

FROM THE CEO Patrick Shavloske



FALL AND WINTER are typically busy times at Bonnet House, and 2022-2023 has been no exception. Tour attendance has beaun its seasonal rise. The week between Christmas and New Year's was incredibly busy (despite the unusually chilly weather), and so far for the fiscal year, Bonnet House has seen an increase in visitor

numbers of about 10.5% over last fiscal year. As always, visitor reviews we receive are positive. Almost invariably, visitors comment on how welcoming and knowledgeable staff and volunteers are. It may sound simplistic, but this proves to me that a smile and kindness go hand in hand with historical fact in creating for a positive museum experience.

Accommodating an increase in visitors has been challenging at times, complicated by two important improvement projects. Late summer and fall saw the commencement of our long-anticipated reroofing project. This required some creativity in creating temporary tour routes through Bonnet House, and tour staff deserve a special thanks for being ever adaptive and resourceful. As of this writing the re-roofing project is nearing completion with the Studio flat roof still pending as the way it was initially roofed necessitated an additional engineering study to meet permitting requirements. There are also some outstanding punch list items in the courtyard.

Another project requiring creativity in tour routing



was installation of air conditioning in the Main H o u s e . While the installation

of three new central A/C units and duct work proved challenging, a real hurdle came from upgrading the

electrical system to accommodate the new power needs. This involved locating existing underground utilities in the area near the ear tree between the events office and the Museum Shop, trenching for new conduit and cable, and the installation of emergency shut off switches near the kitchen door to meet current building code. Aside from the cost, I can see why this project never made it off the ground in the past. However, the benefits of climate control for long term preservation are immense, and it will make for a far more pleasant experience for guests and docents during the summer months. It will also be important for our American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation.

Speaking of reaccreditation, you may recall from previous articles that Bonnet House is undergoing reaccreditation review by the AAM. The AAM voted



to table our reaccreditation application for a few months to allow Bonnet House to resolve some concerns they noted. The reasons stated were lack of air conditioning in

some exhibit rooms and a more thorough discussion of evaluation activities for Bonnet House education programs and our diversity initiatives. I have to admit frustration in this. The air conditioning project was included in our strategic plan for 2022 and noted to our peer reviewers. We had also submitted a great deal of information about our education programs and our efforts to honor and include in our programs all the people who were part of Bonnet House's history. A thorough progress report was submitted to the AAM in December, and we remain accredited while the AAM considers the additional information. I am confident we will be reaccredited by the end of the process, but this also shows the vigorous nature of the AAM's review.

It's often said the next few months are the reason those of us who live in Florida do so. I hope you'll stop by the museum during this glorious time of year. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Orchid Festival on April 1st and 2nd. It's a fantastic time to enjoy the grounds, and a wonderful way to support Bonnet House.

Cover Photo: Monica Estevez. Inside photos: Barbie Pearson, Anna Collins, Monica Estevez, Denyse Cunningham, Katie Valli, Suzanne Delawar, and Manda Weaver Photography.

REVELRY IN REVENUE WITH GRATITUDE FOR ALL YOU DO!

Darla L. Stanton, Director of Development

HOLIDAY MAGIC 2022

It has been an amazing year here at Bonnet House. So many wonderful things have happened, and



we could never do it without all you. We have the great fortune of having the most outstanding board members, donors, volunteers and staff. We are extremely grateful for your dedication and commitment to Bonnet House.

One of the many successes here this year has been our wonderful, magical,

whimsical event called Holiday Magic. We kicked off the weeklong event with a record breaking sellout crowd of over 500 people at the Soiree on the veranda and in the VIP tent. The event has created a groundswell of support by all of you and the entire community. This is certainly something that will be a tradition here at Bonnet House for many more years to come and a new and much needed revenue stream. This year we raised \$124,000 in funds for Bonnet House making it the single largest fund raiser for Bonnet House!

Mark your calendars for Holiday Magic 2023: Friday, December 1st will be the VIP and Soiree; Saturday, December 2nd will be our Whimsical Wonderland, and December 6th, 7th and 8th will be our unforgettable evening experiences!

LEAVE A LEGACY

The first few months of the year are an opportunity to take stock by thinkng about what has changed over the past year and what lies ahead. Please consider including Bonnet House in your estate plans. Contact me on how you can leave a legacy to Bonnet House.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

This component of the Revitalize Bonnet House campaign offers guests a rare opportunity to spend the night at Bonnet House in the newly renovated bridal suite accompanied by a gourmet dinner and breakfast the next morning. Alternatively, donors can host a gourmet dinner for eight at Bonnet House. Either Night at the Museum experience is a \$5,000 gift, but the experiences can be combined for a \$10,000 giff. So far, we have raised \$107,000 and all the proceeds go to restoration, preservation and maintenance of Bonnet House! What a terrific way to enjoy and help your favorite non-profit at the same time! If you would like to help us with this campaign, please book your event online at bonnethouse.org.

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID & GARDEN FESTIVAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Also, mark your calendars for the Orchid Festival which will take place on April 1 and 2, 2023 on the Bonnet House grounds. Hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm both



Saturday and Sunday. Over thirty vendors participate in the festival by selling orchid and garden supplies. Over 5,000 people typically attend the festival. The entire grounds are open for guests to enjoy and self-guided house tours are available. Lectures and workshops on orchid cultivation as well as live music, and food and beverage vendors make for a wonderful day. Admission to

the event is \$15. This year we've added a VIP brunch both days from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon for \$100. Bloody marys, mimosas and event admission are included in the price! Last year we raised \$57,000 and this year our goal is \$90,000. If you would like to help, need more information on the Orchid Festival or wish to become a sponsor, visit our website at bonnethouse,org.

MEMBERSHIP

Lastly, one of the simplest ways you can help preserve and enhance Bonnet House, this wonderful treasure, is by becoming a member. You will receive complimentary admission for a year, get discounted admission for up to 3 guests and receive discounts in our Museum Shop, the best little gift shop in all of Broward County.

We are very thankful and blessed to have all of you involved with Bonnet House and wish you all a very Happy, Healthy New Year!

Cheers to 2023!

With a most grateful heart, Darla Stanton, Director of Development

THE LITTLE GIFT SHOP

Dianne Ennis, Visitor Services & Administration Manager



OUR CAFÉ IS NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON, serving sandwiches along with healthy items like hummus and fruit and cheese combos. It has been done...we are now serving wine and beer at the Museum Shop! Picture yourself sitting at our beautiful garden café enjoying a cold beer or a cool glass of wine complementing your fruit and cheese combo. We are adding to your memorable experience at Bonnet House.

We are small but big in value. We pride ourselves on our pricing and are extremely reasonable; we fit into anyone's budget as a shop that carries unique inventory that complements the family history of Bonnet House. With Valentine's Day approaching, we might just have the right gift you are looking to give that special someone. We carry sterling silver coastal jewelry and for organic lovers, we present Organic Tagua Jewelry, colorful and eye catching. Grandmothers - we have children's books that will fascinate your special grandchildren along with other unusual children's toys. Specialty items incluide those from SPI; we are proud to have this com-



pany in our shop that has items that compliment your home with elegance. Beautiful lady's scarfs, handbags and books that capture the history of Fort Lauderdale are also a part of our gift shop collection. We also carry a large array of household and personal items.

For the art lovers, we feature original paintings from our outstanding Bonnet House Fine Artist members. Stop in; we look forward to seeing you and helping you discover that perfect giff. Pick up a giff shop pass at the Welcome Center or South Gate and you are on your way to a fun shopping experience, and you can also enjoy lunch in our beautiful café garden.

Visit us and browse. We know you will be delighted with our inventory. A great gift is a Bonnet House membership; it is the gift that keeps giving all year long.

Travel & Hospitality Award Winner

Adventure Activity Of

- World Famous "Venice of America Lesson and Tour
- Bonnet House Tour and Paddle Adventure
- Seven Isles Paddle Tour
- Two Tickets to Paradise

*www.FortLauderdaleAdventures.com

at Coconut

Cove Landing

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The

= 2019 = HALL of

FAME

COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER/INTERN KATIE VALLI AND THE ANCESTOR MASK



THESE PAST FEW MONTHS AT BONNET HOUSE, collections volunteer/intern Katie Valli has been getting a great amount of hands-on experience in her pursuit of a career change to the museum world. She has been studying graduate-level preventive conservation online at George Washington University and began volunteering with Curator Denyse Cunningham shortly before the fall semester.

One of her projects was to choose an object from the collections and write a "narrative condition report" which is a thorough analysis that museums and conservators use to assess artifacts. It includes a highly detailed description of the object, its historical background, materials, believed manufacturing process, condition, treatment proposal and preventive recommendations to conserve the object as best possible for the future. Katie chose to focus on an "ancestor" mask" that has been stored in the archives for quite some time due to its condition. Originally from New Guinea and made by the Asmat tribe, the mask was bought at the Kampong Gallery in Palm Beach by Evelyn Bartlett in 1991 to add to her eclectic collection. It features a three-dimensional mud-like material sculpture of a face, which

was painted in traditional tribal colors and designs and decorated with seashells. There is beautiful geometric basketry weaving around and attached to the sculpture as well. Upon further analysis, Katie discovered something most interesting. The facial sculpture was actually built upon a turtle shell! The turtle shell and basketry are in good condition, however the facial sculpture has active cracks, chips, and the paint is flaking. Katie suggested a treatment proposal and preventive recommendations for the mask so it may one day be displayed again. In the meantime, here are some pictures of the object with Katie herself as well as Evelyn Bartlett and Kampong Gallery owner Mrs. Kramer in a photo from 1991.

If you would like to learn more about the Bartlett's collections that are in the archives, you can contact Curator Denyse Cunningham for more information to satiate your curiosity. Katie and Denyse are also working towards a rotating exhibit that will feature items that have been in the archives for quite some time! We will surely keep you informed of when the future exhibit will be available.

TAKE ROOT FOREST SCHOOL & FOREST CAMP

Homeschool Programs Spring & Summer Camp

> 9:00am - 3:00pm Ages 3-12

Explore, Discover, Learn & Play

Integrating Nature & Place-Based Activities to make learning fun, inspiring and memorable.

> Programs & Times Vary Find us online **natureseekers.earth**



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY - MAY 2023

BIRDING CLASSES

Sun | Feb 5 | 2:00 - 4:30 pm Sun | Mar 5 | 2:00 - 4:30 pm

SPEAKER SERIES

Mon | Feb 13 | 10:00 - 11:30 am The Art of Frederic Bartlett-- J. Kent Planck

Mon | Mar 13 | 10:00 - 11:30 am Hollywood: The first planned ciry in South Florida--Clive Tayler

CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Wed | Feb 14 - Mar 14 | 9:30 - 11:30 am 5-Week Workshop

FOREST BATHING CLASSES

Sun | Feb 26 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sun | Mar 26 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Sun | Apr 23 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm OIL/ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

Tues | Feb 28 - apr 4 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm 4-Week Workshop

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Wed | Mar 1 - Apr 5 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm 6-Week Workshop

ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

Thurs | Mar 2 - Apr 6 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 6-Week Workshop

COLORED PENCIL & DRAWING WORKSHOP

Sat | Apr 15, 22, May 6 & 13 | 9:30 am & 12:30 pm 4-Week Workshop

For more information, to purchase tickets or to register for classes and workshops, please visit bonnethouse.org/events.

14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ORCHID & GARDEN FESTIVAL SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 1 & 2, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Festival welcomes orchid enthusiasts and plant lovers alike to vividly experience – and purchase – diverse, colorful and fragrant varieties of orchids, tropical plants, herbs, and fruit trees sold by local and international vendors from Thailand, Ecuador, and Brazil.

NEW BRUNCH ON THE VERANDA SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 1 & 2, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Presented by John Knox Village – Enjoy a catered brunch on the beautifully decorated waterfront veranda by Alexander Event Catering during the 14th Annual International Orchid & Garden Festival. Brunch includes a delectable buffet with mimosas and bloody marys along with live music and access to the house for a leisurely stroll through the rooms and orchid display house as well as access to the festival, and orchid & garden care demonstrations.



/ www.bonnethouse.org



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