

THE ARTS

Collector discusses life, works of Key Largo artist

Art collector Chuck Faulkner comes to the Florida Historical Society and the Library of Florida History (in the same building) at 2 p.m. Saturday to speak about mid-20th century Key Largo artist Harry Sonntag and his work.

Faulkner has an extensive collection of Sonntag's watercolors, which will be on display all day Saturday at the Florida Historical Society. Faulkner also will be on hand to speak to people one-on-one during the Cocoa Village Gallery Walk on Saturday evening.

FHS executive director Ben Brotemarkle expects the talk and gallery walk to be informative and exciting.

"There's an interesting story in how Faulkner came to own about 200 of Sonntag's works, which were believed to have been lost in a fire," Brotemarkle said.

Considered eccentric, the artist lived in an abandoned



Pam Harbaugh

Culture Cues

shack. He fed himself by fishing and growing vegetables in his backyard.

Upon finding an abandoned lime packing plant, Sonntag put up a sign — the Key Largo Art Gallery — and created the first independent art gallery in Key Largo.

"He captures a particular place in time really well," Brotemarkle said. "He documents the natural beauty of Florida, but also the people living and working in Key Largo in the mid-20th century."

Admission to the talk and one-day exhibition is free. Donations accepted. The Florida Historical Society is at 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa.

Call 321-690-1971, ext. 203. You also can visit myflorida-history.org.

Theater auditions for 'Over the River

Melbourne Civic Theatre needs three men and three women ages 25 to 80 for "Over the River and Through the Woods."

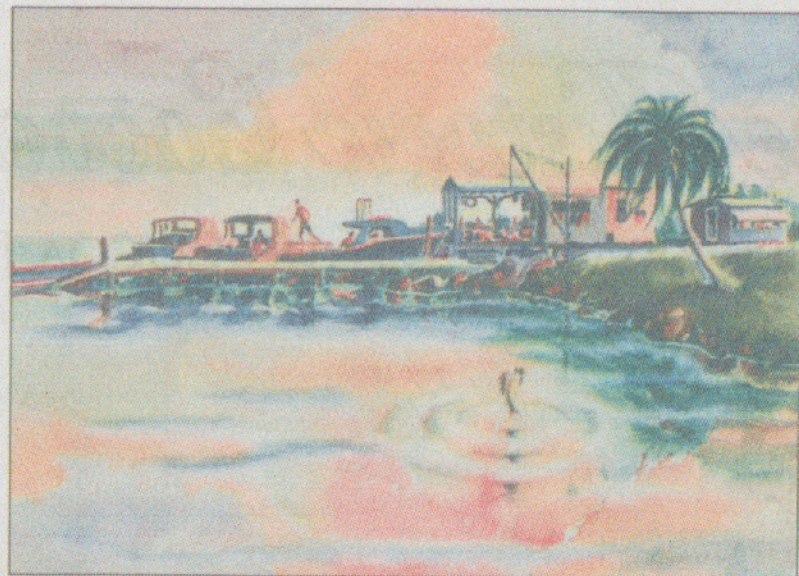
Auditions will be at 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday at MCT, 817 E. Strawbridge Ave., Melbourne. The show runs Jan. 14 to Feb. 20.

For more information, call 321-723-6935.

Players cast 'Cats' and holiday show

Surfside Players will host auditions for "Cats" and its annual Holiday Show. Read on.

At least two dozen performers are needed for



'Mandalay Marina.' Harry Sonntag painted this view of the Key Largo marina and restaurant. The piece is among about 200 Sonntag works owned by Charles Faulkner, who will discuss the artist Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Faulkner

"Cats."

According to a press release, "... performers of all ages; these roles are for men and women who are skilled at crafting a character through dance and song."

Auditions are 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday and Monday at Surfside Playhouse, 301 Ramp Road, Cocoa Beach. Prepare an audition song from a musical other than "Cats," and bring a CD of the instrumentation. Be sure to wear comfy clothes and shoes.

"Cats" runs Jan. 14 to 30.

Those auditioning for "Cats" also may be considered for Surfside's annual Holiday Show of songs and sketches. That runs Dec. 10

to 19. If you only want to audition for the Holiday Show, you should call the theater to arrange for a different audition date.

Call 321-783-3127 or visit surfsideplayers.com.

Musician performs 'BoomerBeats' songs

You might know him as the timpanist for the Brevard Symphony Orchestra. But to many kids and thankful parents, Brian Slawson is "Boomer," the musical maestro who composes and performs child-centered music on "BoomerBeats."

Slawson, a Juilliard-

trained musician with a ton of professional credits, will perform songs from "BoomerBeats" at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Titusville High School Performing Arts Center, 150 Terrier Trail.

Boomer will perform on percussion instruments and even toys on stage. He'll invite audience participation.

The free concert also includes cake and refreshments. It's free and you should RSVP for the concert by calling 321-264-0855 or e-mail childrenscenter@parrishmed.com. ■

Contact Harbaugh at 242-3717 or pharbaugh@floridatoday.com.