

From the CEO

Phase I of the South Gate Project is Complete!

We are very pleased to report that Phase I of the South Gate Capital Project is complete. Phase I included the construction of the columns, the installation of the lovely gates, the shell encrusted walkway, construction of the ticket booth and landscaping. Phase one also included all the equipment and infrastructure to support the processing of visitors. The City of Fort Lauderdale supported the opening of the gate with the re-pavement of their Breakers Avenue Easement. They also brought us a very talented artist who painted a street scape leading from Vista Mar Street to our gate. The artist was inspired by one of Frederic Bartlett's ceiling murals *Philodendrons* which is painted on the ceiling at the entrance to the Studio.

Part of the reason we embarked on the South Gate project was to return the entrance to its historically accurate southern location. Another motivator was to connect the community to the south of us and make it easy for residents and for tourists staying in the hotels, motels and guesthouses in the area to walk into Bonnet House. This eliminates the necessity of having to walk or drive the circuitous route (A1A to Sunrise Boulevard to Birch Road to Ninth Street and up to the Welcome Center) to visit the property.

Since opening a few months ago, we have been pleased with the comments from the community including the hoteliers, residents and elected officials. This slower time of the year is allowing us to get fully geared up operationally for the peak season.

We hope to begin Phase II in early 2015. It will include an amphitheater and exhibit honoring the Tequestas who lived on the Bonnet House property in the 1200s to 1400s. Their village midden has been the site of some remarkable archeological finds including a find that our archaeologists believe may be the first evidence of non-Spanish, European exploration in the area. The amphitheater will be used for educational programs and as an exhibit for all visitors.





Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO

Cover image: *The Circus* by Frederic Bartlett Above photos: South Entrance with mural by Bill Savarese

Development News

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Grants Fully Funded



For the first time in many, many years the Florida legislature voted to fully fund the Division of Cultural Affairs grant program. This is wonderful news for arts and

cultural organizations across the state and certainly Bonnet House. Bonnet House will receive \$150,000 in general program support from the State of Florida in 2014-2015; that's an increase of about \$120,000 over last year's grant.

While the overall improvement in the state's economy was the direct reason for the increase, individual legislators need to be thanked as well. Without their support, the funding could have been spent elsewhere. Please take a moment to contact your state representative and senator and offer your thanks for the support the legislature showed for arts and culture in Florida. Just let them know how much you appreciate the state funding for the Division of Cultural affairs grant programs and how much it will help Bonnet House this year.

Bonnet House Receives More Maintenance Endowment Funds

In the last issue of The Newsletter, Bonnet House announced a \$150,000 gift for the museum's maintenance endowment. The earnings on this fund help support on-going work to preserve the historic estate, and the principal can be tapped for emergency recovery in the event of a natural disaster such as a major hurricane. Bonnet House is pleased and humbled to announce that additional anonymous donors have stepped forward and made contributions totaling \$350,000. This brings the fund balance to just over \$725,000.

Contributing to this fund is a wonderful means of ensuring the long-term preservation of Bonnet House. And though these donors want to be anonymous, they don't want to be alone in their giving. In fact, they are challenging us to get the fund to an even million.

To learn how you might participate either through a current gift or a future gift from your estate, please contact Patrick Shavloske at 954-703-2603 or patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org.

Hoteliers and Tourist Leaders Learn about South Entrance

On June 12, 2014, Bonnet House hosted a reception for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Beach Council and concierge and



management from neighboring hotels to familiarize them with the restored South Entrance. Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiller attended the event too as did other members of the City Commission. Bonnet House extends a sincere thank you to the City of Fort Lauderdale for their speedy work in improving the easement to the South Gate and our hotel partners who are getting word out to their guests about Bonnet House and its new entrance.

Bonnet House is Facing a Costly and Unexpected Expense

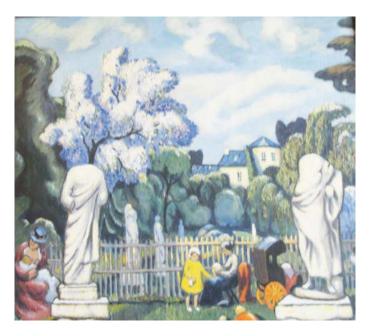
Recently, the Welcome Center lost power. Electricians have diagnosed the problem as a fault in the electrical cable and/or conduit that run from the main gate, under the parking lot, and to the Welcome Center. This cable is about 25 years old and galvanized pipe was used as conduit then. Due to the distance to the Welcome Center --700 feet-- the gauge of electrical cable needed contains a large amount of copper, and the price of copper is very high these days.

Our electrical contractor is estimating a cost of \$36,000 to install new cable and conduit. We have no choice but to go forward with this repair and expenditure. Please consider making a special gift to help Bonnet House defray this expense. Every gift, whatever the amount, will help. Our volunteers and visitors will be most grateful to have an air conditioned, fully functional Welcome Center back. To make a tax-deductible gift please visit our website at bonnethouse.org/donate. Checks are welcome too!

Thanks so much for your consideration and support!

The Frederic Bartlett Painting Heist

by J. Kent Planck

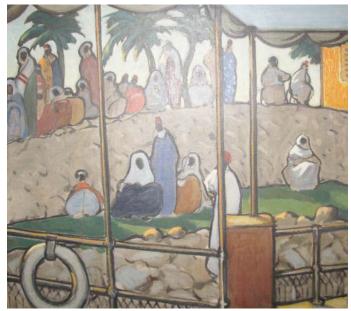


Early on the morning of April 17, 1979, the Beverly, Massachusetts, police department was alerted to a break-in at 2 Boyles Street, Frederic Bartlett's former painting studio that was located on the Bartletts' Whitehall estate property.

Officer M. McDonald of the Beverly Police Department was dispatched to the scene and found six paintings stacked outside an open door. The person who had alerted the police reported seeing a blue Plymouth drive away, but was unable to provide any other description. McDonald conducted a search of the property accompanied by a K-9 dog and Evelyn Bartlett's chauffeur Paul Heald. The search revealed that entry had been gained by prying open a rear window, and that seven paintings had been taken after being removed from frames which had been left behind.

Subsequent efforts by the police to recover the paintings were unsuccessful, and the paintings were presumed to be unrecoverable. Nine years later, however, on March 31,1988, Ray George, Evelyn Bartlett's Trust Advisor, received a phone call reporting that four of Frederic's paintings were being offered for sale at the Comenos Fine Arts Gallery, 81 Arlington Street, in Boston, where they were being held on consignment from The Vault Art Trust (VAT), which claimed ownership.

George called the gallery and talked with Rose O'Connor, the manager, and was able to convince



her that the paintings had been stolen and that she should release them to his representatives who would be coming to identify and remove them. Evelyn was still in Florida for the winter, but George was able to contact Steve Kinsella, her Whitehall gardener, and the two of them persuaded Chauffeur Paul Heald to accompany Kinsella to the gallery to obtain the paintings, since Heald would presumably be able to identify the art. Heald had apparently been drinking the night before and not only was difficult to rouse, but also did not have a positive relationship with Kinsella, according to George. Nonetheless, he ultimately agreed to go to the gallery, though he waited in the car while Kinsella went inside and removed the paintings.

The four oil-on-canvas paintings that were recovered are *Nurse and Child in Garden*, a classic-style painting of figures in a formal garden with statuary, 35-by-38 inches framed, which the Comenos Gallery had priced at \$29,000; *The Circus*, 40-by-34 inches framed, depicting clowns in a circus ring, \$28,000; *Hat and Bow*, a still life, 40-by-34 inches framed, \$28,000; and *Arabs*, 35-by-38 inches framed, priced at \$23,000, and showing stylized Middle-Eastern figures on a lawn and rock ledge with palm trees, seemingly as viewed from some sort of large watercraft, as the railing with a hanging life-preserver is depicted in the foreground – perhaps an image from Frederic's 1925 Nile River excursion with his second wife Helen, Mr. Birch and Frederic's son Clay.

Bonnet House, Inc. Annual Report July 2013 - June 2014

GIFTS & PLEDGES OF CASH OR STOCK

\$100,000 or more

Anonymous (4) Broward County Cultural Division Bill Fortune and Joe Blakley

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Richard H. Fortune JM Family Enterprises, Inc.

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Bonnet House Alliance Estate of Jean D. Andrews Florida Division of Cultural Affairs

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Peter and Joan Fortune Jock and Penny Fortune Helen Ingham Foundation Ryder Charitable Foundation Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges William R. Watts Foundation, Inc.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Gale Butler
EDSA
Richard S. Ingham
Leo B. Goodwin Foundation, Inc.
Ralph and Diana Rau
Barbara and Fred Steinhardt
Stimpson Company, Inc.
Ted Turner and Kelly Lonergan
Larry "Peanuts" Wick

\$2,500 to \$4,999

BBX Capital Foundation, Inc. Karen and Richard Beard Bill Beaton and Ted Emery Charitable Fund at Our Fund Business for the Arts of Broward Greg Coble and C.B. Babcock Dave and Sue Hagen The Haller Foundation Patsy Hawkes **Hudson Family Foundation** Nova Southeastern University Ann and Bob Powell Robert G. Friedman Foundation Patrick Shavloske and Mark Gerberding Anthony and Dianna Silvagni SunTrust Tripp Scott

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Mr. John E. Bird III Jose and Mary Copeland Gonzalez Warren Crane and Mark Smith Pat D'Antonio Herb Diamond George Zuber and Anthony Snyder Charitable Fund at Our Fund Mina Herrera Rose and Joe Holland Robert Kuhn and Steven Gever Le Club International Condominiums Judy Maus Dominick and Meike Miniaci Mona Pittenger Giving Fund at Our Fund, Inc. Vince Neradka Osborne Roofing Company Julie Pabst and Tim Ingham Paul and Susan Regan Jr. Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow Roger A. Smith Lynda and Dennis Stackhouse

\$250 to \$499

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In Honor of Peter and Joan Fortune

Laurie and Fred Towers

In Honor of Ralph and Diana Rau

Mario and Maria Spinaci

In Honor of Ted MacDonald and Alfredo Tamburrino

Dominick and Meike Miniaci

In Memory of Billie A. Berger

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In Memory of Charlene M. Shoop

Raymond and Judy Thomasson

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In Memory of E. Clay Shaw, Jr.

Susan Lochrie

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Anne F. Brooks Linda Schaller

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Catherine Conn

In Memory of Ron Castell

Kirk Imhof and David Bolus

In Memory of Thomas B. Maus

Mario and Maria Spinaci

GIFTS IN KIND

\$20,000 or more

Tripp Scott

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Fowler White Boggs, P.A.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

C.A. & Company Catering

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Postergarden **EDSA**

Hugh's Catering

Victoria Park Flower Studio

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Chez Gourmet Catering, Inc. Elizabeth Kornowski Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

\$500 to \$999

J.R. Dunn Jewelers W Hotel Patsy Hawkes

Eleanor Smith

B Ocean Herb Diamond

Marriott Harbor Beach Resort

\$250 to \$499

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\$100 to \$249

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Mary Belle Cordell

Sullo Salon and Spa

Blue Moon Fish Co.

Mike Osceola and Brian Hill

Thomas Criqui

101 Ocean

15th Street Fisheries

Aruba Beach Cafe

Betty Douglas

Casablanca Cafe

Christopher Griswold

Cynthia Symanek

Conservart, Inc.

Dianna Silvagni

Finster Murphys Fresh Seafood

Fishtails Bar & Grill

Flowers and Found Objects

Grille 66

Hello Gorgeous

Kathy Shampaine

Pelican Grand Beach Resort

Shooters Waterfront Cafe

Smitty's Old Fashion Butcher Shop

Sue Nesbit

The Village Grille

\$99 & Under

Dianne Ennis

Marcia E. Hirschy

Tammy Seymour

Water Taxi

Bashful Daisy Florist

Canyon Restaurant

The Capital Grille

Valerie Viglione

Bimini Boatyard

Tropical Acres

Jacqueline M. Schoettle Bistro Mezzaluna

Cafe de Paris Cafe Vico

Corliss S. Bennett **Encore Salon** Geni Ferro

Lauderdale Grill

Lenore Nolan Ryan Cooking School

Sea Watch Restaurant

Chef Jean-Pierre's

Merry Hanson

Sandra Brown

El Tamarindo Cafe

Bravo Ristorante

Old Florida Seafood House

Osteria Acqua e Favina

Patsy West

R3 Accounting LLC

Sage Cafe

Donor Provided No Value

Blue Martini Kelly's Landing

We strive to keep our records as accurate as possible. Please contact the development office at (954) 703-2603 with any questions about how your gift is listed. You may also send an email to:

patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org.

Mission

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens stewards the legacy of the Bartlett and Birch families by preserving their historic estate and providing programming that nurtures creative expression, delights the senses, educates, and honors the natural environment



The Frederic Bartlett Painting Heist (Cont'd from Page 4)



Fireworks soon erupted when The Vault Art Trust threatened legal action and demanded the return of the paintings. Represented by Burke, Wilson & McIlvaine of Chicago, Evelyn and Paul Heald quickly submitted affidavits attesting to Mrs. Bartlett's ownership of the art. (A Boston law firm, Craig and Macauler, was also placed on call in the event litigation would ultimately be required in Massachusetts.) VAT trustees Byron Menides and John Curuby, supplied ownership information much later – in January 1989 – through their attorneys, Ardiff & Morse, P.C., of Danvers, Massachusetts.

According to their filing, VAT had acquired the paintings on August 4, 1987, from Paul Famolari, a well-known Boston-area art dealer, who had purchased them two days earlier on August 2 from the sister of a Boston-area antique dealer named Jesse Bell who had given the paintings to her when he had closed his business. VAT said that Bell had bought the paintings on September 2, 1977 (a year-and-a-half before they were stolen from Mrs. Bartlett) at an auction of the estate of Ralph Booth, an Ogunquit, Maine, collector. VAT further claimed that Booth had originally purchased the paintings from an artist named Frederic DeVoll – date not cited – who had acquired them sometime prior to 1977, but did not ex-

plain specifically how or the exact date when DeVoll had acquired them. VAT further claimed they had paid \$11,000 for the paintings and had spent additional money on restoration. They demanded \$40,000 in compensation for the four pieces.

On September 19, 1989, Evelyn paid VAT \$20,000 in a settlement that further stipulated VAT was to have no further recourse in the matter against anyone, including the Comenos Gallery. The four paintings are now part of the Bonnet House collection. During the proceedings, Paul Famolari had told Ray George that all of the paintings he had looked at when he made his original purchase were in poor condition, thus perhaps supporting VAT's claim of restoration. Even after the settlement proceedings, George remained in touch with Famolari by telephone and letter in an effort to locate the other three stolen paintings. Well aware of Evelyn and her upstanding reputation, Famolari went to see Jesse Bell's sister in an attempt to locate the other three paintings. Unfortunately, she could tell him only that a relative who had worked with Jesse had somehow been involved. but had moved south and could not be located. Famolari told George he would keep trying to locate the missing paintings, but that the neighborhood in which he had to look was a disreputable one with virtually a "murder a night." George also tried to locate the artist Frederic DeVoll but was unsuccessful.

The three paintings remain missing today. According to information originally provided by Evelyn Bartlett, they are believed to depict a circus horse, the back slope at Whitehall, and a scene of Luxembourg.

Denyse Cunningham Rejoins the Bonnet House Staff

This past summer saw a major staffing change at Bonnet House. In June, the museum bade a fond farewell to Stephen Draft who had been the curator since 2008 and welcomed back Denyse Cunning-



ham. Long-time members will recall that Denyse had been curator at Bonnet House from 1999 to 2002 before leaving to work for the Broward County Historical Commission. Denyse brings with her over twenty years of curatorial and museum experience. In addition to overseeing the Bonnet House collection and maintenance of the site, a major up-coming task will be preparing for reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums in 2017. Welcome back to Denyse and best of luck to Stephen in his retirement!



A Note From the Alliance President By Susan Howell



I wish to welcome all of you to the Bonnet House Alliance. Our mission as Alliance members is to serve as community "Ambassadors" promoting awareness and interest in our beloved Bonnet House by supporting the Bonnet House staff in the development of our volunteer program which includes conducting tours of the house and

property, hosting events, programs and workshops and the organization of exciting fundraising events.

On November 10th we will be celebrating the grand RE-opening of our original (circa 1920) south entrance gate with our ROARING TWENTIES RETRO SORIEE where members will dress as Flapper Girls, Dapper Dan's and dance to Ragtime Jazz with special vintage Autos for photo shoots and lots of Gatsby-Style fun from 6-8pm on the lush tropical Veranda.

Remember the Spirit of Giving by picking up an extra toy here and there for the less fortunate while holiday shopping to donate at our HOLIDAY CHARITY LUNCHEON on December 9th at the Lauderdale Yacht Club from 11: 30 to 2pm.

Our Signature hallmark fundraiser ENTIRELY ENTERTAINING XX will be on Monday, February 23rd. 11am to 2pm. This sell-out spectacular Garden Luncheon

continues to astonish and delight with each year surpassing the past with extraordinary "table-scapes" by local artists, designers and members. Mark your calendars and reserve your tables, you must not miss this one of a kind Bonnet House tradition.

As volunteers at Bonnet House you have many choices to utilize your talents. We need your enthusiasm, help and support to ensure continued success of our group at our beautiful and truly unique Bonnet House.

I look forward to working with each of you in our Alliance family and welcome your ideas, efforts and contributions.

In Memory of Corliss Bennet June 25, 1932-June 28, 2014

Corliss, know to many of us as "Corky" was devoted for over 25 years to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Bonnet House Alliance. Throughout the years, she served as President for two years, 1994 - 1995, docent and in many other positions. She was one of the founding Alliance members and in



the first class of Volunteers to begin giving tours at Bonnet House. Bonnet House was always very important to her. She will always be remembered for the "twinkle in her eye" and her loving heart.

Alliance Calendar October - December 2014

October 6	11:30am	General Membership Meeting	Sea Watch Restaurant
November 10	6-8pm	Roaring Twenties Soiree Fundraiser	On the Veranda
November 17	10am	Exec. Committee Meeting & 11am Board of Directors Meeting	
November 25		Festival of Trees	Galleria Mall
December 9	11:30am	Holiday Charity Luncheon	Lauderdale Yacht Club

Restoration

Courtyard and Veranda Painting Project



Mike Nucci of Nucci Painting and Carpet and his crew of seasoned painters have been busy this summer at Bonnet House Museum & Gardens. This experienced group of painters have painted other historic sites such as the 1927 Hollywood Woman's Club in Hollywood, Florida, the 1850 Teddy Roosevelt's summer resi-

dence located in Morristown, New Jersey, the National Archives and the 1983 renovation of the Old Post Office both located in Washington, DC.

If you have some time take a moment to appreciate the freshly painted Veranda and the east side of the Courtyard interior. The blue ceiling with the yellow beams especially stands out. The next phase of restoration will include the areas of the Courtyard with the blue walls.

Youth Programs

Exploring Oriental Cartooning & Design with Cindy Jenkins

Creative, experienced and certified art teacher, Cindy Jenkins, will be teaching a variety of art classes for middle and high school students(ages 12-18) at Bonnet House this winter.



January 10, 2015 Menga Cartooning January 17, 2015 Zendoodle January 24, 2015 Dragons January 31, 2015 Kimono's and Origami

Classes are 2 hours 12:30pm to 2:30pm Cost is \$80.00 for 4 classes or \$25.00 per class

All materials included! Maximum 15 students

For more information and reservations please email lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org.

Volunteers...Gifts that keep on Giving

By Linda Schaller



I have been the Director of Volunteer Programs at Bonnet House for many years, and each year I am amazed at how much our volunteers give. These people give of themselves. They teach our children, guide adults, introduce thousands to this barrier island, help behind the scenes as our board of directors, clerical helpers,

wedding and special events greeters, tour coordinators, curatorial assistants, maintenance helpers and gardening and orchid maintenance helpers. They don't ask for anything; they just give!

Don Viny came to me a few months back and asked if he could donate some chairs to Bonnet House – he went through all of the proper channels and on August 13, 2014 fourteen new chairs were delivered compliments of Don. These chairs are used for the comfort of our guests who want to enjoy Bonnet House but cannot stand for a tour.

Our thanks go to all of the wonderful volunteers here at Bonnet House. In 2013 volunteers gave over twenty-five thousand hours of their time.

Our volunteer of the year, Dane Jensen gave over 428 hours and our retiring Alliance President, Sue Nesbit gave over 500 hours. No matter the weather they give of themselves and each has so much to give. We give special thanks to Anna LaViolette, Barbara Steinhardt & Fred Steinhardt for 15 years of dedicated service. Our gratitude to Kathleen Barrett, Carol Carnemolla, George Castleman, Bill Hines, Fran



Korner and Emmy Wilson for 10 years of service. People who have given 5 years of service are: Glenda Abramson, Yolanda Bernardini, Suzan Hinckley, Rose Holland, Rita Houldsworth, Dane Jensen, Chris McElhaney, Tony Millet, Wingate Payne, Kevin Soyt, Warren Taylor, Don Viny, Ann Waltz and Laraine Wilson.

Calendar of Events

Singer/Songwriters



November 6, 2014 7:00 pm MULTI PLATINUM NOMINEE STEVE DORFF PERFORMS Purchase tickets at bonnethouse.org

River Cruise



November 8, 2014 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm & March 28, 2015 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER Purchase tickets at bonnethouse.org

Orchid Festival



December 6 & 7, 2014 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ORCHID, GARDEN & GOURMET FOOD FESTIVAL Purchase tickets at bonnethouse.org

November 2 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm BIRDING CLASS

January 4 & February 8 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm BIRDING CLASS

January 7 - February 11 9:30am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 4 pm WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

January 8 - February 12 9:30am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 4 pm ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

January 12, February 9 & March 9
10:00 am
LECTURE SERIES

January 13 - February 10 9:30 am - 11:30 am CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP January 13 - 27 12:30 am - 2:30 pm ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP

January 22, February 12, March 12 & April 9 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Young Artist Music Series CONCERTS UNDER THE STARS

January 15, 6:00 pm IN THE DETAILS: A Bonnet House Fine Artist Exhibit

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ORCHID CLASSES

February 10 - 24 12:30 am - 2:30 pm ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP

February 23 11:00 am - 2:00 pm ENTIRELY ENTERTAINING February 25 - April 1 9:30am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 4 pm WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

February 26 - April 2 9:30am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 4 pm ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

March 3 - 31 9:30 am - 11:30 am CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

March 5 6:00 pm IMPRESSIONS: A JURIED ART EXHIBIT

March 10 - 24 12:30 am - 2:30 pm ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP

Please visit us online at bonnethouse.org for more information and a detailed calendar of events.

News

Special Spring Art Workshop



For people who love painting, Old Masters art has a special fascination. How did they do that one invariably asks. How do those paintings look so rich and fresh after centuries?

A visiting artist and professor who will be at Bonnet House in spring of 2015 asked herself that same question many years ago. Betsy Castleman Damez went to Europe to find out, as had many artists - such as Frederic Bartlett and Dora Tripp. She ended up studying at the famous Beaux Arts school in Paris where she was introduced to painting with pigments and other raw materials, that had always been used in all forms of visual art before the industrial age when paint began to be manufactured.

Betsy will be giving a six session workshop at the Bonnet House in April 2015 (April 13, 15, 17, 200, 22, 24, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). The workshop will give her an opportunity to share her knowledge and experience of Old Masters technique and the raw materials of painting, - and their relationship to painting today. Betsy ended up living and working as an artist in Paris, and has shown work and taught there for many years. She feels that the materials we use in painting are far more important than is generally known. The homogenization and dilution of many commercial paints often confuse students and artists. Visual art begins where matter and mind collaborate, and by developing a sensitivity to our painting materials we can gain in inspiration and creative possibilities as well as craftsmanship.

Betsy will present an introductory workshop of Old Masters technique and pigments, and the students will copy from photo reproductions. The workshop will follow the same principles she used in the Louvre for many years for teaching university students. Some experimental time will also be given to try more modern applications of pigment. Betsy feels that Old Masters technique has various applications that inspire and enrich modern mixed techniques.

Come and take advantage of this unique painting workshop opportunity. All levels welcome, although it is preferable to have some painting experience.

Bonnet House Wedding Couple Update By Nicholle Maudlin

Five years brings many changes and happy surprises, especially for Aaron and Kristen Feuer. The couple was married at Bonnet House in 2009 on a beautiful November



evening. These days, they are keeping busy with newborn twins (a boy, Jonah and girl, Katelyn, born 2/28/14). "We're absolutely thrilled and terrified," Aaron confesses.

Post-wedding, they bought a little house in the Village of Miami Shores and have been restoring it with their first "baby", a Weimaraner named Cece. They even have a print of *Dancers* by Frederic Bartlett hanging in a prominent location over their fireplace.

They chose Bonnet House for their wedding after their initial visit to the estate. Aaron says, "we forced ourselves to look at other places. After each one, we'd talk about how it wasn't Bonnet House. It was the easiest decision we made and Kristen actually bought a dress to match the house."

Months of planning paid off and the couple sums it up: "We had guests coming in from all over. Everyone was impressed with the beauty of Bonnet House, but the strongest reactions came from South Florida people who were unaware this space was in our backyard. I remember seeing people in small groups looking around the courtyard, just awestruck at their surroundings. You enter the property and it feels like you've been transported somewhere very unique."

"The best part of getting married at Bonnet House was our appreciation of South Florida history. We're both natives and have an interest in learning about area history. Gems like Bonnet House often fall prey to redevelopment. It was special for us to get married somewhere that hasn't changed since the 20s."

When asked if there were any funny stories about their wedding day, Aaron says, "truth is things went off without a hitch. Bonnet House staff and our other vendors (Ultimate Cuisine and Eddie B DJ) really did a great job."

Music to my ears!!



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www.bonnethouse.org

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