

Selby House by Carolyn Merenda, inspired by the French Riviera (see page 10)

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Would you prefer to receive your *Tropical Dispatch* electronically?
 If so, please email us at marketing@selby.org to be part of our conservation efforts.

ABOUT THE COVER

This watercolor painting by Carolyn Merenda depicts enhancements that will be made to the Selby House as part of our upcoming exhibition, *Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams*. Read more about the Horticulture Department's vision for the grounds on page 10, and learn about the artist on page 16.

NOTE: The previous issue of *Tropical Dispatch* mistakenly identified Jim Henderson, Orchid Grower, in a photo with Kiat Tan in the article, "Seeds of Selby."

HOURS & ADMISSIONS

Garden Hours The Gardens are open 10 am – 5 pm every day except Christmas Day. Please check the website for special event and weather closings.

Admission Members: Free Adults: \$20
 Children 4-17: \$10 3 & under: Free

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Cover image: *Selby House* by Carolyn Merenda
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MISSION

To provide an oasis of inspiration and tranquility, while furthering the understanding and appreciation of plants, especially epiphytes.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Selby Gardens programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenue



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Mail: Membership
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“WE ARE STRIVING FOR THIS SHOW TO BE AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE THAT CAPTURES THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR VISITORS, MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS.”

Gardens are created plant by plant, season by season. The same can be said for ideas. With each day that passes a vision comes into focus and as details fall into place, an idea crystallizes into something that is known and true.

For nearly two years our team at Selby Gardens has been fostering the growth of a new idea for our institution. This winter we will finally have the opportunity to showcase a groundbreaking new exhibition that has evolved from idea to experience. This issue of *Tropical Dispatch* connects the disciplines of horticulture and fine arts with a number of details about the six-month exhibition, **Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams**.

We are striving for this show to be an immersive experience that captures the hearts and minds of our visitors, members and volunteers. I am truly inspired by a quote from Marc Chagall—one of the most prolific artists of the 20th Century—that states “Art is the increasing effort to compete with the beauty of flowers—and never succeeding.” Chagall was always aware that human talents pale in comparison to the natural world. While this exhibition is new, the idea of bridging nature and the arts at Selby Gardens began in 1979 with the founding of our Museum of Botany & the Arts. I hope you will enjoy learning about Marc Chagall (p. 5-8) and understanding how through the infusion of activities that use all five senses our team here at Selby Gardens is truly creating a dream world of plant life to experience during your visit.

The success of this business model shift to a “living museum” is sure to bode well for the scientific work and educational outreach of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. With increased visitation that introduces more people to the importance of plants through exhibitions like *The Color of Dreams*, partnerships like the one with international government agencies and the University of Belize outlined on pages 12-13 can grow. Support of this business model also enables our staff to create partnerships like the one newly created with New College (p. 4). Ultimately, projects like these will be key to worldwide plant conservation and dissemination of knowledge from our expert staff.

In the spirit of an artist starting with a blank canvas, and a gardener contemplating a fresh plot of land, I invite you to come experience Selby Gardens with new eyes this season. I am certain that you will be impressed with the surprises and delights awaiting you.

Cheers,

Jennifer O. Rominiecki

COLLABORATING with **New College** THE HONORS COLLEGE of Florida

New College of Florida and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens have established a formal collaboration between the two institutions with a focus on plant science, conservation and public outreach.

The agreement, finalized in November, sets a path for sharing research facilities, providing internship opportunities to students and adjunct positions for staff to work for both organizations.

“Working with Selby Gardens’ international group of plant scientists will enhance New College’s biological sciences program. Plant biology is a vast, rapidly changing area with new discoveries that are transforming our knowledge of the world, and botanical research greatly impacts global and local conservation and sustainability efforts,” said Dr. Donal O’Shea, president of New College.

The agreement also assists Selby Gardens by offering opportunities for project collaboration - an area key to scientific funding.

“By working with a national leading college with a focus on earth and life sciences, Selby Gardens can share its 40 years of scientific study with a larger, more diverse audience,” said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, president and CEO of Selby Gardens. “Collaboration is valued in all academic and scientific circles, and we’re excited to be able to formalize this agreement.”

Students of New College will have the opportunity to meet professional scientists visiting Selby Gardens each year to conduct research and collaborate with other botanists. Students will also have the opportunity to apply for internship

positions with Selby Gardens. Selby Gardens staff will co-supervise undergraduate research students. The two institutions will also allow access for staff from both locations to laboratory, museum, library and field research facilities.



Bruce Holst, director of botany and New College student, Elena Meyer, work on sorting ferns from Belize into genus and family classifications.

The partnership will be overseen by Dr. Brad Oberle, assistant professor of biology at New College, and Bruce K. Holst, director of botany at Selby Gardens.

Selby Gardens’ scientific staff members are considered world-leading authorities in epiphytic plants. Its botanists carry out research in its Sarasota laboratory and greenhouses, and travel throughout the tropics and subtropics of the Americas to study plants. They have discovered or described more than 2,000 plant species previously unknown to science.



RAINFOREST MASKS Return January 2017

This year, the Rainforest Masks Exhibit marks a new partnership between the beloved artists from Boruca, Costa Rica, Selby Gardens and Lucuma Designs. Your support for their traditional art empowers the Borucan artists to be great stewards for conservation while keeping a strong connection to their forests.

January 8 through January 28. A ticketed opening reception will be held on Saturday, January 7 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm

ASSOCIATED EVENTS:

CLASS: Borucan Mask Painting Monday, January 9, 10 am - 2 pm

BOTANICAL BRIEFING: Borucan Masks, Native Artists and the Role of Fair Trade in Protecting Natural Areas and Ancestral Traditions Wednesday, January 11, 12-1 pm



The Lovers by Marc Chagall, courtesy of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem
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Marc Chagall

Flowers, and the French Riviera:

THE COLOR OF DREAMS

FEBRUARY - JULY 2017

JEAN AND ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

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Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams will be on view at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens from February 12 through July 31, 2017. Learn more in the following pages about the unique experiences associated with this exhibition from master artwork, archival photos, garden and plant displays, and special events, performances and classes.



Marc and Bella Chagall in front of *Les fiancés*, 1935, Paris (©Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, Paris)

Marc Chagall

Flowers, and the French Riviera: THE COLOR OF DREAMS

BY CAROL OCKMAN, Ph.D

At the very mention of Marc Chagall, what likely comes to mind is a floating couple, a flying cow, an Old Testament scene or Crucifixion, or a fiddler on the roof.

Thanks to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, we can now think of flowers. *Marc Chagall, Flowers, and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams* offers an unprecedented opportunity to see paintings by the artist, two of which have never before been shown publicly, and to experience the color and light of the natural world he knew on the French Riviera.

This groundbreaking exhibition is the first to explore the significant role of flowers in Chagall's work. For this artist, flowers were life itself. His granddaughter, Bella Meyer, recalls that her mother Ida would often buy "a generous spray of flowers" at the market in the south of France.

"Colors were more important [for him] than the type of flower. I doubt he knew the names of flowers but he was in awe of bouquet gifts," said Meyer, who is herself a floral designer in New York City. "As a child I always brought them so I associated them with him. They were always around. A flower is like a tree—between earth and heaven—in a way spiritual," Meyer recalled during a conversation with the author in the winter of 2016.

Flowers are as much a response to Chagall's traumatic experiences of twentieth-century diaspora, or displacement, as is the boundless hope of his pictures.

ABOUT THE LOVERS

In *The Lovers* (1937) (see *overleaf*), an archetypal Chagall painting on loan from the Israel Museum, a huge bouquet in the left foreground encircles the airborne figures of Chagall and his first wife and great love, Bella (née Bertha Rosenfeld). It arches over the shtetl or Jewish village at bottom right



Bouquets of Lilacs at Saint-Paul, (Bouquets de Lilas a Saint-Paul), 1978

while an angel, hovering in the top right corner, reaches both arms toward white blossoms that mirror their movement and lead our eyes toward the flowers spilling across the surface in all directions. The artist's penchant for rich hues bespeaks his tendency to organize paintings around primary colors—red, blue, yellow—or their complementaries—orange, green, purple. The painting in blue, white

embrace—a theme common in Chagall's work—behind two vases of lush white lilies-of-the-valley nestled in their large emerald-green leaves. Above the artist's signature, the piece is inscribed to his daughter Ida: "Pour Ida, Papa."

WHO WAS MARC CHAGALL?

Along with Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, Chagall was one of the most revered and long-lived modernists of the 20th Century (1887-1985), as well as one of its most important colorists. Born in Vitebsk in "Jewish" Lithuania, his desire to be an artist and the need to flee Russian pogroms and the Holocaust led him to Saint Petersburg, Paris, Berlin, back to Vitebsk, Moscow, again to Berlin and Paris, Palestine, Vilna, if not Vitebsk, Paris, New York and finally to the French Riviera.



Couple with Lilies of the Valley (Le Couple aux Muguets), 1973

and red also pays homage to the tricolor of France, where the Chagalls were granted citizenship that same year, only to have it snatched away in 1941 under Vichy France.

The two works to be exhibited for the first time—"Bouquets de Lilacs à Saint Paul" (ca. 1978) and "*Le Couple aux Muguets*" (1973)—have been graciously loaned from a private collection. *Bouquets* features two large vases of lilacs that tower over a figure stretched out in the left foreground and the distant sunlit village framed in the background. In *Couple* a man and woman standing before a light-filled window affectionately



Marc Chagall dans son atelier de "La Colline", Saint Paul de Vence, vers 1970 (© Archives Marc et Ida Chagall, Paris)

A Russian artist, a French artist and the quintessential Jewish artist, Chagall was multicultural before the term came into use. Nourished by his relationship to both European avant-gardes and Jewish artists in Paris and New York, Chagall's art is unthinkable without his formative years (1906-20) in Jewish Russia.

His magical imagery, poised between the real and the imaginary, is also an apt description of memory. Chagall's phantasmagorical world was rooted in the Russia he left, but never ceased to paint. Although the homeland he knew had vanished, his art was steeped in its Jewish mysticism, folk traditions, fairy tales, and modern Yiddish secular literature. Chagall's fiddlers on the roof might not exist without Sholom Aleichem's Tevye Stories.

EXPERIENCING THE EXHIBIT

For this exhibition Chagall's world becomes the entire garden:

In Payne Mansion:

- Hand-selected by the artist's estate, archival photographs of Chagall, his family and artist friends, and the places he lived and worked, will be displayed; and
- A selection of ceramic vases owned by the artist, luminous in glazes typical of the south of France, will be displayed; and
- The three paintings, including the masterwork of *The Lovers*.

In the conservatory:

- The works in stained glass represented will draw from cycles Chagall made for cathedrals in France, Germany and Israel, and feature botanical imagery. Displayed among our living collection, the conservatory will become a cathedral of plants.

In the gardens:

- With the scents and sights of southern France evident, Chagall's poems and writings about flowers, color, music and place chart the visitor's path (see pages 10-11 for an overview of these garden vignettes).

The Color of Dreams capitalizes on the sun-kissed climate of Sarasota to conjure the French Riviera—long understood to be a mythic site where dreams come true and a special lure for artists—Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh and Matisse among them.



A selection of ceramic vases once owned by the artist will be on display in Payne Mansion.

Evoking Chagall's last home, the fairytale village of Saint Paul de Vence, the exhibition makes Sarasota both refuge and utopia—a "promised land."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carol Ockman, Curator at Large, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL and Robert Sterling Clark Professor of Art, Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

KEYNOTE LECTURE with DR. CAROL OCKMAN



FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Dr. Carol Ockman, curator-at-large with Selby Gardens and Robert Sterling Clark Professor of Art History at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., discusses this first-of-its-kind exhibition of Marc Chagall's love of flowers and the natural world. Dr. Ockman will review Chagall's life, including the various places he lived, and how that affected the artist's outlook on life.

This event includes a plated lunch by Michael's On East served at Michael's on the Bay at Selby Gardens overlooking Sarasota Bay. Tickets are \$75 per person. Register online at selby.org.

Presented by:



CHAGALL NIGHTS

EXPERIENCE THE
EXHIBITION AFTER DARK
WITH MONTHLY EVENING
PERFORMANCES BY
SARASOTA'S WORLD-CLASS
CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

In creating the dream world of Marc Chagall at Selby Gardens, there is an intention for visitors to experience the grounds using all of their five senses. To add to the sights and senses of the horticultural and art displays of the exhibition, sounds and palpable experiences created by a variety of cultural performances will add to the sensory experience throughout the six months.

Performances will be held in partnership with Perlman Music Program/Suncoast, Asolo Repertory Theatre, the Sarasota Ballet, the Sarasota Opera and the Sarasota Orchestra beginning in February and concluding in June 2017.

Each evening performance (*except the Asolo Theatre performance, see sidebar*) will include full access to the Gardens, hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary craft cocktail, wine or beer. Tickets are \$50 Guests, \$40 Members. Tickets are available at www.selby.org.

- **FEBRUARY 15: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast.** Alumni from the prestigious youth orchestral program will perform using violins that are part of "Violins of Hope," a traveling

exhibit of 16 instruments once played by those imprisoned during the Holocaust at Nazi concentration camps. This performance is presented by The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and the Mazur Family Fund.

- **MARCH 9: Sarasota Opera** will perform an outdoor, nighttime opus.
- **APRIL 5:** April begins with a performance by the **Sarasota Ballet**. The ballet's cast will showcase a yet-to-be-named performance in an intimate setting overlooking Sarasota Bay behind historic Payne Mansion.
- **MAY 17: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast** returns with a mid-week performance.
- **JUNE 14:** A special performance will be held during the **Sarasota Music Festival**, a teaching program of the **Sarasota Orchestra**.

A full schedule of events will be updated frequently at www.selby.org.

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THE
SCOUT
GUIDE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM with Asolo Rep



An extraordinary two-week performance run of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is to be performed April 11 - 29 by the **The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training**.

The performance will feature the entire second-year graduate company of the Conservatory for this telling of the classic Shakespearean tale of four young lovers, five rude mechanicals, and an army of fairies and spirits who cross paths one magical night in a forest outside Athens. The most beloved of Shakespeare's plays, the story captures the essence of young—and not-so-young—love. The Conservatory's production will be directed by Jonathan Epstein, the Conservatory's second-year acting instructor and

resident Shakespeare expert.

Tickets for these performances are only available at www.asolorep.org

DESIGNING OUTDOORS

As part of this major exhibit, the grounds of Selby Gardens are being enhanced with flora that evoke the south of France, the land that inspired Marc Chagall and where he spent much of the later part of his life.

The sun-kissed climate of Sarasota, along with plants like orchids, date palms, bromeliads, bougainvillea and citrus trees,

will conjure the French Riviera. On your visit, look for several outdoor plant scenes - or vignettes - at seminal spots of Selby Gardens. Here, an artistic interpretation by watercolor instructor Carolyn Merenda of the Selby House demonstrates one of the horticultural displays.



1

The Mediterranean-style house will feature succulents on the roof.

2

Italian cypress trees along the porch add height to the scene.



1

2

4

3

3 Potted plants along the balustrade will create formal lines.

5 Trellises between each arched window will be filled with climbing plants.

4 Vine-covered arbors will flank each end of the patio.

Additional vignettes will be located along the Great Lawn, at the southern point, in front of the Great Room, the Carriage House and the south side of the Payne Mansion.

Mounting Progress in BELIZE

Selby Gardens' Volunteers Support Epiphyte Research

This past October, a team of seven volunteers and three Selby Gardens staff members traveled to Belize to assist the country's national herbarium with a mounting and database project.

The national herbarium, known as BRH, is part of the country's forestry department and is considered a storehouse of knowledge and information about the plants of Belize. It contains some 14,000 mounted specimens that are well-curated and stored, but there are also more than 3,500 unmounted specimens in need of attention. As part of Selby Gardens' ongoing "Epiphytes of Belize" project, our team worked alongside 12 staff and volunteers from the Forestry Department, the Environmental Research Institute of the University of Belize and Caves Branch Botanical Garden.

"With a lot of hard work and long, hot days we finished the work we set out to do with hours to spare," said Bruce Holst, director of botany for Selby Gardens.

Top photo: Pre-trip training of mounting skills and data documentation took place at Selby Gardens.

Bottom photo: Bruce Holst offers plant mounting tips to the volunteers. *Photo by Deanna Ferguson.*





Selby Gardens' staff and volunteers receive an award from representatives of the Forestry Department and the University of Belize for their work to improve the National Herbarium. Left to right: Kristan Hamill (volunteer), Carol Johnston (volunteer), Betty Austin (volunteer), Pauline Wamsler Joerger (volunteer, Trustee), Elizabeth Gandy (staff), Karen Stewart (volunteer), German Lopez (Belize Forestry Dept.), Bruce Holst (staff), Dr. Elma Kay (University of Belize), Nancy Edmondson (volunteer), Deanna Ferguson (staff), Dr. Kelvin Cooper (volunteer, Trustee). *Photo by Kelvin Cooper.*

During the weeklong trip the team sorted 3,000-plus labeled, unmounted specimens to the family level, and arranged them in alphabetical order. From those, the group sorted out approximately 550 epiphyte specimens, which were mounted, added to the database and sorted to species level for priority filing.

"These specimens will soon be available to the scientific community both in physical form and through digital records," Holst said.

This partnership combined the efforts of public, private and governmental entities, a collaboration that should be noted, Holst said.

"We thank our volunteers for their time as well as their financial support of the work and the purchase of supplies," Holst said. "A special thanks goes to Caves Branch Lodge for their generous logistical and on-site support."

BIG RESULTS for the Study of THE SMALLEST ORCHIDS

Photo by Dan Perales



Selby Gardens' **Antonio Toscano de Brito, Ph.D.**, curator of the Orchid Research Center, was recently named an associate researcher of Harvard University Herbaria. The five-year appointment runs through 2021. Toscano will be collaborating with Dr. Gustavo Romero, curator of the Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium at Harvard, who was also a part of Selby Gardens' orchid summit held last summer.

The relationship with Harvard University and Selby Gardens began in 2010 when Toscano was awarded a grant from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at the university. That project focused on the taxonomic research on the orchid subtribe *pleurothallidinae*, some of the smallest orchids known. He spent seven months working there as a visiting scholar and since then, Dr. Romero has collaborated with Toscano on a number of projects and publications.

Dr. Toscano de Brito also holds the positions of courtesy curator of the Herbarium of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, and visiting professor at Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil. He is a frequent collaborator with Dr. Carl Luer, founder of Selby Gardens and world-renowned expert on pleurothallids.

FEBRUARY 19-JULY 16 • Sundays, 1-3 pm



This spring our traditional Garden Music Series of concerts on the Great Lawn will be spread across several months. This update will give visitors a longer length of time to return and see the Gardens change throughout the season. Performances scheduled are:

- February 19: Chuchito Valdes
- March 19: Seth Walker
- April 16: The Black Honkeys
- May 21: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast
- June 18: Kafkasso
- July 16: To be announced

APRIL 16 • six seatings, 10AM-3PM



\$80 Guests, \$70 Members, \$30, Ages 4-17, 3-under FREE

Families come together for an Easter Brunch that includes a visit from the Easter Bunny.

MAY 14 • six seatings, 10AM-3PM



\$80 Guests, \$70 Members, \$30, Ages 4-17, 3-under FREE

Mothers are treated to a beautiful bayside brunch with the entire family.

RECURRING FAMILY EVENTS

little sprouts club



The Rainforest From A-Z



10:30-11:30 am
 January 5, 6, 7
 February 2, 3, 4
 March 2, 3, 4
 April 6, 7, 8
 May 4, 5, 6

Chagall family Saturdays



Feb. 18, March 18, April 22, May 20
 10AM-NOON

Spend Saturday mornings enjoying fun art and nature activities inspired by the exhibition.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

BLOOMS ON A BUDGET: Creating Floral Arrangements From Market Bouquets

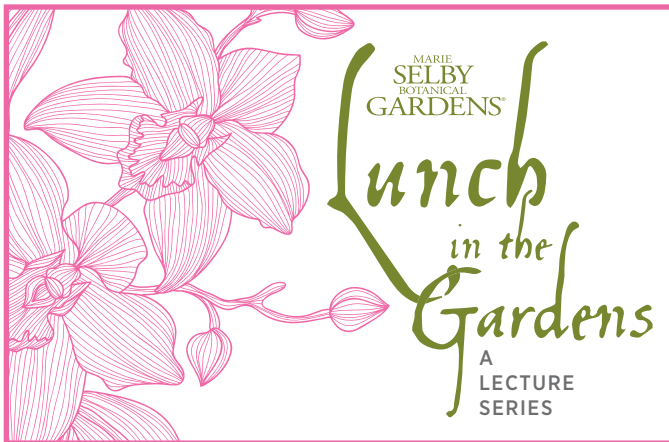
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN**

with Ian Prosser of Botanica

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**FUN WITH COLOR THEORY**

with Ian Prosser of Botanica

\$50 per person. Register at selby.org



LECTURE SERIES CHAIRS

Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri Hansen & Margaret Wise

Lead sponsor:

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20****VERTICALLY INCLINED**

Co-chairs: Molly Schechter and Emily Walsh

Presented by: Dr. Ted Caplow, inventor of the Vertically Integrated Greenhouse

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**THE SCENTS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA**

Co-chairs: Beverly Bartner, Renee Hamad and Nikki Sedacca

Presented by: Ashley Wilberding Balavoine, a perfumer with Firmenich

Visit www.selby.org for ticket information.

Associates

Monday, March 20, 11:30 – 1:00

Lunch Lecture

Charlotte Perret, author of At Their Doorstep: the Street Fairs and Carnival Folk of Paris in Vintage Postcards, 1900s, will discuss the families of the Belle Epoch who worked as carnival and street performers in 1900s Paris. Register online at selby.org.

Monday, May 15

Associates Annual Meeting

Associate-priced tickets for all Associate events, including the Keynote Lecture with Dr. Carol Ockman the Lunch in the Garden series, are available at selby.org

Botanical Briefings

Wednesday, January 11, 12–1 pm

Borucan Masks, Native Artists and the Role of Fair Trade in Protecting Natural Areas and Ancestral Traditions


Wednesday, March 8, 12-1 pm

Marc Chagall: A Life In Pictures

Thursday, April 13, 12-1 pm

Expedition Update: The Quest for Epiphytes in Belize

Botanical briefings are included with admission (free for Members) and are hosted in the Great Room.



CAROLYN MERENDA



Instructor Carolyn Merenda has taught at Selby Gardens for 22 years.

REPEAT performance

**CAROLYN MERENDA'S WATERCOLOR STUDENTS
COME BACK YEAR AFTER YEAR**



The best testament to Carolyn Merenda's (pictured above in pink) skill as a watercolor instructor comes from her students, many of whom return to take her classes at Selby Gardens year after year.

"Why do you come back?" she asks eight Intermediate Watercolor students in a recent class, all deeply engrossed in painting a scene from Murano, Italy.

"It's because of you," Sandy Weis replies. "We always learn something new." And the others quickly agree.

Some, like Amy Harding, first came to Merenda's classes as neophytes, having never pursued art of any form but looking for a new creative outlet in retirement. Harding discovered a new passion, and has come back again and again.

Others wanted to learn a different style. Josh Huntington, who had specialized in botanical illustration, wanted to try the freer style of watercolor painting.

All agree that they couldn't have done it without Carolyn. "She encourages us to get out of our comfort zone," says Weis, who has been attending Merenda's classes since 2008. "Plus we learn from each other, too."

Merenda has been teaching watercolor classes at Selby for 22 years, making her the longest tenured teacher at the Gardens. Some of her students have been with her for a dozen or more years. "It's a nice compliment really," she says modestly.





She leads a year-round schedule of Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Watercolor classes, each consisting of three, four-hour sessions. “I call them paint-alongs,” says Merenda. “They paint along with the instructor.”

Merenda explains that she demonstrates the different stages of painting. As she goes through each step, she shares her thought process and the brush techniques she employs to achieve the desired effect.

“They learn by watching and trying to duplicate the techniques—how to manipulate and hold the brush, how much paint and water to use, how to mix the colors. The instructor guides you, but you have to do it to learn it.”

But that work diminished as stores moved toward using photography to illustrate their fashions, so she decided to branch out, signing up for a watercolor class in an adult education program through the Ringling College of Art and Design. Her instructor was Herbie Rose, a well-known Bradenton artist, and she soon joined a group of art students who studied with Rose in his home.

“SOMETIMES A STUDENT WILL SAY, ‘I DON’T WANT TO DO FLOWERS,’ SHE SAYS. ‘I SAY, ‘FLOWERS ARE HAPPY THINGS AND THEY ARE CHALLENGING TO PAINT.’”



Some of Carolyn's fashion illustrations from 1959.

In addition to her Selby classes, Merenda teaches a watercolor class in Venice in a rented space. Her teaching keeps her so busy she often doesn't have time to paint on her own, or even finish the pieces she starts in class. Merenda's favorite subject matter is flowers, making Selby Gardens a natural place for her classes.

“Sometimes a student will say, ‘I don't want to do flowers,’ she says. “I say, ‘flowers are happy things and they are challenging to paint.’” In the end, she usually gets her way.

Merenda says she gets as much out of the classes as the students do.

“It keeps you strong and it keeps your outlook happy when you are doing something you love,” she says. “These classes keep me healthy and young at heart.”

Merenda had to master the techniques of watercolor herself, after arriving in Sarasota in 1985 from Boston, where she studied at the New England School of Art and Design and was a fashion illustrator for major retailers including Bon Marche. Once in Sarasota, she continued working, designing advertisements with line and wash illustrations for Beall's, Patchington and other retail stores.

For information on Carolyn Merenda's upcoming watercolor classes, as well as other art, photography, horticulture and health and discovery classes at Selby Gardens, see pages 18-23.

CLASSES

COMMUNITY CLASSES

JANUARY - APRIL 2017

ART CLASSES



Advanced Watercolor

Session I: Jan 16, 23 & 30
Session II: Feb 6, 13 & 20
Session III: Mar 6, 13 & 20
Session IV: Apr 3, 10 & 17
Mon, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

This three class course is for the more experienced painter. Refine techniques using instructor-provided reference or work on subjects of individual choice. Class critiques will provide stimulus for growth.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee per Session: \$105 (Members \$90)

Intermediate Watercolor

Session I: Jan 10, 17 & 24
Session II: Feb 7, 14 & 21
Session III: Mar 7, 14 & 21
Session IV: Apr 4, 11 & 18
Tue, 10 am - 2 pm

Each three class session focuses on demonstrations and a variety of watercolor techniques. Students with some previous experience will enjoy the freedom to experiment, create their own compositions, or paint along with the instructor.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee per Session: \$105 (Members \$90)



Borucan Mask Painting

Mon, Jan 9, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Celebrate the mask making traditions of the Borucan Indians of Costa Rica while painting along with one of the visiting artists. Learn design techniques and paint an authentic rainforest-inspired mask of your own.

Class Fee: \$55 (Members \$40)
Materials Fee: \$30 - \$40 per mask (pay instructor)

Gelli Plate Botanical Printing

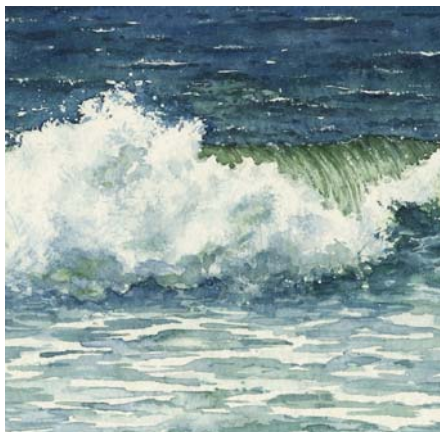
Thu, Jan 19, 10 am - 3 pm

Experience the joy of monoprinting without a press thanks to the gelli plate, a product that looks and feels like gelatin and can be used again and again. We will create one of a kind prints using leaves, textures, stencils, household items and acrylic paint. Once you start you won't want to stop!

Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi
Class Fee: \$55 (Members \$40)
Materials Fee: \$5 (pay instructor)

CLASS REGISTRATION POLICIES

- Register online at www.selby.org or in person at Selby's Welcome Center.
- In the event that a class is cancelled by Selby Gardens, students will receive a full refund. **Student cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to class time are not entitled to a refund for class credit.**
- Material lists are available online and can be emailed or mailed upon request.
- Please visit our website for updates and additional information.
- Class sizes are limited - please register early.
- Pre-registration is required. Tuition is due with registration. Pay online or use charge, check or cash in our Welcome Center.
- Registration fees are not prorated. If you do not attend any portion of class, your registration fee is forfeited.
- There are no make-up classes for students who miss a regular class session.
- Proceeds from classes support the Gardens.



NEW! Earth, Sea & Sky in Watercolor

Jan 25, 26 & 27, 10 am - 4 pm

Join Pennsylvania watercolor artist Leslie Fehling for a three-day workshop tackling challenging subject matter one step at a time. She will show you how to paint crashing waves, craggy coastlines, and sunset skies while building your skills and confidence. Subject matter will include beaches and dunes, water, rocks, skies, and trees. (For painters who have some experience with watercolors.)

Instructor: Leslie Fehling
Class Fee: \$325 (Members \$295)



Watercolor Techniques & Brushstrokes

Tues, Jan 31, 10 am - 2 pm

This class focuses on a variety of basic techniques such as "wet into wet," blending of colors, spattering, Saran wrap, salt, masking fluids and ways to use brushes for free style effects. Experiment and work on your own skills or paint along with the instructor.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee per Session: \$50 (Members \$35)



Zen Watercolor Workshops

One-Day Workshops: Feb 2, 3 or 4
 10 am - 1 pm

Using Deborah Ross' fun and loose Zen-like painting techniques, capture some of the "gems" of Selby Gardens, including beautiful orchids, birds, butterflies and more. Register individually for one or more of her one-day workshops.

Instructor: Deborah Ross
Class Fee per Session: \$65 (Members \$50) each



Print the Chagall-Inspired Gardens

Feb 8 & 9, 10 am - 3 pm

Draw on the incredible diversity of Selby Gardens' plants as your inspiration to design one of a kind nature prints in this two-day class. Learn exciting techniques to transfer leaf and flower images onto both paper and fabric. Create natural art on clothing and linens the first day, followed by note cards and small botanical prints the next. In anticipation of the Marc Chagall exhibit special emphasis will be placed on printing flowers. No previous experience is necessary.

Instructor: JoAnn Migliore Campisi
Class Fee: \$90 (Members \$70)
Materials Fee: \$30 (pay instructor)



NEW! Flower Fantasy

Feb 15, 16 & 17, 12 pm - 5 pm

Flower Fantasy is the mantra in this three-day workshop designed to bring beautiful flower drawings to life with color and movement. Students work loosely in watercolor to paint flowers that create their own Chagall dream-like style. Previous students of the Academy may bring their flower drawings to recreate them in this style. An Academy of Botanical Art Workshop.

Instructor: Olivia Braidia
Class Fee: \$395 (Members \$350)
Materials Fee: \$35 (pay instructor)



Asian Brush Painting and Calligraphy

Feb 23 & 24, 10 am - 3:30 pm

Sumi-e is the beautiful art of ink and color brushstrokes painted with specific speed, breath control and pigment loading. This is a class for all painters to increase and develop their skills. Subjects will include flowers, insects and landscape. *Shodo* (Calligraphy) is the elegant Asian art of picture words in ink. Basic techniques for creating Chinese and Japanese characters will be taught.

Instructor: Frederica Marshall
Class Fee: \$160 (Members \$140)
Materials Fee: \$15 (pay instructor)



NEW! Scenes from the French Riviera

Mon, Feb 27, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Follow the footsteps of Chagall to the beautiful coastline of the French Riviera and capture the lovely flowers and lush foliage with bursts of color and brushstrokes of watercolor. Scenic references will be provided for inspiration and a paint along demonstration with the instructor.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)

Beginners Only Watercolor

Mar 2 & 23, 10 am – 2 pm

This two-part class series is designed to take the beginning watercolor student from inexperienced to comfortable with the basic tools and techniques of this fabulous medium. Learn color mixing, creating a basic palette, brush techniques, working with reference material, and more in this structured small group workshop. Materials list available online or by request.

Instructor: Carolyn Merenda
Class Fee: \$80 (Members \$65)

NEW! Painting Postcards of the Gardens

Mar 9 & 10, 9 am – 3 pm

Learn how much fun Art Journaling can be as you create a series of postcards while enjoying Selby Gardens! Find inspiration in capturing colorful images on postcards that can be shared with friends and family near and far or kept in a journal for your own enjoyment. You will explore a wide variety of ideas, styles and techniques with regard to drawing and working with watercolors, all the while helping you to find your own voice and style. The two-day workshop will be a combination of classroom and location work. Open to all levels.

Instructor: Laure Ferlita
Class Fee: \$215 (Members \$195)

Nature's Impressions in Clay

Mar 15 & 16, 10 am – 2 pm

Pressing leaves, feathers and other natural objects into clay slabs, students will create beautiful nature impressions in this two-day workshop. After curing them in an oven, tiles will be painted and arranged into a finished wall mosaic, inspired by Mother Nature's designs.

Instructor: Sandy Frick
Class Fee: \$80 (Members \$65)
Materials Fee: \$20 (pay instructor)



Ikebana: Past and Present

Fri, Mar 17, 10 am – 1 pm

Explore the principles of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana with its roots in traditional Japanese floral design. Learn how to design traditional and creative Ikebana arrangements using modern techniques. Local, traditional and unusual materials will be blended with historical Ikebana principles to create two innovative arrangements. All materials and containers will be provided including informational handouts. Students need to bring floral cutting scissors.

Instructors: Pat Bonarek and Adrienne Wagner
Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)
Materials Fee: \$30 (pay instructor)

NEW! Ikebana: Sogetsu Meets Chagall

Fri, Mar 24, 10 am - 1 pm

Create two floral arrangements that contrast the Sogetsu Ikebana style – utilizing line, color and simple natural materials from the local environment – with one type of Western arrangement which uses massive floral materials as seen in the painting of Chagall. All materials and containers will be provided, including instructional handouts. Students need to bring floral cutting scissors.

Instructors: Pat Bonarek and Adrienne Wagner
Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)
Materials Fee: \$30 (pay to instructor)

NEW! Stained Glass in Watercolor & Ink

Mar 27, 28 & 29, 12 pm – 5 pm

Create meaningful art à la Chagall! Borrow images from the Riviera and from the brilliance of stained glass to create your own Chagall-esque stained glass masterpiece in watercolor and ink on paper. Bring your ideas, favorite poems, and photographs to this three-day workshop. Students may draw first or work directly in color. An Academy of Botanical Art Workshop.

Instructor: Olivia Braid
Class Fee: \$395 (Members \$350)
Materials Fee: \$35 (pay instructor)



NEW! The Art of Plein Air Sketching – All Media

Mar 30 & 31, 10 am - 1 pm

Learn how to capture memories quickly in the medium of your choice along with tips on capturing the essence of a place by simplifying complex subjects, composition, values and color mixing. Demonstrations will be followed by individual attention, as students work on location in the Gardens. Small scale works will be produced which can stand alone or be further developed into larger paintings. As in the manner of Chagall, participants may wish to experiment with combining images from their studies with memories from their own background in this two-part series.

Instructor: Joyce Ely Walker
Class Fee: \$215 (Members \$195)



NEW! A Natural Composition-Mixed Media Photomontage

April 6, 13 & 20, 10 am - 12 pm

In this three-part workshop series participants learn several photomontage and mixed media techniques to create collages using their own personal nature photographs (some to be taken in Selby Gardens), magazine imagery and acrylic painting applied to canvas or natural handmade paper. Katya is a mixed media collage artist, expressive arts program developer, workshop facilitator and creativity coach.

Instructor: Katya De Luisa
Class Fee: \$105 (Members \$90)



New! Advanced Painting Postcards of the Gardens

April 21, 9 am - 12 pm

Build on your skills in Art Journaling while sketching onsite in the Gardens! Learn new techniques such as shadow, highlights, borders, backgrounds and how to incorporate handwriting. This one-day class will be a combination of classroom and mostly location work. Open to advanced beginner and above.

Instructor: Laure Ferlita
Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$50)



NEW! Language of Flowers

Apr 24, 25 & 26, 12 pm - 5 pm

In the manner of Chagall, and borrowing from the 19th Century passion for flower meanings, students will create a Language of Flowers composition in loosely applied watercolor adapting the surrealistic dream-like style of Chagall. An Academy of Botanical Art Workshop.

Instructor: Olivia Braid
Class Fee: \$395 (Members \$350)
Materials Fee: \$35 (pay instructor)

HEALTH & DISCOVERY



Yoga in the Gardens

Session I: Jan 9, 16, 23 & 30
Session II: Feb 6, 13, 20 & 27
Session III: Mar 6, 13, 20 & 27
Session IV: Apr 3, 10, 17 & 24
9 - 10 am

Start your week off right by treating yourself to a peaceful mind/body Yoga experience in a beautiful Garden or indoor setting. Focus is on alignment, breathing techniques and relaxation. For beginners as well as advanced students.

Instructor: Michelle Roy
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

Winter Yoga Pass

Valid Jan 9 through Apr 24, 2017

This is an eight session registration option for students who want the freedom to come for eight sessions, but may not be able to attend them all in two consecutive months. The Winter Yoga Pass offers students flexibility to choose any eight of the scheduled yoga classes offered from January through April. Purchase Pass before Jan 9 online; after Jan 9, purchase in Welcome Center.

Instructor: Michelle Roy
Pass Fee: \$150 (Members \$110)



NEW! Singing in the Gardens

Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2 - 4 pm

Discover your voice, through meditative and playful exercises. A great series for those looking to overcome hurdles around the voice and singing, and on "being heard." This is an opportunity to experience the joy of singing again - songs of nature in the beauty of the gardens with Stephanie - a performance singer and founder of Authentic Voicework. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

Instructor: Stephanie Heidemann
Class fee: \$155 (Members \$135)

NEW! The Color of Dreams - Chagall Inspired Writing Retreat

Wed, Mar 1, 10 am - 3 pm

This writing retreat is inspired by the botanical imagery of the Marc Chagall exhibition and the beautiful Gardens. Learn to add "color" to your poetry, journaling, short stories and blogs with creative writing exercises. View the works of Chagall and tour horticultural exhibitions inspired by the French Riviera. No prior writing experience is necessary. Bring a journal and a pen.

Instructor: Gail Condrick
Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$55)



NEW! Release Your Inner Chagall - Writing and Collage Retreat

Wed, March 22, 10 am - 3 pm

Release your Inner Chagall through the inspiration of the Gardens, the exhibition, creative writing and collage. Tour the exhibition and learn to “see” the art symbolically, turning your reflections into a collage. Let your own dreamscape emerge through your writing and art. No prior writing experience is necessary. Bring a journal and a pen. Materials provided to create collages.

Instructor: Gail Condrick
 Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$55)
 Materials fee \$5 (pay instructor)



NEW! Flowers as Life Itself- Chagall Quotations and Exploration Writing Retreat

Wed, April 5, 10 am - 3 pm

Chagall’s reverence for nature expands beyond the canvas and is core to his personal philosophy. In this retreat you will use Chagall’s quotations, creative writing exercises, exploring the Gardens, and the exhibition to inspire our writing of all genres. No prior writing experience is necessary. Bring a journal and a pen.

Instructor: Gail Condrick
 Class Fee: \$65 (Members \$55)

HORTICULTURE



Orchids 101

Fri, Jan 20, 10 am - 12 pm

Are you an orchid novice? You’ll be surprised at how easy orchid growing can be! Get insightful instruction, enjoy a PowerPoint presentation and tour the orchids found growing in the Tropical Conservatory.

Instructor: Monroe Kokin
 Pass Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)



Potting & Mounting Orchids

Session I: Tues, Feb 28
Session II: Wed, April 19
11 am - 1 pm

Selby’s knowledgeable Orchid Grower will help you give your treasured plants a new lease on life! Bring an orchid to re-pot for an additional fee.

Instructor: Angel Lara
 Class Fee per Session: \$50 (Members \$35)
 Potting Fee: \$10 average, depending on size of plant.

Growing Orchids in SW Florida

Wed, Feb 22, 10 am - 12 pm

Orchid enthusiasts with some experience will get more detailed information on growing many of Florida’s remarkable native orchids and those orchids best suited for our area. Enjoy a tour of the many orchids found growing in the Tropical Conservatory.

Instructor: Monroe Kokin
 Class Fee: \$50 (Members \$35)



Framing Epiphytes

Wed, March 8, 11 am - 1 pm

Create a unique framed display for indoors or outdoors using a variety of epiphytic plants. Our skilled horticulturist will guide you from start to finish in making a one-of-a-kind living art piece.

Instructor: Addie Worth
 Class Fee: \$80 (Members \$65) includes frame and plants; just bring a small pair of pliers, scissors or pruners



NEW! Designing Containers - Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers

Wed, April 12, 11 am - 1 pm

Learn ways to add beauty and color to your lanai or patio with step-by-step instructions and demos to create potted masterpieces, exploding with colors and textures, using plants that thrive in our Florida environment. Plants provided, just bring your own container smaller than 12” wide.

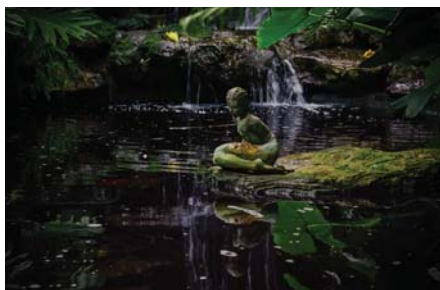
Instructor: Tracy Calla
 Class Fee: \$80 (Members \$65) includes plants

PHOTOGRAPHY

**Adobe Lightroom****Wed, Jan 18, 1:30 – 4:30 pm**

This photography course is perfect for both the passionate photographer and those new to photography. Discover how Adobe Lightroom can improve your image quality, presentation, and professionalism. Come with your laptop, preloaded with a 30-day free trial version of Adobe Lightroom, available from their website. Be prepared to learn techniques for cropping and editing photos, adding effects, showcasing your work in slideshows, creating beautiful prints, and much more.

Instructor: Daniel R. Perales
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

**Visual Poetry****Wed, Feb 1, 10 am – 1 pm**

A simple path to creating compelling photographs: explore what makes a great image and how you can incorporate a different creative approach into your style of photography to improve your images. Includes three practice stations in Selby Gardens rain or shine. Just bring your camera. Handout with workshop outline will be available. Appropriate for any level of photographic experience.

Instructor: Perry Johnson
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

**Tripod Tuesdays****Feb 28, Mar 28, or Apr 25, 9 -10 am**

Selby is offering special access to our Tropical Conservatory before hours on three Tuesdays. Photographers who register in advance for this special opportunity will be allowed to use tripods to capture images of thousands of orchid and other lush tropical plants. Register early as space is limited.

Fee per Session: \$20 (Members \$15)

**Understanding Color in Photography****Fri, Mar 3, 10 am – 1 pm**

Color is one of our most powerful tools in photography and what better location to explore concepts of color than at Selby Gardens. This workshop is lighter on the classroom and weighted on shooting while exploring new and different color concepts. Come with your camera and an open mind. A guide will be given to all students. Open to all levels.

Instructor: Perry Johnson
Class Fee: \$75 (Members \$55)

**Exposed: Behind the Scenes Photography****Fri, Apr 7, 2:30 – 6 pm**

In this one-day session you and your camera will be provided unprecedented access to Selby's nonpublic greenhouses. With your lens, explore row upon row of world class live plant specimens. This limited access class is scheduled to capitalize on the changing light of sunset. Participants will refresh their skills and learn new ones while exploring the greenhouse collection of plants, spaces and tools of the trade.

Instructor: Daniel R. Perales
Class Fee: \$85 (Members \$65)



In addition to the many classes inspired by the *Marc Chagall, Flowers and the French Riviera: The Color of Dreams* exhibition, we will also be presenting Painters in the Gardens on weekends from mid-February through May. Feel free to stop and talk with them or just watch them paint in plein air among the beautiful flower and plant vignettes created just for this exhibition.

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(Recognizing gifts given between June and September 2016)

Tree Dedications

In Honor

In honor of Robert and Gail Davies
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Davies

In Memoriam

In memory of Walter and Ruth Petrykany

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Davies

Memorial Benches

In memory of Mr. Timothy Howey

Mr. Eric S. Jensen

In memory of John Sparacio

Ms. Dorothea M. Lang

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In memory of Ross Branca

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In honor of Andy and Gina Anderson for the Rotary Club of Sarasota Keys Service Above Self award

Rotary Club of Sarasota Keys Foundation

In honor of Robert Coates and Russell Fellows

Ms. Patricia Coates

In honor of Ms. Ann M. Lipsky

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Tick

Butterfly Garden Walkway Bricks:

In Honor

In honor of the Gartner Family

Mr. and Mrs. John Gartner

In honor of Charles Dixon

Ms. Nancy Palmer Dixon

Happy 80th Birthday Murray

Ms. Katherine Renfrew

In Memoriam

In memory of Lawton W. Blanton

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Martin

In memory of Mr. Michael Bors

Ms. Nicole Coats

In memory of Bill Bowling

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Woody

In memory of Sam & Fannie

Ms. Marsha Colburn and Ms. Linda Beldon

In memory of Timothy Hennigan

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In memory of Mrs. Ronne Rose

Dr. Deborah Rose

In memory of Steven Scott

Ms. Tammy Kurek

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CELEBRATE MARIE SELBY LEGACY SOCIETY LUNCHEON MARCH 1, 2017

Join us to recognize those who have joined the Marie Selby Legacy Society this year and hear about how you too can leave a legacy big or small.

For information please contact Ann Logan, Chief Development Officer, at 941-366-5731 ext. 266 or alogan@selby.org

corporate PARTNERSHIPS

Investments made in Selby Gardens by corporate partners help us accomplish our mission of conservation, botanical research, education and beautiful display of the Gardens' world-class collection of living and preserved plants.

To become involved, or for more information, contact Amy Miller, Corporate Relations, at amiller@selby.org

THANK YOU

to our inaugural corporate partners.



volunteer SPOTLIGHT



JOYCE SLEZAK

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN SELBY GARDENS

Joyce Slezak's love of gardening began as a child growing up in western Massachusetts. As one of eight children, she and her siblings often worked in the yard with her father. Gardening was an activity that always seemed natural to Slezak. In fact, in between raising a son and working as a paralegal for 40 years in Connecticut, Slezak managed to create her own landscape design business.

"Law and gardening both present problems to solve, and I like a challenge," Slezak said.

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT THE GARDENS THEMSELVES IS SPRING, WHEN EVERYTHING HAS BEEN CHANGED OVER,"

-JOYCE SLEZAK

Slezak's first gardening challenge arrived in 1967, when she and her husband, John, bought their first house. She began visiting White Flower Farm in northwestern Connecticut for ideas, and over the years, built her own garden design company through referrals.

Many people from New York City would keep weekend homes in Litchfield County, and they wanted someone to design and plant formal gardens for them to enjoy, which Slezak did.

"At White Flower I learned the Latin names of all the plants," Slezak said. "We never said 'shasta daisies,' but instead '*Leucanthemum superbum*.'"

When Slezak moved to Bradenton 12 years ago after retiring, a friend introduced her to Selby Gardens. Slezak's volunteer work has moved over the years from the horticulture team ("I learned to plant and move on and how to use angles better," she recalls) to the Research Library following a hand surgery, and with special events (*Lights in Bloom* is her favorite). Today she works in the Administration building where her eye for detail is used in proofing documents and helping with any immediate task in the building.



While the subtropical grounds of Selby Gardens are quite different from the formal lines of English gardens Slezak was accustomed to in her work in New England, she appreciates the different set of skills required for working with plants in Florida. Her favorite time of year at Selby Gardens is springtime.

"The most beautiful thing about the Gardens themselves is Spring, when everything has been changed over," said Slezak. "I am proud of the Gardens, I really am. I love it, I truly do."

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Marc Chagall

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Experience the exhibition after dark with monthly evening performances by cultural institutions.

- FEBRUARY 15: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast
- MARCH 9: Sarasota Opera
- APRIL 5: Sarasota Ballet
- MAY 17: Perlman Music Program/Suncoast
- JUNE 14: Sarasota Orchestra

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Chagall family Saturdays



FEB. 18, MARCH 18, APRIL 22, MAY 20
10AM-NOON

Spend Saturday mornings enjoying fun art and nature activities inspired by the exhibition.