



OCTOBER 2024

# October Luncheon Program

**Dr. Joseph Holt**

Artistic Director of Choral Artists of Sarasota

Sarasota's only professional choral ensemble had the honor of performing in Normandy, France, in June at the ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Monuments Commission, commemorates the D-Day invasion to honor our World War II veterans and to underscore the importance of the Allies' commitment and sacrifice to preserve freedom.

At our October luncheon, Dr. Joseph Holt will describe this emotional experience, and give an overview of Choral Artists, an important pillar of Sarasota's arts scene.

Dr. Holt enjoys a wide-ranging musical career as conductor, pianist, arts administrator, educator and arranger, with a long, impressive list of awards and accolades. This year, he celebrates his 16th season as artistic director for Choral Artists of Sarasota. He previously served for seven years as director of artist programs for Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. For more than 20 years, he was principal pianist with The United States Army Chorus in Washington, DC, performing for U.S. presidents and dignitaries from around the world. He also held the position of associate music director for The Choral Arts Society of Washington for 15 years.

Also joining us on October 17th is the executive director of Choral Artists of Sarasota, Danielle La Senna. Ms. La Senna graduated from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance. After earning a master's degree in arts education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Ms. La Senna held key positions at such institutions as The Juilliard School, Ringling College of Art and Design, and the Sarasota Art Museum.



Choral Artists of Sarasota comprises 32 of the region's most notable professional singers. Eight apprentice singers, ages 16 to 22, are also invited to join the group each year as part of the organization's educational outreach.

**Reserve your space now to hear the dynamic Dr. Joseph Holt!**

**Date:** Thursday, October 17 | 11 am-1 pm  
**Place:** Sarasota Yacht Club  
**Cost:** \$45 for members/\$50 nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



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

**REMINDER: October 11 is the last day to register for all seven luncheons at the discounted package price of \$275 – save \$25! For members only; register here.**



# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members and Friends,

JC Wayne, our September member artist, opened her show “Wondrous World: Illuminating Sacred Spaces of Memory with Art and Words in Dialogue” in the gallery on September 7. Her paintings, poetry, and writings reveal the beauty of our seen and unseen worlds and inner and outer landscapes to illuminate the wonder of life’s deeper magic, mystery and meaning.

On September 17, Katherine Michelle Tanner, the owner and artistic director of Tree Fort Productions Projects, presented her very informative art talk, “An Artistic Life with Katherine Michelle Tanner” in which she discussed her career, inspirations, and dreams. Katherine lives in Sarasota and works as an actor, playwright, singer, director, filmmaker, choreographer, photographer, and teaching artist.

Looking forward to October:

“SPAACES Studio Artists Present” opens in the gallery on October 5. This exhibition will showcase SPAACES studio artist works as a group for the first time since its inception in 2018. SPAACES artists are full-time working artists who are pursuing a viable career from their art endeavors. The SPAACES studio program is designed to have a wide and lasting impact on the lives of participating artists and positively alter the trajectory and quality of each artist’s professional and personal life.

Our October 17 luncheon features Dr. Joseph Holt, artistic director of Choral Artists of Sarasota, who will speak about what it was like for Sarasota’s

professional choral ensemble to perform at the ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France.

Truman Adams, our October 22 art talk presenter, will share how he creates his work in multiple mediums and styles depending upon his artistic whims and the desires of his clients. This past summer, Truman was selected to create the inaugural work for the city’s Florida Legacy Art Mural Series. His mural featuring Amphitrite, the goddess of the sea, can be found on Tamiami Trail across from the “sailor statue.”

In October, we begin an eight-month ad campaign with the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Scene, and Observer Media Group. We are especially grateful to the Observer for their media sponsorship.

Stay informed by checking our weekly eblasts and monthly newsletters, and remember to visit our website, [www.artsadvocates.org](http://www.artsadvocates.org), to register for events aligned with your interests.

With warmest regards to all,

Bill Rusling  
President, Arts Advocates



Bill Rusling, President

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## OCTOBER MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

# “SPAACES STUDIO ARTISTS PRESENT”

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 5-26, 2-4 PM

In the Arts Advocates Gallery, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota  
(inside the Crossings at Siesta Key mall, use the entrance next to Connors Steak & Seafood, then turn left)

Arts Advocates hosts 18 SPAACES studio artists in a group exhibition called “SPAACES Studio Artists Present.” This exhibition is the first showing of the SPAACES studio artists as a group since its inception in 2018. SPAACES artists are full-time working artists who are pursuing viable careers from their art endeavors. The SPAACES studio program is designed to have a wide and lasting impact on the lives of participants with the hope of positively altering the trajectory and quality of each artist’s professional and personal life. The program provides a supportive infrastructure, career enhancement, networking and mentorship opportunities. SPAACES holds in high regard the working time of artists and respects the uninterrupted schedule required to make cohesive, well crafted, and conceptually strong artworks.



*This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.*

## OCTOBER ART TALK

# TRUMAN ADAMS – “MURALS AND MORE”

Truman Adams is an artist whose work cannot be easily characterized. He creates work in multiple mediums and styles depending upon his artistic whims and the desires of his clients.

You’ve likely seen some of his work around town, such as his 3D dance murals at Rosemary Square and his massive mosaic adorning the exterior of the Church of the Redeemer. This past summer, Truman was selected to create the inaugural work for the city’s Florida Legacy Art Mural Series. His mural featuring Amphitrite, the goddess of the sea, can be found on Tamiami Trail across from the “sailor statue.” Truman is also a 2D and 3D chalk artist who participates regularly in our local chalk festival.



**Date:** Tuesday, October 22 | 4-6 pm

**Place:** Arts Advocates Gallery

The Crossings at Siesta Key mall, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail

**Cost:** Free for members/\$5 nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#)





## OCTOBER SALON

# PRIVATE PIANO CONCERT WITH LIVE PAINTING

Midge Johnson and Alan Wasserman, a delightful husband and wife team, will entertain us in the special and unique gallery space they created to combine their talents. A former music publishing executive, Midge currently devotes her time to honing her artistic skills. She creates abstract expressionist mixed media painting. Her work has been influenced by Helen Frankenthaler, Georgia O'Keeffe, Lee Krasner, Pat Passoff, and the post-war abstract expressionists, as well as contemporary artists with whom she continues to study. Alan is a classical pianist who has performed in hundreds of venues in NY, NJ, China, Russia, and Austria. In 2021, they opened Midge Johnson Fine Art – a studio, gallery, and performance space in Osprey. At this event for Arts Advocates members only, Alan will entertain us on his Steinway grand piano while Midge paints live during the concert. Between each piece, Alan and Midge will discuss relating elements of music with the elements of art and encourage audience participation. Light refreshments will be served.



**Date:** Wednesday, October 23 | 4:45–6:00 pm  
**Place:** Midge Johnson Fine Arts Gallery, Osprey  
**Cost:** \$25 (Arts Advocates members only)

[REGISTER NOW](#)



## ARTS ADVOCATES 2024 YEAR-END FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN: CELEBRATING THE ARTS FOR 55 YEARS

In late October, you will receive a packet of information regarding the Arts Advocates 2024 year-end fundraising campaign. The information is designed to help you make thoughtful decisions concerning your contribution. Remember, you may designate whether you want to fund scholarships, the gallery, or other specific programs. Unspecified donations will be allocated to the general operating fund.

Because of your passion, our organization has continued to support the arts in Sarasota by exhibiting and preserving works by Florida and Sarasota Colony artists, by awarding scholarships to emerging young artists, and by collaborating with nonprofit organizations such as the Sarasota Film Festival and with the Florida Highwaymen.

As you consider your year-end donations, you may choose to donate by check or credit card, you may donate funds through your annual IRA required distribution, or withdraw from your donor-advised fund. If you wish to transfer stock, make a match, or have questions about your donation, please contact Donna Maytham at 941-351-5361.

Arts Advocates is primarily funded by generous donations from members like you. We deeply appreciate your support.

# Behind the Curtain:

## EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE

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:** Monday, October 21  
Monday, November 18  
1:30-3 pm

**Place:** Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

**Cost:** \$15



# Have Some Fun with a Masterclass at the Van Wezel

Based on his extensive Broadway career, Van Wezel Director of Education and Community Engagement Justin Gornak will again offer his popular series of masterclasses in dance, singing, and acting. Each season the Van Wezel offers enriching experiences that connect to their Mainstage Broadway Series for VVPAH patrons, their children, and sometimes grandchildren! Masterclasses for the 2024-2025 season include Moulin Rouge, Funny Girl, Beetlejuice, Les Miserables, and so many more.

Check out their class schedule and register at [artworksanywhere.org/masterclasses/](https://artworksanywhere.org/masterclasses/).





## NOVEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

# 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us for our 55th anniversary celebration! Actor and educator Kathryn Chesley will portray artist Martha Hartman. Martha and her husband William Hartman founded The Hartman School of Art in Sarasota in 1951. However, Martha is best known for founding the famed Sarasota Petticoat Painters in 1953, which is the oldest continuously exhibiting women's art group in the United States. Kathryn Chesley – in her Life and Times portrayal of Martha – tells the story of the development of all the arts in Sarasota County with references to the men and women who helped to create the cultural coast of Florida.

### Win a Painting by Colony Artist Martha Hartman!

When you attend our 55th anniversary luncheon, you will have an opportunity to win "Windows," an original painting by Martha Hartman kindly donated by her son, Bill Hartman.

**Date:** Thursday, November 21 | 11 am-1 pm

**Place:** Sarasota Yacht Club

**Cost:** \$45 for members/\$50 nonmembers

[REGISTER HERE.](#) 

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



## Come to lunch and get 15 months of membership for the price of 12!

Do you know that when you renew your membership at an Arts Advocates luncheon you get 15 months for the price of 12? It's true! This special offer applies to any date that your membership renews.

## NOVEMBER MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

# ROBERT C. MANTEIGA: "FROM STREET PHOTOGRAPHY TO STREET ART - A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY"

SATURDAYS, NOVEMBER 2-30 | 2-4 PM  
Arts Advocates Gallery

In the 1970s and '80s, Robert worked as a freelance photographer for clients including Paramount Picture Cards in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Since coming to Sarasota in 2013, he has worked independently as a photographer and videographer.

This exhibit is sponsored by Observer Media Group.



Child in Aguedas

## SARASOTA BALLET TOUR

This tour, exclusively for Arts Advocates, includes a peek behind the scenes. Learn about the history of the Sarasota Ballet, their current season, and their community engagement and education programs. Visit the costume shop, see dancers in class, various backstage areas, and more.

Date: November 11 | 9:30-11 am

Place: FSU Center for Performing Arts  
5500 N. Tamiami Trail

Cost: \$10 for members/\$15 nonmembers



## NOVEMBER ART TALK

# LISTENING TO WOMEN: The Origin, The Women, The Future

Holly Freedman is the founder of OLLI's Listening to Women, an annual lecture series that highlights the life stories and achievements of women who are influential figures in their respective fields. Holly is instrumental in selecting the speakers who are making a difference in today's communities. She will delve into her selection process and share her interactions with these remarkable women.

Date: November 19 | 4-6 pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers



# HOLIDAY BAZAAR CALL TO ARTISTS

## CALLING ALL ARTS ADVOCATES MEMBER ARTISTS

Join us for our Holiday Bazaar in the Arts Advocates Gallery

December 7 | 12-5 pm

The Crossings at Siesta Key mall, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Stephenie Frasher and Elisabeth Trostli, our Holiday Bazaar event coordinators, are delighted to invite you to participate in our annual holiday shopping extravaganza! This festive event will take place on December 7, 2024, from noon to 5:00 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talent and sell your smaller and giftable artwork to holiday shoppers looking for unique and creative gifts.

### Event Highlights:

- A festive atmosphere with holiday decorations
- Live music and entertainment
- Complimentary refreshments
- Silent auction
- An opportunity to meet and network with fellow artists and art enthusiasts

If you are interested in being a vendor, please RSVP by November 22 to secure your spot and reserve a table for display. Cost to participate is \$25 for a table plus 15% of sales. You can contact Liz Trostli at [etrostli50@gmail.com](mailto:etrostli50@gmail.com) or 941-780-2818 for complete details and to confirm your participation.

## Meet New People and Make a Difference as a Volunteer!

There are many opportunities to become more involved in Arts Advocates as a volunteer for our activities.

LEARN MORE HERE



To volunteer, please contact  
Carol Darling



### Gallery host

Arts Advocates Gallery or Van Wezel docent

Art talk interviewer

Where Are They Now? researcher/writer

Member exhibit set up

Or join a committee:

*hospitality, educational tours/workshops, fundraising, programs, salons, or scholarships*





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:

### Venice Theatre

[The Torch Bearers](#)

### Urbanite Theatre

[Jennifer Who is Leaving](#)

### Creative Liberties Artist Studios

[Feature Artist Opening Reception](#)

### Sarasota Orchestra

[Gershwin's American Dream](#)

### Sarasota Ballet presents

[Martha Graham Dance Company](#)

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



## save the dates

### + October 5

Opening of "SPAACES Studio Artists Present" Exhibit  
2-4 pm

### + October 17

Luncheon: Dr. Joseph Holt, Artistic Director of Choral Artists of Sarasota  
11 am-1 pm

### + October 21

Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage  
1:30-3 pm

### + October 22

Art Talk: Truman Adams - Murals and More  
4-6 pm

### + October 23

Salon: Private Piano Concert with Live Painting  
4:45-6 pm

### + November 2

Opening of Robert C. Manteiga's Exhibit: "From Street Photography to Street Art - A Photographic Journey"  
2-4 pm

### + November 11

Sarasota Ballet Tour  
4-6 pm

### + November 18

Behind the Curtain: Exploring the Van Wezel from the Art to the Stage  
1:30-3 pm

### + November 19

Art Talk: Listening to Women - The Origin, The Women, The Future  
4-6 pm

### + November 21

Luncheon: 55th Anniversary Celebration  
11 am-1 pm



Member artist JC Wayne in our gallery on her September show's opening day.

JC Wayne gave an eco-friendly painting materials mixing demonstration and then did live painting with gallery visitors.



Tree Fort Productions founder Katherine Michelle Tanner was our September art talk guest, interviewed by Stephenie Frasher.



Van Wezel tour-goers experience what it's like to be on stage looking out into the performing arts hall.

Katherine Michelle Tanner in front of her Tree Fort Productions space just down the mall from our gallery.



The Art and Backstage Tour at the Van Wezel includes this tiny but interesting artifact.