

out and about

Please be sure to contact the individual organizations below before heading out to their events. Some events may have been canceled or rescheduled. We have deleted some events, but are uncertain at presstime, which other events may have canceled or changed.

non-profit community organization, that has provided services and a safe and supportive center for LGBTQ Youth in Manatee County since 2010.

The Festival will open again this year with an interfaith service, led by clergy from our local faith communities. The fabulous Beneva Fruitville will be our hostess with the mostess and other noted drag queens will

ic May 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm at Gulf Gate Public Library. Want to learn more about Florida-Friendly gardens, composting, or citrus trees? Need a plant or insect identified?

On the first and third Monday mornings of every month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Gulf Gate Library hosts the Master Gardener Plant Clinic where homeowners can receive

Landscaping™, visit their publications page. For questions or further information, call 941-861-5000 or email sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu.

■ **May 12—Let's Make Some Black Gold!** Join in to learn what UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County is doing around the region with composting, waste reduction and recycling. This 90-minute workshop blends indoor lessons with outdoor, hands-on activities in our compost demonstration area, and includes live demonstrations of our biogas and vermicomposting programs.

Attendees will learn the basics of home composting, the benefits of composting, and how to build a home compost system. Plus, attendees will have the option to purchase a GEOBIN compost bin. NOTE: There are two registration options for this workshop: Workshop PLUS a GEOBIN compost bin: \$30 registration (includes bin cost), which must be made in advance of the workshop. Workshop with no GEOBIN: Cost is free.

Instructor: Randall Penn, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County waste reduction agent.

■ **May 13—Hurricane Preparedness.** What would you do if basic services were cut off, like electricity or water, or if you had to suddenly leave your home? This class will offer tips and ways to prepare for unexpected disasters, such as hurricanes. Learn how to assemble an emergency supply kit and other ways to prepare for emergencies.

Instructor: Dr. Maria Portelos-Romero, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County family and consumer sciences agent **Also offered on May 13 and May 20.**

■ **May 14—Recycle Right** is a new, open-discussion class focused on the issues we face in Sarasota County. The first offering in this series focuses on recycling, with waste reduction, recycling, composting, and other topics on tap through the course of 2020.

Through group discussions and classroom learning, this class will frame the environmental issues facing our community, with the intent to create action steps moving forward. These discussions also will help shape future classes, events and projects offered by UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

"Recycle Right" takes a deeper look at recycling, food waste, challenges and obstacles, and related environmental issues in Sarasota County and beyond. The goal is to involve individuals passionate about protecting the environment and willing to work to make our community healthier, but welcome everyone interested in learning. The goal is to facilitate a discussion about the state of recycling.

Who should attend? Residents with an interest in composting and waste reduction Businesses looking to implement waste reduction programs Anyone with

WCW PICK

Selby Gardens has Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind Through June 28

In collaboration with The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, the exhibit will run to June 28. Salvador Dalí: Gardens of the Mind highlights the artist's repeated use of botanical imagery alongside a surreal display of tropical plants in Selby Gardens' Tropical Conservatory and gardens.

The lithographic series *Flordali*, on loan from The Dalí Museum, will be the centerpiece of the Museum of Botany & the Arts, along with photos that put the artist's life, work, and relationship with nature into context, as well as photographs by renowned nature photographer Clyde Butcher of Dalí's beloved Catalonia Spain. They're at 900 S Palm Ave, Sarasota. (941) 366-5731



Fun Raisers

● **The V Foundation for Cancer Research and ESPN's Dick Vitale** will host the **15th annual Dick Vitale Gala, May 8** at the Ritz Carlton, Sarasota. The star-studded gala is the crown-jewel of Dick Vitale's fundraising efforts for pediatric cancer research. The evening will begin with a "Celebrity Meet & Greet Private Pre-Party" at 6 p.m. and is followed by dinner. At the event three sports greats will be honored. They are Bruce Arians, head football coach Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Mark Few, head basketball coach at Gonzaga University, and ESPN sports commentator, Stephen A. Smith. Recipients of the 2020 John Saunders Courage Awards are former NFL Hall of Fame player, Jim Kelly and Orlando Magic's senior vice president, Pat Williams.

Individual tickets are \$1,000. The V Foundation for Cancer Research was founded in 1993 by ESPN and the late Jim Valvano, legendary North Carolina State basketball coach and ESPN commentator. Since 1993, The Foundation has funded more than \$225 million in cancer research grants nationwide. It awards 100 percent of all direct cash donations to cancer research and related programs. For more information, visit www.jimmyv.org.

● **The 7th Annual Manatee Pride Festival** has a new date: **May 23rd** at the Bradenton Riverwalk. "We very much appreciate the City's approval of and support for this event," said Valerie Fisher, board president of Prism Youth Initiative, the event's host. The event was originally scheduled in March.

Manatee Pride Festival will be held at the Bradenton Riverwalk Pavilion area from **noon until 5 p.m.** Admission is free. The Festival is a fundraiser for Prism Youth Initiative, a private,

do two shows. On a Whim and other bands will perform live. DJ Oliver Dill will spin.

Many event sponsors will be on-site, along with invited public officials, and local media. Vendors include community and faith-based organizations, artisans, crafters, and area businesses as well as purveyors of food and drink. CAN Community Health will be on-site to do free health screens. Vendor spaces are still available. Contact us at manateepride@gmail.com.

Parking is available along the Riverwalk, with overflow parking available in public parking areas in adjacent downtown Bradenton. Information: www.manateepride.com.

At The Libraries

● **All libraries are closed through Sunday, April 12.** However, the digital library is open 24/7 and library cardholders can get access to download books, magazines, and stream movies, TV and music. For a complete listing of digital resources, visit www.scgov.net/government/libraries/library-resources/digital-library.

Looking ahead, here are some events to attend in May:

■ **University of Florida/IFAS Extension Master Gardener Plant Clinic on May 23, 10:00am - 12:00pm** at Fruitville Library, 100 Apex Road, Sarasota. Info: (941) 861-2500. The Plant Clinic meets in the library lobby. Want to learn more about Florida-Friendly gardens, composting, or citrus trees? Need a plant or insect identified? Homeowners can receive research-based lawn, landscape and pest management help from the University of Florida. These sessions are made possible through a partnership with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

● **Master Gardener Plant Clin-**

research-based lawn, landscape, and pest management help from the University of Florida. For more information, call 941-861-5000; or visit www.sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/horthelp.shtml.

Classes on Living in Florida

● **May 5—Palm Care Made Simple.** Palms are as much a part of Florida as sunshine. So why are they so misunderstood regarding care and maintenance? Why are we still performing hurricane pruning when it shortens the life expectancy? What is the correct way to care for palms? Come get simple steps to have healthier palms that you will be happy with all year long. **Instructor:** Dr. Pat Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County residential horticulture agent.

■ **May 5—Florida Snakes.** Many people fear snakes, but did you know that they are actually very beneficial animals? Snakes eat rats, mice and other undesirable pests, and occasionally visit our home landscapes. Learn which snakes you are most likely to see and how to identify venomous snakes. **Instructor:** Wilma Holley, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program specialist, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

■ **May 07—Shamrock Park Demonstration Garden Tour** Join Master Gardener volunteers on the first Thursday of every month for a free tour of the demonstration garden at Shamrock Park and Nature Center, in Venice. Learn how the garden integrates seamlessly into the natural environment, using Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ techniques that you can adopt for your home or business landscape.

If you would like to learn more about Florida-Friendly

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a general interest in the environment. Anyone with an interest in becoming involved in community composting and recycling projects. This is the inaugural class in Florida, so your input and experiences are important.

Instructor: Randall Penn, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County Waste Reduction Agent. **Related Offering:** Interested in participating in the UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County “Composter Recyclers” program? Call 941-861-9849 or email rpenn@ufl.edu.

■ **May 16—Rain Barrel Workshop.** Learn how the use of rain barrels can conserve water, save money by reducing the use of potable water in landscapes (lower utility bills), and reduce stormwater runoff by storing and diverting runoff from impervious surfaces (like roofs). Practical tips on the construction and installation of rain barrels will be provided. After the class, Sarasota County government will sell rain barrels for \$37 each, including tax and spigot assembly. Payment must be made by cash (exact change only) or check. Make checks payable to: Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners.

■ **May 18—Florida-Friendly Landscaping 101.** Florida-Friendly? Have you heard the name or seen the label? Wonder what makes something Florida-Friendly? This class will teach you the basics of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program. We will show you the nine principles that can help you have a successful, beautiful landscape while protecting our natural resources.

■ **May 28—Brown-bag Gardening Series: Thrifty Landscaping.** Learn strategies for saving money in your home landscape. We will touch on issues related to energy and water conservation, as well as preventing plant replacement with the “Right Plant, Right Place” approach of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. Register early at ufarasotaext.eventbrite.com to reserve your seat and receive notice of any changes. Instructor: Nancy Leighton, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County Master Gardener volunteer.

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, Twin Lakes Park, Green Building, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota. Register early through ufarasotaext.eventbrite.com.

Book-related Events

► Upcoming Events at **Bookstore1Sarasota** for April and May:

■ **May 5—Florida Snakes.** Many people fear snakes, but did you know that they are actually very beneficial animals? Snakes eat rats, mice and other undesirable pests, and occasionally visit our home landscapes. Learn which snakes you are most likely to see and how to identify venomous snakes. Instructor: Wilma Holley, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program specialist, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

■ **April 24 at 4:30 p.m. A Poetry**

Month Special Event: Dr. Carr’s Poetry & Tarot Reading with Dr. Emily Carr, Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at New College of Florida.

Dr. Carr will be available at the store for individual poetry-based Tarot readings from **4:30-5:30 pm** and **6:30-7 pm**. From **5:30-6:30 pm**, she will read from her Tarot romance, *Name Your Bird Without A Gun*, and talk about creativity, storytelling and the Tarot. The reading will be interactive, so the group will receive a collective Tarot reading that will determine which excerpts Emily reads from her Tarot romance. Audience members will also leave with some tips and tricks for using the Tarot as inspiration, muse, coach, editor, etc.

■ **May 17 at 2 p.m. PoetryMic Special Edition with The Frondes Readers.** PoetryMic is a series that presents an array of varied and talented poets. The Frondes Readers are a group of five women poets who have been workshopping their poems together for four years. The readers are: Ann Stanford, Babo Kamel, Kathy Alma Peterson, Patricia Corbus and Anne McCrary Sullivan. All five are accomplished, published poets. Their works have appeared in journals, chapbooks and in collections. Two of the readers are full-time Sarasota residents, while the rest are seasonal.

■ **Thursday mornings, May 28, June 4 and June 11, 8:30-10 a.m. Getting To “Go” The Pre-Writing Process:** a three week writing workshop with Editor Laurie Rosin. Workshop cost \$60 for all three sessions. Whether your project is fiction or nonfiction, Getting To “Go” workshops will guide you through a series of simple decisions for pinpointing your core subject and evaluating potential content. You will learn to prioritize and organize, then develop and finally write. Laurie Rosin has been a developmental and senior-project book editor since 1979 and has edited 39 national best sellers. She has been the recipient of a fellowship in Expository Writing from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Laurie has also published articles in *Writers Digest*. Registration Required.

► **Book Clubs:**

■ **May 12 at 11 a.m. The Mysteries to Die For Book Club** led by Elsie Souza. This month we’re discussing Detective Inspector Huss by Helene Tursten. Purchase of the book at Bookstore1 or purchased at our online store required for participation. About Detective Inspector Huss: One of the most prominent citizens of Göteborg, Sweden, plunges to his death off an apartment balcony, but what appears to be a “society suicide” soon reveals itself to be a carefully plotted murder. Irene Huss finds herself embroiled in a complex and high-stakes investigation. As Huss and her team begin to uncover the victim’s hidden past, they are dragged into Sweden’s seamy underworld of street gangs, struggling immigrants, and neo-Nazis in order to catch the killer.

■ **May 13 at 11 a.m. The Discovering Florida with Kathie Book Club** led by Kathie Daley. The month we’re discussing *Shadow Country* by Peter Matthiessen. Purchase of the book at Bookstore1 or purchased at our online store required for participation. About *Shadow Country*: Killing Mister Watson, Lost Man’s River, and Bone by Bone—Peter Matthiessen’s great American epic about Everglades sugar planter and notorious outlaw E. J. Watson on the wild Florida frontier at the turn of the twentieth century—were originally conceived as one vast, mysterious novel. Now, in this bold new rendering, Matthiessen has marvelously distilled a monumental work while deepening the insights and motivations of his characters with brilliant rewriting throughout.

■ **May 18 at 5:30 p.m. The Historical Fiction Book Club** led by Melanie Hensey. They’re discussing *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd. Purchase of the book at Bookstore1 or purchased at our online store required for participation. The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is sixteen years old when her father leaves her in charge of their family’s three plantations in rural South Carolina and then proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions. So begins an incredible story of love, dangerous and hidden friendships, ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice. This book is set between 1739 and 1744, with romance, intrigue, forbidden friendships, and political and financial threats weaving together to form the story of a remarkable young woman whose actions were before their time: the story of the indigo girl.

Reservations suggested. More event info at www.sarasota-books.com or call 941-365-7900.

► *Do you love reading? Do you also love nature?* Join discussion facilitator, Kristina Skepton, for a lively conversation in Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast’s new bi-monthly ‘**Conservation Community Book Club.**’ Book selections of both fiction and non-fiction will all have the common theme of nature and wildlife in the world around us.

Meetings take place the **third Thursday** of every other month, **10:30am to noon**. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will include socializing, coffee, and light refreshments with the discussion beginning at 10:45am.

Coming up:

■ **May 21: The Everglades: River of Grass by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas.** **Facilitator:** Kristina Skepton is a Baltimore City native who grew up playing in the street, literally, and did not know a maple from an oak. Her family summer vacations in Chincoteague Virginia, home of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, opened her eyes to the wonder and beauty of the natural world. Despite her “city girl” upbringing, Kristina snagged the job as “Weekend Naturalist” at Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Baltimore County where she led nature hikes and workshops

while in college. She still describes herself as a “city girl” but she looks forward to once again engaging with environmentally-conscious folks through this book club.

Register in advance on their website. Bay Preserve at Osprey, 400 Palmetto Ave Osprey.

At The Ringling

► **The Ringling is working on rescheduling its exhibits.** For now, visit ringling.org for more information.

Art Exhibits

► **Art Center Sarasota:**

■ **Cycle 4 (to April 18) Gallery One** features a solo exhibit of recent paintings by Sarasota artist and illustrator **Javier Rodriguez (“Javo”).** **Gallery Two** features a solo exhibit of whimsical cut-paper artworks titled **“A Razor’s Edge”** by Sarasota-based artist **Philomena Marano.** **Gallery Three** features an exhibition of works by **SERVER-US**, a Miami-based group of Cuban-American artists whose works explore a vision of unity and heterogeneity in contemporary America. **Gallery Four** features an open, all-media, all-subjects, juried exhibition titled **“Uncharted.”**

Art Center Sarasota 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Info: 941-365-2032 or visit www.artsarasota.org.

► Come to the **Sarasota Audubon Nature Center**, 999 Center Rd, Sarasota, in April to see a solo show of **Patricia Rockwood’s** bird paintings. Rockwood has lived in Sarasota for over 20 years now, and the decreasing numbers of birds in the skies informs her work.

You can also see her work in an exhibit entitled **“Botanical Caprice”** on display at the Venice Theatre in their balcony. It’s a row of pen and ink botanicals with watercolor washes that includes 16 works altogether.

The Venice Theatre is located at 140 Tampa Ave W, Venice. Info: 941-488-1115. The theatre is open Tuesday through Saturday; closed Monday.

► **The Harmony Gallery** features local artists showcasing their work in solo exhibitions throughout the Sarasota Orchestra’s season. These juried exhibitions feature artists with mediums ranging from painting to photography. **Twenty-five percent of all proceeds from the sale of the artwork benefit the Sarasota Orchestra.**

Next up:

■ **Alissa “LISS” Silvers** who is best known for her combination of abstract art and expressive portrait illustrations. Born and raised in Münchwilen, Switzerland and now based in Sarasota, Liss’ work is a personal expression of the many places she’s been and the people she’s met. She brings a subtle and modern feel to her paintings through a unique balance of color compositions and inspiring portraits. Viewing her abstract, dynamic and harmonic works of art is an exciting kinetic

experience. The primary medium she uses is acrylic on canvas.

Exhibit dates: Runs to May 22. **Location:** 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

► **ArtCenter Manatee:**

There’s a watercolor exhibit at **Palmetto Historical Park & Agricultural Museum** by **Pat Robertson.** Robertson is a 33 year resident of Manatee County, specifically Palmetto and Terra Ceia. She is a watercolorist and took her first class at ArtCenter Manatee and is a signature member of the Florida Watercolor and the Suncoast Watercolor Societies.

The exhibit runs **through April 9.** Some of the paintings will be for sale and can be picked up after the exhibit closes.

For information, call (941)721-2034. The park and museum are located at 515-10th Ave. West, Palmetto.

► **Art Uptown Gallery:**

James Gabbert’s sculptures will be featured at **Art Uptown Gallery** in an exhibit entitled **Lyrical Figurative Bronzes.** Gabbert’s works have been described as lyrical due to their flowing lines and graceful poses. James says, “I strive to have every sculpture be beautiful from every angle. Sculpture is really four-dimensional. By walking around a sculpture, the dimension of time brings new forms into view. The gracefulness of the human figure adds yet another dimension of meaning and connection to our humanity.”

The exhibit runs **through April 24.** Art Uptown is at 1367 Main Street, Sarasota. Info: 941-955-5409 or visit www.artuptown.com.

► **At Selby Gardens:**

■ **Special exhibition: Myakka River: A Florida Treasure.** For more than 20 years, **Clyde Butcher** has explored the deeper regions of Myakka and spent seasons experiencing its changes and its diverse ecosystems. Designated as a Florida Wild and Scenic River, the tannic waters flow through bottomland swamp and freshwater marsh spilling into lakes and sinkholes.

Alligators, turtles and cottonmouths swim in the river. Herons, cranes and limpkins strut through its shallows, feeding in the muck. In the rainy season, the river rises and floods. In the dry months, the river shrinks and wildlife once again lines the banks of the Myakka River.

The exhibition features the large-format, photographs taken by world-renowned landscape photographer Clyde Butcher and runs **through September 6.**

Theatre

► **The Players Centre for Performing Arts** has:

■ **Players Teens: Peter/Wendy, May 8-9.** In this lyrical, atmospheric interpretation of Peter Pan, Jeremy Bloom strips the familiar story down to its emotional essence. Peter lures Wendy away from her nursery to the magical world of Neverland, where she joins his adventures with Tinker Bell, Tiger Lily, and the menacing

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Captain Hook. A low-tech, inventive adaptation that pays homage to the darker themes of J. M. Barrie's original, Peter/Wendy will mesmerize audiences of all ages.

■ **The Players Kids: The Music Man Jr. May 16- 17.** There's trouble in River City when a fast-talking salesman get his heart stolen by the town librarian in this adaptation of the Tony Award-winning Broadway classic.

■ **Sylvia Summer Sizzler Series June 10-21.** Middle-aged Greg finds Sylvia, a dog (played by a human). When he brings her back to the empty nest he shares with Kate, man's relationship with his best friend becomes a major bone of contention with his wife of 22 years. Both comic and dramatic, the play revels in our ability to project human characteristics on our non-human companions.

They're at 838 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota. Info: 941-365-2494 or visit www.theplayers.org.

Concerts & Shows

● At the **Van Wezel:** [check their website for updates:](#)

■ **A Bronx Tale. April 21-22.** Three years ago, Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri teamed up with Academy Award winner Robert De Niro, Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks and Tony Award nominee Sergio Trujillo to create this streetwise musical - based on Palminteri's true life story.

A Bronx Tale, Broadway's hit crowd-pleaser, takes you to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s, where a young man is caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he'd love to be. Bursting with high-energy dance numbers and original doo-wop tunes from Alan Menken (Beauty and the Beast) and Glenn Slater (Love Never Dies).

■ **Come From Away. April 28-May 3.** This New York Times Critics' Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

■ **One Night Of Queen. May 6.** In 2000, Gary Mullen won ITV's Stars In Their Eyes "Live Grand Final," with the largest number of votes ever received in the show's history. Since 2002, Gary Mullen and the Works have performed all over the world to sell-out audiences, paying tribute to rock legends, Queen. One Night of Queen is a live concert, recreating the look, sound, pomp and showmanship of Queen.

■ **The Bachelor Live On Stage. May 7.** The most successful reality romance series in the history of television is coming to your hometown. Featuring Bachelor alum Ben Higgins as your host, The Bachelor Live On Stage official tour guarantees all the drama, the gossip and the romance of your favorite TV show in one delightful evening for the ultimate fan party. Tickets: VanWezel.org or call (941) 953-3368.

Live Music

● **Sarasota Music Festival** to highlight 100 years of women's right to vote in **June**. For the first time in its history, the 2020 Sarasota Music Festival will feature themed programming - a move inspired by the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

Titled "**Voices Unbound**," the festival highlights the history of women in classical music, going back to the 11th century composer Hildegard von Bingen. Tickets are on sale now.

The 2020 Festival, entering its **56th season**, runs from **May 30 - June 20** and features a trailblazing schedule that includes:

■ **a total of 16 works by female composers**, making up 10 of the 14 concerts a performance of a work by Hildegard von Bingen, an 11th century Benedictine abbess who is one of the earliest female composers whose work survives

■ **a panel featuring four leading women composers** (Joan Tower, Caroline Shaw, Natalie Joachim, and Maya Miro Johnson)

■ **Fanm d'Ayiti (Women of Haiti)**, an evening-length work for voice, flute, string quartet and electronics by composer/performer Nathalie Joachim

Every June, faculty artists and pre-professional musicians come together in Sarasota to study and perform chamber and orchestral music. Nearly 400 students worldwide audition to participate in the Sarasota Music Festival each year, but only 60 are accepted for the prestigious Festival, a program of the Sarasota Orchestra.

In its fourth season under Music Director Jeffrey Kahane, the 2020 Festival welcomes more than 40 guest artists, including many of the Festival's own alumni.

Additional information about the Sarasota Music Festival is available at www.sarasotaorchestra.org/festival. Patrons may reach the Box Office at (941) 953-3434.

Lectures at Historic Spanish Point

● Join **Historic Spanish Point** for incredible stories on the artists that shaped and influenced history around the world. They have an art lecture series with Baila Miller. Her presentations will connect you to the art world in a whole new way. All presentations take place at Historic Spanish Point's Visitor Center Classrooms.

20th Century Women Who Shaped Arts & Culture
• **Tuesday, April 23, 1-2:30 pm** - Bertha Palmer and the World Columbian Exposition
• **Thursday, May 14, 1-2:30 pm** - Paris, the Luminous Years: Gertrude Stein's Legacy

This is a partial list. Historic Spanish Point, 337 N. Tamiami Tr., Osprey. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 941-966-52140.

List of Events Cancelled Due to Coronavirus in

Sarasota:

● **Thursday, April 2: Florida Winefest & Auction** through April 6. [Postponed](#) to Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

■ **Friday, April 3:** Author event with **Pat Averbach** at **Bookstore1** [Postponed](#). New date TBD.

■ **SPARCCle in the City: 40th Anniversary Ruby Celebration** at **The Westin** [Canceled](#).

■ **Saturday, April 4: Sarasota World Dance Festival** [Postponed](#). New date TBD.

■ **Saturday, April 11: Siesta Key Egg Hunt and Children's Easter Party** at Turtle Beach [Canceled](#).

■ **Wednesday, April 15: PMP Alumni Performances** through April 19 [Postponed](#). New date TBD.

■ **Friday, April 24: "Giving Sarasota a Healthy Start"** Luncheon at **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall** [Canceled](#).

■ **Saturday, May 9 Healthy Start Sarasota Community Baby Shower** [Postponed](#). New date TBD.

Other Closings/ Cancellations:

● **Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsy** is [closed](#) until April 2.

■ **All programs, events, performances and guided tours at The Ringling** are [canceled through April 6](#). Tickets to the museums and the first floor of the Ca' d' Zan are only available prior to arrival.

■ **Sarasota Opera** has [suspended all performances](#). More information available on their website.

■ **Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium** is [closed](#) until further notice.

■ **The Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College** will be [closed](#) until further notice.

■ **The Players Centre for Performing Arts** [cancels](#) all shows through April 18.

■ **Florida Studio Theatre** is [closed](#) until further notice. Ticketholders for canceled performances are encouraged to donate their tickets as tax-deductible donations back to FST to help support the organization through the imminent financial impact of these forced closures. Patrons may also transfer tickets to future FST seasons. They **plan to reopen the first week of June** for their Summer Season.

■ **Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's** runs and sponsors are [canceled](#) until further notice.

■ **McCurdy's Comedy Theatre** is [closed](#) until further notice.

■ **Asolo Rep** is [suspending all](#) public performances and events for the remainder of our season, originally scheduled to run through June 28. This includes the performances of *The Great Leap*, *Knoxville*, *Hood and Snow White*. The complete 2020-21 season will be announced on Friday, April 3.

■ **Venice Theatre** is in the process of rescheduling *Hamlet*, *Chicago*, *Dwight D. Eisenhower's Ultimate Tribute to the King*, and *The Sounds of Harry James and the Andrews Sisters*. [These events are canceled: The Silver Foxes' Broadway By The Sea, Epiphany Cathedral School's Once on This Island, Jr, The Adult Class Showcase, The Peanut Gallery Teen Improv show, The Folk Legacy Trio, Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical, The Loveland Players' The Glory of Love, aactWORLDFFEST 2020.](#) [And these classes:](#) Spring Break Camp, The spring semester of "*Creative Dramatics for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*" and The adult workshop "*Mining Your Own Impulses*"

■ **Sarasota Orchestra:** Based on current information, they're [planning to perform](#) the remainder of their 19/20 concert season through the concluding Outdoor Pops concerts on **May 8 & 9**. They are also [planning to hold the Sarasota Music Festival](#) from **May 30 through June 20**.

■ **All Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources facilities** are [closed](#) through Sunday, April 12th. All physical material due dates are extended for the duration of the closure, so do not worry about getting your items back to the library before then. However, library exterior book drops remain open for returns. The digital library is open 24/7 and library cardholders can get access to download books, magazines, and stream movies, TV and music.

[If your library card is expired](#), call us 861-1110 and they'll update your information to get you immediate access. Library staff are available to provide assistance from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. via telephone, email, or chat. Libraries' staff are establishing a curbside pick-up option for items placed on hold through the online catalogue.

Reminders about Sarasota County Government closures include:

● **Water service shut-offs** for non-payment of utilities bills are **waived through April 13**.

■ **The Sarasota Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller** urges the community to **continue practicing social distancing** by utilizing on-line services, pay-by-phone, or mail service.

■ **The Sarasota County Tax Collector** is also reminding patrons that motor vehicle, driver's license and tax transactions must be **completed online**. And, [deadlines have been extended](#) to renew driver's license, commercial driver's license and identification cards that are expiring between March 16 and April 15.

■ **The Sarasota County Property**

Appraiser's Office [closed all three office locations](#) to the public on March 20, **but will remain staffed**. Online services, telephone operations, electronic and physical mail will remain available and reviewed by property appraiser staff.

■ **All indoor facilities operated by Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources** have been [closed](#) to the public. The community can sign up to receive text alerts about county updates related to COVID-19 by texting SRQCOVID19 to 888-777. For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, contact the DOH dedicated COVID-19 call center at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

■ **The Sarasota County Tax Collector: effective immediately**, and until further notice, most motor vehicle, driver's license, and tax transactions **must be completed online**. Driver's license road tests and learner's permit tests are [suspended](#). A detailed list of what customers can do online is available at www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com. Phone operators are available at 861.8300 to assist customers who need help completing their online transaction or who do not have access to the internet.

■ [Deadlines have been extended](#) for anyone with a driver's license, commercial **driver's license (CDL)** or **ID card** expiring between March 16th and April 15th. These licenses will be valid an additional 30 days and renewals during that period will not have delinquent fees charged.

■ While offices hours and days open are subject to change, **Tax Collector Service Centers** will remain open for transactions which require an office visit. [These include:](#) title transfers and duplicate title applications, licenses for new residents, CDL testing, and certain medical driver testing. Customers should check www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com for updates related to transactions, office hours and days open before coming into an office.

How to Help

● **The Giving Challenge** remains scheduled **April 28-29**, as it is first and foremost an online giving event, and the unrestricted funds to be raised during the campaign provide our nonprofit partners the flexibility to respond to community needs, especially as those needs evolve and change. Visit www.cfsarasota.org/blog-post/COVID-19-Response.

If you have tickets for any of the cancelled performances, we strongly urge you to convert your ticket purchase into a full tax-deductible donation. Your generosity will help to ensure the future of the arts here by offsetting some of the lost revenue incurred from having to cancel performances. 🙏

PLEASE make sure you check to see if these events are taking place before making plans!