

## LEADERSHIP UPDATE

**JULY 2010**

### The Latest News!

**Friday Fests:** Check out the upcoming free events and take advantage of your VIP status

**Recent Grants** Received by the Foundation

**Meet our New Officers and Board Members**

**News from the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**

**New Foundation Committees Formed**

**For the Record** – Norman Olshansky, Foundation President and CEO; Foundation funded research conducted by the VW Education Department and Kennedy Center

**Join us for FridayFest  
Free Concerts  
and Outdoor Events.  
Let us extend to you our  
VIP Invitation**



On the 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays in July, Aug, and Sept listen to live music and join the Foundation in the VIP area for free wine, beer, soft drinks, food and special snacks. (5pm-9pm)

**July 23 - [Black Swamp Gypsies](#)**

Black Swamp Gypsies are a west coast Florida Country infused Southern rock band that draws on influences from classic bands like Lynryd Skynyrd, Fleetwood Mac, and The Eagles as well as new artists like Lady Antebellum, Jason Aldean, Miranda Lambert, and Kid Rock. BSG prides itself on a fun loving high energy live performance that is guaranteed to get the audience involved. The BSG set-list reads like a greatest hits CD promo of rock and country from the last 20 years.

**August 27 - [The Big Z Band](#)**

The Big-Z Band plays hits from some of the most memorable moments of music history. In the 1970's bands like Earth, Wind & Fire, KC & The Sunshine Band, The Temptations and singers like Al Green topped the charts. In the 1980's Santana, The Commodores, Paul McCartney and Prince were turning out the hits. The Big-Z Band plays the sounds of yesterday and today for the dancing delight of your audience. Enjoy the electrifying showmanship of talented musicians while reminiscing to all of your favorite songs.

**September 24 - [Big Night Out](#)**

Big Night Out is a dance band from Sarasota Florida who perform Latin, Caribbean, Funk and Motown dance music. The band performs for concerts, festivals, night clubs, weddings, private functions and all of your other big nights out. They have become one of southwest Florida's most exciting new dance bands on the scene.

**If you plan to attend, let us know, so we can arrange for you to receive VIP treatment. (941)366-5578.**

### Our Mission

*The mission of the Van Wezel Foundation is to enrich lives of members of the Gulf Coast Community, with an emphasis on children, through the performing arts while supporting the needs of the Van Wezel – the region's premier performing arts hall.*

Booker Elementary Students



Visit our website at [www.vwfoundation.org](http://www.vwfoundation.org) for more information.

### Recent Grants Received by the Van Wezel Foundation: Thank You for Supporting Our Mission!

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc.
- Community Foundation of Sarasota County from the BOOST Initiative Fund
- Cordelia Lee Beattie Foundation
- Florida Winefest and Auction
- Jerome and Mildred Paddock Foundation
- The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
- Manatee Community Foundation
- Publix Super Markets Charities
- Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation
- Sarasota County Arts Council, Tourism Development Council Grant
- William G. and Marie Selby Foundation
- Woman's Exchange

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@vwfoundation.org](mailto:info@vwfoundation.org) or call 941-366-5578.

## Foundation Installs New Officers and Board Members

**Mike Martella**, Chairman of the Van Wezel Foundation Board (President of Boar's Head Provisions, Co., Inc.) announced that the Board elected, at its May meeting, new members and officers. He said that "the new members of the Board will be a tremendous addition to the existing board of community leaders. They bring a high level of professional experience, community engagement and expertise to the Board."

**Norman Olshansky**, President and CEO of the Foundation said: "With the addition of the new board members and existing leadership of the Foundation, we are poised to expand our role in the arts and education community. In partnership with the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, the City of Sarasota, our volunteers and our donors, the Foundation supports world class entertainment, nationally recognized arts education and schooltime performances throughout the region."

Joining the Board are:

**Cameron Icard**, Manager of Mediation Practice at Icard Merrill law firm and long time community volunteer and realtor. She provides legislative education for The Farm Sanctuary, and has been a volunteer and/or board member for Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Sarasota Opera, Ca d'Zan, The Nature Conservancy, and several local schools.

**Robert D. G. Lewis**, real estate investor, property manager and former Capitol Hill journalist. He is the past chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Press Club and is on the Board of Visitors of Marquette University Les Aspin Center for Government

**Martin Rappaport**, commercial property developer and manager, Chairman of the St. Armands Business Improvement District and former Money, Banking and International Finance faculty member at Rutgers University. Earlier in his career he owned and operated a large dry cleaning company in New Jersey.

**Warren Simonds, Ph.D.**, Vice President and CMO with Willis Smith Construction Company. He has served on many community boards and has been a leader and/or volunteer with the Sarasota Arts Council, Florida and American Association of Homes for the Aged, Alzheimer's Association, Family Partnership Center of Manatee County, Argus Foundation, Economic Development Corporation, Manatee and Sarasota Chambers of Commerce, Manatee Education Foundation and Florida Green Building Coalition. He is involved and has been a leader with several professional building, construction and design organizations.

Elected as officers of the Foundation:

**Michael Martella**, Chairman

**Mark Famiglio**, Vice Chairman

**Karl Newkirk**, Secretary

**Shaun Merriman**, Treasurer and Chairman of Finance Committee

Continuing as Board Members are:

**Jeff Adams** (Star Student), **John Dart**, **Philip Delaney**, Chairman of Governance Committee, **Sandra Dietrich**, **Mary Forristall**, Chairman of Marketing and Public Relations Committee, **Paul Hersey, Ph.D.**, Chairman of Fundraising Committee, **Delia Smith-Orth**, **Monica Slater Van Buskirk**, Chairman of Gala Committee

Emeritus Directors are:

**Louise Appleton**, **Beatrice Friedman**, **Carolyn Michel**, **Michael Pender**, **Harvey Rothenberg**

## News From the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

### Some really good news!

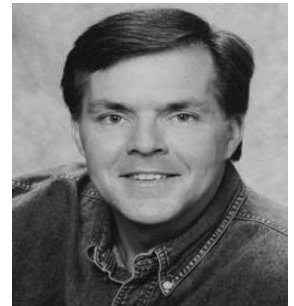
The Florida legislature passed a law that Governor Crist signed, agreeing to remove the 7% sales tax on tickets sold by non profit governmental entities such as the Van Wezel. 501c3 organizations such as the Sarasota Orchestra were already exempt. What does this mean to patrons? As of July 1, 2010 sales tax will no longer be charged on your ticket purchases, unless the shows are being presented by a for profit entity that rents the Hall or if it is a co-production with a for profit organization. Everyone worked very hard to make this become a reality. Thanks again to Pat Calhoun, our Commissioners and Van Wezel Advisory Board members who helped make this a reality. More good news: This time there was no sunset tied to the bill!

### Leslie Lacktman Retires

After over 14 years at the Van Wezel, Leslie Lacktman, the Manager of Education, has retired. We all wish Leslie well. This year Leslie was selected as the 2010 Florida Alliance for Arts Education Professional Leader. She has been the key force behind the development of the Van Wezel's nationally known integrative arts education program with the public schools.

### Welcome Robert Warren

Many of you may know Robert already as he worked with the Florida Studio Theatre as Associate Director and was selected by the Sarasota County Commissioners to Chair the Steering Committee of Sarasota's County wide Arts Festival. He worked at the Kennedy Center for 8 years, taught courses at both Florida Studio Theatre and Ringling College of Art and Design. He has a BFA, a BS and an Associate Degree. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. He is a veteran of the Army and served at the White House as a Communication's Officer. Robert has been working diligently to plan the Education Workshops with teachers in both Manatee and Sarasota County Schools. He will be utilizing consultants and our highly regarded Kennedy Center teaching artists. Van Wezel will be participating in the Kennedy Center's Partners in Education program. He is currently at work on our Education Brochure for next season and is working on new Educational programs for the Hall. We hope you will welcome him and make him feel at home.



### Special offer to donors who increase their giving over last year

All donors who increase their annual giving over the previous year, by any amount, will receive a "40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" Van Wezel Commemorative Collectible Plate.



**New Foundation Committees Formed**

Chairman, Mike Martella, appointed two Board members to chair important Foundation Committees. Mary Forristall is the new chair of the marketing and public relations committee and Paul Hersey is the new chair of the Development Committee. Both committees are currently in formation.

**Members to date are: (Board Members\*)**

**Marketing Committee**

Mary Forristall: Chairperson\*  
 Linda Cinque  
 Charles Clapsaddle  
 Sanford Cohen  
 Charles Huisking  
 Ed Ogiba  
 Jeff Orenstein  
 Faith Pridmore  
 Lisa Rubinstein  
 Warren Simonds\*  
 Delia Smith-Orth\*  
 Sheila Weiss

**Ex Officio Marketing**

Annarita Nora-Scott  
 Debby Steele  
 Monica Slater Van Buskirk\*

**Development Committee**

Paul Hersey: Chairman\*  
 Mark Famiglio\*  
 Cameron Icard\*  
 Robert Lewis\*  
 Todd Montanus  
 Lisa Provvidenza  
 Martin Rappaport\*

**Ex Officio Development**

Mike Martella\*  
 Monica Slater Van Buskirk\*  
 Mary Bensel  
 Karl Newkirk\*



**Michael Martella,  
 Chairman,  
 Van Wezel  
 Foundation.**

**President, Boar's  
 Head Provisions  
 Co, Inc.**

**For the Record: From the Desk of Norman Olshansky: President and CEO July 2010**

From time to time I will be writing to you to share information which I hope you will find of interest. Today I want to tell you about a special project that is funded in part by the Foundation.

Van Wezel study, for the entire seven years and evaluated accordingly. They were consistently, over the seven years, in classes and schools with educators trained by the Van Wezel.

The Van Wezel Education Department has had a long and meaningful history of providing integrative arts education in the public schools in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and Desoto Counties. This program has received national recognition and has established a long term partnership and working relationship with the Kennedy Center. Through that relationship both organizations have been able to take advantage of each other's expertise and experience in the area of integrative arts education.



Pineview students arrive at the Van Wezel for another Schooltime Performance

The Van Wezel education staff have worked with regular classroom teachers in our region and have trained them how to utilize aspects of the arts to teach math, poetry, creative writing, language arts, science, and social studies. Participating teachers have also been trained to observe the impact of these programs on students and their various styles of learning. The programs were not conducted in arts classes. All students involved were in regular academic classes. The Van Wezel arts education program is one of the only professionally run initiatives in the country to be involved in a longitudinal study of the impact of integrative arts education on student learning traits.

The research findings support the importance of integrative arts education. Students who were in classes with trained teachers, who utilized integrative arts education, were more likely to be intellectually curious, used artistic vocabulary, sought out multiple solutions to problems, were group focused, used imagination, had skills negotiating diverse viewpoints, were self confident, encouraged consensus building and were actively engaged in their educational work.

Your leadership and financial support of the Foundation has enabled the Van Wezel education programs to impact tens of thousands of children each year in schools throughout Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte Counties. The study is but one example of the impact you have had in

our community and beyond.

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*The arts education and community engagement programs of the Van Wezel are celebrating their thirteenth year, are nationally known, and are a major factor in the integration of arts education within our region's schools. Each year tens of thousands of students, educators and lifelong learners, from four counties, are introduced to national performing arts programming through the support of the Van Wezel Foundation.*

Teachers in our public schools, who have been trained as part of the Van Wezel/Kennedy Center initiative, have been teaching students who have been involved with integrative arts education programs, from the time they were in first grade to seventh grade. In particular, 15 students were observed, as part of the