



# FROM THE CEO

Patrick Shavloske

## VISITOR NUMBER REBOUND AND LOTS MORE TO SHARE

Tour visitors have started to return to Bonnet House! I am pleased to report that about 3,575 people toured Bonnet House in March 2021. That's about 19% less than March of 2019 but more than double the visitors in March of 2020 when Broward County entered lockdown. We can definitely see the light at the end of our long COVID tunnel. I will be forever grateful to our volunteers and staff who have brought us to this point. Yes, our largely outdoor setting helped, but it was love of and commitment to Bonnet House that really made this possible. What a remarkable testament that is to Evelyn Bartlett's vision.

But the good news continues. April 1, 2021 was a pivotal day in Bonnet House history. On that day, Christie's sold the Qajar painting that had been hanging in the Studio for £1.9 million. At the current exchange rate, that equals about \$2.6 million. While it is in some ways sad to see the original leave Bonnet House, the positive points of the sale far outweigh any negatives. The fact is that Bonnet House was simply not equipped to house a painting of such significance and intrinsic value. Every indication was that Frederic Bartlett bought the painting in 1921 simply because he liked it. We will be able to maintain the exact aesthetic that attracted Frederic with a reproduction.

So how will Bonnet House use the proceeds? The short answer is, strategically and for collection conservation purposes only. Two roofers have already been to Bonnet House to assess the roof of the main house and plan for replacement. In addition, an architect and a mechanical engineer have been on site to begin planning for the installation of appropriate air conditioning for all of the main house, leading the way to eventual restoration of furnishings and artwork in the second-floor bedrooms. A conservator has also been inspecting paintings by Frederic Bartlett to compile a schedule for cleaning and conservation. Our goal is still to save as much as possible for endowment purposes and the inevitable work that will be needed to conserve collection items in the future, but some long-known priorities will soon be green-lighted for commencement.

Conservation on the grounds also took a big step forward this past winter. Thanks to a grant from the Hagen Foundation, Bonnet House was able to restore the moat around the Island Theater and the Lily pond. Years of organic material were threatening the health of these waterbodies, and after consulting with

Birch State Park on a similar project they completed, Bonnet House worked with Wisconsin-based Organic Sediments Removal to essentially vacuum clean the bottom of both waterways. Overtime, water chemistry should improve to the point that koi can be reintroduced. The main slough, however, is much more complicated due to its size, and that is a project for future newsletters.

Also in good news is the commencement of the final phase of the South Gate improvements. Concrete has been poured for the education plaza and donor wall. We ran into a small delay in getting the new walkways to match what was poured in 2014, but that issue has been resolved, and the South Gate project will be finished this summer, ready for use by school groups, weddings and all other visitors this fall. A silver lining to the delay is that the rainy season will boost growth of the new landscaping.

There is some sad news to report, though. Frederic Bartlett's granddaughter, Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges, passed away on January 31, 2021. It was an incredible privilege for me to have known Libby, and I will miss her and our talks. Libby lived mostly in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and was a repository of all kinds of knowledge and anecdotes about Frederic, Evelyn, and Bonnet House. Thanks to Libby, I know where Evelyn kept her good jewelry here (there is a hidden ledge inside the Master Bedroom fireplace). I also learned about Dan Huger's improvised and not very effective burglar alarms and that married overnight guests were usually the ones to stay in what is now the Carl Weinhardt Gallery. She was a wealth of information that greatly humanized Frederic and Evelyn. Libby was a generous donor and tireless advocate for Bonnet House. She was a driving force behind our publication of *Bonnet House: A Legacy of Artistry Elegance* and founder of the Bartlett Circle membership levels. She was also a genuine, kind, humble person, completely lacking in pretense that I will personally miss. Rest in peace Libby. Evelyn and Frederic would have been proud of your unwavering support of Bonnet House.

These stories and daily interactions at the museum continually remind of how fortunate we are to have the great gift Evelyn Bartlett left our community in 1983, and the great gift we have today in our volunteers, donors, and staff. I think we are now at the cusp of a great and bright future for this special place. To every reader, thank you for all you do, one way or another to support Bonnet House.





## ***RE-VITALIZE BONNET HOUSE CAMPAIGN AND NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM UPDATE***

**Darla L. Stanton, Director of Development**

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS THAT HAVE GIVEN to the Re-Vitalize Bonnet House Campaign! Your generosity is amazing and always greatly appreciated!

Back in 2020 Bonnet House conducted a survey. Eighty-two participants responded “yes” to participating in a dining experience for eight on the veranda and/or to a sleepover at Bonnet House, thus the Night at the Museum experiences were created.

Bonnet House is still offering an ultimate once-in-a-lifetime experience. For a gift of \$5,000 donors can participate in one of two luxurious Night at the Museum experiences. Donors may select between one experience that offers dinner for two, an overnight stay in Bonnet House’s newly renovated suite, and breakfast the next morning. Alternatively, donors can forego the overnight stay and host an outdoor dinner on the veranda for eight guests, entertaining friends and family members just as the Bartletts did.

Both curated experiences will immerse participants in the leisurely life once enjoyed at a 1930’s era beach-front estate. This includes a private, docent guided tour of the property and the rare opportunity to enjoy moonlit palms and sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean in near complete seclusion. Guests will be immersed in the elegant entertaining traditions of the Bonnet House estate and will experience a glimpse into the lifestyle and the world of art and Florida in the early 20th century.

For the “Night at the Museum” overnight stay, a donation of \$5,000 will provide guests with accommodations for two in a newly refurbished second floor suite, a multi-course dinner for two on the veranda with an individually curated menu, and breakfast in the morning that may include Bloody Mary’s and Mimosas.

The dinner-for-eight experience includes a docent guided tour, pre-dinner cocktails, and dinner on the veranda or moon-lit courtyard. Menu options may be exquisitely personalized and can include dishes like scrumptious lobster or steak and a full open bar.

A gift of \$10,000 allows for two separate events, the dinner for eight experience and the overnight experience for two and breakfast for two in the morning. However, if you wish to combine them you can!

So far, the past booked dinners and overnight stays have been enjoyed with tremendous success. Our feedback from guests has been phenomenally positive. We are taking reservations currently all the way through June 30th of 2022! We are hoping that you are ready to book your experience(s) now!

The Night at the Museum program is being offered to complete the museum’s \$275,000 Re-vitalize Campaign that seeks to raise funds to support Bonnet House during a period of decreased visitation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, the museum has raised \$226,000 towards the goal. In addition to a truly memorable evening, Night at the Museum program participants will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped re-vitalize Bonnet House.

For more information about the Night at the Museum experiences please visit <https://www.bonnethouse.org/re-vitalize-bonnet-house/>. You can also email or call Darla Stanton, Director of Development, at [darlastanton@bonnethouse.org](mailto:darlastanton@bonnethouse.org), 954-653-1557.

For Night at the Museum Dinner gifts, \$3,000 is tax-deductible and for Night at the Museum Sleepover gifts, \$4,000 is tax-deductible. If a donor declines benefits, the entire gift amount is tax-deductible.



# SHELL WORK

by Denyse Cunningham, Curator



WE HAVE SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF SHELL WORK AT Bonnet House. The Bartlett's obviously loved shells as seen in shell designs in the Haitian Loggia. At one time the Haitian Loggia had more shell designs; the four upper corners had two curly cues each. A shadow of the designs can be seen on the walls today.

Eleven of Mrs. Bartlett's paintings contain shells and eight of Mr. Bartlett's paintings do. The one painting they collaborated on, the sea life ceiling mural, has six shells.

There are four small shell assemblages in the Music Room that Mrs. Bartlett purchased in Nassau. They are in the shape of a bride's basket. Bride's baskets were used in weddings in the early 19th century by flower girls to scatter flower petals down the church aisle. It was also customary to place the basket on the main table during the wedding reception to showcase the bridal bouquet. Shell work was a popular souvenir purchased by tourists visiting the Bahamas. As these intricate shell assemblages are very difficult to dust they are often displayed under glass domes.



There are two shell flower arrangements in white marble urns at the base of the pier mirrors. The urns can be seen in very early pictures of the room on the mantel with no assemblages.



There are ten prints of shells in the Music Room from the 19th century; however, the original plates were made a hundred years earlier by F. M. Rengenfuss, the royal engraver of King Frederic V of Denmark.

Mrs. Bartlett had 79 shell-shaped dinner plates. Makers of the plates include French Guillot, Wedgewood (2 different patterns) and Fitz & Floyde.





# THATCH ROOF

by John Lucas, Bonnet House Volunteer

What's different about the picture?



Answer: The color of the chickee bridge roof.

The previous day the roof had been stripped and replaced with freshly cut thatch palm fronds leaving it a temporary green. In a week the fronds will slowly fade to brown. Bridge facing boards were also replaced/repared and the interior woods cleaned/replaced.

Throughout the world, thatchers use a variety of plants for thatch roofing that includes tall reeds, straw, wheat, or palm leaves.

Chickees have a raised floor, thatched roof, and open sides, just like the Chickee Bridge. Tiki huts are more elaborate and can have all the accommodations of a home.

Seminoles used chickees in the 1850s as the US Army pursued them through the Everglades. Quickly assembled, using cypress framing and palmetto thatches, the chickee provided shelter and blended into the Everglades making it difficult for the army to find the Seminoles. They remain the only Indigenous Americans that have not signed a peace treaty with the United States.

The thatch palm, a Florida native, is perfect for thatching. Drought resistant and salt water tolerant it thrives along the coastlines from the Keys up to Palm Beach and along the Gulf to Naples. Cold sensitive, cooler inland weather makes it difficult for this coastal plant to survive.

The tree grows slowly with slender 3 - 5 inch trunks that can reach a height of 15 - 20 feet with up to 20 leaves that can be 3 to 5 feet wide with "fingers" splaying out from a central "palm." The broad palmate leaf is optimal roofing material. When harvested, a portion of the



Volunteer, Dick Haliburton  
stem is left to secure it to a roof's rafters and cross battens. Bundled leaves are layered then tied to the roof frame creating a wind resistant and water repellant barrier.

Over time the roof will deteriorate, especially if a hurricane tears it off. However, local palm fronds are easy to find. Just look around your neighborhood for leaves to repair your chickee or tiki hut. In fact, Bonnet House has a mature display of thatch palms at the south end of the slough next to the Dry Fountain, but call your local tiki hut contractor to repair or build your chickee or tiki hut addition.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021

## ORCHID CARE CLASSES

Tuesday | August 10 | 10:00 am & 1:00 pm  
Orchid Care Basics

Tuesday | August 17 | 10:00 am & 1:00 pm  
Repotting & Mounting plus Combating  
Pests & Diseases

Members \$30, Non-members \$35

## FAMILY SUMMER SPECIAL

June 1st through September 5th, Bonnet House is proud to host our Family Summer Special! This special deal includes \$20 admission for adults and free admission for anyone age 17 and under when accompanied by an adult.

## GUIDED TOURS

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays  
9:30 am - 11:00 am & 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
\$25, Limited to 9 visitors per tour.\*

\* Tour capacity may increase as COVID restrictions are lifted.

For more information, to purchase tickets or register for classes, please visit [bonnethouse.org](http://bonnethouse.org).



# SAVE THE DATES

## HOLIDAY MAGIC RETURNS

Holiday Magic Soiree - Friday, December 3, 2021 | 6-10 pm

Holiday Magic Evening Tours - Wednesday, Thursday & Friday | December 8, 9 & 10 | 6-8 pm

Whimsical Wonderful, An Evening for Families  
Saturday | December 4 | 4:30 pm-7:30 pm



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PRESENTED BY THE HALLER FOUNDATION IS BACK ON!!

Friday, January 7, 2022 | 6-10 pm





# SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP AT BONNET HOUSE

BY CHRISTY SCHULTZ

Take Root Education Presents...  
Summer Adventure Camp at the Bonnet House  
THE LAND BEFORE TIME!

This summer campers will take a magical journey through time and space...to find themselves stepping into the past, walking alongside the beasts of the wild and ancient forests of Florida. Summer days will be full of discovery and imagination as campers search for creatures of both present and past hidden in the jungles of the forest, at the shore of the sea and tucked away in the beautiful gardens of the Bonnet House! From June 7th to July 31st children, ages 4.5-12 are welcome to join us for a 3 or 5 day camp week, 9:30am-3:00pm.  
Play, learn, swim and more!



## ADVENTURE AWAITS!

June & July 2021, 9:30am-3pm  
Options for ages 4-12...Small Groups...Limited Space.

3 Day (T, W, Tr) - \$200

5 Day (M-Fr) - \$325

\*Covid-19 Guidelines Followed.

More info online at [Natureseekers.earth](http://Natureseekers.earth)

Call or email for more details  
(786) 490-6660, [natureseekersfl@gmail.com](mailto:natureseekersfl@gmail.com)



## SAY "I DO" AT BONNET HOUSE

**BONNET HOUSE**  
MUSEUM & GARDENS

CONTACT DAVID WOODIN  
954.703.2608

[DAVIDWOODIN@BONNETHOUSE.ORG](mailto:DAVIDWOODIN@BONNETHOUSE.ORG)





BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

# A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



INDULGE IN EXCLUSIVE & LUXURIOUS  
OVERNIGHT STAYS & DINNERS,  
BENEFITTING BONNET HOUSE'S REVITALIZATION CAMPAIGN

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