

MARTIN *Arts*

SPRING | SUMMER 22

**Murray Middle School Students
Hitting the High Notes!**

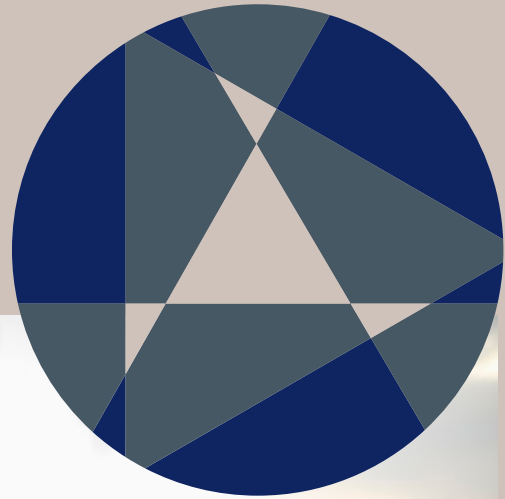
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Renewal & Love

Spring is a time for renewal. With luck, this season will usher in the ability to see beyond COVID-19 and allow us to relax and enjoy all the arts have to offer. This challenging period we have all lived through reminds me of some lyrics:



Measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee.

In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.

In 525,600 minutes - How do you measure a year in the life? How about love?

– Jonathan Larson, from Rent

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to attend the Barn Theatre's production of Rent and was reminded how the play tackles some of the scariest issues facing young artists in NYC in the 1980's. And yet at the end, while grieving the losses that happened, there is hope, through love. Let's all look for love and celebrate with friends.

And for a little bit of trivia, do you know what Stuart's special connection to Rent is?

StarStruck Academy & Theatre worked directly with Music Theatre International to create the student edition of Rent that now is used in high schools across the country. In addition to Rent, they have also staged the pilot production of the school editions of Sweeney Todd and Avenue Q, and junior versions of Hairspray Jr, and Beauty and the Beast Jr.

Stuart, Florida may be small in stature compared to other cities, but its commitment to the arts, in its infrastructure and by the people who live here, make our community so vibrant.

I am proud to announce that our MartinArts family is growing! We've added Development & Membership Manager, Laura Tingo to our team, along with Karen Janson, editor for MartinArts Magazine. I'm so excited that both of these creative women are working along side us. With their help we will have more resources to tell the stories that illustrate the value and importance of the arts to our lives.

Creatively yours,

Nancy K. Turrell, MA
Executive Director

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Cover photography by Liz McKinley at ArtsFest 2022, featuring Murray Middle School students Jaylen Webley and Savannah Slaymaker.

Hits High Notes!

By Karen Janson Photos by Liz McKinley



Murray Middle School Students Perform at ArtsFest

The oldest form of music written for a choir can be dated back to ancient Greece and the Delphic Hymns, which were dedicated to the god Apollo. Martin County's history with choirs does not date that far back; however, for decades a rich and diverse choir community has flourished and can be heard in our schools and in music organizations throughout the region.

Let's look at why. Our area's success in creating a dynamic choir community ultimately stems from Martin County School District's decision to consistently support the arts in its programming. From **Mr. Harris's** lively music class at Indiantown's **Warfield Elementary** to the nationally recognized choirs of Jensen Beach and Martin County High Schools, music is literally in the air we breathe.

In fact, in 2003, **Dr. Doug Jewett** founded the locally renowned **Treasure Coast Community Singers (TCCS)** inspired by his time spent with the Martin County High School's OPUS Choir. When not conducting the Indian River Pops Orchestra, you can find Dr. Jewett leading multiple TCCS choirs including a youth choir, community choir, chamber singers and the cantante choir.

"I wanted to create a place where anyone can join and find their voice," said Jewett. "We provide a community service of making music and helping people feel connected to one another through singing."

"Choral music is so unique because there are no external instruments, just the sounds of the human voice."

—Emily Vitale, OPUS Choral Director

The global pandemic curbed the entire choral community and prevented attendance at competitions and public performances that serve as necessary fundraisers. For example, the TCCS choirs went 14 months without a fundraiser and are just now getting back on track. "We would love it if the entire community knew about our choir and supported it with attendance at concerts."



Felix A. Williams Holiday Ensemble



JBHS Choral Director James Paul (Far Left) and Ron Corbin (Far Right) with Jubilate Choir PHOTO PROVIDED BY JBHS

During the pandemic, all three competing high school choral directors agreed to sit out traveling and competing out of state, keeping the safety of their students a top priority. This March 24 marks, however, the return of the annual Music in Our Schools Concert where hundreds of students from every school unite in song. "Choral music is so unique," said **OPUS director, Emily Vitale**, "there are no external instruments, just the sounds of the human voice."

CHORUS INTEGRATES ALL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION

According to **Dr. Anita Caswell**, **Murray Middle School's** choral director for the past eight years, Martin County's commitment to keeping music programs in schools is a major factor in fostering such a rich and diverse choral community. "I have taught music for 35 years in several states and Martin County does a fantastic job in giving kids a chance to experience music." Her students have been rehearsing for a performance at this year's ArtsFest in downtown Stuart. What is apparent, from elementary school up through the high school level, is that both the teachers and students find belonging to a choral ensemble an important part of development.

Dr. Caswell reinforces core subjects in her choir classes. For example, history is taught when discussing where the music originated from; math is covered during discussions of rhythm, whole and half notes; and science is highlighted when referring to pitches and sound.

CHORAL PROGRAMS LEAVE LIFELONG IMPRESSIONS

"I was always drawn to music and the arts," said **Peter Jones**, Co-founder of **StarStruck Academy** and Theatre. "However, it wasn't until I was a student in Mr. Corbin's MCHS choir class that I understood you had to apply discipline toward your music." According to Jones, he realized being a choir member was just like being part of a team sport, where everyone on the team had an important role and that expectations for excellence were set very high.

When Emily Vitale was a high school student and member of the JBHS Jubilate choir, she was amazed that such a

diverse group of students with varying degrees of training could unite and create such beautiful sounds. When given the opportunity to student conduct her senior year, she knew she wanted to become a choir director as a career.

James Paul, a former OPUS student, has led **Jensen Beach High School's** Jubilate Choir for 18 years. For Paul, being a member of a choir in high school was fun, first and foremost, and a place where he built lifelong friendships. Beyond the friendships, being a choir member gave him a love for life, a drive to always perform at his best and instilled in him a love for people.

TIGHTKNIT COMMUNITY

A professional opera singer turned **JD Parker Elementary** choral director, **Kerry Rocks** believes Martin County's successful music program has everything to do with the relationships and sense of community she feels with

Upcoming Choir Performances

Treasure Coast Community Singers

The Chamber Choir will present **Germane to Brahms** on April 23 and 24. Our Spring Concert for the Community Choir is **Patriotic** themed May 14 and 15. For tickets or more information, visit TCCS website at www.tccsingers.org

Music In Our Schools

March 24 at MCHS, features all choirs throughout the County

MCHS OPUS

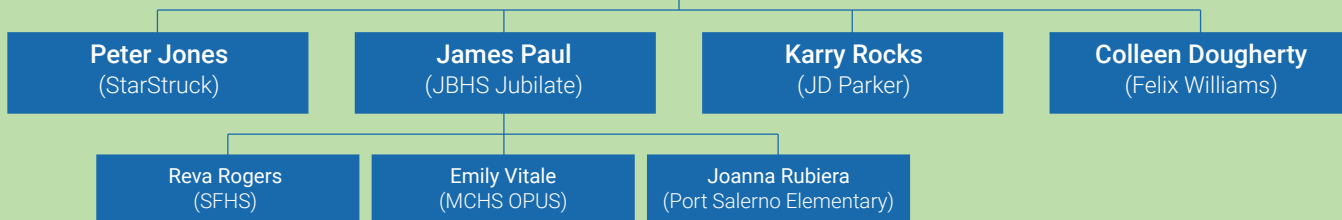
Annual holiday concerts and spaghetti dinner fundraiser

JBHS Jubilate

Spring concert in May, tickets at the door or contact JBHS

Martin County Music Legacy

Ron Corbin/MCHS OPUS



other music teachers. "When I was just beginning as a teacher, they were so supportive," said Rocks. "I learned so much from other choral directors during professional development days, where we come together and share best practices."

Perhaps the magic to creating such a talented choral community lies in the fact that so many choral directors in Martin County, were trained here as students and derived their passion for music from their mentors. As choral director of MCHS's OPUS choir, Ron Corbin taught:

James Paul- JBHS Jubilate choral director
 Kerry Rocks-JD Parker Elementary Choral Director
 Colleen Dougherty—Felix Williams Elementary School

In turn, James Paul, the choral director JBHS for past 18 years taught:

Emily Vitale—MCHS OPUS choral director
 Reva Rogers- SFHS Choral Director
 Joanna Rubiera—Port Salerno Elementary School

Time will tell who might be next student inspired to join the Martin County choral director family.



Copeland Davis - Feb. 19-20
Music of the Movies - Apr. 2-3
Memorial Day - May 28 & 30

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PHOTO BY LINDSEY POTTER.

No doubt about it, Ron Corbin will forever be a Martin County legend for his 34-year contribution as Choral Director for Martin County High School's OPUS Choir. Starting with a couple of dozen students he built the program into a nationally acclaimed choir, winning too many top awards to count. But for him, the experience of fostering budding vocalists was a deep passion, a passion that sparked within his students a desire to teach a new generation of Martin County students. For Corbin, his longevity at the job was simple, "I loved every minute of leading the kids, it was the greatest job I ever had."

When asked about his philosophy to turn out a successful choir year after year, he boiled it to a few truisms:

- I never told a student what to do. Instead, I asked them. That way the outcome is up to them, and they need to want to do it.
- I treated all students as if they were my own child and built their trust.
- In terms of behavior, be intentional. Do something constructive with your life.
- Just try and do a good job.



Peter Jones (L), Ron Corbin (R), 1987



Peter Jones (L) in vintage jacket with Ron Corbin (R)

A Chorus of Praise for Ron Corbin's Teaching Methods

The gift of music Ron Corbin shared with his students continues to have a huge impact in Martin County. His progenies now hold key music leadership positions throughout the county. Why did so many return to Martin County?

More than just a teacher to his students, Ron Corbin cared deeply about them and their futures. He guided them by reviewing report cards, assisting in class selection, and giving advice when it came time to apply to colleges. No wonder many of his students took his advice to heart and now create the same kind of nurturing environment in their classrooms.

For **Colleen Dougherty** Ron Corbin was a father figure. Now choral director at **Felix Williams Elementary**, she uses the lessons Mr. Corbin taught her with her students. "He expected each of us to rise to the occasion and act like a professional. From the moment we walked on the stage to the final bow, it was something special. He did not accept anything but our very best, and we all wanted to live up to that."

As a MCHS student, **James Paul** loved being a member of OPUS and the camaraderie he felt with other student members. For him, Ron Corbin instilled, "a love for life, for people and for doing things well."

"OPUS was probably the most significant and formative experience in my youth. It taught me respect, accountability, teamwork, a sense of community, and of course, music," said **Karin Leone**, a business owner and vocalist who continues to perform on the Treasure Coast.

Ron Corbin's immense contribution to Martin County's choral community will live on in the students he inspired, and the teachers who now continue to share his music and life lessons.

FROM THE Court House Cultural Center

FLORIDIAN FLAVORS

Floridian Flavors:
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11-February 26, 2022.
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BE SQUARE!

CALL TO MEMBER ARTISTS:

Be Squared

ENTRY DEADLINE: May 1

**EXHIBITION OPENING
RECEPTION:**

Friday, June 10, 5:30-7PM

Member artists are invited to participate in a themed show, all about squares. In addition to submitting your work on a square surface, MartinArts is asking artists, in lieu of an entry fee, to submit an original 8"x 8" piece of artwork on a provided canvas. These donated works, separate from the exhibition, will be sold to raise funds for arts programming at the Court House Cultural Center. Check MartinArts.org for more details about entry.

MARVIN S. CONE

36th Annual High School Juried Art Show

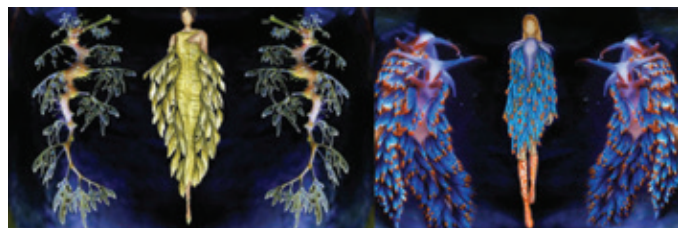
EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION & AWARDS:

Thursday, May 5, 5:30-7PM

EXHIBITION DATES: April 26-May 26, 2022

MartinArts is pleased to bring the 36th annual celebration of high school visual artists to the galleries at the Court House Cultural Center. Started by local artist, educator and entrepreneur Marvin S. Cone, the exhibition is a legacy and a long-standing favorite of our staff and volunteers. Cone was inspired by local high school visual artists and wanted to recognize their accomplishments with a juried art exhibition.

With support from our sponsors, MartinArts is able to frame and display the artwork in the gallery, giving students an opportunity to professionally exhibit their art. Students from our five local high schools participate, including South Fork, Martin County and Jensen Beach High Schools along with Clark Advanced Learning Center and The Pine School. Palm City Art & Frame has provided framing services to this exhibition for the duration of the



"Marine Imitation" by Cassidy Bean selected Best of Show in the 35th Annual

program. Professionals from across the region judge the artworks and students have a chance to compete for awards and have their pieces purchased by members of the public.

Cheryl Coté, Danuta Rothschild, Kirsten Stingle

March 4 – April 15 Court House Cultural Center

Nuances of life spoken in *Humanity through the Artist Eye – A Three Woman Perspective*

Contributed by, Laura Louise Tingo, MartinArts staff

In a stunning showcase of singular expression, three remarkable female artists share a moving stage of individual works in *Humanity through the Artist Eye – A Three Woman Perspective*. This vibrantly expressive show, curated by Ken Hooper-Capozzi and Maria Miele, is on display through April 15th, at the Court House Cultural Center, in Downtown Stuart.

With an exciting variety of mediums and works, exhibiting Artists Cheryl Cote', Danuta Rothschild, and Kirsten Stingle, seamlessly invoke thought and conversation about the nuances of life. The collection is comprised of inspiring works that tell the story of challenges, struggles, and celebrated joys encountered along the way.



Over her career, Cheryl Cote's style has evolved from a very 'fine-detail' artist, to a broader spectrum of color and light. A visually impaired artist, her collection conveys life, with the intention to encourage people to overcome. With limited sight, and challenges faced when painting, Cote' developed a signature style she relays on canvas, in a bold display of great light, shadow and color. Through her eyes,

viewers 'see' the souls of each figure she paints.

Internationally respected and award-winning artist, Rothschild captures the scope of human experience from the ominous to the magically affirming. Her sculptures, globally exhibited in the United States, Poland, Bosnia, and France, are a brilliant showcase of humanity and



poverty. Bold color and texture reveal the stories and struggles of her characters as they move through life. Placing figures into an endless space and vast nature, she gives the viewer a sense of dreamlike or vast perspective of the human experience. In Rothschild's depiction of nature, she reveals that 'we' are but a small part of the story.

Kirsten Stingle's work is both bold and expressive. Her amazing images in mixed media combine unique textures, fabric, clay, and construction to give emotion to her figures. Her color palette, often dominated by sepia tones, show a somber, yet emotional character. The expressions she gives her figures are often wondrous and so detailed you feel as if they will spring to life, with details of facial expression and clothing dictating a time and place. Positioning her figures on or in unique situations, each work tells a story. Layering each sculpture with a delicate balance of technique, lends to vivid imagery, while strengthening the complexity of her expression.



The Court House Cultural Center is located at 80 S.E. Ocean Blvd., in Downtown Stuart. Its galleries are open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5 PM. To learn more about MartinArts, visit MartinArts.org.

“This exemplary presentation of works exudes a cohesive flow and connects viewers to the emotions and experiences expressed by the artists’ fabulous demonstration of texture and color,” said Hooper Capozzi, exhibition curator and Gallery Committee Chair.



Thanks for putting art in the heart of the community

Bank of America recognizes Arts Council of Martin County for its success in bringing the arts to performers and audiences throughout the community. We commend you on creating an opportunity for all to enjoy and share a cultural experience.

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MARTIN *Arts* AWARDS

Celebrating the Arts in Our Community

Photos by Liz McKinley



Opening Act with Peter Jones on piano, vocals by Charles Jones and Karin Leone supported by the cast of student nominees

A most welcome reminder of life as we knew it returned to the Lyric Theatre on November 2, when MartinArts presented its' highly-regarded MartinArts Awards (aka the Marties) to a live audience.

For those who might not be familiar with these awards, they honor students, professional artists, philanthropists, volunteers, and leaders in the local arts scene.

Committee members patiently stayed with this event throughout the pandemic, carefully monitoring art patron's comfort levels and medically-established safety practices, waiting until the time was right to set a date for the Marties return.

Co-chairs Marney McKee and Lisa Renee Ludlum and committee members Kristal Wion-Eckhardt, Faith Paul, Sharon Hagin, Heidi Condon, Dr. Anita Caswell, Rickie Leiter, and Jeff Younglove along with staff support of Jennifer Hearn and Nancy Turrell, picked the perfect time for attendees to don their masks and support both student and adult members of Martin County's vibrant arts community.

The evening's festivities included an amazing opening number featuring alumni (former recipients) and student nominees, Peter Jones and Karin Leone, and special guest, Charles Jones. There were also several "mash-ups," with performances by student nominees, who worked on a special number with one of their fellow nominees.

The board select several Marties Award before the event and in 2021 they included:

Lifetime Achievement in the Arts: Conney Dahn

Excellence in Arts Education: Ashley Monks

Arts Leadership: Neil Capozzi

Arts Service: Pat Pendergast

Corporate Leadership: Seacoast Bank

Special Recognition: The Barn Theatre for 50 years of community theatre

Announced during the event,
the eagerly-anticipated recipients of the
Marties Awards were:



Visual Artist
Marney McKee with
Chris Kling



Literary Artist
Marney McKee with
Gale Baker



Performing Artist
Marney McKee with
Lorianna Colozzo



Student Visual Artist
Lisa Renee Ludlum with
Christopher Carnes



**Student Performing Music
Artist** Lisa Renee Ludlum
with Ava Gunter



**Student Performing Theatre
Artist** Lisa Renee Ludlum
with Katie Vitale

The MartinArts Awards Committee
looks forward to the Fall 2022 event
to be held at the historic Lyric Theatre
in early November.

**Nominate an artist
through April 15
by visiting MartinArts.org**

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ArtsFest 2022

ArtsFest Celebrates 35th Year with Brilliant Visual, Performance, Culinary Arts Showcase

Story Contributed by, Laura Louise Tingo, MartinArts staff
Photos by Liz McKinley

Martin County locals and visitors alike were treated to a brilliant display of the local arts and cultural community at this year's *ArtsFest* 2022, celebrating its 35th year.

Throughout the two-day festival February 12 and 13, crowd-stopping entertainment enlivened the grounds surrounding Downtown Stuart's charming Gazebo Park, and up and down East Ocean Boulevard. A Brass Band Street Parade and amazing circus arts performers who juggled, danced, and 'rocked' hoops high-atop stilts, dazzled visitors who gathered to peruse and shop artisan vendor booths

Each year, *ArtsFest* hosts a juried, competitive show, inviting artists to apply for the opportunity to exhibit works for sale. Selected and featured art in a wide variety of mediums were housed in a bright string of white tents. Serving as Event Chair of *ArtsFest* 2022, was Neil Capozzi, owner of Stuart Art Supply, who also served as an event sponsor.

"*ArtsFest* is MartinArts' biggest event of the year, planned with the intention to delight our guests and inspire passion for the arts," said Nancy Turrell, Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Arts Foundation. "We are so grateful to our committee, sponsors, vendors, volunteers and guests who, because of their support and patronage, helped to ensure another wonderful success."

Painting, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, glass, wood, fiber, mixed media, found objects, and more, delighted visitors who met and mixed with

the artists, and purchased their original works. Awarded 'top honor' of "Best of Show" was Paul Shampine, of Newtown, Connecticut, for his collection of Mixed Media works.

Adjacent to the fabulous runway of artists, Gazebo Park set the stage for audiences who enjoyed an exciting array of delicious food, refreshments, and musical performances. Kicking off the festivities was Murray Middle School with showstopping vocal numbers of legendary favorites. The spectacular line-up showcasing music from classical and jazz, to the Broadway Arts, included gorgeous performances by a Classical Guitar Quartet, the Indian River Pops Orchestra, jazz pianist Bashaum Stewart, and jazz vocalist Yvette Norwood-Tiger, who headlined at Main Stage on Saturday.

"Events taking place in our vibrant downtown corridors, such as ArtsFest, are valued as crucial engines that drive the area's economic and cultural vitality."

—George M. Stokus,
Assistant County Administrator, Martin County

More event highlights taking place at *ArtsFest*, included the anticipated return of the Stuart 'Chopped' Annual Competition with back-to-back heats for the win. The 'Top Chef' taking home this year's First Place honor was local chef and third time Stuart 'Chopped' winner Jose Peralta.





Bad Apples Brass Band



Best of Show Artist with ArtsFest Chair Neil Capozzi

ArtsFest 2022 Awards List

Best of Show:

Paul Shampine, Mixed Media

1st Place:

John Cheer, Ceramics

Jean Yao, Fiber

Andrew Libeck, Glass

Valerie Lamott, Jewelry

Dan Bi, Mixed Media

Chris Kling, Painting

Lazaro Ruda, Photography

Josh Price, Sculpture

Magali Cereghino-Groves, Wood

Honorable Mentions (across categories):

Luis Gutierrez, Ceramics

Busarin Kittichareonsup, Jewelry

Barbara Umbel, Jewelry

Candice Rodriguez-Adams, Mixed Media

Scott Klimek, Painting

ArtsFest 2022 Committee

Neil Capozzi, Chair

Jane Baldrige

Liz Bonan

Jeff Bowers

Kim Capen

Paul Hamaty

Sheryl Levine

Mary Ann Loomis

Paul Nunley

Anna Valencia Tillery

Jackie Vitale

Sunny Walker

Look for news about Jose's new restaurant, set to open soon.

Creating an added community 'buzz,' were a host of local agencies and nonprofit organizations, which provided **ArtsFest** patrons a wonderful arena of information and family-fun activities. Interactive booths informed attendees about a broad variety of supportive and enriching community programs and services. Some activities found visitors enjoying complimentary guitar lessons and getting up-close-and- personal with wildlife and nature.



Mary Ann Loomis and Anita Caswell.

With its annual celebration of **ArtsFest**, MartinArts positioned art and culture front and center with the purpose to build audience awareness for the arts and draw visitors to boost the local economy.

"Events taking place in our vibrant downtown corridors, such as **ArtsFest**, are valued as crucial engines that drive the area's economic and cultural vitality," said George M. Stokus, Assistant County Administrator, Martin County.



Three-time Chopped winner, Chef Peralta



Arts Patrons at ArtsFest.

Check out the t-shirt from the very first ArtsFest



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Cultural Excursions is CHICAGO BOUND

July 13-17, 2022

This summer our Cultural Excursions group will be heading to Chicago, Illinois. Postponed since 2020 due to the pandemic, we are thrilled to offer a jam-packed trip filled with the arts, fine dining, and fun. We hope you will join us!

On Cultural Excursions getaways we make every effort to curate a variety of experiences including music, theatre, dance, museums and more. Chicago's rich history and culture made narrowing down the list a challenge. Our itinerary will include an evening at Ravinia® which is an internationally renowned, not-for-profit music festival, that presents outstanding performances by the world's greatest artists. Performances are held in the enchanting 36-acre park, boasting



three venues and the popular "Lawn" where picnicking itself is an artform. Museum visits include the renowned Art Institute of Chicago, the Driehaus Museum, and the Chicago Contemporary Museum of Art. Architectural buffs will love the educational boat cruise through the heart of Chicago.

Guests will stay at the historic Palmer House Hotel, which celebrated its 150th Anniversary in September. Built by Potter Palmer as an extravagant wedding gift for his bride, it burned 13 days after opening in the Great Chicago Fire.

Undeterred, Palmer secured a loan and rebuilt the Hotel, opening to its first guests on November 8, 1873. The Palmer House is considered the nation's longest, continually running hotel.

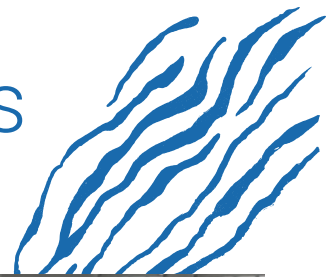


Ravinia: A Personal Recollection from pianist Lindsay Garritson

Some of my most special musical memories are from the Ravinia Festival, summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. I performed there for the first time when I was thirteen years old, and I remember being struck by a palpable energy; performing in the same space as some of the greatest artists of the twentieth century was visceral and extraordinary. There is a reason that the most celebrated performers of today - classical and across all genres of music - go to Ravinia. There is something magical about the place, and it has a unique ability to bring audiences together from diverse cultural, economic, and social backgrounds. Visually, the architecture and grounds of Ravinia are magnificent, and I cannot imagine a more delightful musical experience than hearing the Chicago Symphony in such beautiful surroundings. If there is one place, I always look forward to returning, it is the Ravinia Festival.

Creating a Vibrant Arts Campus

The Vision for Stuart High School



Since a strategic planning retreat in 2016 the board has reignited its pursuit for a facility that can serve the community as a multifaceted arts center and campus. It was at that planning retreat, that school board member Christia Li Roberts and county commissioner Doug Smith, made the board aware that Martin County school district staff members had moved out of the facility, leaving just the school board meeting space active. A few members toured the facility in 2017 after the strategic plan was adopted by the Council board.

Since that time, a group of community stakeholders including Renay Rouse/Florida Arts & Dance Company, Linda Reymore/Treasure Coast Youth Symphony, Alan Hopper/Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Amanda Jones/MCHS-Art teacher, Kia Fontaine/Lyric Theatre, Doug Jewett/Treasure Coast Community Singers, Ted Astolfi & Eric Kiehn/Economic Council, Inez Frid/Martin Health Systems, and Elizabeth Barbella & Robin Cartwright/Martin County Community Foundation gathered to craft the vision, mission, and key roles.



1949 Classroom: Student studying, c. 1949

including a review of the structural analysis, the MEP (mechanical electrical and plumbing) systems, and environmental analysis. This review is complete and yielded feedback that was positive within the scope of a building that is nearly 100 years old.

Why create an arts center?

To convert the historic Stuart High School into a community arts center that will provide access to and create experiences in the arts and education. The self-sustaining center will incorporate multiple mixed-use venues including space for working artists, performances, lectures, commerce, and office space. The center will enhance and expand arts education opportunities for K-12 students; preserve the historical art deco building and grounds creating a regional destination; foster public interaction with local artists including showings, demonstrations and classes; incorporate a technology space to be shared among tenant organizations and visitors; serve as an anchor for downtown expansion; be an incubator for interactions between the nonprofit arts community and the broader creative sector through collaboration and partnership; and become the facility providing the cultural infrastructure so essential to improving the quality of life of all Treasure Coast residents.

Today, we are at a critical juncture of this journey to create this impactful community-wide, collaborative project. In 2021, Straticon Construction and its subsidiary, S. York, LLC, coordinated the due diligence process



"To be or not to be... That is the question!"



"Slow but sure!"



"Glass Menagerie!"

Yearbook Image the new classrooms: Construction of the "modern" classroom buildings, c. 1955



"Quiet Zone???"



The SHS Auditorium housed up to 600 students and is located where the School Board currently meets

Our next steps include moving forward with an "Intent to Lease" agreement with the Martin County School Board followed closely by agreements with an architect, historic preservation specialist, an acoustician, and campaign

planning consultants. A quiet campaign to cover these pre-construction costs, estimated at approximately \$200,000 is underway. To learn more or to discuss a contribution, please call Nancy Turrell, 772-288-5397 ext 4.



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DINING UNDER THE OAKS

Photos by Figleaf Photography, Charles "Chip" Cruse



Gorgeous handmade chandeliers illuminated the night



Nancy Turrell, Neil & Ken Capozzi, and Marie Jureit-Beamish



Donna Falco, Gloria Cangemi



Maria Cofrances, Lesley Roy

Hosts Ken and Neil Capozzi threw a magical evening of festive fun to raise money for pre-campaign planning needed to bring the vision for the Stuart High School arts center to reality. The event chairs, Ken Hooper Capozzi, Roni Rottner and Jane Kiehart led a phenomenal committee (Donna DiFalco, Diane Spina, Maria Cofrances and Cheryl Cote') to create an elegant evening for all.

Nearly \$30,000 was raised during the evening through ticket sales, sponsorships and the silent auction. The moment that really pushed the event beyond expectations was the announcement from the microphone by Bill Cofrances for a matching contribution from him, for gifts made that night. The fever began with attendees jumping up to add their donations to the pot.

The Bill Cofrances Trio entertained guests during and after dinner, while the talented pianist, Paul Hamaty played during the reception. So many magnificent items were donated by community businesses and our amazing artists. The table squares created for purchase added a unique element to each and every table plus the Louise Nelvelson inspired assemblage centerpieces (there are a few that remain available for purchase at the Court House Cultural Center).



Duncan Hurd, Delphina and Tony Anderson, Sue Klahne, Pam Hurd



Jeff & Rickie Leiter

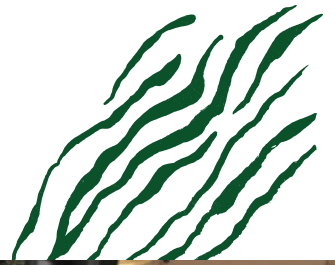


Yara Bashoor, Marney McKee



Roni Rottner, Barbara Bucci, Dot Galfond, Alex Murray and Danuta Rothschild

A Magical Evening



Centerpieces inspired by artist Louise Nevelson and artist made table squares adorned each table



Music by the Cofrances Jazz Quartet

Table Square Artists:

Mallo Bisset	Sue Klahne
Ken & Neil Capozzi	Chris Kling
Cheryl Cote'	Jane Lawton-Baldrige
Liz Huggins	Sally Pearson
Carol Kepp	Danuta Rothschild
Jane Kiehart	Kathy Saigh

Thanks to our sponsors! Ken & Neil Capozzi, Dianne & Glen Hughes, Dianne Spina, Janice & Keith Ochslager, Roni Rottner, Jane Kiehart, Mallo Bisset, Cheryl Cote', Emerald Medical and Bill & Maria Cofrances.

A special thank you to our generous donors for their contribution to our silent auction and raffle prizes: Gumbo Limbo, David Jasmin, Duffy's Sports Bar, Capitol Lighting, Pepe & Sale Bistro, Diane Anthony's Salon, Trina Elson Spa, Fresh Market, Torengo Gann, Laura-Kay Darvil, Corning Glass, Ken Capozzi, Charlie Buxton, Fox Club Golf, Crane Watch Golf, Lulu Rocks, Sue Khlane, Paul Nunley, Mallo Bisset, Cheryl Cote', Treasure Coast Estate Buyers, Kyle G's Kitchen, Palm City Frames, Mia Lindstrom, Jane Kiehart and Roni Rottner.



Charlie Buxton, Dinija Berkien, Ken Hooper-Capozzi, Sue Klahne, Paul Hamaty and Charlie Cote'



Bill Cofrances, Bill & Chris Kling



Suzanne Connors, Ken Hooper-Capozzi, Charlie Cote'



Ken & Neil Capozzi, Maria Miele and Torengo Gann

Arts NEWS

Images provided by Amanda Jones



New Mural: Salute to Service

Art students from the Martin County School District will be creating a new mural. This community project is a collaboration between the Palm City Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner Ed Ciampi, the Palm City Post Office, Martin County High School, and Jensen Beach High School. This mural will be painted on the east wall of the Palm City Post Office and is called "Salute to Service." The project will officially begin on Thursday February 17, 2022 and progress over the course of several weeks until completion which is anticipated to be on or before Saturday April 23, 2022.



Hobe Sound Fine Art League's Advancement for the Arts

Each year the Hobe Sound Fine Arts League's Advancement For The Arts program raises funds to provide art supplies to five local schools. The public school art departments receive very little funding. They need our support. This year we are conducting a raffle of original art by local artists. The drawing will be done in March. The tickets are \$20.00 each for a chance to win more than a dozen paintings.

Please visit our Facebook page or website for details, or call Donna Baker at 508 776 0851.



martin artisans guild
The Palm Room Art Gallery & Artisans Boutique
3746 S. E. Ocean Blvd., Harbour Bay Plaza
Stuart, Florida 34996
<https://martinartisansguild.org/>
Open Tuesdays through Saturdays 12 to 6 pm



Martin Artisans Guild, Staying Busy and Keeping the Art Fresh

The Martin Artisans Guild stays busier than ever bringing fresh art to the community. March 5th and 6th they successfully hosted their sixth annual Martin County Open Studio Tour with 45 artists and 25 studio locations.

May 27th, 2021, they opened The Palm Room Art Gallery & Artisans Boutique in Harbour Bay Plaza, Sewall's Point. At the gallery they offer up fresh exhibits with the Opening Reception of each new exhibit on the first Wednesday of the odd numbered months and a Meet the Artists event the first Wednesday of the even numbered months. The Openings celebrate the new exhibits of fresh artworks and are quite festive with live music, lovely hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

The upcoming exhibit opening dates are:

- April 6th, 4-6 pm, Meet the Artists at the Palm Room Art Gallery & Boutique 3746 SE Ocean Blvd, Harbour Bay Plaza, Stuart appetizers
- May 4th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Opening reception for the May/June Art Exhibition including live music, appetizers and cash bar.
- June 1st, 4-6 pm, Meet the Artists at the Palm Room Art Gallery & Boutique 3746 SE Ocean Blvd, Harbour Bay Plaza, Stuart appetizers
- July 6th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Opening reception for the Summer Salon Art Exhibition including live music, appetizers and cash bar.
- August 3rd, 4-6 pm, Meet the Artists at the Palm Room Art Gallery & Boutique 3746 SE Ocean Blvd, Harbour Bay Plaza, Stuart appetizers
- September 7th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Opening reception for the September/October Art Exhibition including live music, appetizers and cash bar.
- October 5th, 4-6 pm, Meet the Artists at the Palm Room Art Gallery & Boutique 3746 SE Ocean Blvd, Harbour Bay Plaza, Stuart appetizers

We hope to see you there!



The 2022 Cast of *Rent* PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE BARN THEATRE

A NOTE ABOUT JONATHAN LARSON'S RENT AT THE BARN THEATRE

Dear Bryan,

I want to take a moment to thank you for the experience my wife and I had viewing your vision of Johnathan Larson's *Rent*.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of *Rent*, I am writing an article on shows granted the rights to perform Larson's iconic masterpiece within the United States.

Please let the cast, musicians and everyone involved that they exuded such professionalism in bringing Johnathan's story to life. The pure emotions displayed by your actors last night demonstrated pure excellence.

The stage, lights, sound, actors, musicians and overall way you brought the play to life, exceeded anything I have seen from a community theatre in my 20 plus years.

You should be extremely proud of the work you have done. If Johnathan Larson was around today, and witnessed this performance, he would likely say this is what I envisioned my story to look like on stage.

The above note was written to Bryan Childe who directed the recently closed run of *Rent* at the Barn Theatre. The representative from Broadway World is visiting all eight venues in the United States that were granted the rights to perform *Rent* for its 25th anniversary. The piece is scheduled to be published in March/April of 2022 in Broadway World.

 MAR 27	 MAR 30
 APR 3	 APR 6
 APR 8	 APR 10
 APR 20	 APR 24
 MAY 6	 MAY 12

Shed a little light!



ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

53% MORE PUBLIC ART!!

Since 2017, the AIPP artwork inventory has increased 53%, from 15 artworks to 23! Our two newest additions are both mosaics. The Mosaic Lily Pond at the Tuckahoe Mansion was generously donated by the Friends of Mount Elizabeth. This colorful, 10-foot diameter mosaic, installed in 2015, and constructed in Italy, is most unique. The design suggests a top view of a round pond full of colorful vegetation, fish, a turtle and a frog. The design was developed by Conrad Pickel Studio's in-house artist, Lyn Durham, brought to life by Venetian glass artists, and installed by Paul Thornton, section by section, onsite at The Mansion.

Our newest, yet to be named, 5' by 7' Mosaic Sea Turtle made its debut at ArtsFest 2021. This work was done by local artist Brenda Leigh with the help of the community and is returning, completed and ready to be named to ArtsFest 2022! Stay tuned for the results of the NAME THAT TURTLE contest! The winner will receive a small glass turtle hand crafted and signed by local glass artist, Dot Galfond.



Turtle Mosaic Brenda Leigh

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AIPP

Part of the mission of the Martin County Art in Public Places program is to create a high-quality public realm in a manner that is visible and accessible to the public. The new Martin Murals program has been designed to inspire artists to create murals on public and private properties throughout Martin County. We look forward to "painting" the county with vibrant, new images that will enhance, rejuvenate, and

animate our structures, streetscapes and public spaces.

AIPP is looking new in 2022! With our own logo, professional marketing collateral and updated, fresh signage for the AIPP inventory, our branding is complete. 2022 will also bring new mosaic benches and artistic bike racks in Rio and, just a tip, keep a watchful eye on the bridge at the Manatee Pocket in Port Salerno.....!





GRANTS GIVEN TO Artists & Arts Organizations

Photos by John Ciambriello

PROJECT/PROGRAM NAME

- Online Learning with the ACO
- Glimmer: Immersive Illumination
- Nutcracker 2022
- Martin County Open Studio Tour (Guidebook)
- Intro to Mosaics Workshops and Studio Sessions
- Good Kids / The Inner Truth Project
- Concert with the GFA Winner
- Support for "Germane to Brahms"



Unveiling of the 1st Creek District Sidewalk Mosaic

Women Supporting the Arts (WSA), a giving circle of MartinArts, is proud to congratulate its 2021-22 grant recipients.

The mission of WSA is to build a community of philanthropists who inspire, educate and encourage women to strengthen the arts and cultural environment in Martin County.

Since its founding in 2003, grants have supported initiatives that spur artists to follow their dreams while other provide the seeds to present programs of the highest quality to residents in our community. Each year, 90-percent of funds generated by dues and other contributions go directly to the pool available for grants.

Working collaboratively, Chair of Women Supporting the Arts Linda Prange and chair of the Grants Committee Kimberly Perron, organized the grant review process last Fall. All decisions about allocations are made by WSA members. Additionally, the members of WSA voted to allocate funds to the Stuart High School Cornerstones Campaign.





WSA Grant Highlight: The Creek District

The first mosaic of the Creek District Sidewalk Mosaic Program was installed on January 22nd by the corner of Colorado and 6th. Diane Concepcion, experienced artist and teacher of mosaics created a beautiful homage to the eclectic community of the Creek District of Arts and Entertainment. This mosaic is the first of many that will embellish the sidewalks of the District in years to come.

For more information about this program and how you can become involved, please visit the Creek District website. thecreekdistrict.org

For more information or to become a valued member of WSA, visit www.martinarts.org/support_us/women-supporting-the-arts. Membership is \$1000/year or for 40+ under women, a 50% reduction in dues is offered. The members are invited to attend a monthly lunch meeting to learn more about the grant recipients and to spend time together.



Corina Pelloni



Diane Concepcion

Discover a hidden gem of art, culture, and history.

There are many reasons why Martin County is one of Florida's most popular destinations for a quaint getaway, and chief among them is the vibrant arts community and rich cultural heritage. Teeming with annual cultural events and festivals and home to prestigious art galleries, museums, open-air markets, and bustling theaters, Martin County is a hidden gem for the highbrow culture vulture. Our artists are eager to welcome you back—safely.

Plan your trip today at DiscoverMartin.com



Bank Robbery Dressed as a woman

ELLIOTT MUSEUM

Presents

Rare Artifacts in Notorious Ashley Gang Exhibit

By Doreen Marcial Poreba

Photos provided by the Historical Society of Martin County.



Old Bank Building

This is a story of survival, crime, and corruption — on both sides of the law. The Elliott Museum has created an exhibit showcasing rare and unseen artifacts related to the infamous, Stuart-based Ashley Gang, outlaws from the early 1900s.

The “Notorious Ashley Gang—The Making of a Legend,” is a permanent exhibit featuring various artifacts and photos that depict their lives of crime. Plenty of research went into the creation of the exhibit by the Elliott’s curator, Linda Geary, and local historian Steve Carr, who wants to “level the playing field” when it comes to telling the Ashley story.

Patriarch Joe Ashley and his wife, Lugenia, lived in Fruita between Stuart and Hobe Sound. They raised five boys and four girls on their family homestead and were well respected in the community. Living during prohibition and the Great Depression, the family expanded its business enterprises to make and sell moonshine.

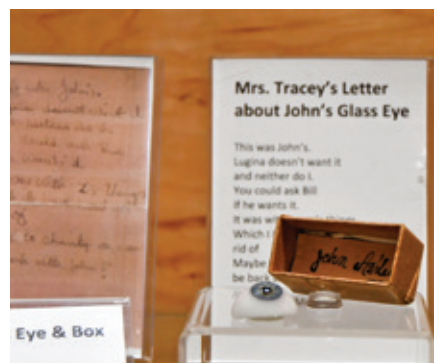
“People didn’t have options back then, there were no social safety nets,” said Carr. “They weren’t going to watch their children starve, so they began producing alcohol.”

The Ashley boys also engaged in the dangerous endeavor of rum

running from the Bahamas. This put them on the wrong side of the law with Palm Beach County Sheriff Bob Baker, which at that time included the territory that later became Martin County.

According to Carr, the Ashley family was community minded, employing African Americans with well-paying jobs. On the flip side, Sheriff Baker was deeply entrenched in the Klu Klux Klan and did not want the Black community to become affluent.

“At that time, there was corruption in law enforcement, courts, railroad, banking ... everything around them,” said Carr. “This was the community



saying, 'enough is enough.' People didn't care about the law. That was the smallest of their concerns. With no social safety nets, it was, 'How do we live?'"

In 1911, authorities accused John Ashley of murdering Seminole trapper Desoto Tiger. Desoto, the son of Cow Creek chief Tommy Tiger, was from a camp near Indiantown, Florida. Trial transcripts revealed that Ashley and Desoto were headed by boat to Miami to sell otter furs. Claiming self-defense, Ashley shot Desoto during an argument when Desoto threatened Ashley with a knife.

John was a bandit," said Carr. "He did kill Desoto Tiger but his conviction was thrown out due to lack of evidence. To South Floridians, John's story was insignificant. People clamored for more about the crooked Sheriff Baker and his dealings with prostitution, gambling and illegally selling alcohol. Eventually he was sent to Tallahassee to face corruption charges but without witnesses, he became sheriff again."

In time, John Ashley began to rob banks and trains with family members and outsiders joining him to form the Ashley Gang. One of their first crimes in 1915, was the Bank of Stuart heist, which they ended up robbing twice. Their reputation grew faster than the crimes they committed. In fact, there are only three known bank robberies orchestrated by the gang, though at the time, every unsolved crime in South Florida was attributed to them.

Ashley and three of the gang members' lives ended abruptly on November 1, 1924, when they were captured and gunned down by Indian River County deputies on the Sebastian River Bridge. The question is still remains whether the shooting was self-defense or murder.

"The Ashley Gang's intriguing saga is filled with so many complex details that it is still being researched and discussed today as a significant piece of Martin County's rich history,"



said Rob Steele, president and CEO of the Historical Society of Martin County, which operates the Elliott Museum. "2024 will be the 100th anniversary of their deaths, yet the legendary exploits of the Ashley Gang still captivate history lovers, and all who love an exciting story."

The artifact in the exhibit expected to generate the most attention is John Ashley's glass eye, which has never been on public display. He lost his eye during the 1915 bank heist when one of his own men shot him. The bullet entered through his left jaw and lodged behind his right eye. Whether it was an accident or due to an argument remains another mystery. The bullet remained in place even after Ashley was fitted with a blue prosthetic eye.

"It speaks to so much of what John was about," said Carr. "Sheriff Baker

made the claim in his re-election campaign that he would wear Ashley's eye on a watch fob. That became the rallying cry for those who wanted to end the exploits of the Ashley Gang.

Other exhibit artifacts include a coffee pot riddled with bullet holes and a frying pan being used for cover that was shot through. Geary and Carr plan to change the exhibit from time to time to keep it fresh, using different themes.

"This exhibit and story are part of the fabric of American history and because it's local, it becomes even more important," said Carr. "It's part of us, it's who we are."

The Elliott Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the website, www.hsmc-fl.com or call the Elliott Museum at 772-225-1961.





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Phyllis and Jerry Rappaport

PHOTO BY LIZ MCKINLEY

A Tribute to Jerry Rappaport

August 17, 1927-December 6, 2021

In December, Stuart, Florida lost a true gentleman and scholar. Jerome (Jerry) Rappaport earned many titles in his long lifetime—lawyer, developer, political leader and philanthropist. At his recent memorial service held February 20, 2022, Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish, Professor Emerita of Music Principia College, and MartinArts Foundation board chair, had the honor of being one of six speakers. An excerpt from her tribute aptly honors the man who many adored.

When I think of his name, I am filled with gratitude for all he did to foster and promote the arts in our area, and especially an organization dear to his heart—the Atlantic Classical Orchestra. He was a visionary powerhouse and a true luminary in the history of the orchestra...and, therefore, in the community and the world. He worked tirelessly to raise the consciousness of everyone for the vital need of music in our lives—and especially the need to encourage young artists and composers in their budding careers to ensure the future of classical music for generations to come.

*He recognized progress in the arts—as in all walks of life—as the key element to the vitality and relevance of the arts for humanity. Because of his recognized success throughout his career, he had the ability and means to put into action his grander view for humankind. He saw that **progress** was essential in the ongoing development of civilization—in the sciences, business, community engagement, arts, and so on—and with the Rappaport Foundation he was able to fulfill his dreams.*

His profound commitment to Phyllis and his large family undergirded everything he did. All that Jerry accomplished indeed was remarkable—and all incredibly bolstered by the steadfast bond of marriage with his beloved Phyllis. Because Jerry lived a life “bigger than life” his ongoing presence will always be with us. The legacy of his vision, leadership, and energy established decades ago continues. What a privilege it was to know and work with Jerry Rappaport!

Thank you Jerry!

In 2018, MartinArts was a proud sponsor of “Art, History & Social Change”, presented by Titus Kaphar, a MacArthur Fellow, to speak at the Rappaport Center at Temple Beit HaYam. In 2019, MartinArts had the great honor of recognizing Jerry & Phyllis Rappaport as Outstanding Philanthropists for their devotion to the arts, both here, and elsewhere.

The example set by his life becomes a strong measure of what can be done with passion, an investment, and a steadfast commitment to what mattered most to a person. His legacy runs clear. For all of us at MartinArts, we honor his life and commitment.

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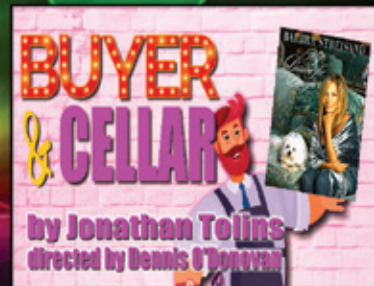
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March 4-20



March 24-27



April 8-17



April 22-May 1



May 6-22



May 27-29

Cedar Pointe Plaza 2399 SE Ocean Blvd, Stuart
For tickets call (772) 932-8880 or visit actstudiotheatre.com

Artist PROFILES

Holly Cannon



Holly Cannon with family

Holly Cannon finds inspiration for her painting and photographic works while spending time vacationing with family. For as long as she can remember, Holly loved to draw and paint.

A while back, when she found herself having trouble finding a good reference photo of something she wanted to paint, Holly reached out to her friends on social media for help. That resourceful and creative effort led to a fan-base following of 18K+ where Holly and her fans share photos, ideas, and inspiration.

Often Holly focuses her art on her love of nature and family and uses a pastel palette to convey her visions. She finds true joy and reward in sharing inspiration with the artist community.

Holly Cannon
hollasue@gmail.com
HollyCannonArt.com



Chillin - Holly Cannon

Chris Kling



Chris Kling PHOTO BY BILL KLING

A professional artist for more than 40 years, **Chris Kling** earned numerous accolades and awards both locally and nationally. Last year she received the MartinArts Visual Artist "Marty" award for her years of exceptional craftsmanship.

Her drawings and paintings are displayed year-round at the family-owned Kling Gallery, Wine & Décor, in Downtown Stuart. An avid art collector, Chris' private collection is comprised of portraits, landscapes, and figurative oil paintings, from all over the world.

Using the South Florida landscape as inspiration, Chris is often found painting Plein Air. A member of the Martin Artisans Guild, she has been juried into several national exhibitions. Her artistry has been featured in numerous festivals, including ArtsFest hosted by MartinArts. This year, Chris earned the 'Poster Artist' distinction for the *New Smyrna Beach Paint Out*, where her original works will be on display Oct. 18 – 27.

Chris Kling
chrisklingartist.com
772-285-7826



Breaker 24x48 oil - Chris Kling PHOTO BY TOM GRISSMAN

Artist PROFILES

Eduardo Gomez Rojas



Eduardo Gomez Rojas
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Taking inspiration from form, whether human or animal, **Eduardo Gomez Rojas** figurative sculptures range in size from small to monumental.

His belief in the 'multiplying force of art' in the community is demonstrated in his active leadership roles. Originally from Colombia, Eduardo is a founding member of the Martin Artisans Guild and

longtime member of both MartinArts and the Elliott Museum. His studio in Jensen Beach, also doubles as a space where he offers private instruction.

An artist who accepts public and private commissions, his works "Above and Beyond" (circa 2017), and "Unconditional" (circa 2018), are installed at the entrance of the Distinguished Service Memorial Park, in Stuart. A third, "38th Parallel" (circa 2021) is installed at Veterans Memorial Park, in Port Saint Lucie. Two of his public sculptures reside at the Order of Divine Providence in Usaquen, Colombia.

Eduardo Gomez Rojas
Tel: 501-765-2609

email:eduardogomezsculpture@gmail.com
www.eduardogomez.com
www.eduardogomezgallery.com



Old Friends bronze - Eduardo Gomez Rojas

Lorrianna Colozzo



Lorrianna
PHOTO BY JOSH RHETT NOBLE.

Lorrianna Colozzo, is an accomplished musical artist, described as, 'having a flexible voice, warmth and power.' A versatile artist, Lorrianna performs a broad vocal repertoire, ranging from opera and musical theatre to sacred music, jazz, and contemporary pieces.

While studying at The Peabody Conservatory of Music, Lorrianna fell in love with opera. For her, opera allows the voice, 'glorious tones to depict various languages and emotions, portraying to an audience.'

A celebrated soprano, Lorrianna has been featured in a wide range of operatic and musical theatre programs in the U.S. and abroad. She has been awarded many honors including a prestigious Regional Finalist in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

She owns and operates Bel Canto Music Studio, in Palm City, and is the Music Director and Cantor at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

(561) 758-9423
www.Lorrianna.com



Lisa Silk



Lisa Silk PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Silk's passion for photography is based in her desire to motivate people to notice the beauty that surrounds them. She has always enjoyed taking pictures and says she 'got serious about it' roughly four years ago. Self-taught, she continues to sharpen skills and hone camera-function knowledge with dedicated

coursework at Indian River State College.

This year, Lisa was selected to showcase her photographic works at MartinArts' annual juried ArtsFest. Prior to her competitive, earned upgrade, she was introduced to the ArtsFest community, as an Emerging Artist.

The recent launch of her photography business inspired Lisa to continue to grow and share her perspective with the public. Her goal is to see her artwork, which 'acknowledges beauty,' displayed in many local businesses.

To view Lisa's photography, visit the Delray Affair this April 8-10, in Delray Beach.

ShotsBySilky@gmail.com
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Golden Nugget - Lisa Silk

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WRITER'S BLOCK: A Closer Look



Betty Jo Buro

On January 10th, Betty Jo Buro held a workshop in the courthouse gallery on "Overcoming Writer's Block." In case you missed it, here are some highlights.

What exactly is writer's block? It's a phenomenon, primarily associated with writers (but can also affect other artists and creatives), in which the writer loses the ability to produce new work or experiences a creative slowdown. If you've experienced writer's block, you're not alone. Stephen King, Annie Dillard, David Foster Wallace, and Truman Capote have all been known to suffer from it.

What causes it? The most common cause of writer's block is fear. Fear that you've run out of ideas, that everything you write will be awful, fear that the last thing you wrote was the last good thing you'll ever write, fear that what you're writing is uninteresting. This fear has lots of different names, the inner critic, monkey mind, the editor, the bully, or the ego. You also may feel uninspired, unable to get started, distracted, or overly focused on the outcome of a piece of writing. These problems plus a dose of fear, is the perfect recipe for writer's block. So how do we push through?

- 1. Write first thing in the morning.** The saying goes, write before the day writes on you. Wake up before your inner critic does, and get some words on the page
- 2. Write after physical activity.** All good writing comes from the body. If we can get out of our heads and into our bodies, we won't have the ability to censor ourselves. Pull out your notebook or laptop right after a workout, a walk, or a yoga practice.
- 3. Free Write.** The best way to bypass the inner critic is to set a timer for 10, 30, or 60 minutes and write without letting your pen leave the page. Write without editing, without thinking, write whatever comes to mind. When we do this, writing becomes a physical act, and if our minds are not involved, our inner critic can't sneak in and get a hold of us.
- 4. Start with something small and concrete.** There is nothing quite as intimidating as a blank page or a blank screen. Start where you are, and write about your immediate surroundings, where you are sitting, what you can see or hear or smell. Natalie Goldberg, in her book *Writing Down the Bones* says this: *Begin with something small and concrete—your teacup and its saucer, the thin slice of apple, an Oreo cookie crumb on your red lip. Sometimes you have to begin far away from the answer and then spiral back to it. Writing is the act of discovery.*
- 5. Give yourself permission to write a bad first draft.** Perfectionism is the enemy of the writer. Remember, no one ever needs to see your first or your fifth draft for that matter. When you're blocked, the goal is to simply get words on the page. There will be plenty of time to edit and clean up your draft on revision.
- 6. Dedicate some time to writing every day.** Don't expect to be good right away. Athletes and musicians practice every day to improve their passion. Writers are no different. Make time to write and honor your writing time. If you don't have the discipline to write now, you probably won't have the discipline to write when you have more free time in the future. Remember, in ten years you'll be ten years older whether you've written or not.

Here's a **writing prompt** to help get you going. Grab a notebook and a pen. Set your timer for 10 minutes and write about a first. Need some ideas? Describe a first job, a first kiss, a first day of school, the first time you won or lost at something, the day you first met someone important in your life. Remember, don't let your pen leave the page, don't edit. At the end of 10 minutes, I think you'll be surprised at how much you've written.

Up for another **challenge**? Polish up your "first" prompt into a short piece no longer than 500 words and submit it to MartinArts for consideration for publication in our October issue. Send to info@martinarts.org.



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIZ MCKINLEY, SOCIETY SEEN

Opening Reception for "FLORIDIAN FLAVORS" at the Court House Cultural Center, January 2022



Jennifer and Darrell Brand with Ken and Neil Capozzi



Nadia Utto and Danuta Rothchild



Paul Hamaty and Pat Pendergast



Tom Prestopnik and Donna Rich

Opening Night & Music Showcase for Courtroom Sessions IV, December 2021



Sandman Sleeps



Oscar Maldonado, Madeleine Bozone, Msebenzi Masondo and Ty Monte



Corina Pelloni



Katie Kirch

Season Debut at the Geoffrey Smith Gallery, December 2021



Rip Fisher, Elisabeth Akel, Blyth Houghland and Caterina Akel



Chris Heaton, Cindy Drummer, and Sue and Tom Whittington



Ken Boyer, Geoffrey Smith and Rick Duffy



Joanna Hilton and Aleta Smith



Roni Rottner, Jane Kiehart, Sharon Hagin, Luis La Rosa, Suzanne Williamson, and Kirk Ke Wang

Awards Reception for the All Florida Juried Show at the Court House Cultural Center, October 2021



Leann Wu, Kirk Ke Wang and Jennifer Hearn



Jane Baldrige, Brandon Glick and Paul Hamaty



Kathy Saigh, Cheryl Ritland and Jane Kiehart.



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martinartisansguild.org

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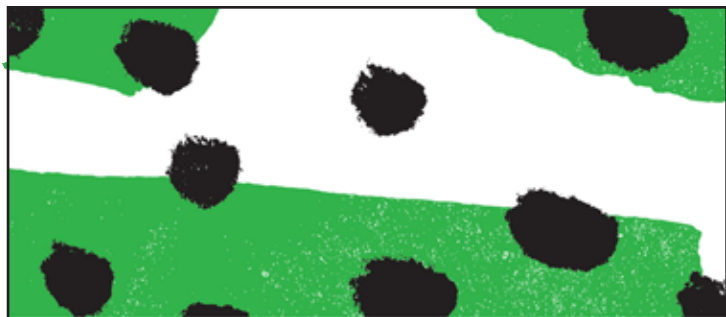
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