



BONNET HOUSE  
MUSEUM & GARDENS  
A Property of the Florida Trust

The  
Newsletter  
April - June 2015



'Tis the Season

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The Zoo in the  
Neighborhood

# From the CEO

## 'Tis the Season!

Bonnet House is very much like any South Florida tourist related business. We make almost all our revenue in the winter. The very cold winter in the north and northeast, the addition of a number of economical direct flights into Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International from Europe, Scandinavia and Latin America, and the opening of our South Gate have all served to keep Bonnet House very busy this season. There are days when we have had more than 250 tour visitors for scheduled house tours. That number does not include group tours which are also extremely full. We are on track to have our busiest season ever.

Our staff and volunteers do a masterful job of splitting tours when they number more than 20. (Many of the rooms on the tour are too small to have more than 20 visitors at a time.) Our staff tour coordinators along with welcome center and south gate visitor services staff are in constant communication to make sure that we appropriately handle the added traffic. We use two way radios for communication due to the extensive size of the Bonnet House property. Adding to complexity, there are days when we have wedding rehearsals or set up for evening events going on at the same time. Speaking of events our February Young Artist Music Series was attended by a record number of patrons - 275.

What's really great is reading all the positive comments on our visitor surveys. My office is over the last exhibit room on the regular tour and our volunteer and staff guides frequently are applauded at the end of the tour.

The days of being a "sleepy" undiscovered house museum are long gone. We are extremely blessed to have such dedicated staff members and volunteers. Thanks to all of you for delivering a superior visitor experience.



## Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO

Cover photo: Daniel Routhier  
Photos above (top to bottom): David Warren,  
J. Christopher Gernert

# Development News

by Patrick Shavloske

## State Museum and Arts Funding in Peril



The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs is an agency of Florida's Department of State that provides funding for museums and other cultural organizations throughout Florida. Last year,

the Florida legislature fully funded the agency's grant programs resulting in a \$150,000 grant to support Bonnet House's cultural programs in 2015. Governor Rick Scott's proposed budget for 2016 is recommending \$0 for arts and cultural grants. The governor is also recommending \$0 to fund historic preservation special category grants (see related story). Grants are an important source of funding for Bonnet House and help cover the costs of programs—like school field trips—they don't cover their own cost. Please contact your state representative and senator and ask them to restore arts and culture and historic preservation grant funding to Florida's 2016 budget. To find contact information for your legislative representatives, visit [www.flsenate.gov/senators/find](http://www.flsenate.gov/senators/find).

## Bonnet House Grant Application Receives Top Ranking

The Florida Division of Historical Resources Special Category grant program helps support historic restoration projects throughout Florida. Bonnet House has received these grants on three previous occasions with funds being used for making the main house handicapped accessible, repainting the house, re-roofing and other general restoration projects. With the advent of the Great Recession, the program fell largely into abeyance. With the economy improving, grants were awarded again in the spring of 2014. Bonnet House submitted an application in the fall for renewed funding for a variety of projects including decorative wood repair, restoration of the aviary, stairway repair, reinstallation of long-missing copper gutters, and several other smaller projects all totaling over \$400,000. We are pleased to report that Bonnet House's application received the highest score among fifty-five applicants placing it first in line for funding.

While the governor has recommended no funding for historic restoration projects the year (see "State Museum and Arts Funding in Peril"), we are hopeful the legislature will restore at least partial funding. If the program is funded, look for a variety of restoration projects to begin at Bonnet House over the summer. A special thank you goes to Jim Lynch for his work in writing Bonnet House's well-received application.

## Impressions Exhibit Opens

On March 5th Bonnet House's Impressions: A Juried Art Exhibit opened with a festive, fundraising cocktail party at the museum co-chaired by board members TJ Bedard and William B. O'Leary. Guest juror Irvin Lippman from the Boca Raton Museum of Art selected artwork for the exhibit. He also selected Nella McNally as winner of first place for *Caribbean Gothic with Afghanistan Herdsman*, Barbara Dix as winner of second place for *Great Balls of Fire* and Sandy Dolan as winner of third place for *Courtyard Orchid*. Greg Little, Tom Rebek, Tammy Seymour, Rita Szopinski and Jac Venza received honorable mention awards. Impressions will remain on exhibit in the Carl Weinhardt Gallery through May 3rd. Stop by to see the exhibit during normal tour hours.



1st Place Winner, *Caribbean Gothic with Afghanistan Herdsman*, Nella McNally

# Development News (Cont'd)

## Beneficiary Designation: A First Step to Planned Giving



“Planned Giving” is a broad term that generally describes ways donors can maintain current income needs while also supporting a charitable organization such as Bonnet House and other heirs. For donors who have retirement assets such as an IRA, a 401(k), or a 403(b) plan, one of the simplest ways to make a planned gift is by designating Bonnet House as the

beneficiary of the plan. Here’s how it works: suppose a long time member is retired and has a 401(k) plan from which he or she is receiving regular distributions. The member wants to support Bonnet House but needs the retirement income from the plan. The member can make a future gift to Bonnet House simply by contacting the plan administrator and asking them to add Bonnet House as a beneficiary. It’s usually just a matter of signing a form. At the member’s passing, the plan assets pass to Bonnet House. But what if later the member learns a relative might have need of the donor’s help? Easy—the member simply contacts the plan administrator and designates the relative as the new beneficiary. Bonnet House will miss the support, but needs and circumstances can change over time. That’s why a periodic review of finances and estate plans is important. To determine if a designation from retirement assets is best for you, contact your financial advisor or your attorney, and as always, thank you for considering supporting Bonnet House through a planned gift.

## TravelHost Magazine Names Bonnet House a Fort Lauderdale Classic

TravelHost magazine highlights local destination in cities across the United States. Published by long-time beach advocate, Ina Lee, the Fort Lauderdale version of TravelHost is one of the magazine’s most successful editions. To celebrate their 35 years in



TravelHost President Ina Lee & Bonnet House board member Dianna Silvagni

Fort Lauderdale, TravelHost issued a special edition honoring tourism classics and iconic residents. Bonnet House received recognition as a classic part of the community along with historic Stranahan House, the Mai Kai restaurant, the Seminole Tribe, and the Galleria Mall. Iconic individuals of the local travel industry included Walter

Banks of Lago Mar Resort, Ted Drum of 15th Street Fisheries, as well as the Motwani family—each of whom have been supportive of Bonnet House as board members or donors. Bonnet House sends a special thank you to TravelHost and Ina for recognizing the museum’s stature in the community.

## Restoration

by Denyse Cunningham

### Mizner Lantern, Stars and Carousel Camel

The two large Mizner Industries lanterns from the



Haitian Loggia were restored by DeCosta lighting in Delray Beach. This is the same company that restores the Mizner pieces at the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach. When the owner, Marco Decosta, tried to open the glass door to remove the light bulb the door fell off into his hand. The star light fixtures in the Orchid Display House were also restored by DeCosta Lighting.

Marcia Schloesser from the Carousel Workshop in



Deland spent 12 hours repairing the damage to the neck of the camel. The work took place over several days as the adhesives had to cure before paint could be applied.

# The Zoo in the Neighborhood

by Denyse Cunningham, Curator



Though many of the local Fort Lauderdale tourist attractions of the past included animals in their offerings, some focused on animals as their primary draw. Animals might be displayed in naturalistic settings or simply exhibited in cages. Further, some attractions existed just for entertainment, while others had an educational or research component.

The McKillop-Hutton Lion Farm opened in 1936 at a former rock quarry across the Middle River from Bonnet House. It served as a breeding farm for zoos and circuses. The walls of the quarry kept the animals in. It was located in Fort Lauderdale at Northeast 10th Street near Federal Highway. At this time the area was considered remote, locals seldom ventured to the area. There was a house by the quarry which once housed a seedy night club called the Alamo. The building still stands and is a two story house behind the Gateway that was built in the 1920s.

In 1939, famed animal trainer Clyde Beatty purchased the Lion Farm. He turned it into the winter home for his Clyde Beatty Circus and it became a tourist attraction, the Clyde Beatty's Jungle Zoo. Although the zoo was highly popular, restrictive gas rationing brought on by World War II made venturing to the area harder. As Irene Riley Hart (who grew up on the Bonnet House grounds with her aunt and un-

cle) recalled, roaring lions and tigers could be heard all night and day and monkeys would escape. The zoo operated until 1945, a victim of tightening zoning regulations brought on by complaints from neighbors as the city of Fort Lauderdale development began to overtake the site.

Even though the zoo had been there before the new development Beatty was forced to sell his property and he and his wife left the area in disgust. The new owners developed the area into the Gateway Shopping Center. Ironically, Mrs. Beatty requested that she be buried in Fort Lauderdale.





# The Lily Pad

*Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance*

## A Note From the Alliance President

By Susan Howell



Congratulations to our Bonnet House Alliance members who served on the various committees, Bonnet House volunteers and participating designers for making our 20th Annual Entirely Entertaining hallmark luncheon on February 23rd a great success. This year we featured world renowned piano virtuoso and comic genius Magnus Martensson who

entertained our guests with a delightful performance. Each and every designer table-scape was magnificent! CA Messina and his professional staff from CA Catering provided an outstanding and flawless lunch service.

Our sincere thank you to our sponsors: Leo Goodwin Foundation, Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, Ann & Bob Powell, Publix Supermarket Charities, Genspring Family Services, Mike Osceola & Brian Hill, and William Gundlach III for making our Entirely Entertaining possible. We also give heartfelt thanks to the many Alliance members, friends and businesses who graciously contributed to our silent auction and raffle which raised over \$9,000.00 for the preservation of our beloved Bonnet House Museum & Gardens. This year's EE committee members included: Grace Antonello, Kay Boynton, Lois Bundy, Sandy Casteel, Alison Convery, Betty Douglas, William Gundlach III, Patsy Hawkes, Brian Hill, Susan Howell, Patti Kearson, John & Carol Lucas, Randy Mayweather, Lauren McGee, Sue Nesbit, Mike Osceola, Tony Pastucci, Rosalie Rusovick, Kathy Champaine, Brooke Trace and Betty Young.

The Alliance dedicated this year's Entirely Entertaining luncheon in loving memory of Helen Furia (Leo Goodwin Foundation) for her many years of loyal support and underwriting of our signature event. Helen's son, Allan Furia attended our luncheon in honor of his mother and was presented a watercolor print by Bonnet House Fine Artist, table designer, EE Chair



and Alliance President Susan Howell as a special thank you for Leo Goodwin Foundation's continued support of the Alliance and Entirely Entertaining.

Our volunteer appreciation social was held at LeClub International on March 16th. We enjoyed a delicious selection of "pot luck" appetizers and desserts provided by the Alliance members in honor of the many volunteers who continue to donate their time, energy and passion for the Bonnet House in order to make all of our Alliance events successful. We could not do it without each and every one, every year! Thank YOU!

Please join us for a Membership Wine & Cheese Social on the lovely Bonnet House Veranda, Monday, April 13th from 5-7pm. Our nominating committee will be presenting the slate of nominees for next year's board of directors to be voted upon at our final installation luncheon on May 11th, 2015.



# The Lily Pad

Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance

## Our Alliance Proposed Calendar 2015 - 2016 Year

Monday 10/6/15 General Membership Meeting & Luncheon 11:30am

Wednesday 11/04/15 Evening Social: Gatsby Style Speakeasy on the Veranda 6-9pm

Tuesday 12/8/15 Holiday Luncheon at LYC 11:30am

Monday 1/04/16 EE Designers Social on the Veranda 4pm

Monday 1/11/16 General Membership Meeting & Luncheon 11:30am

Monday 2/29/16 Entirely Entertaining on the Veranda 11am-2pm

Monday 3/14/16 Volunteer Appreciation Social 2-4pm

Monday 4/11/16 Evening Social 5-7pm

Monday 5/9/16 General Membership Meeting & Installation Luncheon 11:30am



## BONNET HOUSE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### Concerts Under the Stars

April 9

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

FLORIDA GRAND OPERA

\$35 Members, \$40 Non-members

bonnethouse.org

### Spring Fling

April 25

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

BONNET HOUSE SPRING FLING

Music and Activities

\$10 Adults, Free for kids 12 & under

### Cool Saturdays

Summer Special

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

1ST SATURDAY, JULY - OCTOBER

\$10 Adults, Free for kids 12 & under

### Orchid Greenhouse Tours

YEAR-ROUND

These tours are offered the second

Tuesday of each month from

11am – 12pm for \$20 per person

### Behind the Scenes Tours

DECEMBER - MAY

These tours are offered the second

and fourth Wednesday of each

month from 2pm – 3pm for

\$20 per person.

### Spanish Language Tours

DECEMBER - MAY

These tours are offered the sec-

ond Saturday of each month from

10:00am – 11:30am for

\$20 per person.



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[www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org)

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# *Impressions*

## A Juried Art Exhibit



2nd Place Winner - Barbara Dix,  
*Great Balls of Fire, Pastel*



3rd Place Winner - Sandy Dolan, *Courtyard Orchid,*  
Photography

## Now On View



Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

