



Ojus Tiles

Work Begins on Repairing A1A Fence

\$25,000 Challenge Grant

From the CEO

Patrick Shavloske

Work Begins on Repairing A1A Fence



While Hurricane Irma was kind to the Main House and historic outbuildings, she was less than forgiving to the fence along State Highway A1A at Bonnet House. Several sections of the fence were blown down due in large part to Irma's high winds but also because of

the sea-side environment the fence had endured for twenty-two years. This unfortunate occurrence seemed like a good opportunity to recount the history of a somewhat mundane yet very important security aspect of the museum.

During Bonnet House's 1930s and 40s period of significance, Fort Lauderdale Beach was a very different place. A1A in those days was barely a two-lane road, void of any sidewalk let alone a wave wall. An aerial photograph from the period shows a concrete block wall at the end of the beach path. Contrary to popular rumor, there appears to have never been a tunnel under A1A to the beach. In this period, prior to the construction of the Sunrise Boulevard bridge, beach traffic would not have been remotely the issue it can be today. Bonnet House's butler would have had no problem crossing that narrow, lonely road to bring towels and refreshments to the Bartletts and their guests.

Things began to change by the late 1940s and into the 1950s. With the Sunrise bridge completed, more people began to venture to the beach and the lonely road days of A1A came to an end. In 1958, Mrs. Bartlett agreed to the widening of A1A in exchange for the City of Fort Lauderdale releasing a portion of the public use easement that had existed on Bonnet House Beach, essentially returning 400 feet of beach to private ownership and re-creating the ap-

proximately 700 feet of private beach Bonnet House enjoys to this day. By the time Hurricane Cleo hit in 1964, period photographs suggest that A1A had become essentially a four-lane road, but still, only the old concrete wall seemed to act as a security barrier with coastal scrub acting as flanking protection to the north and south.

Fast forward to the 1990s, and Fort Lauderdale Beach was undergoing yet another change. By that time, the City of Fort Lauderdale and many local residents had had more than enough of Spring Break carousing. Parts of the Central Beach area were declared blighted and a concerted, multi-year effort to transform the beach into a more up-scale destination began during this time period. Part of this drive included the construction of the wave wall along A1A and the road's overall beautification. In exchange for a widened sidewalk and wave wall on the east side of A1A, the city agreed to assist Bonnet House with funding to construct an aluminum fence and concrete retaining wall along the westside of A1A, replacing an unsightly chain link fence that had been erected by that time. The fence and retaining wall were completed in 1996 at a cost of just over \$160,000 (about \$295,000 in today's dollars). Suffice it to say, Bonnet House would have been in no position to take on such a project without the city's assistance.

Anyone who lives along the ocean knows that while it is breath-takenly beautiful, it creates a harsh environment for buildings. The salt-infused air is corrosive while wind and moisture also take a heightened toll. Add the occasional hurricane and building maintenance costs rapidly increase. In the wake of Irma, many fencing contractors had no interest in repair work. Fortunately, Fencing South Florida appreciated that most of the A1A fence was reusable. In December, a \$45,000 contract was entered for repair of the 700 feet of fence along A1A as well as a much-needed repainting. Work is proceeding in sections with completion expected before the start of the 2018 hurricane season.

While far better than \$300,000, \$45,000 is still a lot of money for Bonnet House. Fortunately a generous local foundation has stepped forward to help with a \$25,000 challenge grant to aid in fence refurbishment and Boat House repair. Read on to see how you can help.

Newsletter design by Monica Estevez
Cover art by Marilyn Johansen, *Squatters*
Photo above by Monica Estevez

Development News

by Darla Worley Livesay

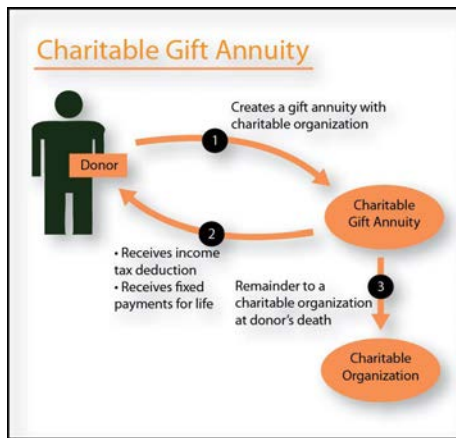
\$25,000 Challenge Grant



I am so excited to announce this wonderful opportunity for Bonnet House. The Salah Foundation has

most generously awarded Bonnet House a \$25,000 Challenge Grant to complete our hurricane recovery efforts by refurbishing the fence along A1A and repairing the Boat House. As Patrick mentioned, the contract for the fence is \$45,000 and we also learned recently that the Boat House will cost \$14,600 to repair. It has taken quite a bit of time to get to this point post Hurricane Irma and we have to get these items fixed now more than ever for safety and security reasons! We are honored that the Salah Foundation has graciously offered this grant to Bonnet House, but we need your help! The Salah Foundation will match dollar for dollar up to \$25,000, thus making the funds go twice as far. Please help Bonnet House raise its goal and show the Salah Foundation your gratitude by making a donation today at bonnethouse.org/donate.

Leave a Legacy and Support Bonnet House in Perpetuity



Is a Charitable Gift Annuity right for you?

With a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), you can make a long-lasting impact for the preservation of Bonnet House—and here's what

you get in return for your gift:

- Receive stable, fixed payments for the rest of your life, regardless of fluctuations in the market
- Pay less tax on those payments than regular income
- Get a charitable deduction for the current market value of your gift and face no liability for the capital gains when you fund your gift with appreciated stock
- Receive payments immediately or defer them to a future date when you may need additional income.

The minimum age is 60 and the minimum gift is \$10,000.

Some payout rates are as follows:

- Age 70 – 5.1% annually
- Age 75 – 5.8% annually
- Age 80 – 6.8% annually
- Age 85 – 7.8 % annually

No wonder the Charitable Gift Annuity is such a popular gift. It gives long-term support for your loved ones, Bonnet House, and you!

Contact Darla to get individualized information detailing what your annuity payments and interest rates would be: Darla Worley Livesay, Director of Development, 954-653-1557 or darlaworleylivesay@bonnethouse.org

Making New Impressions 2018 A Success!! by Denyse Cunningham



1st Place Winner, Thomas Rebek,
Walking the Dogs

On March 8th, Bonnet House's annual juried art competition and sale was a great success. Almost 300 people attended the opening night cocktail party – and what a party it was! A Alexander Catering again provided

the catering. The program and invitation designs were provided by PL&P Advertising and the Redemption Rye Whiskey Manhattans given out as the welcome drink were a big success. DJ Eddie B and Company got the crowd up and dancing and kept them aware of the various goings on of the night.

So far nine pieces have sold. The Making New Impressions exhibit will remain on display in the Carl Weinhardt Galley through April 29. Stop by to see the exhibit during normal tour hours.

As with last year, First Place Prize went to Thomas Rebek, this year for his whimsical watercolor *Walking the Dogs*. Second Place Prize went to Tammy Seymour for her wonderful interpretation of a Roseate Spoonbill entitled *Rosey*. Third Place Prize went to Yelena Kimelblat for her playful piece *Bonnet House Cat 3*. Honorable mentions went to Tammy Seymour, Marilyn Johansen, Twyla Gettert, Nella McNally and Michael Fossler. The People's Choice Award went to Diane Delorey for her vibrant piece *Flocking Flamingos*.

Ojus Tiles

by John Lucas



Bonnet House floors aren't usually the central topic of interest for guests or house guides. Despite this, it is interesting to note that each room has a different flooring concept. The Studio has rough unfinished terrazzo appropriate for a work area whereas the Dining Room and the Bamboo Bar have polished terrazzo with bronze expansion joints to prevent it from cracking from ground movement. The Kitchen floor, after decades of abuse, was replaced last year with matching linoleum tiles. Helen's Music Room has Frederic's last finished work; an exuberant mid-century modern masterpiece painted on the concrete foundation. The Gallery and Museum Gift Shop are the only areas to have wall to wall carpeting. The main Orchid Display House flooring is roughly finished coral. Except for Evelyn's bedroom, the upstairs rooms were unfinished Dade County Pine. Evelyn was very fond of her bedroom's congolem floor tiles. Glued independently, a black line was drawn around each tile giving it the appearance of black grout.

The most unique floors are the Ojus [Oi-yo] tiles found in the Drawing Room and the Shell Museum. The tiles were named after the Ojus Rock Company quarry that was opened after the turn of the last century. The quarry was deeded over to the Dade County Park Department in 1936 by A. O. Greynolds. Now Greynolds Park, the limestone quarry was located in Ojus City. Once a municipality of Dade County, Aventura incorporated the area after Ojus City surrendered its charter. The limestone, i.e., calcium carbonate, is formed from compressed deposits of coral and shells and is widely used as construction material as well as blackboard chalk and antacids. In its white powdered form calcium carbonate is used as whitening

for ceramic application including our Ojus tiles.

These colorful floor tiles are used throughout the Caribbean. In the 1900s, exterior and interior tiles were imported from Cuba from buildings that were being demolished. George Merrick built his visionary Coconut Grove Mediterranean community using Cuban tiles as well as locally manufactured tiles known as Ojus. A similar product manufactured in Fort Lauderdale was known as Ketchin tiles.

The techniques to make them was imported from the Mediterranean long before Florida became a state. Each tile can be unique in size, shape and color like the concentric circle tiles in the Shell Museum. Unlike the thin walled but highly decorative glazed tiles, Ojus tiles are thicker and heavier, aren't kiln dried but are sun dried for 3-4 weeks making it easier and cheaper to produce needed quantities. They are often used for exterior application or high traffic areas as these thicker tiles don't require a solid foundation but can be placed on level ground, are weather tolerant, have more "grip" than glazed tiles, seldom move, can sustain heavy loads without breaking, and rarely chip. Even so the color permeates the tile and a fault is seldom seen. Interestingly, after centuries of island colonization, properties that don't have clear deeds or land titles use the hurricane proof tiles to re-establish property lines when there are disputes or a disaster devastates a property.

There are two techniques of manufacture. Initially both use a mold that is approximately three inches or deeper that is filled with concrete. One technique uses pure white sand and calcium carbonate in its concrete mix but the colored ink is immediately swirled into the surface before being sun dried. The second technique allows the initial pour to use regular mix sand. After drying, a slurry of pure white sand and calcium carbonate is poured as a top coat and the ink is swirled into the surface. Either technique requires an 1/8th inch of color depth. To finish the tiles, both techniques require them to be completely dry before being buffed to a bright sheen and given a sealer coat. Two hundred year old flooring tiles can be found throughout the Caribbean islands. The tiles are still made by island artisans for home and commercial application. Currently most Cuban tiles are thin walled, glazed and kiln fired. They are beautiful, but not prac-



Ojus Tiles (Cont'd)

tical for high traffic areas or long term applications such as driveways or pool/patio areas. Fortunately, locally manufactured weighted tiles are still available at the Cuban Tropical Tile Company in Miami.

Frederic and Hugh Taylor Birch knew what they were doing when they selected the heavier and thicker Ojus tiles. They chose a flooring that would take a beating and last for more than a lifetime.

In the Spotlight

Bonnet House Welcomes New Orchid Curator, Jose Exposito



1982. Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Annual Show. Lucky raffle ticket holder Jose Exposito wins his first orchid: *Cattleya trianae* ‘Aranka Germanske.’ As often noted, the rest is history.

Three short years later, Jose opened Soroa Orchids on a small patio at a townhouse in little Havana. By 1987, Soroa moved to a new 2.5 acres property in Homestead where Soroa starts building a following for their award winning Phalaenopsis hybridizing program. It is then that Jose started his six year journey to become an American Orchid Society judge. At an impromptu lunch following a regular Tuesday morning orchid maintenance session this past week, Jose surprised everyone when he admitted that the AOS Judges did not vote him “in” on his first attempt. This set back did not derail Jose; he patiently worked another two years as a student judge before finally being voted into the judging “club.” Today, Jose is an AOS Senior Judge—a distinction granted to experienced judges with over 20 years of service and the highest honor for an AOS judge.

The path to becoming an AOS judge mirrors Jose’s life. He has overcome adversities and risen like a phoenix.

Leaving Cuba at 18 on the Mariel boatlift, with no knowledge of English, and not a penny in his pocket, Jose is living proof of the opportunities this country

offers to hard working, ambitious immigrants.

Hurricane Andrew (1992) hit Soroa Orchids hard. The business looked like a total loss. Because Jose is a person of such strong character and filled with grace, friends and acquaintances from the FLOS and other orchid clubs in South Florida came to Homestead and helped restore Soroa.

Fast forward 25 years, and Hurricane Irma brought back memories of Andrew. Soroa was hit again. Having lost two magnificent specimen trees and other landscape treasures and damages to the greenhouses, the devastation was particularly brutal. What does a creative genius do when his beloved trees have been felled? He carefully cleans the debris with the help of his devoted family and dedicated employees. But instead of removing the enormous, upturned tree trunks, he keeps them in place. Just a month later, the upturned trunks and roots become living sculptures in his garden covered with orchids and bromeliads. The long planned wedding to Alexander, the love of his life, takes place a short month after Irma’s unpleasant visit. As the guests mingled in the tropical paradise, Jose soared once again.

Speaking of creative genius, Jose has hybridized orchids and won numerous AOS awards. He has also won countless awards for orchid displays at local, national, and international orchid shows, and has presented at local orchid society meetings and national and international orchid symposia. Jose is a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, past president of the East Everglades Orchid Club, past president of The Coalition for Orchid Species, past member of the Education Committee of the American Orchid Society, past chairman of the Florida Caribbean orchid judging, Vice President of the Redland Orchid Growers Association and Redland Orchid Festival, Inc., as well as a past board member of the South Florida Orchid Society, where he served for several years. Soroa Orchids has on two occasions graced the pages of Vogue magazine, Orchids Magazine, The New York Times, Martha Stewart Show, Departures magazine and was featured on the PBS documentary Orchid Delirium. But it is not all orchids, all the time. It’s hard to fathom how Jose manages his orchid business and AOS activities yet has time to spend with his many friends and loving family.

Please join us in welcoming Jose Exposito to Bonnet House as he leads the re-building of Evelyn Bartlett’s orchid legacy.

The Little Gift Shop

by Dianne Ennis



As many of you know, the Gift Shop has been mentioned in Trip Advisor very favorably, so come on in and check us out. Pick up a Gift Shop Pass at the Welcome Center or South Gate and you are on your way to a fun shopping experience.

Our “Season” is almost over but we are always receiving unique and eclectic inventory that fits into anyone’s budget. We have items that you will not see in any major department stores. The shop offers a delightful assortment of monkey clocks, shell items displayed in many varieties, spring and summer purses, tropical night lights and fun cocktail accessories including numerous household items to beautify your home.

Twoolies are a big hit with our grandparents. They are 100% wool animal figures with artistic personality. There are simply no two twoolies alike--a great gift for your special grandchild.

Bonnet House has made an enormous change this year by introducing our new event, “Holiday Magic” which was a tremendous success. Now it is time to shake up the Gift Shop. We are now introducing Fruitique Ice Cream with many different and exotic flavors, so yummy. We also listened to our guests about the possibility of offering coffee; we will take that one step further: tea and hot chocolate will be added to the menu. Soon, as some minor renovations are made in the Gift Shop, we will be ready to accommodate our guests with this request. We will also have a coffee area--a little too soon to go into details as you know change always take time and money. That being said, we are looking for two bistro tables with chairs. If you would like to make a donation to Bonnet House for our new coffee area, we can supply you with a gift-in-kind receipt for your yearly tax

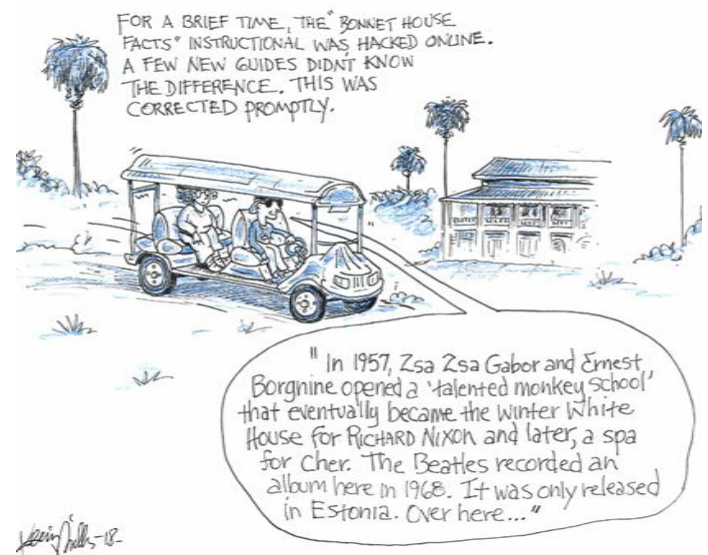
credit. Bonnet House would love for our members to come in and enjoy the peaceful ambiance of Bonnet House while enjoying our new additions to the Gift Shop.

So far we have had a good year in the Gift Shop and hope to continue through the rest of our fiscal year. We are constantly receiving new and beautiful items. A special thank you to those who have donated their gently used and loved items to help us reach our financial goals, thank you: May Muench, Geri Murry, Georgia Elfman, Ginny B’cart and John Lucas for your generosity. Don’t forget there is a 20% discount for our volunteers and members during the month of May.

Atha Hillard, our weekend Gift Shop associate, will be relocating from the South Florida area. Bonnet House thanks Atha for all her hard work making the Gift Shop a success; she surely will be missed. We wish her good luck and happiness. Also, we would like to welcome Theresa (Terry) Kaposi; she will be replacing Atha. Please stop by and say “hi” to Terry and welcome her to the Bonnet House family.

We look forward to seeing you at our beautiful museum and hope you take advantage of long walks through our gardens and all that Bonnet House has to offer. Please help us preserve Bonnet House as an important part of South Florida history.

Bonnet House Cartoon by Kevin Miller



Remembering A Friend of Bonnet House

By Debra Iguchi, Daughter of Susan Taylor



Susan Taylor with her Great Granddaughter, Ellie

My mother Susan was an amazing, loving person to all who knew her. She passed

away peacefully in her sleep at home on February 16, just a few days after her 81st birthday, with all of her children by her side. Susan was born in Dayton, OH and moved to Florida in 1978 where she used her vast sewing experience and fabric knowledge to start a drapery business and eventually retired from Sears, where she worked as an interior decorator. After retirement, she started to volunteer for Bonnet House. This eventually grew into employment. Bonnet House was her favorite job, and she served Bonnet House for 16 years. She learned about native plants and loved sharing this information with Bonnet House guests. She would host volunteers for parties after dark when the Night Blooming Cactus would open its lovely flowers.

Linda Schaller, Director of Education & Volunteer Programs recalled, "I first met Susan in 2001 just after she retired. I asked her what she wanted to do at Bonnet House. and she replied 'everything' – well she did it all! We all miss Susan. She was a truly special person. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, volunteer and FRIEND to all of us. Not only did she volunteer for Bonnet House, she was a great ambassador as she shared all that she loved with thousands of visitors."

Activities Calendar April - September

Workshop

DRAWING WORKSHOP

May 10 & 11, 2018
9:30 am - 3:30 pm



Events

SPRING FLING

April 14, 2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The day's activities include live music by the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra and FPAN Florida Public Archaeology Network talking about Archaeology here in Florida. Adults are \$10 and children 12 and under are free.

CRUISIN' DOWN THE RIVER

July 21, 2018

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Take a boat ride with Bonnet House down the New River!



Classes

ORCHID CARE CLASSES

July 28, August 4 & 11, 2018
10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Specials

COOL SATURDAYS SUMMER SPECIAL

First Saturday of each Month
July - October
Adults \$10, Under 12 Free



SOUTH FLORIDA ADVENTURE PASS

May 15 - September 30

Purchase a pass at Bonnet House and Visit 5 South Florida Cultural Treasures--Bonnet House, Flamingo Gardens, Young at Art, Extreme Action Park & Sawgrass Recreation Park. Visit southfloridaadventure-pass.com for details.

For more information and to register please visit BonnetHouse.org

Making New Impressions 2018

