

Mark Your Calendars!!
**The Circle Closing Reception
& Final Vote**
Thursday, April 11th
3-5PM
VBMA Buck Atrium

E-Newsletter Volume 7
April 2, 2024

Greetings and Thank You!



Let me start by saying how very thankful I am, for each and every one of you!

This month, I am especially thankful for our Program Observations teams. At our meeting on March 13th, our dedicated teams presented heartfelt responses to the programs they observed, to an overflow crowd.

If you were unable to attend, you will find a recap and photos in the pages that follow. I am also thankful for the wonderful work of our Program Observation Chairs, Anne Golensky and Lori Lazorik. They have worked tirelessly to transform the program observation and presentation processes to be less complicated for the presenters, and more

informative for the rest of us. It's a win-win for everyone!

This season, they not only provided continuous team support, but also presentation training and templates. Additionally, in cooperation with Education Director Sara Klein, they developed an observation calendar that allows more members to observe more programs in action, than ever before.

And lastly, I am thankful for all of you who stepped up with extra contributions to help offset our meeting costs. We asked, you answered! You have helped us meet the rising costs of our wonderful meetings, without relying as heavily on our generous underwriters. The final total for this season's gift to the VBMA will not be available until the meeting on April 11th, but we are on track to surpass last season's total gift by more than 20%.

I look forward to seeing you (and your guest) at our Closing Reception on Thursday, April 11th at 3:00. Guests will not be able to vote, but they can join The Circle at the meeting and be added to our email list for the summer newsletter and all meeting invitations next season. If you are unable to attend the Closing Reception, you may vote by proxy by sending your selection to Robyn Orzel at roborzel@vbmuseum.org.

With deep appreciation,

Trudy Powers Hoffman
Chair

Hospitality

Diane McGinn & Mary Wright

The March Circle meeting at the Museum was filled with Members and guests who arrived in record numbers to hear the presentations of this year's Site Visits (now called Program Observations). Extra chairs were needed to seat the numerous attendees and a nice breakfast was served by the Hospitality team.

The presentations were heartfelt and compelling, and the visual images truly helped make the purpose of these programs even more clear to Circle members. Decisions will not be easy, but members were reminded that there are optional ways to support specific programs if favorites are not included in the winning votes.



Program Observation Teams

Lori Lazorik & Anne Golensky

At the March meeting, the Program Observation Committee teams presented five amazing community access programs to the membership:

Alzheimer & Parkinson Association

Presented by: Pamela Siddall and Jean Spaulding

Team members: Claudia Owen, Sally Calhoun

Family Programs

Presented by: Carolyn Taylor and Mary Travers

Team members: Eliot Foote

Pre-K at the VBMA!

Presented by: Suzi McCoy Shriner

Team members: Laura Moss, Barbara Dorvee, Serena Kratz

Senior Resource Association

Presented by: Joan Semmer

Team members: Stuart Weismiller, Susan Friesell

Veterans Program

Presented by: Kathy Bantleon

Team members: Barbara Williams, June DeJonge, Gail Shepherd

The presentations, a collaborative team effort, were the result of two months of preparation, orientation, program visitation, and presentation collaboration among team members. Their enthusiasm for these programs shown through in their presentations as we learned about and experienced the enriching impact of these five community access programs for those they serve in IRC.

We are indeed fortunate to have such talented members who have shared the spirit and passion of The Circle so effectively with our members. In addition to our dedicated teams, we wish to thank The Circle Steering Committee and the VBMA staff who make this process available.

Our hope is that as we continue to grow, more Circle members will choose to become involved with the Program Observation Committee to experience the powerful effect the Museum programs have on our Vero community. It is truly "love in action."





Veterans Program



Senior Resource Association



Alzheimer & Parkinson Association



Family Programs



PreK at the VBMA!



Membership

At a new total of 154 members, The Circle membership grew this past year by nearly 20%. Every enthusiastic new member adds so much to our group. If we continue to grow at this rate each year, we would surpass our goal of 250 members by 2027! So please continue to spread the word about this amazing group of women, and remember to bring a guest to our meetings. If anyone you know expresses an interest in The Circle, please let Jean Spaulding know and she will send them more information.

Jean Spaulding Kjellman



Finance/Secretary

Joy Ann Coll

A Record-Setting Year!

With only a few days left in our fiscal year, we are receiving a record amount of memberships and donations. Thank you all for leading the way toward achieving our goals this year! We currently have 154 active members with 40 new members joining us this past year. We have raised a record amount to support the VBMA art education programs, and additional dollars to help pay for meeting costs and administrative expenses have doubled over last year. Your contributions toward art education programs has increased by 22 percent. Thank you for your support!

We are well on our way to achieving our financial goals for this year and are on target to meet our strategic plan goal of \$100,000 by 2027.

Just a reminder. you can honor friends and loved ones by making a gift to the Museum in their name, through The Circle. You can give individually or in groups in the following ways:

In Memoriam

In Celebration

In Tribute

In Appreciation

Your gifts will be added to The Circle's collective funds (dues) for the year they are given, and will be acknowledged in our newsletter and on our VBMA webpage at <https://www.vbmuseum.org/thecircle>.

Thank you for everything you do. Your engagement and feedback is crucial to The Circle's success!



Special Member Events

Catherine Cook & June Fitzgerald

Our special event - "Tour and Lunch at the Windsor Gallery" on March 14th was perfectly delightful. The blue skies and warm sunshine matched the colors and joyful spirit in the works by the Costa Rican artist, Federico Herrero. Our hosts could not have been more gracious nor our docent more informative. As a special treat, our Costa Rican inspired luncheon was held on the terrace of the Windsor beach club. One more of these fabulous tours will occur on April 9th at 10:30 am.



Circle members also attended "Cork and Canvas - after Egypt" at the Museum on March 21st. Our budding artists painted their own Egypt-themed works of art, having fun while enjoying their beverage of choice and an amazing array of delectables. All enjoyed the challenge and guidance provided by VBMA artist and teacher, Barry Shapiro. It was a wonderful night of creativity and camaraderie!



Member Snapshot

Connie Murphy



Meet Sally Roberts

Sally Roberts brings energy and a passion for service to The Circle!

Sally was born in Rumson, NJ, the youngest of four children and lived most of her adult life in Wilton, CT. At a young age, Sally and her siblings were encouraged to swim competitively. Through captaining swim teams and as parks recreational director, Sally learned to lead others by being a good role model. She was also influenced by her parents who actively volunteered in their own community throughout their lives, thus setting the seeds for Sally to become a life-long volunteer.

Sally and her husband owned and operated their own businesses throughout their careers. It is through these small businesses that Sally learned to juggle the jobs of customer service, financial management, inventory control and employee relations. Always multitasking with her husband, he complimented her talents by directing the sales, marketing, design, and maintenance. Both had to know and understand everything going on in their companies.

Once the Roberts' arrived in Vero Beach, it was Sally's neighbor and founding member of The Circle, Margaret Goembel, who suggested she join The Circle. At her first Circle meeting, Sally volunteered to be on multiple committees and signed up for a site visit.

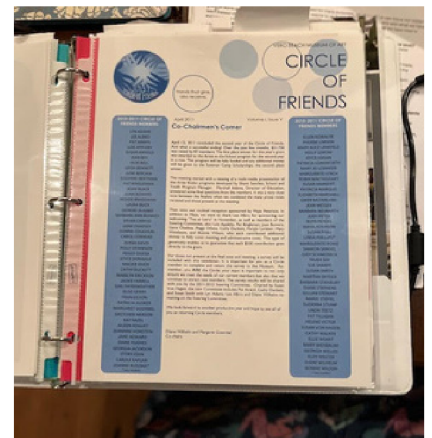
What Sally loves about The Circle is that its members come from varied backgrounds and through collective talents are able to be a force of change by helping improve the educational outreach programs of the Museum. As a by-product and reward for these shared efforts, we gain lasting friendships through these volunteer experiences.

Factoid from the Archives

While thumbing through the white binder stuffed with newspaper clippings, photos, and emails, we stumbled upon what might have been one of the first newsletters!

This blue and white correspondence was dated April 2011-Volume 1, Issue V. The matching sidebars consumed a large visual portion of the letter, listing all 87 members of the "Circle of Friends Members" for 2010-2011. There was a graphic focus on circles of all kinds, some empty, some depicting hands and others tinted lighter shades of blue. One circle, bearing the following content was intriguing: "Hands that give, also receive."

Stuart Weismiller



Searching for the origin of this simple, yet compassionate phrase revealed it to be an Ecuadorian or Iranian proverb with many biblical references as well. All of us who have participated in a site visit and reviewed the other presentations at the March meeting, cannot help but have a new respect for “Hands that give, also receive.” The hands of The Circle not only generate funding for the programs we sponsor but also produce the smiles and confidence that our recipients enjoy. And we come back from these experiences enriched ourselves.

The Circle has come a long way since 2011 in terms of membership, amount raised, programs supported, and a beautiful multi-page electronic newsletter. But, the heart and soul of our mission remains the same.

Communications Update

Cathy Cronin

In the News: The 73rd “Art Under the Oaks” took place in Riverside Park March 8th through March 10th. Two of our talented Circle members, Barbara Krupp and Elise Geary exhibited their beautiful works at this popular 3-day Vero Beach annual event.



Please keep sending us photos of you with your Circle friends at events throughout town. We love to see you at large or small gatherings!

Look for the “Luminaries” article coming soon in **The Press Journal**, May 10 edition. This article will feature **PreK at the VBMA!**, one of the many programs The Circle has funded over the years since our inception in 2009. Read about this wonderful program and how it was imagined, and brought to fruition thanks to our donations, and the vision of Sara Klein, Director of Education at the VBMA.

The Circle 2023-2024 Event Calendar Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday April 11th 3-5P Closing Reception & Final Vote VBMA Buck Atrium

2023-24 Circle Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee Chair:	Trudy Powers Hoffman	trudy@tphllc.com	206-409-2484
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	June Fitzgerald	jfitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com	917 -744-7530
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Site Team Co Chairs:	Anne Golensky	annegol@aol.com	203-525-2671
	Lori Lazorik	Lori.lazorik@gmail.com	772-475-3753
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[Please click here to access the Member Directory](#)

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Please share your thoughts and suggestions with us about the Newsletter and The Circle web pages. We'd love to hear from you!