

## WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## Ongoing events



&gt;&gt;Paul Rodino at BIG ARTS.

■ **Art- The Group of Four** exhibit, featuring **Paul Rodino, Richard Rosen, Anica Sturdivant, and Kathleen Walsh**, is at **BIG ARTS Founders Gallery** through Dec. 31. Paul Rodino's photography offers a glimpse into life's unappreciated, sometimes unseen everyday beauty. Richard Rosen's stimulating sculpture and painting combinations exemplify the intuitive evolution from natural to abstract. Anica Sturdivant's Bubble Wrap series explores self-control, while her Earth Pod series is an integration of the sacred and earthly; both require the viewer to delve beneath superficial judgment. Kathleen Walsh's experience as a psychiatric nurse lends itself to her spontaneous, open-to-interpretation mixed-media pieces. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information about this exhibit and other upcoming events and workshops at BIG ARTS, to purchase tickets, or to sign up for workshops, stop by BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road Sanibel, call (239) 395-0900, e-mail info@bigarts.org, or log on to www.BIGARTS.org.

■ **Art- Harborside Event Center and ArtFest Fort Myers'** current exhibit is the "**Fabric of Life**", a display of 30 spectacular contemporary art quilts created by the members of Art Quilters Unlimited. This juried show runs through Jan. 4 and represents a broad array of fiber wall art from a group of artists who compete nationally in their medium and bring the excitement of color and design to this fine craft. Everyone is welcome to explore the artistic and cultural vibrancy of fiber art and give the gift of art to someone on your holiday list. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information email info@ArtFestFortMyers.com or call 768-3602.

■ **Art - The Art League of Fort Myers'** current exhibit is "**Small Packages**" at the Gallery, 1451 Monroe Street in the heart of the River District. "Small Packages" contains only original art at affordable prices created by local artists. For information call 275-3970 of online at www.artleagueoffortmyers.org

■ **Art- The Cape Coral Arts Studio** exhibit: the work of the late **Jean Inman** in a "**Memorial Tribute**" runs through Dec. 28. For information call 574-0802. The Cape Coral Arts Studio is located at 4533 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral.

■ **Art - the Naples Art Association's "46th Founders Juried Awards Exhibition"** is on display at The **von Liebig Art Center**. The exhibition, that runs through Jan. 13, honors the artists who in 1954 joined together to form the NAA, including Grace Lake, Elsie Dorey Upham and George Rogers. The NAA received 455 entries from 244 member artists. Internationally-acclaimed American abstract painter Sam Gilliam, a pre-eminent artist based in Washington, DC, served as juror. He selected 179 works by 149 artists for the exhibition as well as the 23 award winners. The top three award winners will participate in a three-person exhibition at The von Liebig Art Center next year. The von Liebig Art Center is located at 585 Park Street in downtown Naples and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. with free admission daily.

>>Jerry Churchill Paper Mache, *Larger than Life* at the Alliance for the Arts.

■ **Art - Communication: The imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions or information by speech, writing, or signs. "Transmissions: A Juried Competition"** is the next exhibit at the **Alliance for the Arts**. Categories are sculpture, painting (including oil, acrylic, collage, watercolor, mixed media), photography, prints and drawings. The exhibit runs through Jan. 9. For information call the Alliance at 939-2787 or online at www.artinlee.org. The Alliance is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard just south of Colonial Boulevard. Visit www.artinlee.org for more details.

## Upcoming events

■ **Chamber Music - The Chamber Music Society of Southwest Florida** launches its inaugural season at the **Foulds Theatre** in the **Alliance for the Arts** on Jan. 28. Led by mezzo-soprano and Artistic Director Janelle McCoy, the chamber music society will present four concerts that will include international chamber groups, Grammy-winning composers and several regional premieres. The concerts, themed "Journeys," are designed to promote and make accessible chamber music of the last 100 years through lectures, composer appearances and performances in intimate spaces. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by visiting www.chamber-society.

■ **Guys and Dolls - The musical fable of Nathan Detroit, *Guys and Dolls*** opens Dec. 29 at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theater**. The consummate gambling man, Edtroit operates "The World's Largest Floating Crap Game". Songs include Luck Be a Lady, I've Never Been in Love Before, Sue Me and A Bushel and a Peck. This song and dance extravaganza is fantastic entertainment for all ages. It embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you know and love. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

## Upcoming events



&gt;&gt;Salute to Vienna! at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

■ **Foreigner - The rock group Foreigner** will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Friday Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. The hard rock band formed in New York City in 1976 by veteran musicians Mick Jones and ex-King Crimson member Ian McDonald, along with then-unknown vocalist Lou Gramm. Foreigner has sold more than 50 million albums worldwide. Their hits include *Hot Blooded, Cold as Ice* and *Urgent*. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Willie Nelson - Country legend Willie Nelson** returns to the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** Wednesday, Jan. 16. The iconic Texan is the creative genius behind historic recordings like "Crazy," "Hello Walls," "Red Headed Stranger" and "Stardust." His career has spanned six decades, his catalog boasts more than 200 albums and he's earned every conceivable award and honor to be bestowed a person in his profession. He has also amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor and activist. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Art - Ellen Sheppard**, who received the 2004 Angel of the Arts "New Artist of the Year" award from the Alliance for the Arts, will have an exhibition of her paintings Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13, at the **Florida Fine Art Gallery** in Gannon's Antiques & Art Center, 16521 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers. There will be a "Meet the Artist" reception Saturday, Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sheppard, a Lee County resident, has been painting "seriously" for eight years. Her medium is acrylic and her main subject matter is landscapes. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. For information or directions call 489 - 2211.

■ **Art - Art League of Fort Myers** will sponsor "**Highlights of the Brooklyn Museum**", a PowerPoint slideshow presented by Mr. Peter Downes on Thursday, Jan. 3. Downes will discuss and illustrate the second largest art collection in the U.S. He will outline the process that an artist needs to follow to have art exhibited in or donated to the Brooklyn Museum. The program will be held at noon at the ALFM Gallery, 1451 Monroe Street, in the River District. For information call 275-3970 of online at www.artleagueoffortmyers.org

■ **Cats - Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless *Cats*** is onstage at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. There's no better way to introduce your family to the wonders of live theater than with the magic, the mystery, the memory of *Cats*. What began as a musical about cats after Webber picked up a book of poems in an airport bookshop has become one of the longest-running shows in Broadway's history. Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Cats* features 20 of Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless melodies, including the hit song *Memory*. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Lewis Black - Comedian Lewis Black** will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Saturday Dec. 29. If you missed him last year; make your plans now for a chance to catch one of the funniest people in America. Appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" proved fertile ground for Black, and as a contributor to "The Daily Show," his two-minute political and pop culture rants made him a national hero. Fittingly, his one man HBO specials have become popular favorites and have elevated his stature as one of the most relevant as well as hilarious comedians today. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Salute to Vienna - The once a year excitement of New Year's comes to life on stage in this unique re-creation of Vienna's World Famous New Year's Concert - *Salute to Vienna!*** at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Monday, Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m. *Salute to Vienna's* musical magic features a cast of over 70 musicians, international singers and dancers adorned in beautiful traditional costumes. The new program will feature waltzes (such as the Blue Danube Waltz), polkas and Operetta excerpts from Die Fledermaus and The Merry Widow sung by our outstanding European sopranos and tenors. The musical classics of Johann Strauss Jr. and other famous Viennese composers will be interpreted by an array of engaging Maestros all with that charming 'Viennese flare.' The entire performance will have you clapping and dancing in your seats. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.