

**A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Backus Museum announces the  
BACKUS BOO BALL an exciting new Halloween-inspired event!**

Fort Pierce, FL - September 27, 2019 - The A.E. Backus Museum has created a new event called the **Backus Boo Ball** to benefit the Museum. The Boo Ball will be held at the Museum on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per couple or \$60 per individual.

The Backus Museum has always been known for creating unique and somewhat over the top events. Perhaps that reputation comes from A. E. "Bean" Backus himself. Backus was no stranger to a good time, and is remembered well by many as having a special fondness for Halloween. Each year he allowed the teenagers he fostered, tolerated, and loved (affectionately known as the "Backus Brats") to transform his house as the site for legendary parties for the entire neighborhood. The **NEW Backus Boo Ball** is inspired by that long ago tradition, and is today a classy return to a fun Halloween-themed party at the Museum for grown-ups.

The horror begins just as it starts to become dark at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2019. All ghosts and ghouls planning to attend will be considered for the Costume Contest in one of eight categories (at least!) including: Scariest ("Ultimate Nightmare"), Prettiest ("Drop Dead Gorgeous"), Funniest ("Died Laughing"), Most Original ("Unique Freak"), Best Couple ("Til Death Us Do Part"), Best Group ("Mass Hysteria"), Best Classic Halloween ("Creature Feature"), Best Pop Culture Reference ("Trendy Terrors"), and of course the Best of Show. There are some impressive prizes for the winners, so you will want to come dressed in your spooktacular best.

There will also be a haunted raffle for one sick prize – a 65" Sony Bravia 4K Ultra HD flat screen television! Chances will be \$10 each or \$25 for three. There will also be a Silent (as the Grave) Auction with some frighteningly wonderful and unique items. Additionally, the pulse-pounding event will include games, demonstrations, photo booth, tastings, heavy munchies, and treats. There is no escaping until 10:00 p.m. so scare away your troubles and enjoy the variety of Witches' Brews, the Zombie Jamboree (dancing), Undead (live) music by The Humdingers ... it will be a bloodcurdlingly boo-tiful bash for artsy-funky grown-up fun.

It's time to eat, drink, and be scary all to benefit the Backus Museum! Tickets are \$100 per couple or \$60 per ghost or ghoul. Get your tricked out disguise ready, but get your ticket before they're gone! Call the Museum at 772-465-0630. Tickets are limited so call today!

The Backus Boo Ball's Presenting Sponsor (a.k.a. the Mummy of all Sponsors) is Boyd Law / J. Curtis Boyd, PA; Jack O' Lantern Sponsor is CenterState Bank; Zombie Sponsors are Animal Emergency & Referral Center and McCulley Marine Services; Frankenstein Sponsors are Abernethy Law Group, Indian River Magazine, Paul Jacquin & Sons, Inc., Sea Coast Self Storage, and Fee, Yates & Fee Attorneys at Law; Ghost Sponsors are Maverick Boat Group, The Paint House, Miller Planning & Land Development, Cruise Planners, Joanne's Nutrition World, Haisley Funeral and Cremation Service, Sea Coast Air Conditioning, Associated Coastal ENT Physicians, St. Lucie Battery & Tire, and Sunrise Volkswagen; Igor Sponsors are Nelson Family Farms, Pelican Seafood, Joy's Ice Cream, and The Cake Lady. \$100 Tombstone sponsorships are still available until October 21 – have your V.I.P./R.I.P. name or personalization in our graveyard in support of a bone-chilling good time.

The Backus Boo Ball is a rain or shine event benefiting the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. The Museum is located at 500 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Our mission is to promote the arts in the community and to perpetuate the artistic and humanitarian legacy of A.E. Backus.

### **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. The Museum is closed September 29 – October 3 in preparation for opening its 59<sup>th</sup> Season on October 4 with *The Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition*.

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