

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Win Your Dream Vacation Anywhere in the World at the
A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery Annual Event “Sunday in Key West,”
A Lavish Brunch & Exciting Live Auction - Sunday, January 27, 2019**

Fort Pierce, Florida, January 7, 2019 – The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery announces its eighth annual “Sunday in Key West” Brunch & Auction event, Sunday, January 27 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Pelican Yacht Club, 1120 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce. This is an opportunity for attendees to bid to win special and unique items, including a chance to win a dream vacation anywhere in the world, with all proceeds benefiting the Backus Museum.

Reserved seats are \$75 per person, with tables of eight available to plan an easy, fun-and treasure-filled getaway with your friends. Space is limited, however; this event will sell out, so act now! Please call (772) 465-0630 to reserve your seats today.

A local favorite since its beginnings in 2012, “Sunday in Key West” has become the Treasure Coast’s traditional winter escape, with its spectacular setting at the Pelican Yacht Club, unmatched views of the Indian River Lagoon, exhilarating auction and prizes, extravagant brunch fare, and a generous portion of the over-the-top, quirky charm of Key West.

The exciting live auction will feature many unique items and experiences to bid on and to enjoy, including a special and highly desirable vacation for up to 6 people to one of over 4,300 RCI-affiliated resorts in 110 countries (transportation is not included); available resort locations can be viewed at RCI.com.

There will also be door prizes galore, including prints by Clyde Butcher and Clark Little, as well as many other coveted items. And participating attendees will have a chance to win their own treasure, a gold Krugerrand coin (one Troy ounce denomination) to be given away at the event.

Delicious omelets, eggs benedict, a carving station, hot entrees, chilled shrimp & seafood, and salads will be available, not to mention Bloody Marys and Mimosas made with fresh squeezed orange juice from brunch sponsor Nelson Family Farms.

Individuals wanting to plan a fun getaway today, can call (772) 465-0630 to reserve their seats! “Sunday in Key West” is an event benefitting the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery.

On view at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery beginning January 11 is the new exhibition “Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen,” featuring more than 50 works by original Highwaymen Harold Newton, Alfred Hair, Sam Newton, Roy McLendon, James Gibson, Maryanne Carroll, Willie Daniels, and Johnny Daniels. The exhibition demonstrates in powerful images how the Highwaymen’s search for economic independence, creative freedom, and a distinctive vision blended together in a way that transformed how we

see the landscapes before us. The exhibition is curated by Roger Lightle. “Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen” is on view January 11 – March 3, 2019. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation’s largest public presentation of artwork by Florida’s preeminent painter, A.E. “Bean” Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state’s only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida’s most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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