

Friends
OF BOCA GRANDE

Engage • Enrich • Enjoy

HAPPENINGS

PROGRAM GUIDE 2023/2024



Jazz with a Twist!
The Dave Bennett Quartet
Channels the Energy of Benny
Goodman & Stevie Ray Vaughan
02.12.24 | Page 22

Greetings Friends!



I am really looking forward to this coming year. We have great music planned, a wonderful line-up of interesting and award-winning speakers, and what we hope will be our best Film Festival ever!

But what I am also looking forward to is working on a plan for improvements to the community center campus. I have talked with leaders from the 30+ organizations that use the facilities, and all agree it is time for some modernization.

This past Spring (2023), an advisory committee was formed, and Friends along with other Boca Grande Community Center Campus Partners conducted a survey via email to listen to what our community thought about the community center. We received hundreds of responses and learned there are some very important factors to consider in our planning...

- The historic character of the center must be preserved and enhanced
- Green-space and the center lawn is a valued asset
- Auditorium programs have become a critical part of community life
- Think outside the box and look at ways to re-align space between the current leaseholders (Art Center, Boca Bargains, The Island School, Historical Society, GICIA, Friends, Royal Palm Players, Crowninshield Community House, and of course, Lee County Parks & Recreation)
- Develop a phased construction process for minimal disruption to programming during season

The Friends board of directors was also honored to know that the community is confident in the organization's ability to lead this effort in collaboration with Lee County Parks and Recreation. As part of cultivating a path forward, Parker / Mudgett / Smith Architects, Inc., (designers of The Island School) will take us through the process of creating a master plan from design to completion. Jeff Mudgett, the firm's President and Principal architect will work with each of the campus leaseholders to coordinate as much of their needs as possible with purposeful realignment into the plan.

Throughout the 2023-24 season, we will be sharing the master plan with the community to get your input. We believe that culture is each generation's gift to the next, and that thoughtful updates will create a better experience for the next 20+ years, while staying true to the quintessential charm of the island! Of course, it will take broad community support to bring these plans into reality. We hope to raise the necessary funds to begin the transformation of the community center into what will become the Cultural Center of Boca Grande in 2024.

It really is an exciting time and I can't wait to see you back in Boca Grande! How our community comes together is what sets us apart.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marta Howell".

Marta Howell, CEO

What's Inside

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Community Center Hours

Friends of Boca Grande

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY CLOSED
PHONE: (941) 964-0827

Lee County Parks & Recreation

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00AM - 6:00PM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY CLOSED
PHONE: (941) 964-2564

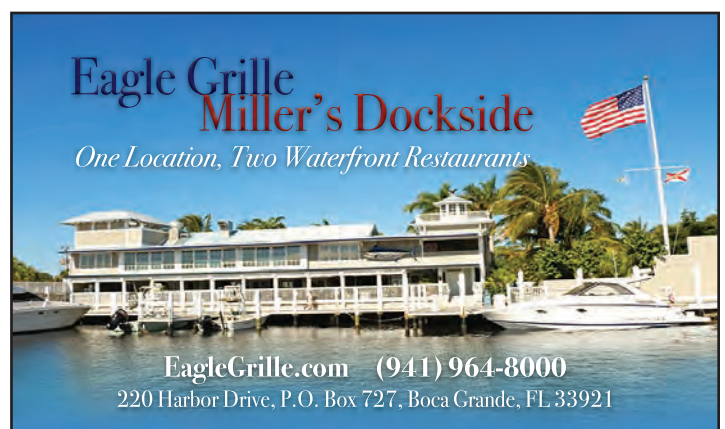
Holiday Closings

2023

Veteran's Day	November 10
Thanksgiving (Observed)	November 23, 24
Christmas (Observed)	December 25, 26

2024

New Year's (Observed)	January 1, 2
Martin Luther King Day	January 15
Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2





Meet Our Team

The Friends of Boca Grande team has earned immense recognition and praise from the organization's board, program presenters, community leaders, and most importantly, the island residents who attend the center's programs. The staff goes the extra mile to ensure that your experience is exceptional!

Marta Howell
Chief Executive Officer
mhowell@fobgcc.org

Kyle Rich
Show Production Manager
krich@fobgcc.org

Effie Joiner
Program Assistant
ejoiner@fobgcc.org

Debbie Frank
Chief Operating Officer
dfrank@fobgcc.org

Josh Cross
Technology Specialist
jcross@fobgcc.org

Lauren Ringeisen
Event Coordinator
lringeisen@fobgcc.org

D.J. Keisling
Business & Facilities Manager
djkeisling@fobgcc.org

Shana Morris
Donor Relations
smorris@fobgcc.org

Jodi Overman
Program Assistant
joverman@fobgcc.org

Board of Directors 2023

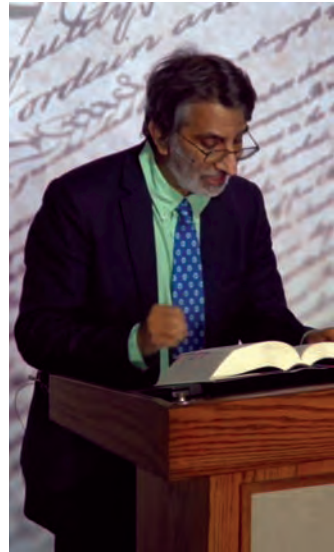
Susan Haggarty, Chair | Steve Laughlin, Vice Chair | Jim Runde, Treasurer | Sharon Hawkins, Secretary
Directors: Barbara Edgerton, Jim May, Peter Powell, Honey Jacobs Skinner, Bayne Stevenson,
Geoff Verney, Edward Vick, Nancy Whitney, Tom Wilcox



What We Do

Friends of Boca Grande is a non-profit organization who, for over three decades, has been committed to enriching the Boca Grande community through the power of engaging lectures, entertainment, and community events. What began as a small initiative in 1985 has since bloomed into a hub of cultural activity at the Boca Grande Community Center. Our programs now boast world-renowned musicians, best-selling authors, and award-winning speakers.

While our mission is to offer these enriching experiences, we also strive to foster lasting friendships and meaningful connections among attendees. Our community has grown to include individuals from all over the world who come to Boca Grande for the pursuit of knowledge, the appreciation of art and music, and to embrace the joy of life with friends.



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Downtown: 336 Park Ave, Boca Grande, FL 33921
Boca Grande Club: 5000 Gasparilla Rd. Boca Grande FL 33921

BOCA GRANDE
NOTHING COMPARES

Become A Friend



Join Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are essential to the success of our programs. We welcome a wide variety of roles, including copywriters, floral arrangers, reception hosts, photographers, ushers, and more. As a volunteer, you'll have access to an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience. Get in touch with us to learn more about our opportunities or sign up at the Friends office!

Attend a Program

Are you looking to get involved with Friends? Whether you prefer lectures, concerts, study groups, excursions or fitness classes, when you attend our programs you'll have the chance to connect with others in the community, enjoy social events, and participate in cultural programming that's sure to be unforgettable.

Become a Donor

By contributing any amount, you will help us to continue providing cultural programming to our community. As a non-profit, we are grateful for the support and sponsorship we receive from generous donors like you. If you appreciate our mission and the programs we offer, we would be honored if you would consider making a donation today.

Volunteer Reception

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 4:30PM

As a big thank you and "Welcome Back!"...

We invite all current, past, and future volunteers to come together for an evening of cocktails and conversation. You will hear about upcoming opportunities and have a chance to mingle with other volunteers. This special event will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 4:30pm at Scarpa's Coastal, 321 Park Ave., Boca Grande.

Please RSVP by calling the Friends office by December 5 at (941) 964-0827 or by email to Effie Joiner at ejoiner@fobgcc.org.

Thank you to Scarpa's Coastal for generously sponsoring this event!



Ashley Scarpa, Owner & Effie Joiner, Friends' Program Assistant

Event By Date

NOVEMBER

**Great Art on Screen:
Tutankhamun**

Nov. 3 pg. 26

**Boca Grande Live:
Tinsley Ellis & Marcia Ball**

Nov. 7 pg. 19

**Ryan Walters:
The Jazz Age President**

Nov. 8 pg. 9

**Mike Duncan:
Hero of Two Worlds**

Nov. 15 pg. 9

**Rhythm & Boots:
Six One Five Collective**

Nov. 16 pg. 19

**Eva Worden:
Organic Farming**

Nov. 27 pg. 10

DECEMBER

**Great Art on Screen:
Portrait of the Queen**

Dec. 1 pg. 26

**Jonathan Eig:
Birth of the Pill**

Dec. 6 pg. 10

**Rhythm & Boots:
Darin & Brooke Aldridge**

Dec. 11 pg. 20

**Sleuths:
In the Shadow of Death**

Dec. 12 pg. 31

**Douglas Tallamy:
Nature's Best Hope**

Dec. 13 pg. 11

**The Grande Chorus:
Holiday Spectacular**

Dec. 15 pg. 37

JANUARY

**Great Art on Screen:
Pompeii: Sin City**

Jan. 5 pg. 26

**All That Jazz:
Ken Peplowski**

Jan. 8 pg. 20

**Sleuths:
The Poacher's Son**

Jan. 9 pg. 31

**Boca Grande Live:
Terrence Wilson**

Jan. 11 pg. 21

**Nate Schweber:
Forgotten Fight to Save**

Jan. 17 pg. 11

**Boca Grande Live:
Tupelo Honey**

Jan. 22 pg. 21

**Larry Tye:
Demagogue**

Jan. 24 pg. 12

FEBRUARY

**Heidi McKee:
Artificial Intelligence**

Feb. 1 pg. 12

**Rhythm & Boots:
Becky Buller Band**

Feb. 2 pg. 22

**Martin Walker:
Europe - The Real Shift**

Feb. 6 pg. 13

**All That Jazz:
Dave Bennett Quartet**

Feb. 12 pg. 22

Sleuths: Descent

Feb. 13 pg. 31

Boca Grande Film Festival

Feb. 21-23 pg. 27

**The Grande Chorus:
Boca Meets Broadway**

Feb. 23 pg. 37

Sarasota Opera: Carmen

Feb. 25 pg. 25

Healthy Aging Voice

Feb. 26 pg. 33

**Edward Larson:
Uniting the States**

Feb. 28 pg. 13

MARCH

Economic Summit

Mar. 7 pg. 14

**All That Jazz:
Emily Asher's Garden
Party**

Mar. 11 pg. 23

**Sleuths: The Circular
Staircase**

Mar. 12 pg. 31

**Sean Wilentz:
History of Reagan**

Mar. 13 pg. 14

**Lt. General Charles Hooper:
China & Taiwan Strait**

Mar. 20 pg. 15

**Boca Grande Live:
Chi Town Transit
Authority**

Mar. 25 pg. 23

**John Wood Sweet:
Sewing Girl's Tale**

Mar. 27 pg. 15

APRIL

**The Grande Chorus:
An American Adventure**

Apr. 5 pg. 37

**All That Jazz:
Benny Benack III**

Apr. 8 pg. 24

**Sleuths:
Murder on the Quai**

Apr. 9 pg. 31

**Paul Greenberg:
Four Fish**

Apr. 10 pg. 16

**Rhythm & Boots:
The Barefoot Movement**

Apr. 15 pg. 24

**David Michaelis: Schulz
and Peanuts**

Apr. 24 pg. 16

See our study group
sessions on Page 30

Check out our weekly
fitness classes on
Page 32

LECTURES



Renowned Speakers & Riveting Subjects

Each season we present nonpartisan programs with differing viewpoints. These thought-provoking lectures promote community engagement while creating a space for meaningful discussions and critical thinking. We believe that our lecture series has something to offer everyone, and we are committed to providing an enriching experience for our Friends. Let's see what's in store!

TICKET PRICING

Sponsorship

\$190

per lecture

(\$150 Charitable/\$40 ticket)

Reserved

\$70

per lecture

General Admission

\$40

per lecture

Livestream

\$40

per lecture

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Our lectures have been generously sponsored by:

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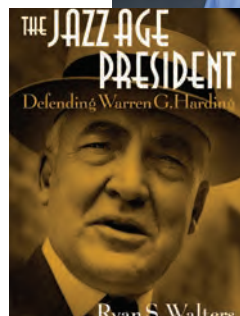
The Jazz Age President: Defending Warren G. Harding

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 4:30PM

Ryan S. Walters, Historian and Author

Ryan S. Walters will speak on his book “The Jazz Age President”, which explores the political and cultural climate of the 1920s through the lens of President Warren G. Harding. Join us as Walters delves into the fascinating life and presidency of this often overlooked figure and sheds light on the impact of the Jazz Age on American politics. This lecture is a must-see for anyone interested in American history and the cultural evolution of the 20th century.

Originally from Ellisville, Mississippi, the “capital” of the famous “Free State of Jones,” Ryan S. Walters is an independent historian who currently teaches American history at Collin College in North Texas. He has appeared on CSPAN, Breitbart Radio, the Dennis Prager Show, the Tom Woods Show, the Chris Stigall Show, the Mark Davis Show, and many others.



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS & POLITICS

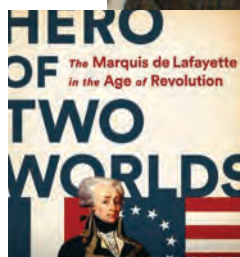
Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 4:30PM

Mike Duncan, Author and Podcaster

From the bestselling author of “The Storm Before the Storm” and host of the *Revolutions* podcast, comes the thrilling story of the Marquis de Lafayette’s lifelong quest to defend the principles of liberty and equality. Few in history can match the revolutionary career of the Marquis de Lafayette. Over fifty incredible years at the heart of the Age of Revolution, he fought courageously on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a soldier, statesman, idealist, philanthropist, and abolitionist.

Mike Duncan grew up outside of Seattle, WA and has a degree in Political Science from Western Washington University. After completing “The History of Rome” podcast he studied Public History at Texas State University but dropped everything to move to Madison, WI where he now changes diapers, writes short cartoon histories, and produces the *Revolutions* podcast.



HISTORY & HERITAGE



ROGER'S PICKS

Growing Together with Love and Sunshine for Healthy People and Planet

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | 4:30PM

Eva Worden, Ph.D., Organic Farming Expert

Worden Farm is an 85-acre family farm in Florida. The farm was founded and is actively run by Chris Worden, Ph.D. and Eva Worden, Ph.D., husband and wife, where they have been growing certified-organic crops with sustainable, regenerative, and climate-wise agricultural practices since 2003. The Wordens are scientists and educators, and they have promoted organic food and agriculture through experimental research, academic publications, videos, television shows, workshops, farm tours, university courses, conferences, consulting, and an intensive farm apprenticeship program. They have participated in agricultural development and community greening projects across the United States and internationally. **Stay tuned for announcements on a special Farm-to-Table dining experience on Sunday, April 7th!**



HISTORY & HERITAGE

The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 4:30PM

Jonathan Eig, Bestselling Author

We know it simply as “the pill,” yet its genesis was anything but simple. Spanning the years from Margaret Sanger’s heady Greenwich Village days in the early twentieth century to trial tests in Puerto Rico in the 1950s to the cusp of the sexual revolution in the 1960s, this is a grand story of radical feminist politics, scientific ingenuity, establishment opposition, and, ultimately, a sea change in social attitudes. Brilliantly researched and briskly written, “The Birth of the Pill” is gripping social, cultural, and scientific history.

Jonathan Eig is the bestselling author of six books. He served as consulting producer for the PBS series “Muhammad Ali,” which was directed by Ken Burns. He has appeared on the Today Show, NPR’s Fresh Air, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. But his greatest claim to fame, according to his parents, is that his name once appeared in a Jeopardy question (which was solved correctly for \$200).

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 4:30PM

Douglas W. Tallamy, Entomologist, Ecologist & Conservationist

Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He has authored 112 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 41 years. His first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives.

In this new book, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. *Nature's Best Hope* shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.



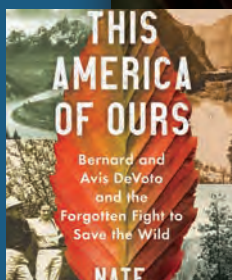
ROGER'S PICKS

This America of Ours: Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the Forgotten Fight to Save the Wild

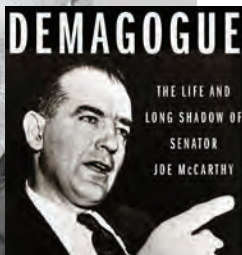
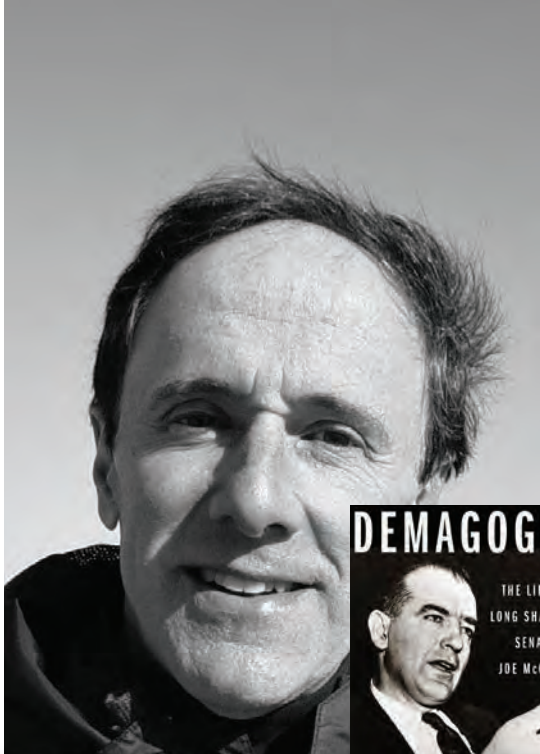
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 | 4:30PM

Nate Schweber, Award-Winning Journalist

In the middle of the 20th century, Bernard and Avis DeVoto learned that corrupt U.S. Senators Joe McCarthy and Pat McCarran were bent on selling more than 200 million acres of public lands far below their value to a coterie of ranchers in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The DeVotos rallied an eclectic group to the aid of America's national lands. Nate Schweber tells a swashbuckling story in *This America of Ours: Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the Forgotten Fight to Save the Wild*. In this lecture, you will meet the people and dedicated national park rangers who threw themselves into the fight that the DeVotos led against some of the most powerful men in America. Once you meet the DeVotos, you'll never forget them or what you owe them.



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS & POLITICS



HISTORY & HERITAGE

Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | 4:30PM

Larry Tye, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

Demagogue is Larry Tye's most recent biography of Senator Joe McCarthy. Tye speaks about how the senator learned from demagogues who came before and was the archetype for those who followed; why his family gave Tye the revealing trove of professional and personal papers that had been under lock and key for 60 years; and how his never-seen medical records offered a novel lens into how he lived and died.

Larry Tye, who graduated from Brown University, was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1993-94. He taught journalism at Boston University, Northeastern, and Tufts. In addition to his writing, Tye runs the Boston-based Health Coverage Fellowship, which helps the media do a better job reporting on critical issues like public health and pandemics, mental health and the health impacts of climate change, and racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in health care.



GLOBAL ISSUES

The Artificial Intelligence Revolution

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | 4:30PM

Heidi A. McKee, Professor of Rhetoric & Writing,
Miami University

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can write hundreds of words in seconds, clone voices so well even family members can be fooled, and produce images and videos that can alter perceptions of fact and fiction. Heidi McKee will show and explain—in layperson terms—how generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems work and examine the benefits, drawbacks, and ethical issues of AI communication technologies. As Heidi will present, we are all impacted by AI, and we all have contributions to make to discussions shaping the usage (and regulation) of AI.

Heidi McKee is the co-author and editor of five books and 35+ chapters and articles. For the past seven years, her research has focused on artificial intelligence, examining such issues as AI communication ethics, the role of rhetorical intelligence, and the dynamics of human-machine teaming in writing. Her current project is co-writing an article with four Miami students about the impact of AI on teaching and learning.

Europe - The Real Shift

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 | 4:30PM

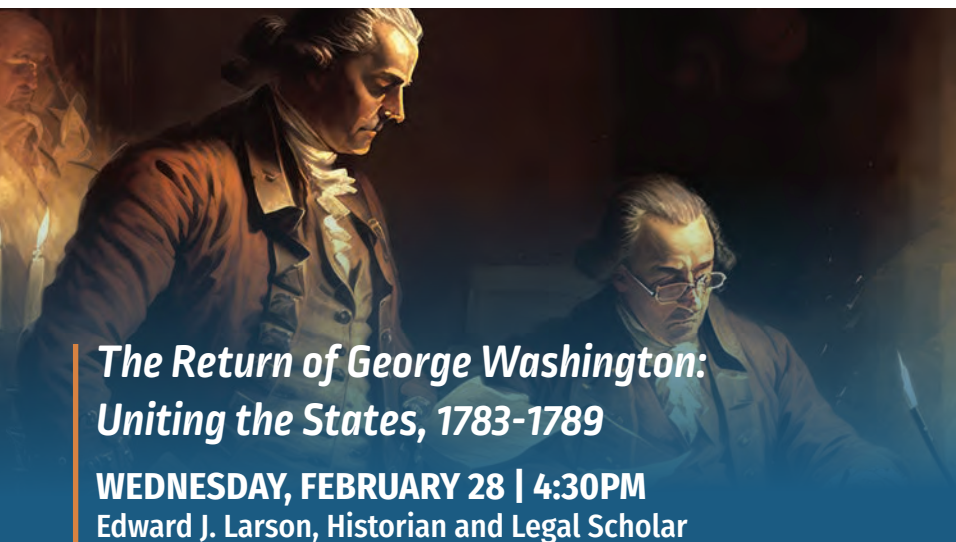
Martin Walker, Author, Historian, & International Policy Director

It is easy to focus on Europe's renewed commitment to trans-Atlantic solidarity after the Ukraine war, but the real shift has taken place in the surging sentiment against migrants, and the migrant flood may just be beginning. Global expert Martin Walker returns to Boca Grande for the 9th consecutive year to give us the latest insight on this migrant shift.

Martin Walker has retired after 30 plus years in journalism for the *Guardian* and *UPI*, and a second career with another ten years in think-tanks including the World Policy Council, the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, and as Director of the Global Business Policy Council.



GLOBAL ISSUES



The Return of George Washington: Uniting the States, 1783-1789

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 4:30PM

Edward J. Larson, Historian and Legal Scholar

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward J. Larson will discuss his latest book, *The Return of George Washington*. In this lecture, Larson will delve into the fascinating story of how America's first president came out of retirement to lead the nation once again during a time of crisis. Larson's meticulous research and engaging storytelling will transport listeners back to a pivotal moment in American history and shed new light on the legendary figure of George Washington. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from one of the foremost historians of our time.



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS & POLITICS



GLOBAL ISSUES

Economic Summit 2024

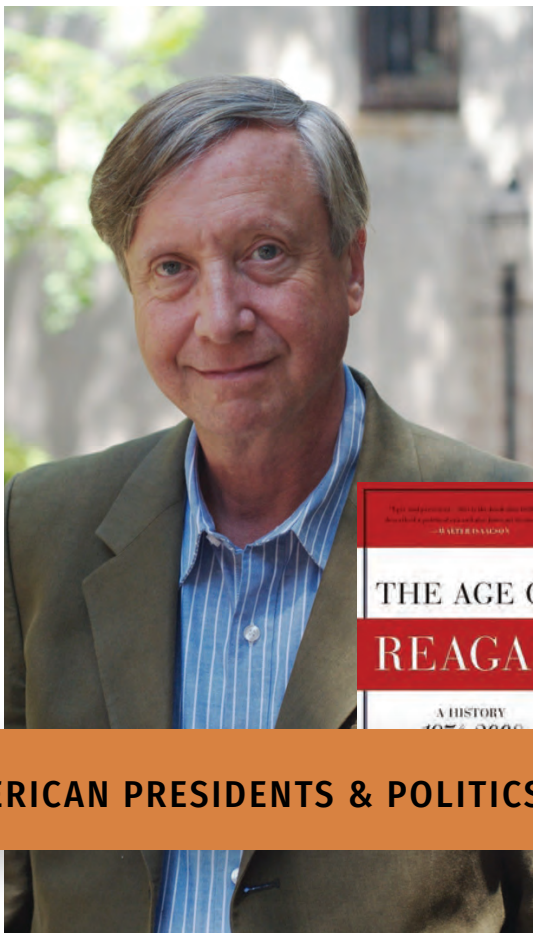
THURSDAY, MARCH 7 | 3:00PM

Boca Economics Group

As we approach a presidential election, our country is dealing with significant economic, social and geopolitical crosscurrents. These include distortions of the post covid era combined with the Ukrainian war, stubborn inflation, workplace/job dislocations and the existing world order.

Globalization is being reexamined and reimagined, women are fully back in the workplace albeit many by remote access, our debt and deficit is at an unsustainably high level, artificial intelligence is changing work and the workplace and international alliances and partnerships are being stressed while our country is deeply politically polarized.

This session will be relevant and will give the audience practical insights from well prepared local experts.



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS & POLITICS

The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 | 3:00PM

Sean Wilentz, Historian and Author

Join us for an insightful lecture with Sean Wilentz as he shares the fascinating history of the “Age of Reagan”. In his book, *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008*, Wilentz offers a fresh perspective on the political and cultural landscape of this influential era. Don’t miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the legacy of one of America’s most significant presidents.

Professor Wilentz teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses on U.S. history, focusing on the 19th century. He has also taught courses on American literature and 20th-century American culture and politics. Professor Wilentz is currently at work on *The Triumph of American Antislavery*, a companion volume to *The Rise of American Democracy*, which will offer a comprehensive political history of the antislavery movement from its seventeenth-century origins to the eradication of slavery in 1865.

China and the Taiwan Strait

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 4:30PM

Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, USA (Retired)

Lieutenant General (Retired) Charles Hooper is one of America's most distinguished soldier-diplomats, with over 41 years of experience in China and the Indo-Pacific. A fluent Chinese linguist with over seven years living and working in China, many consider him one of the Nation's foremost experts on the Chinese and Taiwan militaries and China's defense industries.

In addition to operational assignments with the 25th Infantry and 82nd Airborne Divisions and teaching Chinese Foreign Policy at the Naval Postgraduate School, Lieutenant General Hooper had three high profile diplomatic assignments including serving as the U.S. Defense Attaché—the senior U.S. military officer, in both China and Egypt.



GLOBAL ISSUES

The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, | 4:30PM

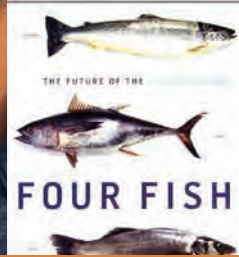
John Wood Sweet, American Historian and Author

John Wood Sweet joins us to speak on his book *The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequence in Revolutionary America*. A riveting Revolutionary Era drama of the first published rape trial in American history and its long, shattering aftermath, reveals how much has changed over two centuries—and how much has not. Based on rigorous historical detective work, this book takes us from a chance encounter in the street, into the sanctuaries of the city's elite, the shadows of its brothels, and the despair of its debtors' prison.

The Sewing Girl's Tale shows that if our laws and our culture were changed by a persistent young woman and the power of words two hundred years ago, they can be changed again.



ROGER'S PICKS



ROGER'S PICKS

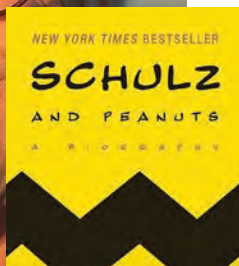
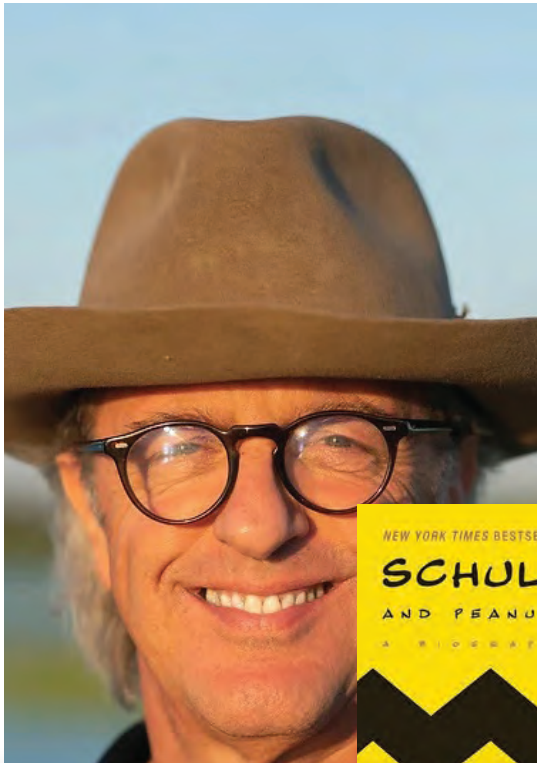


Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 | 4:30PM

Paul Greenberg, Writer and Fisherman

Award-winning writer and lifelong fisherman Paul Greenberg takes us on a culinary journey, exploring the history of the fish that dominate our menus — salmon, sea bass, cod, and tuna — and investigating where each stand at this critical moment in time. Paul's writing on oceans, climate change, health, technology, and the environment appears regularly in *The New York Times* and many other publications. He's the recipient of a James Beard Award for Writing and Literature, a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship and many other grants and awards.



HISTORY & HERITAGE

Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 | 4:30PM

David Michaelis, Author and Historian

Charles Schulz, the most widely syndicated and beloved cartoonist of all time, is also one of the most misunderstood figures in American culture. Acclaimed biographer David Michaelis gives us the first full-length biography of Schulz: at once a creation story, a portrait of a hidden American genius, and a chronicle contrasting the private man with the central role he played in shaping the national imagination.

David Michaelis grew up in Cambridge, Mass., and Washington, D. C., was educated at Concord Academy and Princeton University, and is the author of six books, including the national bestsellers *N. C. Wyeth* (Alfred A. Knopf; Harper Perennial), which won the 1999 Ambassador Book Award for Biography, and *Schulz and Peanuts* (Harper; Harper Perennial), a National Book Critics Circle Best Recommended Book. He lives in Westchester County, N. Y., with his family.

Become a Grande Lecture Sponsor!

How do we bring these exceptional speakers to the stage? The answer lies in the generous support we receive from friends like you. By becoming a sponsor, you not only contribute to the flourishing cultural scene of our community but also gain access to exclusive perks and unique opportunities!

The Grande Lecture Sponsorship requires a minimum contribution of \$5,000. And here's the cherry on top: because this amount does not include goods or services, your sponsorship is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. **As a Grande Lecture Sponsor, you'll enjoy some cool advantages:**

Hassle Free Giving

Streamlined donation process, especially for those using family foundations or donor-advised funds.

Spotlight for your Support

Recognition shining bright in all our printed materials and on the big screen at our lectures.

Best View in the House

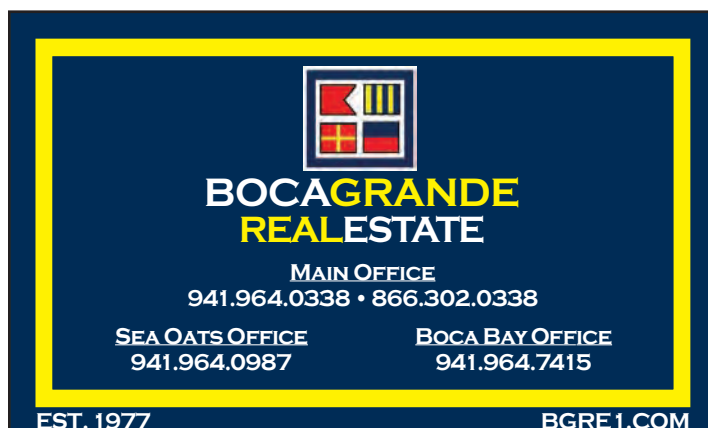
Get ready to kick back and relax in preferred seating at all our lectures.

Sponsor Exclusive Fun

We're talking special receptions with our amazing speakers. It's an intimate setting you won't want to miss!

HOW TO SPONSOR

Call the Friends office at (941) 964-0827 to renew or purchase your Grande Lecture Sponsorship. Our team will assist you in finalizing payment and selecting your tickets!



ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy the Arts and Create Memories To Last a Lifetime

Experience Boca Grande's vibrant entertainment scene that caters to various tastes and genres. Featuring both local and national acts, our programs bring the community together through music, dance, film, and more.

TICKET PRICING

<i>Sponsorship</i>	<i>Reserved</i>	<i>General Admission</i>	<i>Livestream</i>
\$190 <i>per show</i> (\$150 Charitable/\$40 ticket)	\$70 <i>per show</i>	\$40 <i>per show</i>	\$40 <i>per show</i>

Call the office for details on seating options for outdoor performances.



Photo Credit: Mary Bruton

**BOCA GRANDE LIVE!**
Tinsley Ellis & Marcia Ball
Acoustic Songs and Stories
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 5:00PM | AUDITORIUM

Tinsley Ellis and Marcia Ball are excited to present an intimate evening of their music and memories called *Acoustic Songs and Stories*. Tinsley will perform many of his most popular songs from his twenty albums, plus some delta blues and classics on his National Steel and Martin acoustic guitars. Marcia, a five-time Grammy nominee, will play the piano and sing her raucous and touching original songs. Finally, they will come together as a duo to close the night playing songs together and swapping tales of their travels and travails. Don't miss this special performance!

**RHYTHM & BOOTS**
Six One Five Collective
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 5:00PM | FRIENDS PAVILION

The Six One Five Collective is a collaborative effort and creative brainstorm of three artists that are steeped in the musical mix of Country, Americana, Folk and Pop. Their sound is an undeniable wall of distinctive harmonies, vocal prowess, and solo voices that are reminiscent of those great American bands that have come before them; Fleetwood Mac, Little Big Town, etc. Their road show is an eclectic mix of original solo music, hit songs they've written for other artists, and high energy songs that are the 'Six One Five sound.' They've toured around the world opening for John Legend, India Arie, John Hiatt, Kenny Chesney, and others. They've played the Grand Ole Opry stage, C2C, and have toured extensively overseas.



RHYTHM & BOOTS

Darin & Brooke Aldridge

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 5:00PM | AUDITORIUM

Darin and Brooke Aldridge are excited. And why not? With two new band members, a new record label, and five original songs on their latest album, the bluegrass and Americana duo are back with *This Life We're Livin'*, their ninth recorded project together and first release on Billy Blue Records. *This Life We're Livin'* celebrates the space the husband-and-wife team now occupies - the top of bluegrass music. Armed with the talents of the proverbial "triple threat" of uniquely distinctive singing, commanding instrumental skills, and accomplished songwriting, Darin and Brooke continue to ascend to new heights in the industry while maintaining their easy-going, down-to-earth connection with audiences everywhere.



ALL THAT JAZZ

Ken Peplowski, Rosanno Sportiello and Katie Thiroux

MONDAY, JANUARY 8 | 5:00PM & 7:30PM | CROWNINSHIELD

An evening with saxophonist Ken Peplowski, vocalist and bassist Katie Thiroux, and jazz pianist Rossano Sportiello promises to be a dynamic and captivating performance. The trio will showcase their skills and improvisational prowess, exploring a range of jazz styles and compositions. With Peplowski's virtuosic saxophone skills, Thiroux's soulful vocals as well as basslines, and Sportiello's intricate piano arrangements, this concert is not to be missed for jazz enthusiasts and music lovers alike.

Terrence Wilson

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 | 5:00PM | AUDITORIUM

Acclaimed by the Baltimore Sun as “one of the biggest pianistic talents to have emerged in this country in the last 25 years” pianist Terrence Wilson will take the audience on a journey through his classical repertoire. From Rachmanioff, selections from *Etudes-Tableaux*, to Mussorgsky, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Wilson’s performance will showcase his ability to bring out the nuances and emotions of each piece. Whether you are a seasoned classical music enthusiast or a curious newcomer, this concert is not to be missed. Terrence Wilson has appeared as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Washington, DC (National Symphony), San Francisco, St. Louis, and with the orchestras of Cleveland, Minnesota, and Philadelphia and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.



BOCA GRANDE LIVE!

Photo Credit: J. Henry Fair



Tupelo Honey: A Van Morrison Celebration

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 | 5:00PM | FRIENDS PAVILION

The Tupelo Honey Band is a celebration of the music of legendary Irish singer-songwriter Van Morrison. Formed in 2014, the band seeks to honor Morrison’s music and legacy by performing his classic and timeless songs with reverence and admiration. Each member of the band is an experienced and professional musician with a deep understanding of Morrison’s works, as well as their own rich musical backgrounds. The Tupelo Honey Band is well-known for their faithful renditions of Van Morrison’s songs, as well as their unique interpretations of his musical style. From “Brown Eyed Girl” to “Moondance”, the band has been consistently praised by fans and critics alike for their ability to capture the essence of Morrison’s music. The band puts on captivating live performances that are sure to entertain audiences of all ages.



BOCA GRANDE LIVE!



RHYTHM & BOOTS

Photo Credit: Jason Myers



Becky Buller Band

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 5:00PM & 7:30PM
CROWNINSHIELD

Becky Buller is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter from St. James, Minnesota, who has traversed the globe over performing bluegrass music to underwrite her insatiable songwriting habit. Her compositions can be heard on records by Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, to name just a few. Becky has written songs for Grammy award-winning albums: she co-wrote “Freedom,” the lead-off track of The Infamous Stringdusters 2018 Grammy-winning album *Laws of Gravity* as well as “The Shaker” on The Travelin’ McCoury’s self-titled release that brought home the 2019 Best Bluegrass Grammy.



ALL THAT JAZZ



Dave Bennett Quartet

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 5:00PM & 7:30PM
CROWNINSHIELD

Dave Bennett doesn’t fit the mold. You don’t find many jazz clarinet players who name Alice Cooper, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Chris Isaak among their influences. You won’t find many musicians who are equally conversant with the music of Benny Goodman (the “King of Swing”) and Roy Orbison (“The Soul of Rock and Roll”). In fact, you may not find even one other clarinet virtuoso who breaks from his Swing Era repertoire to sing rockabilly hits while accompanying himself at the piano or electric guitar. He has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops (2013) and has been featured with 35 other US and Canadian orchestras including Nashville, Houston, Detroit, Rochester, Omaha, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Orlando, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Portland, OR and Portland, ME.



ALL THAT JAZZ

Emily Asher's Garden Party

MONDAY, MARCH 11 | 5:00PM & 7:30PM | CROWNINSHIELD

Emily Asher is a trombonist, singer, educator, bandleader, and songwriter. *The New York Times* notes her “buoyant charm” and *Wall Street Journal* claims, “In traditional jazz, the trombone comes closest to the human voice, although up to now it’s rarely been cast as a distinctly female voice... Ms. Asher plays with both grit and grace.” Asher is joined by her uncommonly versatile New York City-based band. Celebrating Asher’s fifth album, *If I Were A Window*, the band plays hot jazz, swing, salsa, and ballads ranging from striking and unusual to traditional and catchy, taking listeners on a fun international sound tour.



BOCA GRANDE LIVE!

Chi-Town Transit Authority

MONDAY, MARCH 25 | 5:00PM | FRIENDS PAVILION

Chi-Town Transit Authority is an 8-piece group founded in 2017 and based out of Atlanta, GA., dedicated to reproducing the “Chicago” concert experience. The key to their success has been knitting together a highly accomplished team of long-time musicians who truly love the music of Chicago. Featuring powerful horns, dynamic vocal harmonies and a rockin’ rhythm section, Chi-Town brings a show that instantly captivates the audience. All the hits from “25 Or 6 To 4”, to “Beginnings”, to “Does Anybody Really Know What Time it Is?”, and more will have the audience on their feet – singing, dancing and calling for more!



ALL THAT JAZZ

Benny Benack III

**MONDAY, APRIL 8 | 5:00PM & 7:30PM
CROWNINSHIELD**

Emmy-nominated trumpeter and singer Benny Benack III has proven to be that rarest of talents: not only a fiery trumpet player with a stirring command of the post bop trumpet vernacular in the vein of Kenny Dorham and Freddie Hubbard, but also a singer with a sly, mature, naturally expressive delivery in the post-Sinatra mold, performing standards and his own astute songs with a thrilling sense of showmanship. The audience is in for a night of unforgettable music as Benack showcases his impressive range and virtuosity on the trumpet, backed by the talented Brandon Robertson Trio.



RHYTHM & BOOTS

Photo Credit: Workshop Media

The Barefoot Movement

MONDAY, APRIL 15 | 5:00PM | FRIENDS PAVILION

Acclaimed Americana group, The Barefoot Movement, is the brainchild of founding members Noah Wall and Tommy Norris. Emerging on the acoustic scene in 2011, they have continually navigated the alt-bluegrass waters through the years while refining that which gives them their particular sound. Invigorating and infused with a captivating honesty, The Barefoot Movement transports audiences to a place of complete enthrallment and creates gloriously addictive, instantly memorable tunes shored up by silky smooth bluegrass and Americana harmonies and laced with tantalizing flecks of bluesy grit.



Opéra Comique at the SARASOTA OPERA

***Carmen* by Georges Bizet**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | \$475 PER PERSON (HALF-DAY EXCURSION)

“Love is a gypsy child, it has never, ever, known a law”

Carmen, the seductive and enigmatic heroine, has enticed Corporal Don José who upends his life to be with her. When her interest turns to the charismatic bullfighter Escamillo, José's enraged jealousy leads to catastrophe. Opera-lovers and newcomers alike will bask in some of opera's most recognizable music at the Sarasota Opera house!

Accompanying you on this operatic journey is Maestro Peter Leonard. Born in Boston, Peter has lived and worked in Germany, holding positions as music director and intendant (general director). Following the matinee, Maestro Leonard will lead an engaging discussion over dinner in the private dining room at Café Amici.

Located within walking distance from the Sarasota Opera house, Café Amici on Main Street has been a treasure for fine Italian cuisine for many years. The owners, Achille and Massimo Nigri have created one of the best authentic Italian restaurants in the area. With family recipes handed down for generations, offering a variety of flavorful pasta, seafood, and meat dishes using only the finest ingredients available. This casual, elegant dining experience is the very definition of a festive trattoria!



Round trip transportation from Boca Grande is included. This trip is limited to 22 people.
Call the office at (941) 964-0827 to reserve a spot.

Great Art On Screen

FRIDAYS | 5:00PM | AUDITORIUM | \$20



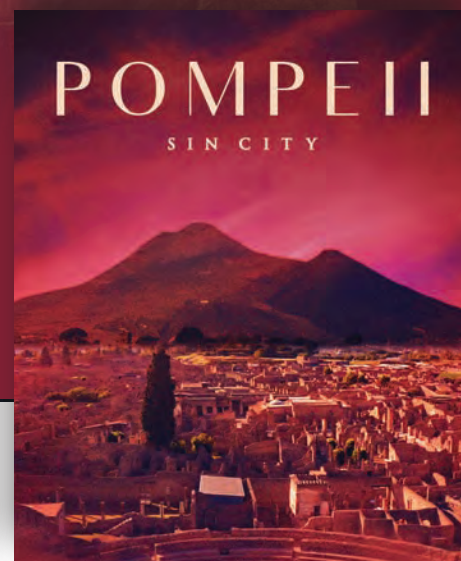
Tutankhamun:
The Last Exhibition
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Run Time: 90 min

To mark the centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, *Tutankhamun: The Last Exhibition* offers audiences an extraordinary opportunity to meet the Pharaoh, with exclusive coverage of how 150 of his treasures were moved to become part of the biggest international exhibition ever dedicated to him. Explore a continuous dialogue of cross-references between the ancient past when the Pharaoh was alive, the more recent times which saw the discovery of his Tomb by archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922, and the present day with exhibitions and studies dedicated to Ancient Egypt.



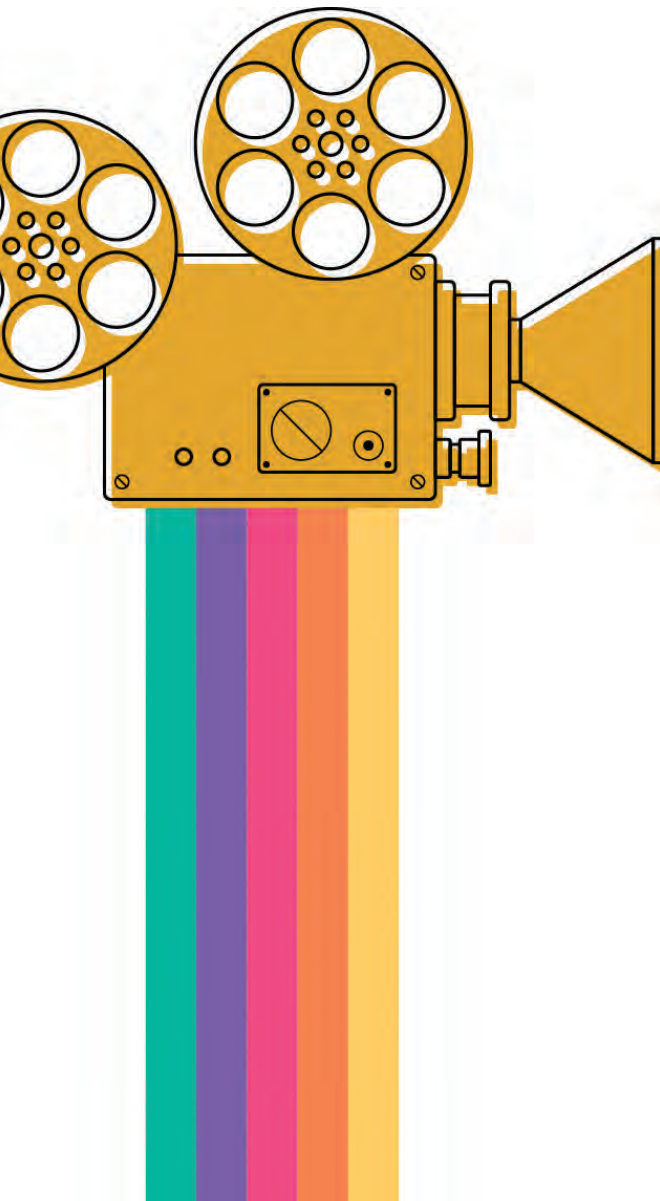
Portrait of the Queen
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
Run Time: 100 min

Queen Elizabeth II was the most photographed, the most loved and talked about, spied upon, praised, criticized, and popular woman on the planet. All over the globe and in every moment of her long life, which came to an end at the age of 96, people have always wanted to watch her, discover new things about her, connect with her and understand her. *Portrait of the Queen* offers an original portrayal of the story of The Queen from a totally new perspective: through the most intense, amazing, revealing photographic portraits of her, as shared by the extraordinary photographers who accompanied and often created the image of the British monarchy itself.



Pompeii: Sin City
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
Run Time: 90 min

An exploration of Pompeii, a city cloaked in mystery and depicted through images and words by the great artists and writers who experienced and imagined it over the course of history: from Pliny the Younger to Picasso, from Emily Dickinson to Jean Cocteau. Famously known for the catastrophic volcanic eruption which buried Pompeii along with its inhabitants over 2000 years ago, *Pompeii: Sin City* hosted by Isabella Rossellini offers audiences an extraordinary snapshot of Roman life, frozen at the moment of burial, showing how its citizens lived their lives, spent their free time, experienced pleasure, passion, religion and ultimately, their fate.



BOCA GRANDE

FILM FESTIVAL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2024

ALL ACCESS SPONSOR PASS* | \$400 PER PERSON

Includes general admission to all films, festival gear,
and entry to the closing reception

FESTIVAL PASS* | \$200 PER PERSON

Includes general admission to all films
and entry to the closing reception

VIRTUAL PASS | \$300 PER HOUSEHOLD

Includes virtual access to all films

*Includes virtual access to films through our online
film hub in addition to on-site admission

Stay tuned for festival updates and events!

Corporate Sponsors:
Crews Bank & Trust and The Boca Beacon



COMMUNITY



Live Your Best Life on Boca Grande

Whether it's one of our study groups, fitness classes, or clubs, we offer community programs that promote physical health and wellbeing and encourage meaningful social connections through the pursuit of shared interests.



Gulf
to Bay

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

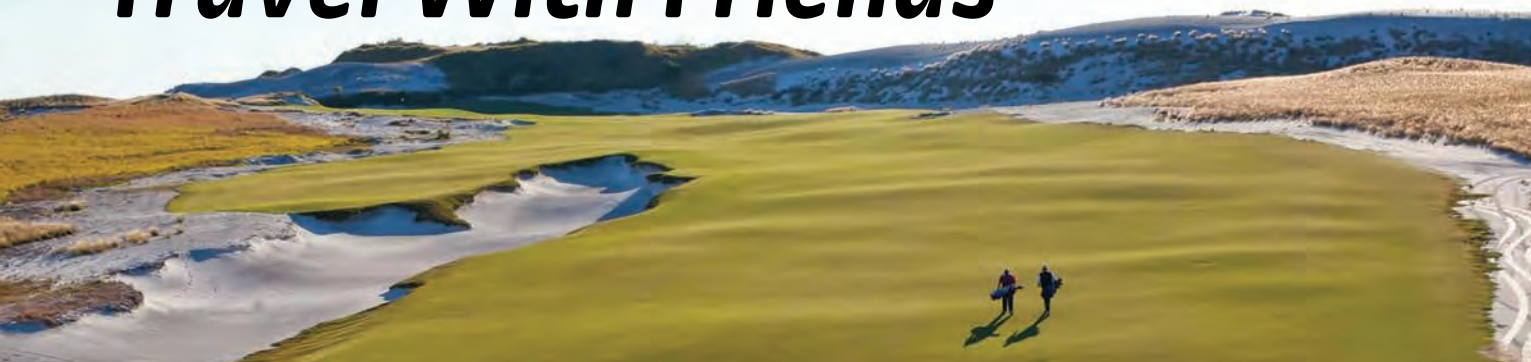
(941) 964-0115

sales@gulftobaysothebysrealty.com

GulfToBaySIR.com

P.O. Box 812, 336 Park Avenue
Boca Grande, FL 33921

Travel With Friends



All-inclusive Excursion to Streamsong Golf Resort and Spa (2 days, 1 night)

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 – MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

Estimated cost of trip \$1825/person; \$218 single supplement

Just you, your friends, and the game you love. Hailed as one of the greatest golf venues, Streamsong is the only resort in the world where players can experience distinct courses designed by legendary architects – Bill Coore & Ben Crenshaw, Tom Doak, and Gil Hanse & Jim Wagner – in the same location.



GOLF AT STREAMSONG

With 3 top 100 courses and the highest-rated golf collection in all of Florida, Streamsong offers a golf experience like no other in a setting that's like nothing you've ever seen, thanks to seamless integration of indigenous and awe-inspiring terrain.



ACQUAPIETRA SPA

Intentionally intimate, the European-style grotto sanctuary offers a tranquil haven created to relax and revitalize your mind, body and spirit while enlivening the senses– all inspired by Streamsong's serene natural surroundings.

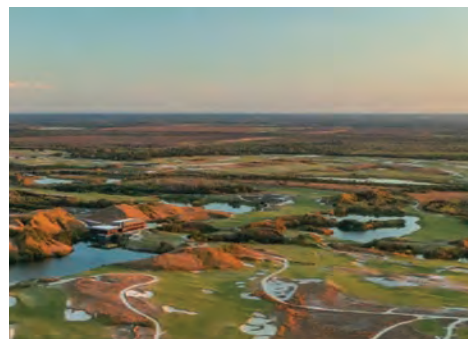


DINING

At Streamsong, you will enjoy excellent food and drink in the most beautiful settings imaginable. From scratch-made breakfast favorites to inspired dinner entrees, our chefs use the finest ingredients available to create dishes that will delight a diverse array of tastes.

ABOUT STREAMSONG

From the phosphate mining days in Florida to reclaiming the land, the Mosaic Company, founders of Streamsong, embarked on an innovative opportunity for post-mining economic and environmental sustainability. Moving from one land use to another, Streamsong - now stewarded by KemperSports - showcases how reclaimed land can be developed in an environmentally responsible manner, while also becoming an economic driver for rural areas, protecting the land, water, and wildlife.



Call the office at (941) 964-0827 to sign up!

Study Groups



Great Courses: Dutch Masters

Course Facilitator: Karen Zarse

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS - 18 SESSIONS

NOV 2, 3, 16, 17, 30 | DEC 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

JAN 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

10:00am | Special Interest Room

No Charge / Pre-Registration Required

"Dutch Masters: The Age of Rembrandt" will introduce you to the art of 17th-century Holland. It traces the development of this renowned, independent school of painting, and the great seafaring nation that produced the new society that would be reflected in that new art. The course concludes with the achievements of Holland's greatest and most versatile genius, Rembrandt, whose range of work—including his remarkable etchings—claims the final seven lectures.

Your introduction to this marvelous world is a visually sumptuous one, as Professor William Kloss—well known to "The Great Courses" customers from his *A History of European Art* and *Great Artists of the Italian Renaissance*—shows you the work of more than 100 artists and guides you through more than 450 masterful paintings.



Great Decisions 2024

Course Facilitator: Karen Zarse

THURSDAYS – 8 SESSIONS

JAN 25 | FEB 1, 8, 15, 29 | MAR 14, 21, 28

2:00pm | Special Interest Room

\$60 for briefing book (1 per couple)

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Produced by the Foreign Policy Association, the Great Decisions program highlights eight of the most thought-provoking global issues facing Americans each year. Preliminary topics for 2024 include: Mideast realignment, Pandemic preparation, NATO, Climate technology and competition, Indonesia, US and China investment strategies, Science across borders (cooperation and regulation), and one topic still to come.

This course provides background information, current data and policy options for each issue and serves as the focal text for small group discussion. Each session includes a 30-minute documentary that corresponds to content in the Great Decisions 2024 Briefing Book. Participants will be expected to lead discussion. Course fee includes the briefing book.

Boca Grande Sleuths

Picture this: a group of like-minded individuals gathering once a month with hearts pounding and minds eager to delve into the darkest corners of suspense, unravel perplexing puzzles, and uncover hidden truths. Boca Grande Sleuths is your ticket to a world of captivating whodunits, spine-chilling suspense, and mind-bending mysteries.



DECEMBER 12

***In the Shadow of Death:*
A Chautauqua Murder Mystery**
BY DEB PINES

Presenter: Susan Hanafee

Follow Mimi Goldman as she uncovers a web of intrigue and danger in a small town after a suspicious death. With her own life at stake, she races against time to catch a killer. This twisty whodunit is a book that you won't be able to put down.



MARCH 12

The Circular Staircase
BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
Presenter: Nancy Robinson

"The Circular Staircase" by Mary Roberts Rinehart is a captivating mystery where a spinster named Rachel Innes unravels a series of eerie events and unexplained deaths in a rented country house, aided by a detective and her loyal maid. Suspense builds as they uncover the truth in this enthralling tale.



JANUARY 9

The Poacher's Son
BY PAUL DOIRON
Presenter: Stephanie Williams

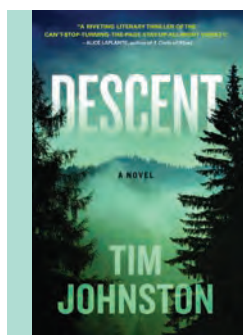
Game warden Mike Bowditch receives a mysterious message from his estranged father, making him the prime suspect in a local cop's murder. To clear his father's name and stay alive, Mike ventures into the Maine wilderness, racing against time to find the real killer. This gripping thriller is a riveting tale of redemption and survival.



APRIL 9

Murder on the Quai
BY CARA BLACK
Presenter: Linda Fairstein

this bestselling series, Cara Black transports readers to Paris in 1989. Aimée Leduc, a determined college student living with her detective father, faces a cascade of challenges: sabotaged lab work, a betraying boyfriend, and a murder case tied to missing Nazi gold. As her life takes unexpected turns, Aimée reconsiders her path and her role in the family business.



FEBRUARY 13

Descent
BY TIM JOHNSTON
Presenter: Karen Zarse

In "Descent" by Tim Johnston, a family's vacation turns into a nightmare when their daughter disappears during a morning run in the Rocky Mountains. As they search for answers and face their worst fears, their bonds are tested and they must confront the unimaginable.

Join the Boca Grande Sleuths!
Monthly | Tuesdays | 2:00pm
Houghton Room | Free



Fitness Classes

Balance and Stability

STARTING OCTOBER 2 | MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

9:30 – 10:30AM | MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM | \$10/CLASS

Instructor: John Mannion

Regain balance and stability through gentle range-of-motion exercises that target your ankle, knee and hip joints. Whether you prefer sitting or standing, our trained instructor will guide you through a workout that goes beyond just mobility movements. We provide a sturdy chair and a fun, supportive atmosphere to help you achieve a stable and able body.

Boca Barre and Buns

STARTING OCTOBER 3 | TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

9:30 – 10:30AM | MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM | \$10/CLASS

Instructor: Samantha Stone

Experience a full-body workout with the Boca Barre and Buns (BBB) class that implements weights, resistance bands, and barre techniques. This one-hour class is perfect for anyone, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned fitness enthusiast, as it helps improve strength, stamina, flexibility, and balance. BBB uses gentle, yet highly effective, ballet movements that restore alignment and body strength.

Hatha Yoga for Relaxation & Flexibility

STARTING NOVEMBER 6 | MONDAYS | 5:00PM | HOUGHTON ROOM \$15/CLASS

Instructors: Virginia Williamson; Dennis Domres

Join our Yoga Class every Monday starting November 6th, in the Houghton Room. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced yogi, you're welcome to attend as this class caters to all levels of ability. Don't forget to bring your own mat! Classes cost \$15 each, paid weekly to the instructor. For more information, please contact Virginia Williamson at 941-380-5845 or staryoga@comcast.net

Qigong: A Mindful Chinese Movement Practice

STARTING MARCH 1 | EVERY FRIDAY IN MARCH

10:30 - 11:30AM | HOUGHTON ROOM | \$10/CLASS

Instructor: Donna Kester Phillips

Qigong is an ancient Chinese practice that combines the principles of Tai Chi and Yoga. It's easy to learn and accessible to people of all ages, body types, and abilities. In this class, you'll discover how to relax into gentle flows that integrate your body, emotions, and mind, resulting in a feeling of embodiment and empowerment. The healing properties of these mindful movements reduce stress, boost energy, and promote feelings of peace and well-being.

The Healthy Aging Voice

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | 1:00PM | HOUGHTON ROOM | NO CHARGE; PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

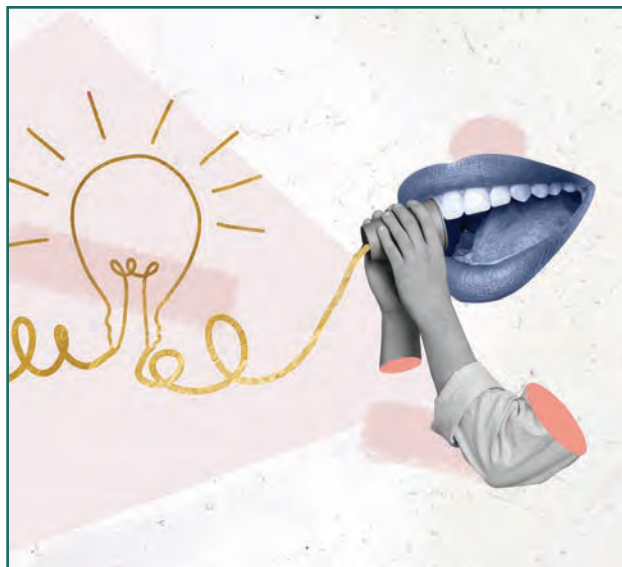
Course Facilitator: Lorraine DiSimone

Since the beginning of time, husbands and wives have been concerned about being heard by their partner. Asking, "Is he/she listening to me?" "Am I being ignored or does he/she have hearing loss?" The answer could lie in one or all the above! Or - it may be part of the aging voice.

Let's face it - the voice, like other muscles and parts of the body, change as we age. The Healthy Aging Voice workshop is for anyone interested in learning how to strengthen and protect their vocal cords.

Attendees will learn how to be heard in a better way, without getting physically tired or feeling hoarse. The elements of resonance, pitch variation, volume, articulation, breath support, concentration, and focus will be included.

The format will include content presentation, discussion, as well as fun, easy and safe exercises. Culminating with everyone receiving a "tool kit" for speaking. Registration is limited to 20 participants. This 75-minute workshop will be led by Lorraine DiSimone, skilled vocal coach and trainer.



ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Lorraine received her Master's in Voice from New England Conservatory of Music and has trained numerous people through workshops in affiliation with the International Forum (founded by the Wharton School of Business) in seminars in Europe and the United States. She also had a successful career as a professional opera singer for 35 years while simultaneously serving as a voice and public speaking teacher in both private and academic settings.

See the elements discussed in this course live and in action, on stage at the Sarasota Opera!

Check out CARMEN on Page 25



Community Croquet

STARTING NOVEMBER 30 | WEEKLY | THURSDAYS | 3:00PM | COMMUNITY CENTER LAWN | FREE

Program Directors: Hans Peterson & Rebecca Peterson

All ages are welcome to join the fun at Boca Grande Croquet held every Thursday afternoon on the Community Center great lawn. We provide everything needed, so all you need to do is show up to play. Experience the joy of croquet, it'll be good for your heart, mind and soul! Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Hans 978-929-9000 or Rebecca 978-844-3204 or visit BocaGrandeCroquet.com.



Croquet Instruction & Open Play

NOVEMBER 30 TO APRIL 25

Our team of world-class instructors will provide expert coaching each week for both new and experienced players to quickly teach you how to play and improve your game! Sessions will start with instruction and followed by game play to practice what you learned.



Boca Grande Croquet League

NOVEMBER 30 TO APRIL 25

Those looking for a more competitive experience can participate in our BG Croquet League. Games will be scheduled and played throughout the season with the results used to determine the finalists for the 2024 Island Croquet Championship match to be held on March 21st.



Island Croquet Carnival

MARCH 21 4:00-6:00PM

Come join us for the Croquet Carnival to experience all things croquet! We'll have games to play and demonstrations, croquet pro trick shots, apparel and equipment, music, food, drink and cheer. The highlight will be watching the title match to crown the 2024 Island Croquet Champion!

This program has been generously sponsored by:

Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Fitness Center

Enjoy the fully equipped fitness center that has everything you need to keep fit and is available free of charge. The fitness center is located in the Multi-Purpose wing of the Community Center. Equipment includes a multi-station gym, a rack of dumbbells, two adjustable benches, upright and recumbent bikes, treadmills and elliptical machines. Open to everyone 16 and older. If it is your first time, please stop by the Lee County Parks and Recreation office in Room 9 to fill out a waiver form before using the facilities.

FITNESS CENTER HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday & Sunday Closed



Basketball, Volleyball, & Tennis Courts

The Community Center is equipped with full size basketball and volleyball courts that are available for public use. Two lighted tennis courts are located on Wheeler Road, just a short walk or golf cart ride from the Community Center. The tennis courts have also been painted for pickle ball. Basketballs, footballs, volleyballs, tennis balls and tennis rackets are all available to use free of charge. To borrow equipment, please stop by the Lee County Parks and Recreation office in Room 9 at the Boca Grande Community Center.



Helping to Enrich the Boca Grande Community



BOCA GRANDE
— C R O Q U E T —

Hans & Rebecca Peterson
Realtors®
978.929.9000 | 978.844.3204

Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS

FITNESS QUEST
Physical Therapy

Fitness Quest Physical Therapy
280 Park Avenue
Boca Grande FL 33921
Telephone: 941-964-2300

Call to schedule free balance screens!
www.fitnessquestpt.com



Clubs and Activities

The Boca Grande Camera Club

Join the Boca Grande Camera Club as we explore the ever-changing world of photography! New members are welcomed throughout the camera club year. Our membership is a dynamic one, spanning the spectrum from beginners and casual photographers to serious hobbyists and professional photographers who meet in classroom settings, workshops, and on field trips to learn, improve, collaborate, and to display their images and work. The regular Tuesday meetings will feature speakers covering subjects related to cameras, cellphone cameras, camera composition (including landscapes, people, pets, families, in both outdoor and indoor situations). We also delve in light and exposure, lenses, creative ideas during workshops and field trips. Programs can also cover photo editing software as well as storage and file management concerns scheduled in response to members' input. Some of the field trips will be led by one of our many talented members and there will be a special workshop to help members prepare for the club's photography show. This season we have scheduled ten Tuesday morning meetings for the 2023-2024 club year. We will (hopefully) have a Zoom link for each meeting and are looking at uploading a tape of each meeting as well.

CAMERA CLUB DATES 2023-2024

Tuesdays | 10:00am | Houghton Room

November 14, December 5, January 9 & 23, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16

ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

March 1-3, 2024 | Boca Grande Art Center

Boca Grande Duplicate Bridge Club

The 2023-24 Duplicate Bridge Club will offer sanctioned games every Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 pm, October 16-April 29. Games will be held in the Crowninshield House. There will also be a newcomer's game for those players with 50 or less masterpoints. These games will begin in November. All players for both games must register online at bgdbc.org or call Kathleen at (352) 801-9523. Lessons will begin in January. The goal for both games and lessons is to provide a supportive and friendly community. For more information send an email to mail@bgdbc.org.

Movies

Enjoy free movies in the Community Center Auditorium on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00pm. Film selections include a mix of classics and newer releases. During season, some showings may be canceled or moved to the Woman's Club Room if there are conflicting programs. Movie schedules are released each month and posted outside of the Friends office.



The Grande Chorus

UNDER THE MUSICAL DIRECTION OF ALAN COREY

The Grande Chorus: Join Us for Weekly Singing Sessions

WEEKLY | FRIDAYS | 9:30AM - 11:00AM | ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Do you love singing in the shower but want to take your skills to the next level? Come and join fellow singers for the 2nd season of The Grande Chorus – an inclusive community of music enthusiasts. Improve your singing skills, build your confidence through a collaborative experience, and perform for your families and friends!

All singing levels are welcome, and you can choose to participate in any or all sessions. You'll have the opportunity to attend weekly rehearsals with the best musical director in Southwest Florida. Your hard work and dedication will culminate in a fantastic performance where you can showcase your talents. Regular attendance at rehearsals will result in the best performance experience, but rehearsal music, tracks and info will be accessible if you are not able to attend every rehearsal in a session. Please contact music director Alan Corey for more information at chorus@friendsofbocagrande.org

Join us every Friday from 9:30am to 11:00 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church and become a part of The Grande Chorus!

SESSION INFO

Session 1

Holiday Spectacular

Rehearsals begin: October 27
Performance: December 15

Session 2

Boca Meets Broadway

Rehearsals begin: January 5
Performance: February 23

Session 3

An American Adventure

Rehearsals begin: March 1
Performance: April 5

Each session cost is \$175. Please inquire about available scholarships.



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Youth & Family

Photos: Boca Beacon

Youth Fishing Tournaments

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | FREE | BOCA GRANDE FISHING PIER

Grab your fishing pole and tackle box and come join the family fun at our youth fishing tournament. Tournaments are for boys and girls ages 13 & under. Bait will be provided (no lures allowed). All children must be supervised by a parent or guardian for this event, this is a catch and release tournament. For more information or to register please contact Dawn in the Lee County Parks and Recreation office, room # 9, (239) 533-2923 or by email to dbalsizer@leegov.com. Sponsored by the Boca Beacon, Boca Grande Marina and Lee County Parks and Recreation

Fall Festival

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 3PM- 5:30PM | FREE | COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDS

Kids, bring your parents over to the Boca Grande Community Center for our Fall Festival. Festivities include bounce houses, a cake and pumpkin walk, tractor pictures, guess the candy jar count, face painting and goodie bags. One bag of individually wrapped candy per child is appreciated (please drop candy to the Lee County Parks office # 9 by Tuesday, October 24th). Sponsored by the Boca Grande Womens Club, The Friends of Boca Grande and Lee County Parks and Recreation.

Turkey Hoop Shoot

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 4PM-5:30PM | FREE | COMMUNITY CENTER BASKETBALL COURTS

The Turkey Hoop Shoot contest is a free event for children 17 and under. Contest will be 5, "around the world" spots on the court, these spots will be marked specifically for the age group. The top three competitors in each age group will advance to the final round. For more information or to register please contact Dawn in the Lee County Parks and Recreation office, room # 9, (239) 533-2923 or by email to dbalsizer@leegov.com. Prizes are awarded for 1st place in each age group as follows: 5 & under co-ed, 6-9 boys and girls, 10-14 boys and girls, 15-17 boys and girls. Sponsored by the Boca Beacon and Lee County Parks and Recreation.

Bike Parade & Woman's Club Fair

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 | 10:30AM | FREE | BIKE PATH & COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDS

Decorate your bike, scooter, wagon, golf cart or yourself and join the annual Bike Path Parade. Awards are given in multiple categories which will be listed at the time of registration. Registration forms will be available in the Lee County Parks and Recreation office as well as on the Boca Grande Womens club website. Parade starts at 10:30, stay tuned for more information. Sponsored by the Boca Grande Womens Club

Boca Grande Egg Hunts

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 | 10:00AM | FREE | COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDS

Kids, bring your parents over to the Boca Grande Community Center for our egg hunt and pictures with the Easter Bunny! One bag of individually wrapped candy per child is appreciated (please drop candy to the Lee County Parks office # 9 by Thursday, March 28th). We will have three separate egg hunt age groups as follows: 4 & under, 5-7, and 8-11. Sponsored by The Friends of Boca Grande and Lee County Parks and Recreation.

Plan Your Tickets

Use this worksheet as a guide when you call, visit the office, or purchase tickets online at friendsofbocagrande.org

OCTOBER

F 27	The Grande Chorus Session 1	\$175	X_____ = _____
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NOVEMBER

F 3	Great Art on Screen: Tutankhamun: The Last Expedition	\$20	X_____ = _____
T 7	Boca Grande Live: Tinsley Ellis & Marcia Ball	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 8	Ryan Walters: The Jazz Age President	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 15	Mike Duncan: Hero of Two Worlds	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
Th 16	Rhythm & Boots: Six One Five Collective	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 27	Eva Worden: Organic Farming	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____

DECEMBER

F 1	Great Art on Screen: Portrait of The Queen	\$20	X_____ = _____
W 6	Jonathan Eig: Birth of the Pill	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 11	Rhythm & Boots: Darin & Brooke Aldridge	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 13	Douglas Tallamy: Nature's Best Hope	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____

JANUARY

F 5	The Grande Chorus Session 2	\$175	X_____ = _____
F 5	Great Art on Screen: Pompeii: Sin City	\$20	X_____ = _____
M 8	All That Jazz: Ken Peplowski Trio 7:30pm	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
Th 11	Boca Grande Live: Terrence Wilson	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 17	Nate Schweber: Forgotten Fight to Save	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 22	Boca Grande Live: Tupelo Honey	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 24	Larry Tye: Demagogue	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____

FEBRUARY

Th 1	Heidi McKee: Artificial Intelligence	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
F 2	Rhythm & Boots: Becky Buller Band 5:00pm	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
F 2	Rhythm & Boots: Becky Buller Band 7:30pm	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
T 6	Martin Walker: Europe the Real Shift	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 12	All That Jazz: Dave Bennett Quartet 7:30pm	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
Su 25	Sarasota Opera Trip: Carmen	\$475	X_____ = _____
W 28	Edward Larson: Uniting the States	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____

MARCH

F 1	The Grande Chorus Session 3	\$175	X_____ = _____
Th 7	Economic Summit	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 11	All That Jazz: Emily Asher's Garden Party 7:30pm	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 13	Sean Wilentz: History of Raegan	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 20	Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper: China & the Taiwan Strait	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____
M 25	Boca Grande Live: Chi-Town Transit Authority	\$40/\$190	X_____ = _____
W 27	John Wood Sweet: Sewing Girl's Tale	\$40/\$70/\$190	X_____ = _____

APRIL

M 8 All That Jazz: Benny Benack III | 7:30pm
 W 10 Paul Greenberg: Four Fish
 M 15 Rhythm & Boots: The Barefoot Movement
 W 24 David Michaelis: Schulz & Peanuts

\$40/\$190

X_____ = _____

\$40/\$70/\$190

X_____ = _____

\$40/\$190

X_____ = _____

\$40/\$70/\$190

X_____ = _____

PACKAGE

Boca Grande Film Festival

Feb 21-23 Sponsorship Package
 General Package
 Virtual Package:

\$400/person

X_____ = _____

\$200/person

X_____ = _____

\$300/household

X_____ = _____

STUDY GROUPS & SESSIONS

Paid Programs

____ Great Decisions

Thursdays - Jan 25; Feb 1, 8, 15, 29;

Mar 14, 21, 28

\$60/household

X_____ = _____

Free Programs | Pre-Registration Required

____ Great Courses: Dutch Masters

Thursdays & Fridays - Nov 2, 3, 16, 17, 30;

Dec 1, 7, 8; 14, 15; Jan 4, 5; 11, 12; 18, 19; 25, 26

____ Health & Well-Being Programs: Healthy Aging Voice

Monday - Feb. 26

MEMBERSHIPS

____ Grande Lecture Sponsorship

\$5,000/household

X_____ = _____

____ Friends@Home All Access

\$500/household

X_____ = _____

____ Seasonal@Home All Access

\$250/household

X_____ = _____

PAYMENT CALCULATION

Total Program Fees

Add A Contribution*

\$_____

____ Endowment Pacesetter

\$10,000+

____ Philanthropist

\$5,000-\$9,999

____ Leader

\$2500-\$4,999

____ Patron

\$1,000-\$2,499

____ Benefactor

\$500 - \$999

____ Supporter

\$250 - \$499

____ Friend

\$1 - \$249

The society of Friends invites you to include the Friends of Boca Grande in your long-term financial planning as a codicil to your trust or will. Consider that possibility when you next confer with your attorney and/pr update your trust or will.

2. Total Contribution Amount

\$_____

3. Total Amount Due

\$_____

4. Call or visit the office and use this worksheet as a guide when ordering your tickets.

- Attention Grande Sponsors! Please call the office to ensure you are getting the Grande Sponsor rate.
- Please specify if your payment will come from a DAF or family foundation.

Friends@Home Membership

Watch Live or Recorded Lectures Anytime with Friends!



From the moment our lectures begin, we capture everything on camera, so you don't miss a thing. You'll even be able to participate in the Q&A! After the lecture has finished, it is archived in the media library so you can easily access it from our website. This amazing technology comes with your own personal guide, US! We can help you through the entire process, from making your account to setting up the device or TV you prefer to watch on. Whether you are unable to attend in-person or prefer to watch remotely, becoming a Friends@Home member is a great way to stay up-to-date with the season's top programs.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

2023-2024 Livestream Lectures

Recorded Video Library

Complimentary Tech Help

MEMBERSHIP COST

ALL ACCESS \$500 PER HOUSEHOLD

This ultimate subscription includes access to all Lecture Livestreams and the On-Demand Media Library for our '23-'24 season PLUS the vast archive of Lectures from past seasons!

SEASONAL ACCESS \$250 PER HOUSEHOLD

This premium subscription includes access to all Lecture Livestreams and the On-Demand Media Library for our '23-'24 season without the archive access for past seasons.

Grande Sponsor Pricing Available – Please call the office to purchase or renew.

Please note that membership does not include in-person tickets. The Friends staff is ready to assist you in creating your Friends@Home account and setting up your device or television to view the live streams. Call our office at 941-964-0827 to get started!

Event By Series

ALL THAT JAZZ

Ken Peplowski Trio
Jan. 8 pg. 20

Emily Asher's Garden Party
Mar. 11 pg. 23

Dave Bennett Quartet
Feb. 12 pg. 22

Benny Benack III
Apr. 8 pg. 24

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS & POLITICS

Ryan Walters:
The Jazz Age President
Nov. 8 pg. 9

Edward Larson:
Uniting the States
Feb. 28 pg. 13

Nate Schweber:
Fight to Save the Wild
Jan. 17 pg. 11

Sean Wilentz:
History of Reagan
Mar. 13 pg. 14

BOCA GRANDE LIVE

Tinsley Ellis & Marcia Ball
Nov. 7 pg. 19

Tupelo Honey
Jan. 22 pg. 21

Terrence Wilson
Jan. 11 pg. 21

Chi-Town Transit
Authority
Mar. 25 pg. 23

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Mike Duncan:
Hero of Two Worlds
Nov. 15 pg. 9

Larry Tye: Demagogue
Jan. 24 pg. 12

Jonathan Eig:
Birth of the Pill
Dec. 6 pg. 10

David Michaelis:
Schulz & Peanuts
Apr. 24 pg. 16

GLOBAL ISSUES

Heidi McKee:
Artificial Intelligence
Feb. 1 pg. 12

Economic Summit 2023
Mar. 7 pg. 14

Martin Walker:
Europe – The Real Shift
Feb. 6 pg. 13

Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper:
China & the Taiwan Strait
Mar. 8 pg. 15

RHYTHM & BOOTS

Six One Five Collective
Nov. 16 pg. 19

Becky Buller Band
Feb. 2 pg. 22

Darin & Brooke Aldridge
Dec. 11 pg. 20

The Barefoot Movement
Apr. 15 pg. 24



As a former Chairman of the Board, Roger Lewis continues to contribute incredible suggestions for speakers and topics, and we've curated these lectures into Roger's Picks!

ROGER'S PICKS

Douglas Tallamy:
Nature's Best Hope
Dec. 13 pg. 11

Paul Greenberg: Four Fish
Apr. 10 pg. 16

John Wood Sweet:
Sewing Girl's Tale
Mar. 27 pg. 15

Eva Worden:
Organic Farming
Nov. 27 pg. 10

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Suggested Reading

- ☐ ***The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008*** by Sean Wilentz
- ☐ ***The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution*** by Jonathan Eig
- ☐ ***The Circular Staircase*** by Mary Roberts Rinehart
- ☐ ***Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy*** by Larry Tye
- ☐ ***Descent*** by Tim Johnstone
- ☐ ***Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*** by Paul Greenberg
- ☐ ***Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution*** by Mike Duncan
- ☐ ***In the Shadow of a Death: A Chautauqua Murder Mystery*** by Deb Pines
- ☐ ***Jazz Age President: Defending Warren G. Harding*** by Ryan S. Walters
- ☐ ***Murder on the Quai*** by Cara Black
- ☐ ***Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*** by Douglas W. Tallamy
- ☐ ***Poacher's Son*** by Paul Doiro
- ☐ ***Return of George Washington: Uniting the States 1783 - 1789*** by Edward Larson
- ☐ ***Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography*** by David Michaelis
- ☐ ***Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America*** by John Wood Sweet
- ☐ ***This America of Ours: Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the Forgotten Fight to Save the Wild*** by Nate Schweber

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— Cicero



Event Calendar at
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Be a Part of the Happenings.

Contact the Friends office for more information on programming, tickets, volunteer roles, and sponsorship opportunities!

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