



Tropical Tranquility

SORTOFA KINDOFA GUY YOU'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW, PART II

By Krys Haliburton

In 1893 when 19-year old Frederic Clay Bartlett traveled to Munich, Germany hoping to gain admission to the renowned Royal Academy of Art, his chances seemed slim.

His private tutor (whom he calls The Master in *Sortofa Kindofa Journal Of My Own*, his account of those years) thought he was moderately talented and that after a couple of years of his tutorship Frederic might, just, gain admission to the prestigious school. For practice, The Master entered both Frederic's name and that of his friend Robert Allerton, who had recently joined Frederic in Munich, in the up-coming entrance exam.

Here's Frederic in his own words: "Imagine how excited and nervous we were. Even to enter the vast monumental building was awe inspiring, almost taking one's breath away, and making one's heart stand still."

The examination requirements were specific: "A finished life-sized head! A finished drawing in that period, forty years ago, meant finished, leaving nothing to the imagination; a nude, anatomy study, and a composition."

Today in the Studio at Bonnet House you can see the charcoal drawings that

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From the CEO

It's been a busy summer here at Bonnet House with some significant restoration projects. Thanks to the generosity of a number of individual donors and the Bonnet House Alliance, the Bonnet House Boat Bridge has been restored. The original bridge was narrower and ran from the lower road on the west side of the residence parcel and was attached to the Boat House.



Many of the materials used to build Bonnet House were transported by boat from what is today the Intracoastal Waterway via the private canal that runs to and under the Boat House.

Many years later, after Bonnet House became a museum, the bridge was widened and extended past the Boat House to connect to the newly built Welcome Center. Today visitors check in at the Welcome Center and then walk across the bridge to access the east side of the property and the Main House.



Construction on the bridge took almost six weeks and tour visitors had to be processed in the Museum Shop during construction. Pilings were replaced and the bridge frame was raised slightly to prevent flooding during high tides. The side and top railings were replaced as well as the decking. It looks great and is an even more substantial bridge than before the restoration.

A new handicap accessible ramp was installed at the east end of the bridge along with a cement slab that allows the Bridge Gate to slide open for tours and more easily closed for security.

Restoration work has also been completed on the Main House upstairs veranda and interior stairwell. Several of the wooden support columns were repaired or replaced as were several sections of the wood floor.

Dade County pine was harvested from a part of a column that had to be replaced and the floor repairs were made using additional Dade County pine. Prior to repairs being made, the area was tested for lead paint and the area tested negative. This helped to speed up the repair process. Not surprisingly, contractors commented on how well built the Main House is.

Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO

Photos top left to bottom. Newly constructed Boat House Bridge, Caretaker's Cottage/Museum Shop and Upstairs Veranda restoration.

Development News

New Software Debuts at Bonnet House

While Bonnet House has been a busy place this summer with many visitors and popular family days, staff have been working busily behind the scenes as well. With the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st, Bonnet House began using a new database software called Altru. Produced by Blackbaud, a Charleston, South Carolina-based company that focuses on products for the not-for-profit sector, Altru combines into one program the tracking of membership and fundraising, admissions, event ticketing, class registration, museum shop sales, and facility rentals, all with a direct link to Bonnet House's accounting software. For Bonnet House's staff, there will be a lot less paper circulating around the property, and we are already getting new insights on visitor patterns and effectiveness of promotional activities. Tracking museum shop inventory is also much easier. For our members, the software will make renewing memberships on line much easier. Implementation has been a massive undertaking for Bonnet House. The process has been going well, but please bear with us as we fully transition to our new and much more efficient database!

Bonnet House Alliance Once Again Aids Bonnet House

Bonnet House owes a debt of gratitude to its fundraising auxiliary group, the Bonnet House Alliance. The group had a very successful 2011-2012 fiscal year and was able to designate \$42,047 for various projects at Bonnet House. Projects supported by the Alliance included the replacement of the Boat House Bridge, new Bahamas shutters for the Carl Weinhardt Gallery, and an array of smaller projects. Equally important as the funds raised is the positive public relations generated by events such as Entirely Entertaining and Jazz and Chocolate. Thank you for your dedication and hard work Alliance members.

Executive's Association of Fort Lauderdale Supports Bonnet House

In April, Bonnet House was pleased to be the site of a social event hosted by honorary members of the Executive's Association of Fort Lauderdale. The group had a record turnout for the annual event that they attribute in part to the unique beauty of Bonnet House. Several of the attendees had known Mrs. Bartlett and had worked to upgrade the home in the late 1980s to welcome visitors.



Julie Cobb, Pete & Anne Seiler
Executive's Association of Fort Lauderdale Event

The pride with which they spoke of that work all these years later was most heartening. Mindful of the importance of giving back to the community, honorary members of the group banded together to make a \$1,400 contribution to Bonnet House. Bonnet House extends a sincere thank you to the Executive's Association.

Bonnet House Receives Funding from State of Florida

Bonnet House is honored to accept a grant of \$36,128 from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for cultural programming the museum will present in the current 2012-2013 fiscal year. This amount is about double the amount received in the previous year and demonstrates not only in the quality of Bonnet House's programs but also a recognition by elected officials of the important role museums like Bonnet House play in the local economy and in sustaining communities. Thank you to everyone who has advocated for arts funding over these past few difficult years.

Patrick Shavloske Elected to Board of Planned Giving Council of Broward

Bonnet House's Director of Development, Patrick Shavloske, began a one year term in July as a member of the board of the Planned Giving Council of Broward. This organization is a professional group that provides a monthly forum where wealth advisors, estate planners, and non-profit professionals can promote planned giving and keep abreast of recent developments in the field. The Council is part of the nationwide Leave a Legacy® program that encourages everyone to consider making a charitable gift as part of his or her estate plan. Bonnet House is a founding member of the local Leave a Legacy program. For information about making a planned gift to Bonnet House, contact Patrick at 954-703-2603 or at patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org. It really is easier than you might think!



The Lily Pad

Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance

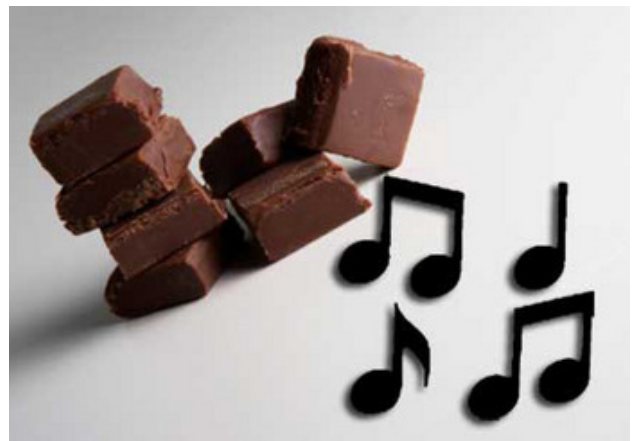
ALLIANCE EVENTS

Indulge & dance into the season with JAZZ & CHOCOLATE. Renowned Liz Sharp and her silky ensemble will melt your heart like the finest ganache on Friday, November 2nd, 7:00PM.

"Love Grows by Giving" so remember to collect an extra toy here and there while shopping for our HOLIDAY CHARITY LUNCHEON on Monday, December 10th, Rooftop of Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six at 11am.

After ringing in the new year, recharge your senses and spirits at our exclusive oceanfront BEACH LUAU on Saturday, January 26th. Back by popular demand, this extraordinary event gives members the opportunity to enjoy 700 feet of Bonnet House beach with dining area privately stanchioned from public access.

Beloved Chef Remi returns for ENTIRELY ENTERTAINING on Monday, February 25th. This sellout spectacular garden luncheon on the veranda continues to astonish and delight with each year out-doing the past, so mark your calendars and reserve your tables; you can't miss this one of a kind Bonnet House tradition.



ALLIANCE CALENDAR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012

OCTOBER

- 1 Executive Committee Meeting-
10am, Board of Directors'
Meeting-11am
Location: Leslie Well Rambin's home
1317 SW 17th St., Ft. Lauderdale.**
- 25 General Alliance Membership
Meeting, 5pm - 7pm
Location: Bonnet House
Courtyard**

NOVEMBER

- 2 Jazz & Chocolate. 7pm
Location: Bonnet House**
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting-
10am, Board of Directors'
Meeting-11am
Location: Bonnet House
Island Theater**

DECEMBER

- 10 General Alliance Membership
Meeting 11:00am.
Location: Special Holiday Luncheon
at the rotating observation deck,
Hyatt's Pier Sixty-Six,
2301 SE 17th St., Ft. Lauderdale.**



Special Events

A Bonnet House Love Story

By Nicholle Maudlin

If you've never been to a Bonnet House wedding before, let me try to explain the recipe for a magical and romantic evening!

The first ingredient is true love!! Start by mixing a beautiful bride and handsome groom, Dorothy D'Alo and Joseph Simons. Florida natives, the couple had passed the Bonnet House fence many times over the years. It was not until 2009 that the couple decided to be a tourist in their hometown and visit the estate. Doe (short for Dorothy) said "upon entering for the first time, it was obvious Bonnet House is truly an amazing place. It's a treasure and an oasis in the middle of the bustle of Fort Lauderdale Beach.



"On that first day, we sat on the bridge and watched the swans swim by. Looking south from the bridge is my favorite view. It's spectacular. What I didn't know at the time is that is where he planned to tell me that he loved me for the first time." A true Bonnet House romance was in the making!!

The second ingredient is a unique proposal. Having fallen in love with each other and with Bonnet House, they took time off from their busy schedule and planned to have a picnic at Bonnet House on a Saturday afternoon. They decided on the chickee bridge for the picnic, so there they sat nibbling and watching the Bonnet House staff set up for a wedding. Suddenly Doe looks up at Joseph while he was pointing at something in his food and Doe saw this beautiful ring and the next thing she knew Joseph was on one knee.

The third ingredient is happy wedding planning, which came easy to Doe and Joseph. Bonnet House was an obvious choice for them. Doe said, "we have had so many special moments there. We couldn't think of a better place to be on our special day. We love Bonnet House and felt it was really a great place to share with family and friends."

The fourth ingredient is to have fun!! Instead of heading out to the ceremony separately on their wedding day, Doe and Joseph did a first look in the courtyard. Doe said she will never forget the look on Joseph's face when he saw her for the first time. "It was our moment" she said. Another memorable time was when Doe was walking down the hill to the altar. Doe recalls, "it was so beautiful and all of our friends and family had patiently waited for this moment. "

The reception was a success and Doe remembers the night well and talks about their wedding day as if it was just yesterday. "Most of our guests were so surprised they hadn't heard of Bonnet House before the wedding. Like me, many had passed the walls on their way to the beach and didn't know the secret oasis that was behind them. Most said they would return during the day so they had more time to inspect the gardens and tour the home. That makes us the most happy, and we think everyone should know about Bonnet House and support it so that it stays forever the native gem that it is. We would love for the Bonnet House to sustain its beauty and grace so that our children can share this place with their children."

The icing on top is that the couple continues to visit Bonnet House regularly to reminisce about their experiences. So there you have it, the perfect recipe for a Bonnet House evening!! We are honored to be a part of this family's history and the Bonnet House family wishes them love and happiness in the years to come. Thank you Doe and Joe for including Bonnet House in your incredible love story!!



Education & Volunteers

GIRL SCOUT WORKSHOPS

By Linda Schaller

On Saturday, November 10, 2012 Bonnet House will present our very first Girl Scout Workshop Day! Bonnet House is offering five art workshops. Each workshop will complete the requirements for the activity and will include all art supplies as well as a tour of the historic house and art collection. All scout troops must pre-register for: Brownie Level: Painting (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), Junior Level: Drawing (10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) Cadette Level: Book Artist (9:30 a.m. -2:00



p.m.), Senior Level: Collage (11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) or Ambassador Level: Photographer (11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). The fee is \$14 per scout, one adult leader FREE per 5 scouts and extra adults at \$7.00. This will be a really fun day for scouts, leaders and Bonnet House Volunteers. The teachers for the classes will be Bonnet House Volunteers and SPECIAL Artists: Karen Eskesen (Miss Karen) Water Color Artist and Teacher and Barbie Pearson, Photo Artist and Educator. Please call Linda Schaller, Director of Education & Volunteer Programs at 954-703-2606 or email lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org for more information and to pre-register. The programs are limited so please register early.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bonnet House has the BEST volunteers. These dedicated people work in all areas on this 35 acre property. They help as tour guides, grounds maintenance, greeting, meeting and welcoming guests

for tours, special events and weddings. Our volunteers teach our education programs, help in the offices and make sure our collection is in perfect shape and all cataloged for future generations; they share the Bonnet House story, explain our nature trails and history. We have over 200 dedicated volunteers and as you know we see more visitors each year. We are no longer the best kept secret in Fort Lauderdale. If you would like to become a Bonnet House Volunteer, we have room for you! More volunteers are needed especially during our peak season.

Please call or email if you are interested, Linda Schaller 954-703-2606 or email lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org. We are expecting a great season this year and need as many volunteers as possible to help make the Bonnet House experience a great and unexpected pleasure.

Sortofa Kindofa Guy...(cont'd)

Frederic was working on at that time.

There's no denying his skill; but, as The Master pointed out, few foreigners gained admission to the prestigious Academy.

To everyone's amazement both Frederic and Robert were admitted.

Far from any hint of complacency or self-satisfaction, Frederic's reaction is sheer exuberance and delight: "Have you seen Old Faithful, of our National Park, burst forth? Or the fireworks at the Crystal Palace, or the finish of the Harvard-Yale boat race at New London? Well that is something like the way we felt."

Not long after, Frederic's thoughts go in an entirely new direction. "It was this Spring that a wondrous thing happened to me, Suddenly the flowers seemed more bright and beautiful and the trees far greener, the songs of the birds more melodious..... Ah! I was in love."

He was 21. And the object of his affections was Dora Tripp, the first of his three wives, and mother of his only child, Clay, whose portrait painted by Frederic hangs in the Drawing Room at Bonnet House.

Then came student years in Paris, with morning drawing classes, afternoons learning to paint, and evening nude classes in the rue Grand Chaumier.

When the legendary Durand-Ruel Gallery put on an exhibition of Impressionist paintings in 1896, Frederic says, "it hardly seemed possible that such a great uproar could be created because a small group of painters banded together to paint in a new way."

"But to those of us painting in Paris at the time it seemed almost a matter of life and death to prove, or disprove, the contentions of the Impressionists. The Cafés seethed and boiled with loud arguments in the midst of overturned tables and some broken heads."

He ends a long passage of analysis of these arguments with a statement that sounds prophetic in the light of his future actions:

"Now we know that the Impressionists were the truest and most scientific painters of light the world has ever seen."

Was it then that the seeds were planted of the Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection?

His admiration of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters was later shared by second wife, Helen Birch, and together they acquired a number of paintings which were eventually bequeathed to the Chicago Institute of Art (and later still endowed through a generous contribution by Evelyn Fortune Bartlett, Frederic's third wife).

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Sortofa Kindofa Guy... (cont'd)

It is a spectacular collection, and it's ironic that even then, after Helen's death in 1925, the paintings were still mired in controversy.

Obviously not everyone agreed with Frederic's strong words, "Now we know...", because the gift of this quite extraordinary and now immensely valuable collection of paintings was only accepted by the Art Institute by a narrow vote!

But we've jumped ahead of Frederic's account.

He and Robert Allerton are now living in Paris, studying, working and absorbing all the city had to offer.

Beloved Dora and her "charming mother" have gone back to America to prepare for the wedding in two years time, and Frederic feels the need for his own studio to work in ... and to party in, too. Their circle of friends widens to include a Hungarian artist, who introduces them not only to a band of wild musicians, and an ancient philosopher crossed in love, but also to "decanters of cheap but powerful Hungarian wines."

Frederic had extravagantly rented a Pleyel concert grand piano and as "it was as natural for a Hungarian to carry a musical instrument as it was for others to carry an umbrella," the noise level at their parties was explosive. "Silence, or police," the neighbors would threaten. To which Frederic and company



"It was a matter of life and death to prove, or disprove, the contentions of the Impressionists"

Frederic Bartlett

would shout through the windows, "Come up and join the party." Those not playing (including Frederic) would dance with all the madness of the music.



He has left a pointed, painted comment on his dancing skills for all to see in one of the folk-art canvases hanging on the covered walkway of the Bonnet House courtyard. He depicts himself dancing skillfully, while his poor partner has two left feet, one of them where her left hand should be!

Traveling alone to Italy, Frederic is overwhelmed

by the Uffizi, the Medici Chapel, the Duomo, surrenders to the charm of Florence, Siena and Venice, and is "rendered speechless by Tintoretto."

But he also succumbs to a touch of Roman Fever and is self-treating himself with quinine, "for no time or money could be wasted on doctors in this treasure city." With no prescription, he manages to get small doses of quinine from several different apothecaries and washes it down with the only strengthening things he could swallow, soup and whiskey-and-soda.

"By the time I reached the Vatican... the great sculptures seem to step down from their pedestals ... the Laocoön could not even be looked at out of the corner of the eye, so terrifying were

the twisting of its snakes." Winked at by Venus, bowed to by fauns, he spent four days living on soup, whiskey and quinine, a cure that worked, he says, but is not to be recommended.

Frederic's marriage, to Dora Tripp took place in the USA, but soon after the young couple sailed back to Paris and took up residence in a small home with a huge studio, sublet to them by a sculptor friend. Decorating began in earnest, with Frederic overseeing the painting of drab woodwork, hanging papers and chintz, and draping walls with deep rose silk in a tribute to a room he had admired in the Uffizi.

Third and final part will be featured in the next issue of The Newsletter



The Newsletter

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 4398



1. Volunteers and guests arriving in Bonnet House trams to the Young Artist Music Series.
2. Guests enjoying the 5th Annual Orchid, Garden & Gourmet Food Festival in the Fruit Grove the first weekend in December.
3. University of Miami Frost Opera Theater group performing at the Young Artist Music Series.
4. Paddy Cunningham, Birder Extraordinaire, leading a birding class through the Bonnet House grounds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ascend to Better Birding - Saturday, November 3, 9am - 12pm
Tropical Views Exhibition - November 8, 2012 - January 6, 2013
Orchid, Garden & Gourmet Food Festival
 Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2, 9:30am-4:30pm

BROWARD COUNTY
FLORIDA
Cultural Division

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



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