

An Evening of Music and Art



The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens (ANSG) served as the stunning backdrop to celebrate three very special women at the annual **Gardens Conservancy** event. *An Evening of Music and Art in the Gardens* honored the foresight of ANSG's namesake, sculptor, gardener and visionary, **Ann Norton**. The evening also celebrated Palm Beach resident and ANSG Board of Trustees member, **Caroline Rafferty**, who received the 8th Annual *Ann Norton Award for Philanthropy*. The festivities also served as the platform to announce a transformative gift to the Gardens' *Protecting a Legacy* capital campaign from Palm Beach resident and ANSG Board of Trustees Vice President, **Sarah Ross Soter** and her husband **William**.

"Thanks to stewardship from our Gardens Conservancy members, more than 40,000 visitors pass through our garden gates annually," said **Frances Fisher**, Founding Chairwoman of the Gardens Conservancy and ANSG Board of Trustees Chairwoman. "It is an honor to celebrate our Conservancy membership tonight and to honor Caroline as a true leader in our community with an award in Ann Norton's name. This is our annual opportunity to celebrate those who shape this organization, our community and our country through their stewardship of ANSG."

Launched in 2014, the Gardens Conservancy is a stewardship program dedicated to preserving the historic beauty of ANSG. It honors Ann Norton's legacy by cultivating dynamic community partnerships to enhance educational programs and cultural awareness of the Gardens.

"While I am extremely honored, I must dedicate the award to all the people on the ground who run these programs day in and day out," said Rafferty. "The **Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation** sought to establish a dynamic partnership with ANSG to serve Title 1 schools through arts and culture. These symbiotic collaborations are never about any one person or idea, but rather lie in the community that comes together around purpose driven philanthropic initiatives. The meaning in this award is that we were able to create something that fills a need and makes a positive impact."

To add to the celebration, Fisher announced a lead gift to the Gardens' *Protecting a Legacy* campaign. For the first time in a century, ANSG leadership is undertaking an extensive restoration of the **Norton House** with a thoughtful eye toward preservation.

"It has been so rewarding to watch these Gardens grow under the leadership of Frances Fisher, our Board of Trustees and all the supporters who have cared about Ann Norton's story and her vision," said Sally Soter. "This next step of preservation and restoration is an exciting one. Bill and I are so pleased to support these efforts and we hope this gift will encourage others to join us in protecting Ann's legacy and continue the incredible momentum started here."

For more information visit ansg.org or call 561.832.5328.

FIRST ROW: Francesca, Dash, Caroline and Nick Rafferty; Frances and Jeffery Fisher; **SECOND ROW:** William and Sally Soter; Susan and Bob Wright; **THIRD ROW:** Gina Sabeau, Diane McNeal and Dan Sullivan; Iris Apfel and Bradley Theodore; **FOURTH ROW:** Jeannie Lupin, Julie Fisher Cummings and Laurie Silvers; Benjamin and Christina Macfarland. PHOTOS CAPEHART

