



SEPTEMBER 2024

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER – LIMITED TIME ONLY!
REGISTER FOR ALL 7 LUNCHEONS AND SAVE \$25!**

ARTS ADVOCATES 2024-2025 LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

October 17, 2024



Dr. Joseph Holt, Artistic Director of Choral Artists of Sarasota

See 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.

November 21, 2024



55th Anniversary: Kathryn Chesley portraying Martha Hartman

In celebration of our 55th anniversary, actor and educator Kathryn Chesley will portray artist and Arts Advocates cofounder Martha Hartman.

January 16, 2025



Morris (Marty) Hylton III, President of Architecture Sarasota

Architecture Sarasota understands the power of design to transform places and inspire lives. Learn about their efforts to preserve our cultural heritage and identify the challenges inherent in developing a new master plan.

February 20, 2025



Greg Rumph and Students in Booker High School's Visual & Performing Arts Program

(Note: This event will take place in the Arts Advocates Gallery.)

Greg Rumph, artist, assistant principal and head of the renowned VPA program, will speak about preparing the next generation of artists. Student talent will be showcased!

March 20, 2025



Barbara Ramsay, Chief Conservator of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

What is the role of the conservator of a museum with hundreds of priceless paintings? How are old paintings restored to their original splendor? Ms. Ramsay will explain this ongoing behind-the-scenes effort.

April 17, 2025



Peter Rothstein, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Repertory Theatre

When Peter Rothstein stepped into Michael Donald Edwards' shoes, his vast experience gave him just the background he needed to guide Asolo Rep to exciting new heights. Rothstein will share his vision for Asolo's future.

May 15, 2025



Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Celebrate the talents of our Arts Advocates scholarship winners at this popular event!

Except as noted, all luncheons take place at the Sarasota Yacht Club, 11 am to 1 pm.

REGISTER HERE.



If you sign up for each luncheon individually, the total member cost would be \$300. But if you register for all 7 luncheons BY OCTOBER 11, the special discounted package price is only \$275, a savings of \$25!

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Arts Advocates,

I want to thank everyone who participated in our board of directors' retreat at the gallery on July 11, as well as Cynthia Kemp of Gulf Coast Community Foundation who facilitated the retreat. We identified and prioritized issues through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis, and as a result there were many promising suggestions on how to improve our organization. A committee has been appointed to use these suggestions to create a strategic plan that will go to the full board for approval.

On July 16, we held a very informative and well attended art talk, "6 of 26: Six of the Original Florida Highwaymen Artist's Paintings in the Arts Advocates Collection." Stephenie Frasher, our lead docent, presented an in-depth look at the artists who painted the works in our collection: Alfred Hair, Al Black, Rodney Demps, James Gibson, John Maynor, and Sam Newton.

Regretfully, an AC failure led to the cancellation of our August art talk, "Contemporary Women Artists Who Achieved Fame in Their Senior Years," to be presented by Judy Levine. This art talk – about influential women artists still working into their 80s, 90s, and 100s – will be rescheduled.

Moving on to our September member artist, JC Wayne will exhibit her show "Wondrous World: Illuminating Sacred Spaces of Memory with Art and Words in Dialogue" in the gallery beginning

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.



Bill Rusling, President

On September 17, Katherine Michelle Tanner, the owner and artistic director of Tree Fort Productions Projects, will present her art talk, "An Artistic Life with Katherine Michelle Tanner" where she will discuss her career, inspirations, and dreams. Katherine lives in Sarasota and works as an actor, playwright, singer, director, filmmaker, choreographer, photographer, and teaching artist.

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,

Bill Rusling
President, Arts Advocates

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SEPTEMBER MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

JC WAYNE – “WONDROUS WORLD: ILLUMINATING SACRED SPACES OF MEMORY WITH ART & WORDS IN DIALOGUE”

JC Wayne | Creative for Good is a sustainable existential artist and wisdom word-worker, weaving together her eco-responsible visual art and her original poetry to create a revelatory “cartography of the unseen” as a path into universal wisdom and spiritual understanding. 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. New to Florida, her art has appeared in solo and group exhibits and as public art throughout Vermont; and in Houston, Texas; Beijing, China; and Gulfport, Florida. In the world of poetry, she is the author of *Voicing Art: Poetry of Space | Place | Time* and has appeared in many anthologies. JC graduated from Brown and Harvard with advanced degrees in art history, international relations and political science, yet considers her world travel as her true education into wisdom.



EXHIBIT DATES: Every Saturday in September, 2-4 pm

September 7, 2-4 pm

MEET THE ARTIST & HEAR THE STORIES

Meet JC Wayne and learn the stories behind the art and poetry in her exhibit. She will share how and why her art is created sustainably with hand mixed and totally non-toxic materials, why she is especially inspired by engaging poetry with art, and her purpose as a Creative for Good.

September 14 & September 28, 2-4 pm

ECO-FRIENDLY PAINTING MATERIALS MIXING

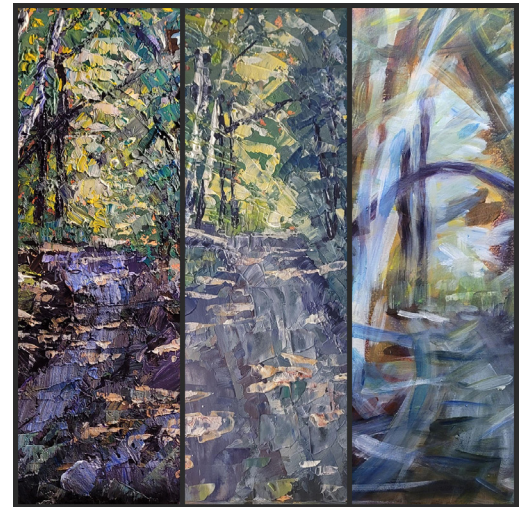
DEMONSTRATION & Live Painting with the Artist

Come see what the Natural Earth Paint materials, mediums and tools JC Wayne uses look like, and experience a demo of the process of hand mixing the paints, which creates a uniquely intimate, experimental and meaningful extra dimension to the process of artmaking. JC will also demonstrate how the materials work with a live painting demo.

September 20, 2:30-4 pm

WRITING ART-INSPIRED POETRY with JC Wayne's Exhibit

Try your hand at writing ekphrastic (art-inspired) poetry with JC Wayne in response to art of your choice in her exhibit. JC's experience is that everyone has poetry in them, even if they have never tried it or don't think they have the skill. In JC's approach, poetry is play, offering a lighthearted, joyful, no-pressure, no “right or wrong” process. Bring paper or an electronic device, a writing tool, your love of art and a playful spirit. No writing or poetry experience necessary.



Forest Abstracted

SEPTEMBER ART TALK

“AN ARTISTIC LIFE WITH KATHERINE MICHELLE TANNER”

Katherine Michelle Tanner is the owner and artistic director of Tree Fort Productions Projects, a not-for-profit 501c3 production company specializing in classes for youth, teens, adults, and ongoing education. Tree Fort offers quality training in acting, singing, dancing, film, and photography. Their services allow all to explore their artistic passion in a safe and supportive environment.

Originally from Hastings, Minnesota, Katherine lives in Sarasota and works as an actor, playwright, singer, director, filmmaker, choreographer, photographer, and teaching artist. She received her B.A. triple major in theatre, dance, and education from St. Olaf College and her M.F.A. in acting from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Her passion for performance has taken her from Broadway to regional theatre, from film to television, and from country to country. She is best known for her multi-award-winning performance of the one woman play, “The Amish Project” (Off-Broadway and U.S. tour).



Katherine will discuss her career, inspirations, and dreams.

Date: Tuesday, September 17 | 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.](#)



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: Tuesday, September 17

Monday, October 21

1:30-3 pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

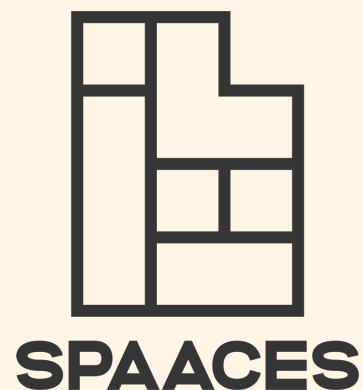
Cost: \$15

OCTOBER MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

“SPAACES STUDIO ARTISTS PRESENT”

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 5-26, 2-4 PM

Art Advocates hosts the 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.



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, at the ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day. At our October luncheon, Dr. Joseph Holt will describe this emotional experience, and give an overview of Choral Artists of Sarasota, 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 will celebrate 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.

Don’t miss this presentation by one of the brightest stars in Sarasota’s arts community!

Date: Tuesday, October 17 | 11 am-1 pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

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

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



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.](#)



SAVE THE DATE

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 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 HERE.](#)



ARTS ADVOCATES BOARD RETREAT

In mid-July, 16 Arts Advocates board members and team leaders met in the gallery to participate in a day-long self-assessment meeting. The session was facilitated by Cynthia Kemp, a consultant recommended and partially funded by The Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

The purpose of the retreat was to apply the commonly used SWOT analysis by identifying Arts Advocates' organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Following the retreat, Ms. Kemp distributed a comprehensive report to be used as a reference for development of a strategic plan.

Highlights from the retreat report include:

- Establish a committee, with a board-level team leader, responsible for recruiting, retaining, celebrating, and rewarding volunteers
- Schedule focus groups to capture member feedback
- Increase transparency and further engage members' participation
- Reimagine the art collection
- Develop incentives to increase attendance at events and activities
- Develop a donor cultivation plan

As follow-up to the retreat, Bill Rusling chaired the initial meeting of the Arts Advocates strategic planning team. This team will draft a plan for the full board to review.

DESIGNING WOMEN BOUTIQUE'S GROUNDWORKS PROGRAM

Arts Advocates is fortunate to be a participant in Designing Women Boutique's (DWB) unique GroundWorks program, designed to help local nonprofits raise funds to support their mission.

How does it work? Members and friends donate lightly used upscale items such as clothing, shoes, purses, artwork, tableware and furniture to Designing Women in Arts Advocates' name. When the items are sold, DWB donates back to us a generous 60% of the sale price. Over the past two years, your donations have resulted in a return of over \$10,000 to us.

Summer is coming to a close so it's the perfect time to search your closets and cupboards for lightly used items to donate to DWB. Please take your items to the boutique at 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Unit 101, Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm, or Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. Tell an employee that you have a donation for the Groundworks program from Arts Advocates. If you cannot deliver your smaller items or you are donating 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.

Arts Advocates is thankful to DWB for including us in GroundWorks, and to our members and friends for making our participation a success.





Join Our Team of Art Docents!

Are you passionate about art and eager to share your enthusiasm with others? The Arts Advocates Gallery team and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall team are seeking dedicated and dynamic individuals to join our docents!

Who We Are: The Arts Advocates Gallery showcases a vibrant collection of local and regional art, celebrating the creativity and diversity of our community. The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall is a premier cultural venue that houses our collection and has monthly public tours. Our collection is split between the two venues. Together, we aim to enrich lives through the power of art.

What You Will Do: As a docent, you will:

- Lead engaging and informative tours for visitors of all ages.
- Provide insights into the artworks and the artists behind them.
- Foster a deeper appreciation for the arts within our community.
- Participate in ongoing training to enhance your knowledge and presentation skills.

Why Volunteer with Us:

- Share your passion for art with a diverse audience.
- Meet like-minded art enthusiasts and make new friends.
- Gain valuable public speaking and educational experience.
- Enjoy exclusive access to special events and exhibitions.

Requirements:

- A genuine interest in art and a desire to learn more.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- A commitment to volunteer regularly (schedules are flexible).
- Prior experience or knowledge of art is a plus but not required.

How to Apply:

If you're ready to inspire others with the beauty of art, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with Stephenie Frasher at memberengagement@artsadvocates.org.

Join us in making art accessible and enjoyable for everyone by becoming a docent at the Arts Advocates Gallery and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall today!

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 September 15, 2024 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 or 941-780-2818 for complete details and to confirm your participation.



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:

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

[The Florida Highwaymen: Interstate Connections](#)

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota

[September Serenade](#)

Hermitage Artist Retreat

[Let the Music Set You Free](#)

Sarasota Art Museum

[Molly Hatch: Amalgam](#)

save the dates

+ September 7

Opening of JC Wayne's Exhibit:
"Wondrous World: Illuminating Sacred Spaces of Memory with Art & Words in Dialogue"
2-4 pm

+ September 17

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

+ September 17

Art Talk: An Artistic Life with Katherine Michelle Tanner
4-6 pm

+ October 5

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

+ October 17

October 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