger Reception | 2-4pm
- + **October 16**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm
- + **October 19**
Luncheon: Sarasota Contemporary Dance | 11am-1pm
- + **November 4**
Veterans Exhibit Opening | 2-4pm
- + **November 7**
Salon: Leslie Butterfield Home | 2-4pm
- + **November 10**
Art Talk: Veterans' Art Careers | 4-6pm
- + **November 16**
Luncheon: Sarasota Performing Arts Hall Update | 11am-1pm
- + **December 1**
Holiday Bazaar | 12-4pm