

*Mark Your Calendars!!*

The Circle Opening Tea  
November 16, 2023  
Thursday 3-5 PM  
VBMA Buck Atrium

E-Newsletter Volume 3  
August 15, 2023

## Greetings and Happy Summer!



Can you believe summer is more than half over? I'm excited for fall when we'll meet again. I hope you're staying cool (if that's possible) and enjoying a wonderful time, wherever your staycation or travels have taken you.

Please enjoy this third edition of our newly expanded newsletter. Follow the links to explore our informative new web page and more! Kudos to Cathy Cronin, Communications Chair, and her stellar team!

I'm excited to announce the addition of "Sophie's Social Media Tips" to our newsletter. Sophie Bentham-Wood, VBMA Director of Marketing and Communications will help us spread the word about The Circle's impact through your personal social media accounts, such as Facebook, Instagram, and others. By using Sophie's tips, we can all become brand ambassadors for The Circle, increasing our visibility and attracting potential members.

If it's time for you to renew your membership, please follow [this link](#), or contact Natalie Murdy if you have any questions. Most members renew in the summer or fall, but if you joined in the winter or early spring, you may wait to renew until your anniversary date.

Special request for those who can:

This year, I'm asking every member to add a small contribution to the admin fund to help offset meeting costs. Just \$7 per meeting will make a substantial difference. While most other organizations require such a fund, we'd like it to remain voluntary. Each year, we have a few generous and invaluable members who donate between \$250 – \$500 to help underwrite some of the cost of food and beverages at our meetings. Their contributions continue to be very much appreciated.

Please consider checking the box for "additional donation to offset administrative costs" and add what you can. In addition to helping with food and beverage costs, a donation of \$35/season will also help pay for name tags, signage, printed materials, and more.

The Circle is your organization, and your participation is at its core. Thank you.

With deep gratitude and warm regards,

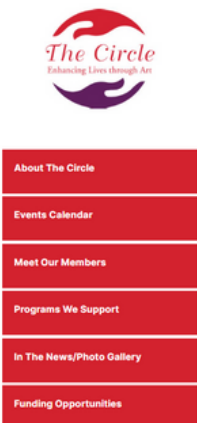
Trudy Powers Hoffman  
Chair

We have exciting news to share! The Circle's new webpage is up and running on the VBMA website. Huge thanks to Robyn Orzel, Natalie Murdy and the web team for their guidance, and for their time and effort in bringing this vision to life. This easy-to-navigate webpage is our "go to" reference and is chock full of information about The Circle. It's a wonderful resource for our members and for you to share with friends interested in joining The Circle.

Just click on the link: [www.vbmuseum.org/thecircle](http://www.vbmuseum.org/thecircle) to bring up the home page.

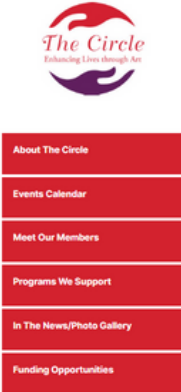
The home page shows a picture of the 2023-2024 Steering Committee and six clickable red boxes identifying the six sections of the site: About the Circle, Events Calendar, Meet Our Members, Programs We Support, In the News/Photo Gallery and Funding Opportunities.

About the Circle is where you'll find The Circle Information Sheet, links to The Circle Brochure, Five Year Strategic Plan Summary, and key contact information to help you with any membership information you may need. "Events Calendar" has information and dates for the 2023-24 Season meetings and Special member only events. "Meet our Members" contains a member listing, Steering Committee contact information and member bios to help us all get to know more about each other. The "Press/Photo Gallery" has links to press articles about The Circle, our *Eye on The Circle* newsletters, and our very fun Photo Gallery (look for your friends!!). "Funding Opportunities" is where you'll find new member and member renewal forms, information on other funding opportunities, and the many ways we can support our programs or honor friends and family. All of these opportunities have forms you can download.



The 2023-2024 Steering Committee: Lori Lazorick, Mary Wright, Anne Golensky, Trudy Powers Hoffman, Catherine Cooke, Cathy Cronin, Diane McGinn  
Not pictured: June Fitzgerald and Joy Ann Coll

**Want To Learn More About The Circle?**  
We invite you to our next event, **The Opening Tea**  
Thursday, November 16th from 3 - 5:00 p.m. in the VBMA Atrium  
Please email June ([fitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com](mailto:fitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com)) or  
Catherine ([catepru@aol.com](mailto:catepru@aol.com)) to let us know that you plan to attend.



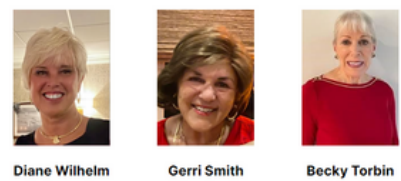
### Meet Our Members

The Circle serves as a gateway for women to get involved in philanthropy and to meet other like-minded women who share their same passions and interests. Formed to bring friends together, The Circle is able to magnify the impact of individual giving by pooling members' gifts together to fund the Museum's key outreach initiatives.

### 2023-2024 Steering Committee

- Trudy Powers Hoffman, Chair
- Cathy Cronin, Communications
- June Fitzgerald, Membership Co-Chair
- Catherine Cooke, Membership Co-Chair/Member Events
- Anne Golensky, Site Visits Co-Chair
- Lori Lazorick, Site Visits Co-Chair
- Diane McGinn, Hospitality Co-Chair
- Mary Wright, Hospitality Co-Chair
- Joy Ann Coll, Secretary/Treasurer

### Get to Know Our Members



Diane Wilhelm Gerri Smith Becky Torbin

Please click [here](#) for the 2022-2023 Member Listing.

We invite you to click and explore! The Photo Gallery has wonderful pictures from last Season. To keep it fresh, we'd love to add more pictures of our Members out and about with their Circle friends. Please email your photos to Sue van der Stricht at [suevanders@gmail.com](mailto:suevanders@gmail.com). Sue is our committee photographer. Suzanne Roff, a member of our Communications Committee, will oversee The Circle's webpage and ensure the latest information about our meetings, member only events, proposed programs for funding, and event photos are there for you to view at the click of a mouse or scroll of your finger. Please let us know what you think about the new webpage and email [suzrof@gmail.com](mailto:suzrof@gmail.com) with any suggestions you may have. We look forward to your feedback and working to make this webpage a great resource for our members.

## *Sophie's Social Media Tips*

Sophie Wood, VBMA Director of Marketing and Communications shows us how easy it is to help spread the word and share the story of The Circle by posting photos with Circle friends, news tidbits, etc. on your own social media pages. This is a wonderful way to reach local friends who may want to join The Circle. Sharing your photos taken during The Circle's "members only" enrichment events with us would also be appreciated, so we may include them in future newsletters and on our website. Please send your photos to [acathy.egan@gmail.com](mailto:acathy.egan@gmail.com). Please [click here](#) to view Sophie's Social Media Tips.

## **In The News...**

The Circle's "*Art from the HeART*" feature appeared in the May 8th issue of the *Luminaries* weekly magazine. Also, we had fabulous coverage in the VBMA *Quarterly*. Please [click here](#) to read them.

Three Circle members were recognized in VBMA's *Treasure Coast Creates: A Tribute to Local Artists* exhibition. This inaugural 2023 juried art exhibition opened on Friday, May 26th and runs through September 3, 2023. Over 350 applicants submitted over 800 works for consideration, and only 137 pieces were chosen. Through this exhibition, the VBMA's goal was to recognize the outstanding quality and diversity of work being generated by contemporary artists living in and around Vero Beach. The three Circle members who were chosen to exhibit their work in the show are: Elise Geary, Margaret Goembel, and Suzanne Roff. Congratulations to you and to all of the local artists who participated!



**"Origin"** by Elise Geary



**"Beach Beiges"**  
by Margaret Goembel



**"A Night in Cienfuegos"**  
by Suzanne Roff



**Pictured are members of the outgoing and incoming Steering Committee (from left to right):**

Susie Kintner, Sally Roberts, Anne Golensky, Kate Walsh, Pam Larrick, Trudy Powers Hoffman, Cathy Cronin, Susan Von Hagen, Diane McGinn, Mary Wright, Catherine Cooke, Lori Lazorick. Not pictured: Barb Dorvee, June Fitzgerald and Joy Ann Coll.



## 2023-2024 Steering Committee

Lori Lazorik - Site Visit Co-Chair, Mary Wright - Hospitality Co-Chair, Anne Golensky - Site Visit Co-Chair, Trudy Powers Hoffman - Chair, Catherine Cooke - Membership Co-Chair, Cathy Cronin - Communications Chair, Diane McGinn - Hospitality Chair. Not pictured: June Fitzgerald - Membership Co-Chair, Joy Ann Coll - Secretary/Treasurer

## Membership & Member Events

## Catherine Cooke & June Fitzgerald

Hi Circle ladies...we are your new Co-Chairs of Membership ...Catherine Cooke and June Fitzgerald, and are looking forward to an exciting season!!

Growing The Circle's membership is one of our goals. You can help. JOIN US and invite your friends to join! Preserve the specialness of The Circle and VOLUNTEER for a committee. Share your energy and ideas. Why? Participating is a great way to meet new friends who have the same passions and interests.

We can't accomplish this goal alone but together our goals are achievable. Phone or text June Fitzgerald at 917-744-7530 with any questions or to join the Membership Committee.

We look forward to meeting you at 3:00 PM on November 16th at The Opening Tea at VBMA. Check in with us when you arrive and say hello - Welcome back!

## Members Only Special Events

Last season, The Circle offered seven special members-only events and more than half of our members attended at least one event. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback after every event, from both new and long-time Circle Members. These special events provided a relaxed, small group format for members to spend quality time getting to know each other, especially those who had never met before, while enjoying interesting activities together. We are delighted to see how these events help to preserve the specialness of The Circle, giving our members enhanced opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with likeminded women.

Next season, we hope to offer even more opportunities to attend one of these popular events. Look forward to additional dates at the Windsor Gallery, ELC boat tours, private home art collection viewings, and after-hours events at the VBMA where members can invite guests... and that's just the beginning.

Enjoy these photos from last season's members-only events.

Private art collection tour and reception, ELC and lunch at Susan Von Hagen's home, a *Rolling Sculpture* after hours tour, and a Windsor Gallery Tour.

There is never a shortage of fun with fellow Circle members!



## Hospitality

Diane McGinn & Mary Wright

As we enjoy the last weeks of summer, our thoughts turn toward the fall in Vero Beach. Exciting upcoming events planned for The Circle at Vero Beach Museum of Art are soon approaching. Please join us for **The Opening Tea, Thursday, November 16 at 3:00 pm** as we kick off the 2023-2024 season.

We look forward to being your hospitality ambassadors. Together we have the fun job of making sure our members and guests feel welcome and inspired to be a part of The Circle. It is a wonderful place to develop friendships, to learn new things, and to help bring art into the lives of people of all ages in the Vero Beach community. What we personally enjoy about being members is the enthusiasm, camaraderie and passion that defines The Circle.

As we plan for the upcoming year, we're thinking of new and exciting ways to make our events enjoyable and bring even more people into The Circle to meet and expand our goals, and we welcome your ideas. Together let's spread some hospitality!

## Programs/Site Visits

Lori Lazorik & Anne Golensky

We are excited to be the new Site Visit Committee co-chairs and are already planning successful experiences for our volunteers. Serving on a Site Visit Team is one of the most important and fulfilling ways a member can support the mission of the Circle.

We have already launched the 2023–24 Circle Site Visit sign-ups, and encourage new and experienced Circle members to serve. We hope that all members will consider joining a Site Visit Team.

- Are you interested in learning firsthand about the community programs the Circle can support?
- Are you energized by the opportunity to work collaboratively with other Circle members in observing and sharing ways these outreach programs contribute to and enrich our community?

If your answers are yes, more information and sign up are just an email or call away:

Lori Lazorik, [lori.lazorik@gmail.com](mailto:lori.lazorik@gmail.com) or (772) 979-2548

Anne Golensky, [annegol@aol.com](mailto:annegol@aol.com) or (203) 525-2671

## Member Snapshot

Connie Murphy

### Meet Barb Dorvee

We are lucky to have Barb Dorvee in The Circle - she has impressive volunteer experience. After graduating from SUNY at Canton and Rochester Institute of Technology, she had a varied career in Finance, working mainly in Southern California. Barbara hails from Seneca Falls, NY, home of the National Women's Hall of Fame where she volunteered as a greeter for incoming notable women being inducted into the Hall of Fame. She had the pleasure of guiding notables, such as Hillary and Bill Clinton, Tenley Albright (Olympic gold medalist) and Maya Lin (architect) when they arrived to accept their inductions. Barb also found time to serve as a docent and manage the book store for the Museum of Industry and Waterways in Seneca Falls. She loves and is drawn to The Circle's site visits; particularly the Childrens' Programs, Senior Resources and Veterans activities.



*Remembering when...*

The Opening Tea has been a welcome tradition since November 16, 2010 when new friends and Steering Committee members Susan Von Hagen and Lee Albro organized an afternoon social gathering of Circle members and their guests.

The location was Lee's home at the River Club, and the refreshments were hot tea, iced tea and goodies for the 45 ladies in attendance. The intention was to host a fun event that would launch each "new season of giving." As The Circle grew in members over the years, The Opening Tea was moved to Marsh Island Club and other locations where many more ladies could be accommodated.

The Opening Tea is a special way for members to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and to remind all of us of what brought us together: a passion for the Museum and its community outreach initiatives.

See you on November 16th, 13 years later on the same date, to kick off the 2023-24 season of giving!

**The Circle' First  
Opening Tea  
November 16, 2010**



**Diane Wilhelm, Cindy Gedeon, retired VBMA Executive Director, Reggie Bradshaw, Lee Albro**

# The Circle

## 2023-2024 Event Calendar

*Mark Your Calendars!*

Thursday	November 16th	3-5 PM	Opening Tea	VBMA Buck Atrium
Wednesday	January 10th	10-11:30A	General Meeting Programs Introduced	VBMA Holmes Great Hall
Wednesday	February 14th	9-11A	Breakfast - Guest Speaker	Vero Beach Yacht Club
Wednesday	March 13th	10-11:30A	General Meeting Site Visit Presentations	VBMA Holmes Great Hall
Thursday	April 11th	3-5P	Closing Reception & Final Vote	VBMA Buck Atrium

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## 2023-24 Circle Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee Chair:	Trudy Powers Hoffman	<a href="mailto:trudy@tphllc.com">trudy@tphllc.com</a>	206 409-2484
Membership Co Chairs:	Catherine Cooke	<a href="mailto:catepru@aol.com">catepru@aol.com</a>	516 330-1786
	June Fitzgerald	<a href="mailto:jfitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com">jfitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com</a>	917 744-7530
Hospitality & Special Events Co Chairs:			
	Diane McGinn	<a href="mailto:dianemcginn14@gmail.com">dianemcginn14@gmail.com</a>	414 778-2116
	Mary Wright	<a href="mailto:mlwdiwvero@gmail.com">mlwdiwvero@gmail.com</a>	305 336-4566
Site Team Co Chairs:	Anne Golensky	<a href="mailto:annegol@aol.com">annegol@aol.com</a>	203 525-2671
	Lori Lazorik	<a href="mailto:Lori.lazorik@gmail.com">Lori.lazorik@gmail.com</a>	772 475-3753
Secretary/Finance Chair:	Joy Ann Coll	<a href="mailto:jacoll1118@aol.com">jacoll1118@aol.com</a>	772 559-6288
Communications Chair:	Cathy Cronin	<a href="mailto:acathy.egan@gmail.com">acathy.egan@gmail.com</a>	914 772-0647
VBMA Circle liaison:	Natalie Murdy	<a href="mailto:nmurdy@vbmuseum.org">nmurdy@vbmuseum.org</a>	772 231-0707, 154



## 2022-2023 CIRCLE MEMBERS

Lyn Adams	Margaret Goembel	Marilyn Ragland
Lee Albro	Anne Golensky	Katie Raynor
Donna Auriemma	Mary Hall Goodman	Sally Roberts
Judy Balph	Joanne Green	Suzanne Roff
Kathy Bantleon	Gena Grove	Diane Rose
Jane Beattie	Carol Hancock	Lisa Rosmarin
Ilona Benham	Kay Harvey	Betsy Ross
Tracey Benton	Pat Hastings	Carol Ross
Cindy Binder	Diana L. Hoffman	Barbara Ruddy
Carla Mills Boardman	Trudy Powers Hoffman	Christine Ryall
Marilyn Bosland	Kathleen O'Brien Joachim	Mary Lasky Ryan
Nancy Bryant	Miller Carolyn Jones	Pamela Sandzen
Carmela Cagliero	Susan Kintner	Debra Schmidt
Jan Calfee	Serena Kratz	Louise Schmitt
Sally Calhoun	Pam Larrick	Jamie Schulte
Kitty Carleton	Phoebe Larson	Joan Semmer
Margaret Carnwath	Lori Lazorik	Lou Shannon
Mary Carpenter	Holly Lentini	Sue Sharpe
Brenda Nicholson Cavicchio	Mary Anne Liljedahl	Gail Shepherd
Carol Ceplenski	Louise Macy	Suzi Shriner McCoy
Kathy Connolly	Susan Martin	Pamela Siddall
Barbara Cook	Paula Matrullo	Gerri Smith
Catherine Cooke	Diane McGinn	Mary Addington Smith
Donna Coughlin	Evelyn McGlone	Marty Snyder
Cathy Egan Cronin	Ellen Mendez-Penate	Gillian Stewart
Nancy Cutshall	Rita Mergemekes	Mary Streep
Diana Davis	Carol Mettam	Caroline Taylor
Jean DeSantis	Mariam Michael	Linda Teetz
Diane Doherty	Lauren Michaels	Ann Tharpe
Marianne Doherty	Gwen Miller	Leah Tompkins
Barb Dorvee	Lynn Miller	Becky Torbin
Linda Downey	Amy Morgan	Patty Tovell
Cathy Duckett	Laura Moss	Susan van der Stricht
Ellen Dunn	Kitty Mountain	Sandy Vest
Nancy Edmiston	Patsy Moynihan	Susan Von Hagen
Susan Filebark	Connie Murphy	Judy Walck
June Fitzgerald	Sharon Novak	Kate Walsh
Cathy Fountain	Lisa O'Brien	Stuart Weismiller
Susan B. Fowler	Theresa O'Reilly	Jenny Wellschlager
Susan Friesell	Mary Parker	Diane Wilhelm
Liz Gallagher	Nancy Pierce	Bonnie Wilson
Elise Geary	Arlene Platt	Julie Wright
Cindy Gedeon	Gail Prauss	Mary Wright
Fran Gilson	Louise Mary Preis	