Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay

BAY BREEZE

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Enabling our Members for Fun, Fellowship and Service to the Community and the World

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COMMUNITY SERVICE • PLANTING DAY

COME BE COUNTED

Promenade Estates Microforest Planting Day

Saturday, November 14, 2026 • 9:00–11:00 AM

Interact students from Riverview and Pine View will plant alongside their Promenade Estates neighbors. Our job is to show up, pitch in, and cheer them on.



HOW TO HELP

- Plant alongside them
- Hand out water and snacks
- Stay 30 minutes or the full two hours
- Can't come? Donate

Youngsters encouraged. Wear closed-toe shoes; bring gloves, a trowel, and a bucket if you have them. Water & snacks provided. Charles Reith: 703 342 6185.



Park on the East Bay median — please don't enter the community.

CAN'T COME? MAKE A DONATION

givebutter.com/PE-MF

INSIDE: Peter Rothstein & Asolo Rep's Centennial Season — story on pages 3–5

Upcoming meetings

Nov 17 • 100 Central	Fri, Dec 4 • Holiday Party	Dec 1 • 100 Central
Teresa Taft, Sunrise Rotary Club: "Tree of Joy"	Home of Leslie and Lindsey Glass	Dr. Stephen Guffanti: Rocket Phonics

See the story

Riverview Interact Club Gives Gulf Gate Elementary school a Halloween Trunk or Treat!

Great Pumpkin Fun at Gulf Gate Elementary School

Interact Riverview High School

RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB · *TRUNK OR TREAT*

October 30th

The Riverview High School Interact Club set up a "Trunk or Treat" for the students of Gulf Gate Elementary School, a Title I school. Their "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" trunk came with Sally, Linus, Snoopy, Woodstock, and Charlie Brown, plus buckets of candy for every trick-or-treater. The kids loved it, and the club members were swamped. Great job by the Riverview High School Interact Club (President Rocco Tenaglia), sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.



Interact Club members Ella, Chase, and Rocco with the Charlie Brown Trunk.

TRUNK OR TREAT
Riverview High School Interact Club
Gulf Gate Elementary School
Club Advisor: Janalee Heinemann
Sponsor: Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay



The finished trunk.



Sally, Linus, Snoopy and a patch of pumpkins, all made by Sarah.



Two Hours of trick-or-treaters at Gulf Gate Elementary school on Friday October 30th. What a sweet treat for them.

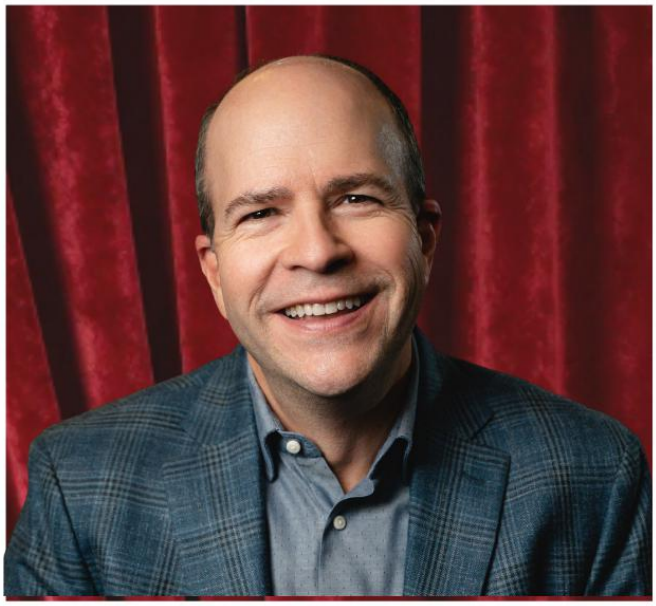
© 2026 Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. Photos courtesy of the Riverview High School Interact Club.

Drafted with AI assistance.

Asolo Rep's Centennial Season

PETER ROTHSTEIN, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR · NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Peter Rothstein, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Repertory Theatre, spoke to the Club on November 3 about how Asolo chooses its shows and why this season is unlike any before it. He opened with a Rotary connection: his father was a proud Rotarian.





Peter has led Asolo Rep since 2023. He co-founded Theater Latté Da in the Twin Cities and served as its artistic director since 1998. He has directed 92 main stage productions, including 14 world premieres, and created All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914, first broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio and since heard around the world. He holds a bachelor's degree in music and theater from St. John's University and an MFA in directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This season marks 100 years since John and Mabel Ringling moved the circus to Sarasota in 1927. Peter called that year a defining one for American culture: the first talking picture, *Show Boat*, Duke Ellington's Cotton Club debut, the height of the Harlem Renaissance, and the Great Mississippi Flood. Many playwrights set their work in 1927, so the whole season is built around it.

> ***"Everything that we do, we produce and build."***
> ***– Peter Rothstein, on Asolo's shops.***

The next page walks through every production; the page after covers how Asolo works and how Rotarians can help.

SEASON GUIDE

The 2026/27 Season



Peter walked the Club through all eight productions. Dates are from Asolo's season announcement.

Main Stage · Mertz Theatre

Singin' in the Rain

(NOV 18, 2026 – JAN 2, 2027):

Josh Rhodes directs and choreographs. The title song will rain 2,000 gallons of water, recycled during the show. The water is so loud that the tap dancing is pre-recorded, with microphones built into the floor. With 25 tap dancers and a full orchestra, Peter said this is a scale usually seen in a 2,000-seat house. The design team includes Tony Award winner Paul Tate DePoo III on scenery and Kenneth Posner on lighting.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

(JAN 13 – FEB 4, 2027):

August Wilson wrote one play for each decade of the 20th century. He set this one in 1927, as blues gave way to jazz. Chuck Smith directs, in partnership with Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

The Royal Family

(FEB 10 – MAR 4, 2027):

Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman's comedy about a theatrical dynasty. It opened on Broadway in 1927 and is the oldest play in the season.

The Day the Circus Came to Town

(MAR 21 – APR 24, 2027 · WORLD PREMIERE):

Peter co-wrote and directs this new musical. He has interviewed 50 circus artists, ages 75 to 105, whose stories become the show, and Cirque du Soleil performers will take part. He called Sarasota's show folks "their Rotary club for circus people."

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(MAY 5 – MAY 30, 2027):

Ken Ludwig's fast, funny take on the famous case. Peter noted that 1927 was the culmination of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Second Stage · Cook Theatre

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

(DEC 2, 2026 – JAN 3, 2027):

The holiday classic staged as a 1940s radio broadcast.

Provenance

(FEB 24 – MAR 21, 2027 · WORLD PREMIERE)

Developed at Asolo over several years and already winning national awards. A painting stolen from a Jewish family during World War II is traced through a century, with each scene set in a different decade.

Bootleg: America Sings 1927

(APR 21 – MAY 16, 2027):

Peter directs this immersive cabaret, a re-created 1927 speakeasy with music and writing from that year, including Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Ellington.

NEW THIS YEAR

This is the first season with a Second Stage series, in the intimate Cook Theatre.

Tickets & information

- Main Stage subscription: all five Mertz shows
- Second Stage subscription: all three Cook shows
- Box office: 941.351.8000
- Online: AsoloRep.org

WHAT WE LEARNED

How Asolo Works

6,000	85	550	60+
SUBSCRIBERS	EMPLOYEES A YEAR	SEATS, ABOUT	YEARS IN SARASOTA

Made in Sarasota

Asolo builds everything it stages, from scenery to costumes, and does not bring in touring shows. Peter said the theater employs about 85 people a year, from electricians and seamstresses to welders and graphic designers. Many shop workers come from circus families who have lived in Sarasota for generations. Productions often travel on, such as to the Old Globe in California and 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.

Training the Next Generation

Asolo's three-year MFA acting program, run with Florida State University, brings in 10 to 12 actors a year, so more than 30 are in residence at once. Second-year students stage their own season in the Cook Theatre, and third-year students join the professional company. Students receive a monthly stipend for all three years, plus a summer trip to London.

Why Not Repertory?

“Asolo began as a repertoire company, with one resident troupe rotating plays. Peter said that model has mostly vanished: it is costly, and these days the actors also work in film and television. Plays like *Ma Rainey* also need culturally specific casting. He still loves rep and said it may return one day, but not this season.”

Asolo in the Community

Each fall, Asolo takes a Shakespeare play and a theater-for-young-audiences show on tour, performing about 60 performances for more than 10,000 students and families. Every summer brings a children's musical.

Asolo's Pay What You Will nights partner with a local organization and give it 100% of ticket sales. One show benefited firefighters and first responders, and Jesus Christ Superstar raised $18,000 for All Faiths Food Bank.

Sarasota's Peers

Asked which communities rival Sarasota for arts and culture at its size, Peter named Santa Fe and the Berkshires.

How Rotarians can help

- Tell your neighbors about what you see
- Be one of the "three points of contact" people need before buying a ticket
- Look for Pay What You Will nights
- Subscribe, or bring a guest

BOX OFFICE

941.351.8000
boxoffice@asolo.org

ON TOUR

Shakespeare45: Rom-Com and Beanstalk visit schools and communities, Sept–Dec 2026

SOURCE

Peter Rothstein's Nov 3 talk: Asolo Rep 2026/27 season announcement.

© 2026 Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. Photo courtesy of Asolo Repertory Theatre.

Drafted with AI assistance.



HOW MANY INCREDIBLE RESTAURANTS CAN YOU TRY IN ONE AFTERNOON?

This is your chance to find out!

The **Suncoast Food & Wine Fest** brings together an impressive lineup of local restaurants, chefs, and culinary creators, all in one place for one seriously delicious afternoon.

Come hungry and discover signature creations from some familiar favorites, including *Pascone's Ristorante, Sage, Arts & Central, Seasons 52* (VIP exclusive), and many more.

And of course, we can't forget the **WINE**. Pair all that incredible food with exceptional wines, a beer garden, cooking demonstrations, live entertainment and an afternoon spent with friends.

Sound like your kind of Saturday?

Also remember, this is an afternoon that **tastes good and does good.**

Every ticket helps support local charities and Rotary-supported initiatives throughout our community.

See you at the Fest!

The Suncoast Food & Wine Fest Team

Powered by the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch

Buy your tickets now, they will NOT be sold at the gate.

Scan to buy your tickets!

Saturday, November 14, 2026
1:00-4:00PM (VIP gates open at noon)
Premier Sports Campus, Lakewood Ranch

COMMUNITY EVENT

AIR & ICE: CIRCUS & ICE SKATING



OLYMPIANS AND WORLD CHAMPION SKATERS MEET WORLD-CLASS CIRCUS ARTISTS ON ICE

Winter is finally coming to Sarasota, and it's bringing skates! Olympians and world champion figure skaters join world-class circus artists on the ice in an all-new production from Circus Arts Conservatory.

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Figure skaters: Kurt Browning, Alissa Czisny, Larkyn Austman, Jeremy Ten, Vika Tugolukova, Philip Warren, Andy Buchanan, Agota Zakany-Szabo, Łukasz Kędzierski, Nelson Sanchez Leemet

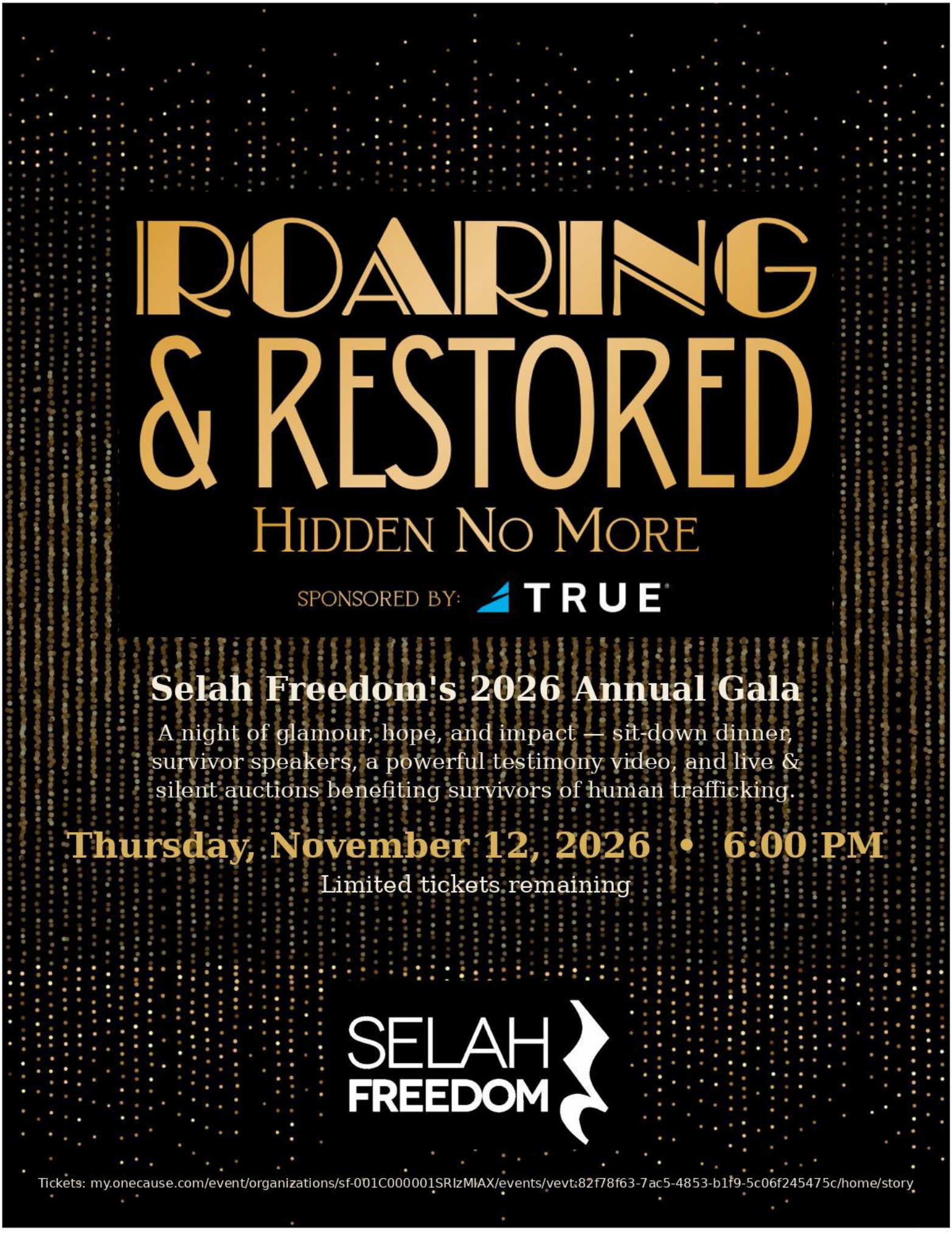
Circus artists: Emma Grace (aerial spiral), Raphael Nepomuceno (aerial straps), Tersit Asefa Dersu, Garrett Allen, Sailor Circus Academy

"The season's coolest ticket"

Eleven performances, Nov. 21-28
Sat. 11/21: 1 & 6 PM • Sun. 11/22: 1 & 5 PM
Mon. 11/23 & Tue. 11/24: 7 PM
Fri. 11/27 & Sat. 11/28: 1 & 6 PM
Tickets: circusarts.org/performances/air-and-ice • Box office (941) 355-9805

All sales are final. Buy tickets only from Circus Arts Conservatory.

Photo courtesy of Circus Arts Conservatory.


ROARING
& RESTORED
HIDDEN NO MORE
SPONSORED BY: TRUE
Selah Freedom's 2026 Annual Gala
A night of glamour, hope, and impact — sit-down dinner, survivor speakers, a powerful testimony video, and live & silent auctions benefiting survivors of human trafficking.
Thursday, November 12, 2026 • 6:00 PM
Limited tickets remaining
SELAH FREEDOM
Tickets: my.onecause.com/event/organizations/sf-001C000001SRIzMIAX/events/vevt:82f78f63-7ac5-4853-b1f9-5c06f245475c/home/story