

**A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
500 North Indian River Drive • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery Hosts the Annual Event  
“Sunday in Key West,” A Lavish Luncheon with Exciting Live & Silent Auctions -  
Sunday, January 26, 2020**

Fort Pierce, Florida, January 14, 2020 – The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery announces its ninth annual “Sunday in Key West” Luncheon & Auction event, Sunday, January 26 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 unique, one-of-a-kind items in the live auction, and special items in the event’s new silent auction. All proceeds benefit 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 or visit BackusMuseum.org 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 auctions and prizes, extravagant lunch fare, and a generous portion of the over-the-top, quirky charm of Key West.

The exciting live auction will feature many exclusive, one-of-a-kind items and experiences to bid on and to enjoy. There will also be a silent auction, door prizes galore and participating attendees will have a chance to win their own treasure, a one Troy ounce gold Krugerrand coin, valued at \$1,500 to be given away at the event.

Delicious omelets, eggs benedict, a carving station, hot entrees including grilled Mahi, chilled shrimp & smoked salmon, and salads will be available, not to mention Bloody Marys and Mimosas made with fresh squeezed orange juice from Nelson Family Farms. Sponsors of the event include "Key West Best" The Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd, “Key Lime Time” Sponsor Mike & Mimi Brown, "Sunset Supporter" Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank Certified Public Accountants, and “Conch Contributor” Casa del Rio Collection.

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

On view at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery January 8 - February 16, 2020 is ***Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen***. The phenomenon of these celebrated African American artists is the result of many factors – insight, encouragement, motivation, problem-solving, talent, success, and above all, an inherent artistic instinct to make beautiful scenes. The inspiring leadership of Alfred Hair (1941-1970) is frequently described as the

catalyst that turned a sideline into an enterprise for the original Highwaymen. Explore the colorful beginnings of this compelling story.

### **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, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990) 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.

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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