

Barefoot Mailman

14 Wonderful Years

Happy New Year!

From the CEO

14 Wonderful Years at Beautiful Bonnet House



You may have heard that as of December 31, 2016 I am retiring as the CEO of Bonnet House. I was hired in March of 2002 and I have had 14 wonderful years at beautiful Bonnet House. When I think back on all the lovely times I have had here, I am filled with gratitude to all the donors, staff and volunteers for

helping Bonnet House to not only survive but thrive. In my time at Bonnet House, many improvements and restorations have been done. I am very proud that the South Gate Phase 1 was completed in my tenure.

The 14 years also included some challenging times. Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma kept Bonnet House closed for almost 6 weeks in 2005. Hurricane Wilma was especially scary because of the damage it did to the landscape. We were all sure that the landscape would never come back. There wasn't a leaf on a tree after Wilma passed through, but by the next spring, the landscape came back.

Although I won't be the CEO, I will be staying involved at Bonnet House. It has been a big part of my life and my family's life too. I am so happy that Patrick Shavloske will be my successor. He will do a great job!! I will be available in the transition. Miss Bonnet (my nickname) will not be a stranger to Bonnet House.

Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO

Newsletter design by Monica Estevez
Cover photo: *Bonnet House Beach* by Barbie Pearson

Development News

by Patrick Shavloske

Incoming Chief Executive Officer

It is an incredible honor to write this, my first newsletter article as the incoming Chief Executive Officer of Bonnet House Museum & Gardens. I am humbled by the trust the museum's board of directors has placed in me, and I want to offer a sincere note of thanks for their confidence. I also want to thank our retiring CEO, Karen Beard for her trust in my ability and recommendation of me to fill her shoes.



Bonnet House is a much stronger organization because of Karen's efforts over the past almost fifteen years, and the museum owes her a debt of gratitude.

Many of our readers might recognize me, but may not know a lot about me. I thought this would be a good opportunity for Bonnet House's members and friends to get to know me a little better. Like many of you, I am not a native Floridian. I grew up in Terre Haute, Indiana where history was my favorite subject in high school. I took that interest with me to college at Indiana State University where I had a double major in social science education and history. There was only one problem: though I had a successful semester as a student teacher, the experience led me to the conclusion that teaching high school history was not in the cards for me, nor did I really relish the notion of seven years at least of graduate school to teach on the college level. I have to admit that going to law school was more of a default option than a burning desire to be a litigator.

During law school, I knew deep down that working as a practicing lawyer was probably not for me. One of the attorneys I worked with in my first job as a law clerk sympathized with my predicament and suggested I might consider going in to fundraising. After all, having some knowledge of wills and trusts is a natural segue to planned giving. And so through the connection of a family friend, I was able to embark on an internship at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. I started working with their membership program and

Incoming CEO (Cont'd)

annual fund and was excited to learn that I might be able to have a career in the cultural or humanities fields. Still I thought I owed it to myself to give law a try and was hired as an associate attorney at Cohen & Malad where I practiced in civil and class action litigation.

A year after working as a lawyer, an opportunity opened at the Indianapolis Art Center, an art league with its roots in Franklin Roosevelt's WPA-based program for out of work artists. I started as a development associate managing membership and the annual fund and became director of development after two years, managing two other staff members. From there a career advancement opportunity opened with a fundraising consulting firm that landed me in Springfield, Illinois working on a capital campaign for a new Center for the Arts. In Springfield, I met the love of my life, Mark Gerberding and rather than move on to the next assignment in balmy Buffalo, New York, I was fortunate to become Executive Director of Prairie Art Alliance. This too was an art league with gallery and classroom space in the Center for the Arts for which I had helped secure funding. There, I managed a staff of five, worked to develop programs, handled all financial and budgeting matters, and was the principle fundraiser.

Growing up, my family had made Florida an annual vacation spot and Mark and I had continued that tradition. Several trips to Fort Lauderdale made us convinced it would be a place to settle permanently. When the opportunity to become Bonnet House's first full time fundraiser opened, I jumped at it and was lucky enough to earn Karen's confidence in my potential. My first day as an employee was October 24, 2005, the day Hurricane Wilma struck Fort Lauderdale. I took that as a challenge and not a dark omen.

The past eleven years have been among the most rewarding and challenging of my life. In that time, Bonnet House has seen its budget nearly double. The museum's day-to-day operations are on a firmer financial footing, and my co-workers are the most dedicated and genuinely good people with whom I have ever had the privilege to work. While I have played a role in Bonnet House's success and of which I am proud, it has been all of us working together—board members, staff, and our amazingly dedicated volunteers—that has made that success possible. I am tremendously excited to take the lead staff role at

the museum and building on our past success.

In the next few months, you won't see a lot of immediate changes in how Bonnet House works on a day-to-day basis. Behind the scenes, my first task will be working to find a new Director of Development. Hopefully that person won't be welcomed to the position with a hurricane! My plan is to have the position filled by the time the next Newsletter goes to print. I'll also be working with our board of directors to formulate a new institutional plan to guide programming and sustain the museum over the long term. I look forward to sharing that with you in these pages in the months to come. I also plan on getting out in the community a bit more as time permits—but trust me, there is plenty to keep one occupied at a nearly 100 year-old, oceanfront estate!

For those of you who have already wished me well in person, I offer in print my sincerest thanks. I look forward to seeing all of you at Bonnet House soon.

Sincerely,

Patrick

Making NEW Impressions



Koi World by Jorge Leon
1st Place Winner 2016 Impressions

March 9th will see the opening night of our 17th annual Impressions juried art exhibit. The opening night cocktail party is the board's largest fundraising event for Bonnet House. Under the able leadership of board members TJ Bedard, Jennifer Moreland, and Bill O'Leary, the event was re-launched last year with a more energetic

feel—even the dance floor was put to use! Admission this year is only \$50 and sponsorship opportunities are available. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. You'll be treated to incredible art, delicious food generously donated by A. Alexander Events, lively music, and cocktails in the best tradition of Evelyn's and Frederic's Bamboo Bar. For more information, visit www.bonnethouse.org/impressions/ or contact Marketing Manager Monica Estevez at 954-703-2614.

Barefoot Mailman

by Denyse Cunningham



Between 1885 and 1892 the United States mail was delivered by carriers who walked the beach and traveled by boat between Lake Worth and Biscayne Bay. Of the 68-mile route about 28 miles was done on different boats and the carriers would walk the rest of the way barefoot along surfline on the beach where the sand was firmer. That is why some 50 years later they were romantically referred to as “barefoot mailmen.”

With their mailbags and shoes slung over their shoulders they made the round-trip each week and annually earned six hundred dollars - not a very large sum considering the dangers involved not excluding the rattlesnake infested hammocks and alligator filled waterways. The trip required three days each way.

In 1887 James Edward “Ed” Hamilton disappeared at the Hillsboro Inlet on his way to House Number Four, then located mistakenly on the property that is now Bonnet House. He had spent the night at the Orange Grove House of Refuge in Delray and walked south. Coming to the Hillsboro Inlet after a half-day’s walk Hamilton would have expected to find a small hidden boat with which he could row across the waterway and continue on his journey south. The boat probably was on the south side of the inlet and was reportedly used by a stranger to cross leaving Hamilton to have to swim the inlet to get the boat on the other side.

Charles Coman, keeper of the House of Refuge in Fort Lauderdale, became concerned when Hamilton did not show up in a timely manner and he went to search for him. Hamilton’s partner, George Charter was also concerned and went to search for Ed. On the north bank of the Inlet they found where the boat was usually concealed, his clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, black oilcloth knapsack containing food, water, medicines and utensils and a locked mail sack.

In the area of Hamilton’s disappearance the searchers noticed a great number of alligators. They also noted a large number of alligator tracks. Charlie Pierce, an early South Florida pioneer, wrote in his memoir: The place was actually swarming with them. Seeing all those tracks brought my mind back to the alligators and their presence in such unusual numbers around the inlet. I had not the least doubt that they played a sinister part in Hamilton’s disappearance. Many times I have visited the inlet... and have never seen more than one or two gators. Now they could be seen everywhere within the inlet, their black ugly heads on the surface of the dark water wherever one might look.

Years after Hamilton’s disappearance a group of campers found a part of a man’s jawbone at the same side of the inlet that Pierce saw so many alligators. The jawbone contained a gold-filled tooth. No one however could remember if Hamilton had a gold filling or not.



The stranger who was suspected of moving the boat was charged in Jacksonville with tampering with government property. He was eventually acquitted, and his name is not known.

The barefoot mail route continued until 1892 when a rock road was constructed from Lantana to Lemon City. After that time the mail was delivered by the Bay Biscayne Stage Line.

Theodore Pratt wrote a novel about the barefoot mailman in 1943. In 1951 the book was made into a movie.

Barefoot Mailman (Cont'd)



Several markers and statues are devoted to the story of the barefoot mailmen. A State of Florida historical marker is

located in the City of Boca Raton's Spanish River Park which is located on the beach. In 2012 a bronze 8-foot tall statue was unveiled and now rests by the Hillsboro Lighthouse. In 2016 the City of Pompano Beach erected a sculpture to memorialize the pioneer history of the mail service that took place in the region. A version of that statue is located in front of the Hillsboro Beach town hall. Another sculpture currently graces the top of the Hillsboro Inlet Bridge.

The South Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America sponsors a 35-mile, 2-day hike which covers some of the pioneer mail carriers routes. The boys carry water and try to be totally self-sufficient walking from Pompano Beach to North Miami Beach.

Education News

by Linda Schaller

As we near the end of 2016 I am looking toward the New Year. We have so many wonderful volunteers but each year our audience gets bigger and bigger. Our school education programs are growing and so are the weddings and special events. We have 35 acres of property and with the help of our new grounds manager, Don Oprea, and grounds volunteers the property looks great.

Volunteers mean so much to us and losing one is always tough. Judy Knoebel started volunteering in 1998. She had retired from a 31 year career at AT&T. She wanted to do something fun and she found us. Judy was a guide and nature trail tram driver. She also worked special events, weddings and helped with fundraising and volunteer training. Judy volunteered for Insight for the Blind, Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum, Pompano Beach Historic Society, and the Pompano Green Market. She will be missed.

We are so thankful for all of our working volunteers and welcome new volunteers. New Volunteer Training will take place on January 23rd, 30th and February 6th of 2017. If you would like more information please call or email Linda Schaller at 954-703-2606 or lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org.

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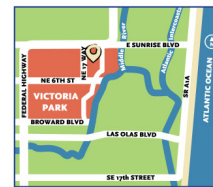


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The Lily Pad

Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance

Happy New Year from the Alliance!

What a fantastic start into our 2016-17 social season with our first annual Frederic's Oktoberfest Membership Draft Party held on October 17th. Nearly 100 members and guests celebrated Frederic's favorites in our Bavarian bier garten, with Bavarian food and beverages including LIVE accordion music by Larry Roberts.

Lederhosen and dirndl clad board members provided a fun raffle with extraordinary prizes.



The best part according to guest feedback was the "community" long family style tables that encouraged members to socialize in our intimate and cozy garden courtyard.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino generously sponsored our Speakeasy Soiree III on November 18th. Flapper Girls & Gatsby Guys sipped complimentary Veuve Clicquot mimosas while enjoying the LIVE MUSIC performance and full size Vegas style game tables. The evening was magical with a



refreshing ocean breeze under dazzling stars on the tropical Bonnet House Veranda. This social season kick

off is the most exclusive Roaring Twenties party in town.

Our December Membership Holiday Luncheon was a delightful celebration of friendship and giving at the beautifully decorated Lauderdale Yacht Club on

Tuesday December 6th. Members enjoyed LIVE harp music and collected toy donations for the Children's Aid Club. Special thanks to Alliance volunteers including Brian Hill and Susan & Bill Gundlach III for making this traditional holiday luncheon the very best.

January 30th Our Motor Coach Tour to VISCAVA Museum & Gardens in Miami, will board at 9:30am to depart promptly at 10am, returning at 3pm. Complimentary "in-route" Veuve Clicquot mimosas and lunch are included in this extraordinary adventure with Alliance members and friends.

CALLING all donations and sponsors! Our signature Entirely Entertaining is just around the corner on Monday February 27, 2017. We are collecting silent auction items and raffle baskets. Keep us in mind as you sort

through those holiday gifts and baskets... re-gift & donate for the fundraising efforts of the Alliance for the benefit of our beloved Bonnet House. This is our most important event of the year. Please save the date. Invitations



will be sent in January for this sell-out event. Please remember to RSVP immediately if you plan to attend. This is a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE designer luncheon. We will be opening the reservations to guests via PAYPAL ten days after the mailing so do not hesitate to RSVP!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2017

CLASSES

BIRDING CLASSES

SUNDAYS, 2:00PM - 5:00PM

JANUARY 8

Birding By Habitat

FEBRUARY 12

Birding By Ear

MARCH 19

Birding By Season

APRIL 8 - 9:00AM - 12:30PM

Green Cay/Wakadahachede

Special Field Trip



\$20 Members

\$25 Non-members

Cost is per class

WORKSHOPS

CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

5 WEEK SESSIONS

TUESDAYS, 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Basic: JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 7

Intermediate: FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 21

All materials included

\$100 Members/\$125 Non-members

ACRYLIC WORKSHOPS

6 WEEK SESSIONS

THURSDAYS,

9:30AM - 12:30PM OR 1:00PM - 4:00PM

• JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 16

• MARCH 2 - APRIL 6

\$120 Members/\$150 Non-members



WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

Creative Realism

6 WEEK SESSIONS

WEDNESDAYS,

9:30AM - 12:30PM OR 1:00PM - 4:00PM

• JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 15

• MARCH 1 - APRIL 5

\$120 Members/\$150 Non-members

Orchid Painting

2 DAY SESSION

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

JANUARY 20 & 21

9:00AM - 3:00PM

\$180 Members/\$200 Non-members

EXHIBITION

BONNET HOUSE FINE ARTIST EXHIBITION

JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 28

Opening Reception

JANUARY 12, 6:00PM

Free for members/\$5 Non-members

Payment accepted at the door

To Register for Classes or Purchase Event Tickets visit BonnetHouse.org



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16

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THEATER

APRIL
6

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