



Frederic Clay Bartlett's
Paintings of China

An Unwanted Guest

Annual Report

From the CEO

Patrick Shavloske

An Unwanted Guest

Hurricane Irma stopped by Bonnet House on her trip through Florida, and while her relatives Katrina and Wilma were far worse, Irma still left an impact on the property mostly in downed trees. Thankfully, it looks like the house and collection escaped major damage. One window pane was blown out of the Orchid Display House and one of the large pots in the courtyard cracked in half along an earlier repair line. The Boathouse wasn't quite so lucky. Already weakened by Sandy and rising sea levels, the floor joists in one of the boat bays came loose and will



require repair. The fence along A1A will also require extensive repair. Closure for storm preparation

and recovery resulted in seventeen missed operating days. Considering typical September visitor numbers, that would equal approximately \$18,000 in lost tour and museum shop revenue. Why not consider making an early gift in support of the Annual Fund to help offset this revenue loss and debris removal costs? Contact Darla Worley Livesay at 954-653-1557 or visit www.bonnethouse.org to support Bonnet House as it recovers from Irma.

Fall Returns and Season Nears

Sometimes people say that South Florida has two seasons: hot and hotter. While there is a ring of truth to that, there is a nuance to the change of seasons in this climate. Look closely, and the sunlight changes ever so subtly in late August with different shadows and the light in general becoming a bit more golden rather than blazing white. In October or November, a cold front will come through (please-God October!), the humidity will drop, and almost like clockwork the first of the car carriers will begin to arrive from up north. Then, after the New Year, winter will bring the bustling activity that characterizes a South Florida season.



Newsletter design by Monica Estevez
Cover photo: *Courtyard* by Larry Singer
Photo above by Kevin Miller
Employee Spotlight Photo by David Woodin

I think a similar pattern can be detected here at Bonnet House. While winter is most-definitely our busy time and summer can be painfully slow, the shoulder season of fall has a transitional element all its own. During this period, all the planning for winter events takes place: performers and sponsors are secured for Concerts Under the Stars, new guide training takes place and the storm shutters get tucked back away. It's this gradual transition that allows Bonnet House to fully spring to life in January.

This fall will see some new programming at Bonnet House. December will see the first Holiday Magic event at the estate. The reasons behind it are simple: first our constituents have been asking for this kind of programming for some time, and organizations like Bonnet House need to be responsive to those desires to remain relevant. Second, relevancy also means expanding our audience. Hopefully, programming like we plan for Holiday Magic will not only connect us with new audience but also give people with just a casual acquaintance a reason to come back to the museum. Finally, we must generate more revenue to support day-to-day operations. Visitor numbers have been slipping ever so slightly, and we are going to have to begin to think more creatively about how to support Bonnet House over the long-run.

Speaking of revenue, this issue of the Newsletter features a listing of those generous supporters who help make possible everything we do at Bonnet House. I want to offer my most sincere thanks to all our members and benefactors who have made a contribution to Bonnet House over the past year. As

Fall Returns and Season Nears (Cont'd)

we are facing a cut in state funding for operations of approximately \$50,000 in the coming fiscal year, I am humbly reminded that in the end, it is the people listed in this Newsletter that sustain Bonnet House from season to season.

I would like to close with one more word about finances. Bonnet House operates on a fiscal year. That means that our accounting and budget period runs from July 1st to June 30th. In the next issue of the Newsletter we will be publishing an annual report. Through this, stakeholders like you will see how we have performed fiscally and will get a better idea of what it takes from a dollars and cents standpoint to keep Bonnet House running. Though it will appear in January this year, my intention is to publish a similar report along with our donor listing each fall going forward.

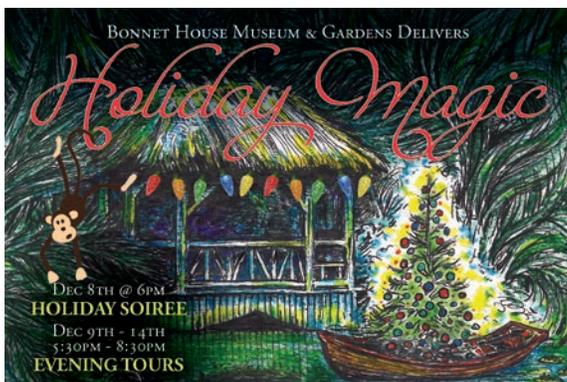
Thank you again for your interest and support. I look forward to seeing you at Bonnet House—no matter what the season.

Patrick

Development News

by Darla Worley Livesay

Holiday Magic is coming to Fort Lauderdale!



For Bonnet House that means an inaugural fundraising event like no other. It will all start December 5-7 with a team of designers decorating Bonnet House trees and wreaths that will be on sale throughout the following week.

On December 8th, we will kick off the festivities with a soiree on the veranda and tickets are already on sale at www.bonnethouse.org/calendar. Bonnet House will also be open for self-guided tours at night from December 9-14 with something exciting each night;

from Santa and his elves, to Christmas story telling, to strolling carolers and much more. Tree pick up will take place on Friday, December 16th.

The success of this year's first ever Holiday Magic can be summed up in a simple formula: Festival of Trees + Holiday Cheer + Sounds of the Season = Light Up Bonnet House!

Contact darlaworleylivesay@bonnethouse.org if you would like to decorate a tree.

Leaving A Legacy by Stephen Draft

The first time I came to Fort Lauderdale on vacation and drove up A1A I saw this long tall metal fence with lots of trees and shrubs. I wondered what it was,



what's in there? Someone told me it was Bonnet House and you can take a tour. I didn't get to take that tour

until shortly after moving here. Awed by the uniqueness of the amazing estate, when I got home I went to its web site and filled out the volunteer application.

Linda asked me to do a booklet on palms, then I started working with the Grounds Manager and later doing tram tours. After finishing the Master Gardener course I asked if I could do a project at Bonnet House to fulfill needed volunteer hours. I was assigned to the Desert Garden and screening project, a \$350,000 landscape installation. Working with world class landscape architects, landscape installers and a famous archeologist was an incredible experience. Seeing the empty space turned into the beautiful Desert Garden was thrilling. When the project was done I was asked if I would like to be employed at Bonnet House and to my amazement became the Bonnet House Curator.

The thrill at seeing some neglected part of the property transformed never stopped happening for me. Of course it wasn't all fun; there were many exasperating moments. I was curator for six years before retiring and becoming a volunteer again.

Leaving a Legacy (Cont'd)

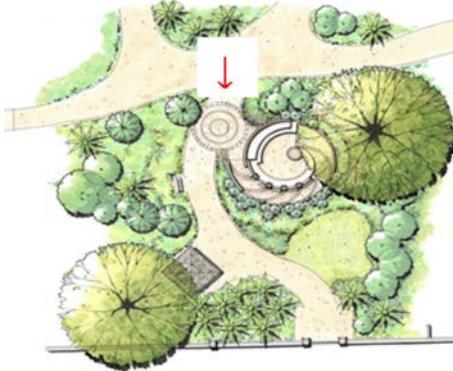
I came along after Mrs. Bartlett was gone and there's so much information about her. I was also fortunate enough to have many visits with family members. I feel like I knew her. Having read many letters she wrote over a ten year period trying to find a safe and suitable way to preserve the estate, I appreciate how miraculous it is that Bonnet House survived. Also key to it's survival were the many Fort Lauderdale families who in the early years made donations, became guides, served on the board, formed the Alliance and did whatever was needed.

It is my desire that in my own small way I want to join with Evelyn Bartlett, those Fort Lauderdale families and all the people who have helped Bonnet House survive. So I instructed my lawyer to list Bonnet House in my will. Hopefully that will let some new corner of the property be transformed.

Please consider joining me and include Bonnet House in your estate plans.

Commemorative Coral Stones

The Bonnet House Commemorative Coral Stone Campaign is a new opportunity to honor loved ones, celebrate milestones or show your lasting commitment to this special place by adding your own personal sign of support. The Coral Stones will be placed in the outer band of the entry way leading into the South Gate gathering area at Bonnet House. 77 characters are allowed including spaces, 11 per line, 7 lines total. Call Darla for your engraving form at 954-653-1557. Coral Stones are \$500 and 100% tax deductible. Visit us online to donate at bonnethouse.org/membership-support/donate.



The Little Gift Shop

by Dianne Ennis

The gift shop was 14 percent above goal last fiscal year which proves that our inventory is unique and eclectic as well as very appealing. We would like to thank those who shopped with us during our last season in helping us make another milestone. Irma has closed our doors for more than 17 days and we are now behind for this fiscal year. Help us make this season our best ever by visiting and supporting Bonnet House and the Museum Shop. Now that we are into our new season, new inventory is arriving daily. During the month of November the gift shop offers a discount of 20% to all Bonnet House members and associates just in time for the Christmas holiday.

Charles Albert's custom jewelry of beautiful and unusual pieces continues to be very popular with our guests. We pride ourselves on our pricing; we are extremely reasonable; we fit into anyone's budget. Grandmothers - we have children's books that will fascinate your special grandchild along with other unusual children's toys. For the art lovers, we feature original paintings from some of our Bonnet House Fine Artist members. Stop in, we look forward to seeing you and helping you discover that perfect gift. Pick up a Gift Shop Pass at the Welcome Center or South Gate and you are on your way to a fun shopping experience.



It saddens us to announce that two of our dearest friends and beloved volunteers have and will be moving from the south Florida area. The Museum Shop had the pleasure of Carey Houghton, our Wednesday volunteer for over seven years of service to the Museum Gift Shop along with Georgia Elfman, also our Wednesday volunteer of 19 years of service. Georgia will be leaving us at the end of this year. Carey and Georgia were the ladies that stocked our gift shop with so many fantastic and marvelous items. Both ladies have left their mark on Bonnet House, and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the gift shop. Wednesdays will not be the same without Carey and Georgia. Both will be profoundly missed as volunteers and good friends to all of us. We all wish them the best and hope our paths will meet again.

Frederic Clay Bartlett's Paintings of China

by Denyse Cunningham

Following their marriage in 1919 Frederic Clay Bartlett and Helen Birch took an extended honeymoon traveling to Japan, China and the Philippines.



Inspired by the Orient Helen wrote 15 poems about Japan. Frederic was also inspired and painted at least 25 oil paintings of Chinese

scenes while in the country. These paintings were exhibited at several one man shows at galleries and museums including the Montross Gallery, N.Y. in 1921, The Albright Gallery (now the Albright-Knox Art Gallery) in Buffalo, New York in 1921, The Memorial Art Gallery (now part of the University of Rochester) in Rochester, New York in 1921, The Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts (now the Everson Museum) in 1922, The Detroit Institute of Arts in 1922 and The Toledo Museum of Art in 1922.

In critiquing the Memorial Art Gallery show a 1921 newspaper review stated: "The canvases shown include a number of brilliant and fascinating studies of Chinese scenes by Frederick (sic.) Clay Bartlett..." "The paintings by Frederick (sic.) Clay Bartlett are glowing bits of color which express much of the mystery and fascination of the old Chinese cities. Mr. Bartlett spent many months in China and has evidently absorbed the spirit of the country. His canvases will repay study and will reveal new beauties at each visit."

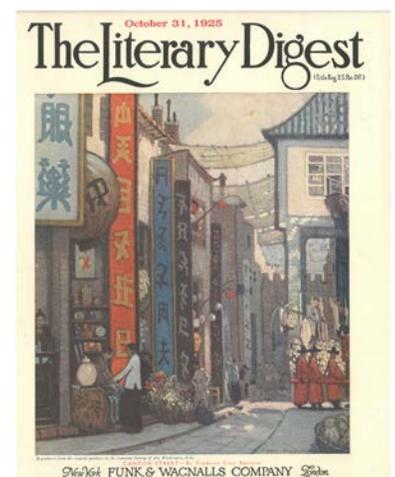
Of his China paintings Frederic observed in a 1922 letter to the director of the Toledo Museum: "As far as technique and point of view goes I tried to approach my subjects entirely as a westerner, letting the subject itself carry its eastern message. One is strongly tempted in the Orient to adopt some of their methods without their point of view with the result true to neither style."

"The light in China has a vividness combined with a whitish sky which interested me greatly. Quite contrary to my ideas before going to China, I found the prevailing color to be grey with strong color notes. A rather amusing story is told of the Marble Boat in the lake of the Summer Palace, of which I am sending you a canvas. A large sum of money was voted for the building of the Chinese navy. But the Dowager Empress not being interested in a navy used the sum to build a marble pleasure boat in the lake of her palace, and today is often referred to as the Chinese navy!" Frederic sold several of his Chinese paintings and he gave one to his sister, Maie Bartlett Heard. Maie and her husband Dwight Bancroft Heard founded the Heard Museum in Phoenix. Other paintings were on exhibit with other artists work in several museums in the United States including the Art Institute of Chicago.

Also inspired by his travels in China, Frederic collaborated with his friend the architect Howard Van Doren Shaw on the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at the Chicago Art Institute. Frederic completed two murals around 1921. Known as Great Walls, one panel depicts the building of the Great Wall of China and the other panel shows an unspecific American city complete with skyscraper and laborers. The murals were executed using a style he said was "somewhat freer and more in our extreme modern spirit of impressionism."

The murals are still intact, but they are hidden behind the partitions of what are now offices, which were created during a later renovation of the library space.

In the Bonnet House archives are black and white photos of some of the China paintings. The titles of the paintings include: Hongkong (sic.) Harbor, Hongkong (sic.) Harbor Evening, Canton in Sunlight, Canton Boats, Canton Temple Yard, Canton



Continued on Page 6

Frederic's Paintings (Cont'd)

by Denyse Cunningham

Chang Temple, Canton Facades, Coral Bridge, Canton, Shameen Bridge, Canton, Shanghai Willow Tea House, Shanghai Pavilion, Soochow Flower Pagoda, Soochow Blue Tea House, Soochow Street, Peking Yellow Temple, Peking Summer Palace Roofs, Peking Theater, Peking Imperial Rock, Peking Marble Boat, Peking Jade Pagoda, Peking Temple of Prayer, Peking Pavilion, and Peking Wild Apricot. Frederic's Canton Street appeared on the October 31, 1925 cover of *Literary Digest*. It was displayed at the Corcoran Gallery Museum of Art at their Seventh Biennial, held in 1919. The museum purchased the piece from Mr. Bartlett for \$500.00.

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens proudly displays two of Frederic's paintings of China in the Studio, Blue Willow Tea House and Yellow Temple, Peking. The tea house depicted in one of these paintings was said to be the inspiration for the building featured in the blue willow pottery pattern.

Another painting, Church of Our Lady of the Sea, Manila, was also painted on his honeymoon trip with Helen.

In the Bonnet House archives we have 19 sepia-toned photographs of Frederic's Chinese paintings. If only we had color prints of these wonderful paintings! Perhaps, with further research we will be able to locate other paintings of China by Frederic.

New Art Classes

Porcelain artist Mary Belle Cordell will be teaching two exciting workshops this fall at Bonnet House. Mary Belle is an award winning porcelain artist who has a great love of Bonnet House and all of its beauty. She was recently selected as one of South Florida's top rising Artists as an Entrepreneur and was featured in an all media exhibit at ArtServe Gallery.



The class on Monday, October 23 will feature reverse glass painting. Beginning and advance students will paint a plate and several small items with colors of

their choice and embellished with gold leaf.

November 10 and 13 will be a two-day workshop using colored enamel on a 10 X 14 porcelain tile. All aspects of enameling will be discussed in this class. A palette knife will be used for this fun project. The tile will be fired in a kiln twice. All supplies are included in these classes. Come and be renewed with these new and exciting workshops. Class size is limited to 10 students. Sign up today to reserve your place.

Employee Spotlight

by Nicholle Maudlin

Linda Rosen - Our New Bookkeeper

If there is anyone out there that enjoys balancing their checkbook and tracking expenses, you have something in common with Linda Rosen, Bonnet House's new Bookkeeper. Born in Brockton, MA, Linda moved to Fort Lauderdale while in high school before moving to Pompano Beach for a brief time. However, she has spent the last five years back in Fort Lauderdale living on the New River.



Linda brings more than 40 years of bookkeeping experience to Bonnet House. Although, she started in the for-profit world, working as a bookkeeper in a law firm where her mother was also a bookkeeper, she eventually moved over to non-profits and spent over 10 years at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Now she is part of the Bonnet House family where she is greeted daily by squirrel monkeys that wait by her office for her arrival.

Aside from looking forward to "being able to keep part of our history intact", Linda is enthusiastic about working at Bonnet House and hopes to "streamline the accounting procedures and find ways to save money."

The finance office is above the caretaker's cottage next to the gift shop. Please stop by and welcome Linda the next time you are on property.

Activities Calendar October - December

Events

COOL SATURDAYS

October 7, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Admission is \$10 for adults
and free for children 12 and
under

FREDERIC BARTLETT'S OKTOBERFEST



Presented by the
Bonnet House Alliance
October 16, 6:00 pm

ORCHID FESTIVAL



December 2 & 3
9:00am - 4:00pm

HOLIDAY MAGIC

Soiree - December 8, 6:00pm
Whimsical Wonderland

December 10, 5:30pm

Evening Experience

December 9 - 14
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Classes

BIRDING CLASSES



October 29, November 12 &
December 10
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

ORCHID CARE CLASSES

February 11, 18, 25
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

REVERSE GLASS PAINTING



Monday, October 23
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

PALETTE KNIFE PAINTING

2-Day Class

Friday, November 10 &
Monday, November 13

Coming Soon

LECTURE SERIES

January 9, February 13 &
March 13, 10:00 am

A BONNET HOUSE FINE ARTIST EXHIBIT

January 11, 6:00 pm

CONCERTS UNDER THE STARS



January 18, February 15,
March 15 & April 5
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

ENTIRELY ENTERTAINING



February 26
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

MAKING NEW IMPRESSIONS

March 8, 6:00 pm

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

Bonnet House Donors

July 2016 - June 2017

The Board of Directors of Bonnet House extends its sincere thanks to the following individuals and organizations that have supported Bonnet House between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 through pledges, cash gifts, and gifts of goods or services. The museum would not be able to operate without these loyal benefactors.
Thank you!

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\$100,000 or more

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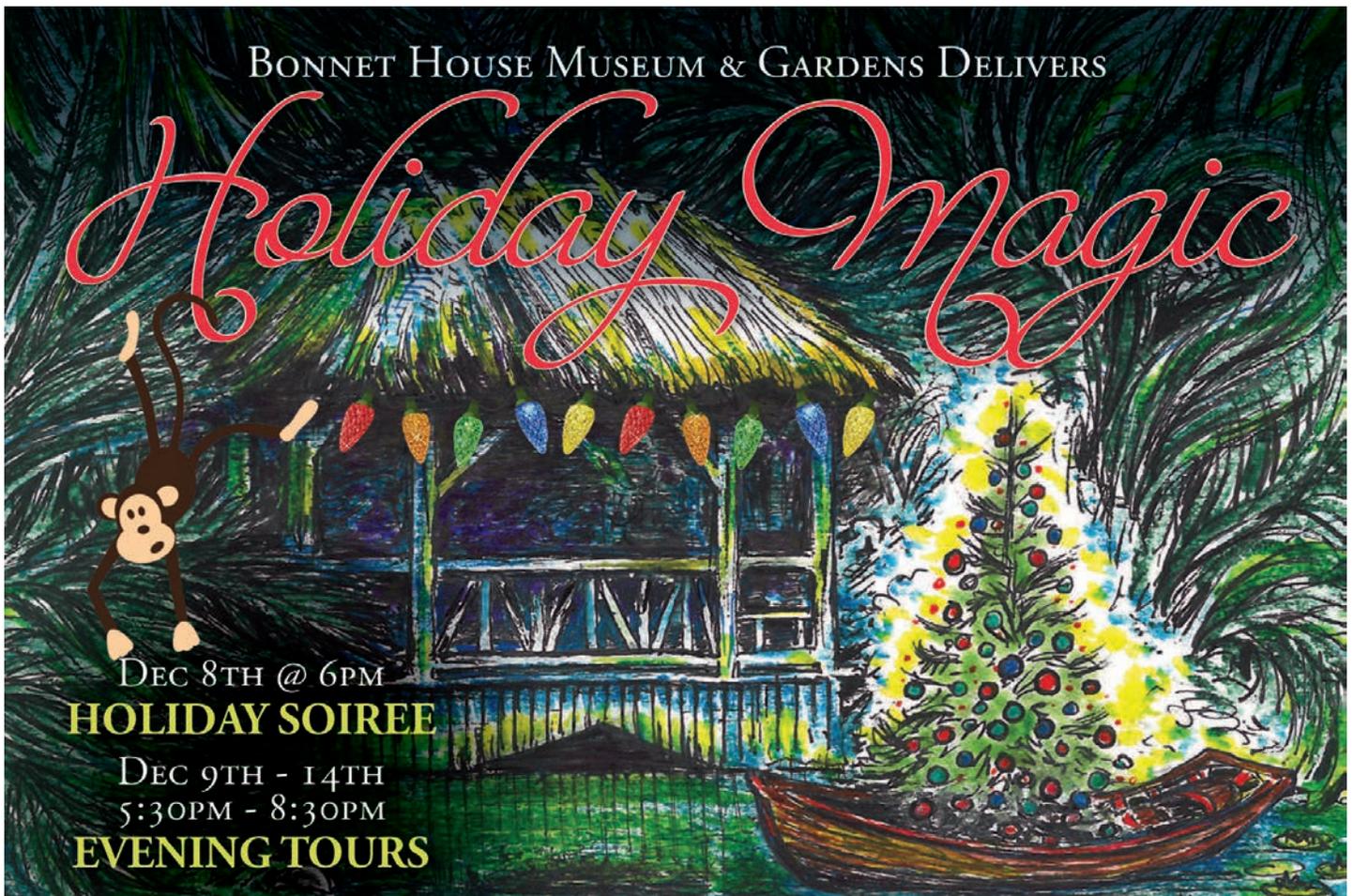
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