

# 2023-2024 LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

You won't want to miss any of the speakers in this dazzling lineup of luncheon programs for our 2023-2024 season!



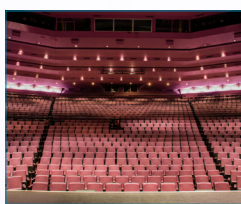
**October 19, 2023**

Sarasota Contemporary Dance  
Leymis Bolanos Wilmott,  
Founder and Artistic Director



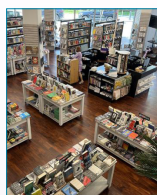
**March 21, 2024**

EnsembleNewSRQ "enSRQ"  
George Nickson &  
Samantha Bennett, Co-Founders



**November 16, 2023**

Sarasota Performing Arts Hall  
Staff and Board Members of  
the new Sarasota Performing  
Arts Hall Foundation



**April 18, 2024**

Banned Books:  
What People Are Reading  
Georgia Court, Owner  
Bookstore1Sarasota



**January 18, 2024**

Arts & Cultural Alliance of  
Sarasota County  
Brian Hersh, new CEO



**May 16, 2024**

Scholarship Awards  
Presentations



**February 15, 2024**

WEDU - Sarasota's Public  
Broadcasting Station  
Paul Grove, President

[CLICK HERE](#)



to register for our October luncheon now.

All programs will be held at the Sarasota Yacht Club, 1100 John Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34236 from 11am – 1pm.

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

# Why do we need art?

**The team at Arts Advocates has been busy during the summer preparing for our 2023-2024 season.**

We will have Art Talks and artist shows in the gallery, interesting speakers for our luncheon series, and are laying the groundwork for the scholarship submittals. The national press tells us the art scene is faltering, but we don't see that in Sarasota. On the contrary, the Sarasota art scene is building back up after the COVID onslaught and the goals for our organization remain relevant.

Arts Advocates has three goals: to preserve and share art done by the Sarasota Colony artists, raise awareness of the arts in Sarasota, and give scholarships to students who want to pursue a career in the arts. But why? Why do we need art?

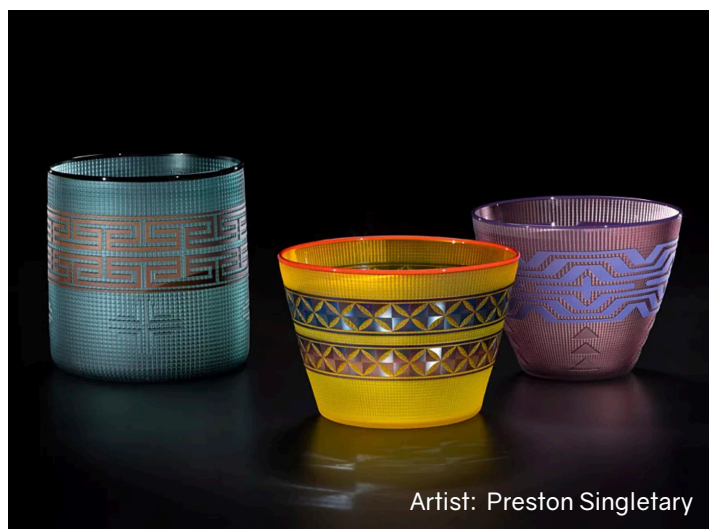
For me, history is the thread that weaves through the answer to this question. Examples include a story from a playwright's past, a Tlingit paying tribute to his indigenous roots in his

carvings, and a song representing memories. But art is personal. Each one of us gets touched differently but then we share the ways we have been touched. The lectures, discussions, tours, and performances offered by Arts Advocates bring us together so we can feel this individually.



Carole Schwartz, President

So why do we need art? Its portrayal of history helps tell us where we came from, and that leads us to self-knowledge that we can share – and one important vehicle for sharing is through Arts Advocates.



Artist: Preston Singletary

# Sarasota Art Museum Season Preview

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 | 11 AM

Enjoy one of Sarasota Art Museum's delightful "pub" lunches while hearing all about this wonderful museum from its **Executive Director, Virginia Shearer**. Then, after lunch, enjoy a **complimentary tour** of the museum led by a docent.

Virginia will provide an insider look at the exhibition making process at play within our region's first and only dedicated contemporary art museum. Her talk will highlight the need for building a relationship between the organization and the artist and demonstrate why organizational buy-in is vital across every level of the Museum, and why embracing the creative process in working closely with the artist is essential.

**Place:** Sarasota Art Museum  
1001 South Tamiami Trail

**Cost:** \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members, which includes lunch and a one-hour docent-led tour of the museum.



Virginia Shearer  
(Photo: CatMax Photography)

REGISTER HERE.





# Scholarship Winners Express Gratitude for Gallery Exhibition

*It was an honor to show my work in the Arts Advocates gallery. Not only did I get some amazing feedback, but I also had the pleasure of meeting other students (some of whom will be my classmates this Fall!). I'm thankful for the leadership, guidance, and support of the Arts Advocates members, as well as the opportunity for professional exposure in the Sarasota community.*

**John Quigley**  
Ringling College of Art + Design



*While I've displayed my art in "mock" galleries for my art courses at the University of Florida and hosted an informal art show to present my work, the Arts Advocates Gallery was the first gallery that I have displayed at that has been unaffiliated with my classes. I was very excited to connect with artists and patrons outside of my usual community! For the most part, this experience helped me learn how to be confident in presenting my work and communicating with others about my interests, processes and goals. I am so thankful for the opportunity to learn, connect, and gain a new perspective.*

**Noie Prouty, University of Florida**



*Displaying my artwork in the gallery was a transformative experience for me, providing me opportunities for growth, learning, and exposure to the art world.*

*This experience allowed me to receive feedback from viewers and art enthusiasts. The positive feedback was a source of validation for me. It helped to boost my confidence and provided me with a sense of accomplishment. Preparing and presenting my artwork as well as learning how to effectively present my art in a gallery setting is an important skill for all artists and this contributed to my artistic growth and deeper understanding of my own style and vision. I am very grateful for this opportunity.*

**Samantha Tanelli, Ringling College of Art + Design**



# Meet Your Leadership Team

## Second 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. This will be a 5-part series, running through the December issue. Each subject was asked to state their 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.



### Nancy Roucher

I am currently Program Chair for Arts Advocates luncheon meetings. My personal passion in the arts is ... EVERYTHING! I love music, theatre, visual arts, and dance, especially Broadway and jazz! My mission is arts education. I served as Co-Director of the Florida Institute for Arts Education for 12 years; Director of Project HEART (Helping Education through Arts Resources for Teachers), working with 75 schools in the Midwest; Interim Director (twice) of the Sarasota County Arts Council (now Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County); and Chair of the Sarasota County Arts Education Partnership, a coalition of arts educators and supporters under the Arts & Cultural Alliance. I have enjoyed Arts Advocates because of connecting with other people with the same interests. It has been a pleasure to work on our luncheon programs that showcase the range and depth of Sarasota's arts community.



### Elaine Foster

This is my third year as Treasurer of The Fine Arts Society of Sarasota, Inc. Ballet has been my #1 passion in the arts since my first attendance of a performance of the Sarasota Ballet. For many years I have loved Impressionist painting and the Post-Impressionist paintings of Van Gogh in particular. Through my involvement with Arts Advocates I've learned about the rich history of painters/artists in Sarasota and have been introduced to their paintings through the organization's extensive collection. I have also learned so much from the fabulous luncheon speakers about art organizations in the Sarasota area. Most importantly, I have enjoyed meeting members with similar interests for new friendships and to further expand my knowledge of the art world.



### Maria Cecilia Conder

I serve on the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. I was a dancer for the award-winning Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company and traveled the world with them to 51 countries and 88 cities in the USA. Through that experience, I realized the impact of diversity in the arts and cultures of our global community, because we are all ONE with humanity. This spurred my passion and commitment to the arts and nurtured my interest in collecting Impressionist landscape paintings, European and Asian decorative art and antiques and original Florida Highwaymen art. I was also inspired to support our differently abled (disabled) local artists. Arts Advocates kindled my dedication to Sarasota arts and its dynamic art community. Thank you, Arts Advocates; keep inspiring, empowering, and motivating our arts community!



# ARTS ADVOCATES GALLERY ARTIST **LORRAINE ROBERTSON**

SEPTEMBER 2-27 | 2-4 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Lorraine Robertson is a family physician and upon retirement, she returned to earlier loves in her life, painting, drawing and the piano. Lorraine studied with nationally known artists and attended renowned art schools including the Art Students League in New York.

Before her move to Florida in 2015 Lorraine entered juried shows and placed 2nd out of 267 entries in Tewksbury Historical Society Juried Art Exhibition and won a Best in Watercolor from the Winsor & Newton company. She works in all media: watercolor, acrylic, charcoal, and India ink but mostly in oil. Most artists limit themselves to just a few genres. Lorraine paints portraits, landscapes, cityscapes, animals, still life and abstracts.

A series of 21 of her paintings called "Ain't Love Grand," portray elderly people still in love. This series will be on display during her show at the Arts Advocates Gallery. **Lorraine Robertson will be at the Gallery every Saturday in September from 2- 4 pm. Show closes Saturday, Sept. 27.**



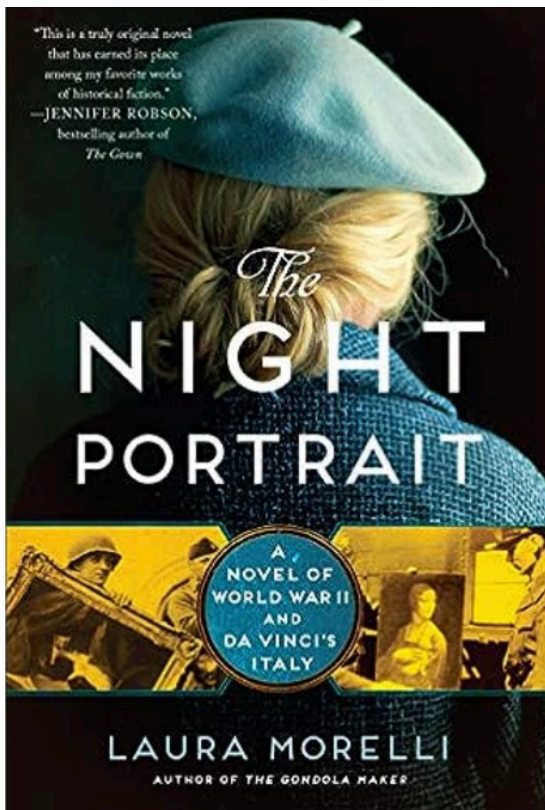
# ENJOY OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2023 | 1:30 PM

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.

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key mall

REGISTER HERE.



# Behind the Curtain:

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

SEPTEMBER 18 | 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:** September 18, 1:30-3 pm

**Place:** Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

**Cost:** \$15





# Art Talk: TRAGEDY TO GIFT

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 | 4-6 PM

Join us as we learn about Diana De Avila's journey from tragedy to gift. She will be joined by her friend Wilma Davis, who co-authored their book *Soldier, Sister, Savant*.

*Soldier, Sister, Savant* is the inspirational and unique story of Diana de Avila and her journey to artistic genius as an acquired art savant. Her creative fractal art emerged after a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and an exacerbation of multiple sclerosis. Acquired savants are a rarity; female acquired savants even rarer.

In their book, the authors share significant events in de Avila's life prior to the advent of her "accidental genius," as well as many examples of her art. Readers will discover the enormous role that faith, family, resilience, and resolve play in de Avila's overcoming life-threatening odds in order to prolifically produce over 1,000 pieces of extraordinary digital art. University and lives in Longboat Key, Florida.



**Date:** Friday, September 29, 2023, 4:00-6:00 pm

**Place:** Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

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

REGISTER HERE.



# SARASOTA CONTEMPORARY DANCE

OCTOBER 19, 2023 | 11 AM

*There's a creative, dynamic talent coming our way!*

Kicking off the Arts Advocates luncheon programs on October 19 will be **Leymis Bolanos Wilmott**, co-founder, and artistic director of Sarasota Contemporary Dance (SCD). Her path from FSU grad student to being named one of “the most powerful people in the Sarasota arts” continues this year with SCD's 18th season.

Wilmott's imaginative dances and SCD's high-energy performances often include collaborations with musicians, choral groups, and museums. Ever expanding, SCD offers multiple classes including those for individuals with limited mobility.

Discover more about the accomplishments of this amazing woman and Sarasota Contemporary Dance.



REGISTER HERE.



# 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 was forwarded by Bishop Desmond Tutu.

A member of the National Association of Women Artists since 2019, Turner has received 4 major awards in NAWA's national exhibits to include First Place for Mixed Media/Collage, 2021, in the 132nd Annual NAWA exhibit and Best of Show for her installation "Assault on Orlando". In February of 2022, Turner curated female artists in three large galleries at the historic Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers, FL.



Turner is currently exhibiting in Manhattan, Boston, Tennessee, Fort Lauderdale, and the Biscayne Institute.

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](https://nanettesnewlife.blogspot.com).

**Date:** Friday, October 13, 2023, 4:00-6:00 pm  
**Place:** Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key  
**Cost:** \$20 members/\$25 non-members

REGISTER HERE.





# FOLLOW ARTS ADVOCATES ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that Arts Advocates has a Facebook page? All our events and public announcements are posted there. If you're on Facebook, please follow Arts Advocates, "Like" our posts and share them to your feed. You'll be helping to spread the word about Arts Advocates and all our great programs.

Visit [www.facebook.com/fineartsrq](https://www.facebook.com/fineartsrq)



## Local Arts Calendar

As a core element of its mission, Arts Advocates helps to raise awareness of local arts organizations. Please support and enjoy these upcoming programs in our community. Click on the links for more information:

### Sarasota Opera

[The Music of Giacomo Puccini](#)

### Sarasota Ballet

[Progression in Rep](#)

### Sarasota Contemporary Dance.

[SCD + WBTT](#)

### Florida Studio Theatre

[Cabaret](#)

### Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

[Jalen Baker Quartet](#)

### Urbanite Theatre

[The Sound Inside](#)

### The Van Wezel

[Friday Fest – Jah Movement](#) (free)

# VAN WEZEL MASTER CLASSES

FIRST CLASS NOVEMBER 17, 2023



Join our Van Wezel partners in the Art and Backstage tours as they offer fun Master classes! Learn numbers from Broadway shows, taught by Broadway veteran Justin Gomlak. No dance experience needed. Just come and enjoy!

Follow this link to learn more and sign up!

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

# RECENT HAPPENINGS

## Philomena Marano – Drawing With an X-Acto Knife

**Philomena Marano**, the Arts Advocates gallery artist for August and focus of an August 11 Art Talk is best known for her cut paper works and limited edition prints in her acclaimed collection, “American-Dream-Land” in which she depicts both personal and universal themes in the rides, signs and attractions of her childhood playground, Coney Island. Enjoy Philomena’s artworks at [www.philomenamarano.com](http://www.philomenamarano.com)

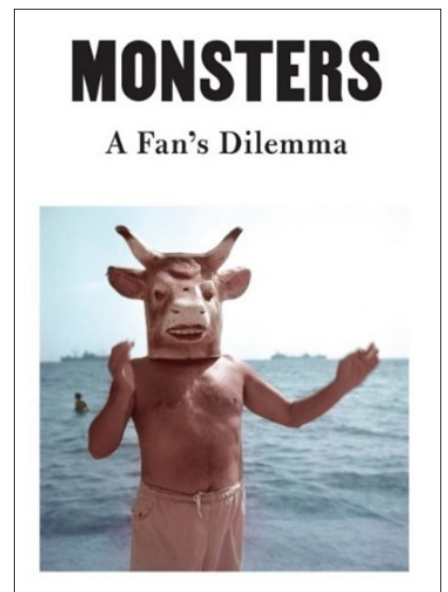


## Arts Advocates Book Club

Claire Dederer’s “*Monsters: A Fan’s Dilemma*” prompted a lively discussion by the first meeting of the Arts Advocates Book Club participants. The author writes about different creative people whose work she admires but whose personal lives give pause, or as Dederer says, “artists we love but whose morals we hate.” Her examples of problematic artists range from Roman Polanski (child rapist) to Bill Cosby (serial rapist) to Wagner (anti-Semite) to Picasso (misogynist).

Towards the end of the book, Dederer considers whether she herself is a “monster” for sometimes prioritizing her writing over her children. This became the focal point of the discussion. Many felt it was Dederer’s feelings of guilt that prompted her to write the book.

If you have an interesting book for discussion and would like to host a book club, please email: [artsengagement@artsadvocates.org](mailto:artsengagement@artsadvocates.org)





# save the dates

- + **September 2**  
Opening Reception:  
Lorraine Robertson Exhibit  
2 - 4 pm
- + **September 29**  
Art Talk: Tragedy to Gift  
4 pm - 6 pm
- + **October 13**  
Art Talk: Visualizing Social Issues  
4 - 6 pm
- + **October 10**  
Book Club: "The Night Portrait:  
A Novel of World War II and  
da Vinci's Italy  
1:30 pm
- + **November 7**  
Salon at Leslie Butterfield's Home  
2 - 4 pm