



BONNET HOUSE

MUSEUM & GARDENS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2023

House Happenings

FROM THE CEO

Patrick Shavloske



WHAT A TREMENDOUS season we've just had! I thought last winter was busy, but so far, Bonnet House tour visitor attendance is up 8% over last year. And those visitors are happy they came. Bonnet House is currently ranked on TripAdvisor as the third most popular place to visit in Fort Lauderdale. All of this is made possible by the fantastic collaboration between our

volunteers and tour, admissions, and museum shop staff members. It can be hard to stop and take stock of success on a day with 200 visitors coming and going, but everyone who makes Bonnet House the wonderful place it is should be very proud of the work they have done to share the story of Frederic and Evelyn Bartlett. Theirs is a great story, and the people who keep the story alive today deserve equal credit.

But the museum's success is not just measured by commercial success and acclaim. It can also be measured in professional reputation as well, and I am pleased to report that news of a significant accomplishment in this realm was received in March. Bonnet House was awarded reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. No one should underestimate this feat. Of the estimated 30,000 museums in the United States, only about 1,800 are



accredited. Among other museums reaccredited along with Bonnet House this cycle were the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia, The White House—Office of the Curator, in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Discovery and Science here in Fort Lauderdale. This is an august list of institutions, and we should all be rightly proud of this

achievement. The reaccreditation period will last for ten years.

There is another twist to the list of museums reaccredited in March 2023 that bears notice. Also included on the list was the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. The Heard Museum is a leading exhibitor of Native American art. That name may ring a bell in the Bonnet House context for the Heard Museum

was founded by Dwight and Maie Bartlett Heard in 1929. Maie was nonother than the older sister of Frederic Bartlett. What a wonderful coincidence that two of the professionally-acclaimed museums on the reaccreditation list owe their existence to the Bartlett family.



As King Charles III will have been crowned by the time this newsletter goes to print, allow me to close with a reminiscence of Libby Bartlett Sturges that provides a distant (very distant!) connection to the events in London. Libby was Frederic Bartlett's granddaughter, quite close to Evelyn Bartlett, a great friend of Bonnet House, and a friend to me personally. Many readers will know that Evelyn celebrated her 100th birthday by taking a trip to England via the Concorde. As part of this visit, Evelyn and her traveling companions visited Windsor Castle and also visited the castle's dairy. This would have undoubtedly been of interest to Evelyn as she was an active manager of her farm in Essex, Massachusetts, Boothways. As a memento of the visit, Evelyn was given a milk bottle emblazoned with the late Queen's cypher, E II R. The bottle must have remained at Whitehall as it is not part of our collection here at Bonnet House. Still, it's one of the many humanizing and amusing stories Libby had.

To our departing, seasonal volunteers, have a wonderful summer, and thanks to each of our readers for your support of Bonnet House.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

Darla L. Stanton, Director of Development



FUNDRAISING AND BONNET HOUSE'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2021, Bonnet House's ownership and governance were restructured to vest ownership of the historic house and all planning decisions into local hands and out of the hands of a statewide entity. The Bonnet House Board of Directors saw this as an opportunity to create a strategic plan for the museum's near-term future that would take Bonnet House to a new level of programming and prominence in the community. This plan, in turn, guides the museum's fundraising.

The Board identified three core values that Bonnet House stands for: Preservation, Sense of Place, and Inspiration. Preservation and Sense of Place represent what Bonnet House has done for the past 30 years and will always continue to do: preserving and maintaining a historic property where the stories and legacy of the people who lived here come together to create a unique sense of place. Our grant writing, annual and membership campaigns and fundraising events have supported these values.

Inspiration is something that Bonnet House has long stood for as well. Inspiration means using the place and preserved historic property as a way to inspire people. That can be house tours, our daily program where most people first see Bonnet House and learn about the Bartletts and their creative pursuits. It can also be adult education classes and youth distance learning and field trip programs where Bonnet House

is a canvas for new ideas and expressions.

Inspiration is the core value that will drive new fundraising activities as the museum continues to develop new programs that attract locals to that, "place I always wanted to go to, but haven't in the 20 years I've lived here." Inspiration will also drive plans to create new spaces to support education programs, preserve collection items, and endow the museum so generations to come can be inspired.

To learn more about Bonnet House's strategic goals, please visit <https://www.bonnethouse.org/strategic-goals/> for a downloadable synopsis. We hope you will join us in supporting our journey.

2023 ORCHID FESTIVAL A SUCCESS AND SEES RECORD SPONSORSHIP

The first weekend in April saw beautiful weather here at Bonnet House, and the crowds turned out in droves. An estimated 4,000 people attended this year's Orchid Festival. But before the gates opened, the Festival was already a success. Bonnet House raised a record \$23,555 of sponsorship for the Festival. Gross revenue for the event was \$131,189. This was the first year Bonnet House offered a brunch as part of the festival, courtesy of A. Alexander Events. Thank you to everyone who made the Orchid Festival a resounding success! As always staff will review the logistics with an eye towards making 2024 an even bigger hit. Be sure to mark your calendars. The 2024

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Festival will be April 6th and 7th next year.

LET US KNOW!

We are always humbled to learn that Bonnet House was included in someone's estate plan. This year, Bonnet House has received \$384,000 in estate gifts. That was almost enough to cover the cost of reroofing the historic buildings at Bonnet House without having to touch reserve funds. If you have named Bonnet House in your estate plans, please let us know so we can include you in our Legacy Society. If you haven't, please consider doing so. To receive a copy of our new Legacy Society brochure,

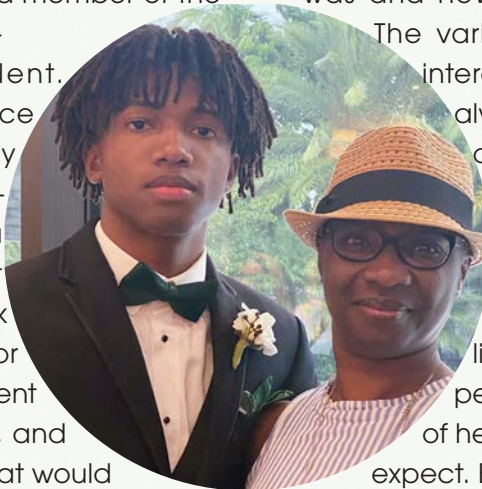
please contact me at darlastanton@bonnethouse.org or (954) 653-1557.

HOLIDAY MAGIC

Believe it or not, it's Christmas in July at Bonnet House. That's when planning for our Holiday Magic extravaganza begins in earnest, and we order trees, wreaths and centerpieces for the December event. Holiday Magic will be December 1st to December 8th this year. We are always looking for volunteers to adopt a tree, wreath or centerpiece for decoration. It's not too early to start thinking about design ideas. Holiday Magic is closer than you think!

A REGULAR BONNET HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEARS GRADUATION

FOR ANYONE WHO COMES TO BONNET HOUSE ON the weekends, Mikkel King should be a familiar face. Mikkel has been volunteering at Bonnet House since 2021 and has worked as a courtyard coordinator, back up tour guide and room docent. The end of the school year will see Mikkel graduating from NSU University School where he was a member of the soccer team and an academically high-achieving student. Completing community service activities is part of the University School's requirements for graduation. Mikkel's mother, Tanya thought volunteering at Bonnet House would do more than check a box. She saw the potential for Mikkel to meet a variety of different people, interact with the public, and help develop the people skills that would round out what were successful high school years. Mikkel's achievements in high school have led to his acceptances at the University of Georgia, Wake Forest University, and UCLA to name a few. Volunteering at Bonnet House was noted with interest by UCLA in their UBAA Winston C. Doby Legacy Scholarship, one of the many scholarships they offered to Mikkel.



Looking back on his volunteer experience, Mikkel

says that being dependable and adaptable to different work needs were things he learned at Bonnet House. He also learned to be open minded to suggestions and enjoyed learning the history of Bonnet House. As far as the things he liked about volunteering, one was how welcoming everyone was and how he was made to feel like family. The variety of jobs also kept volunteering interesting. So did different snacks that always seemed to be around. The only downside Mikkel notes was that there weren't more volunteers his age. A memorable thing about volunteering was meeting Tour Coordinator, Andrea Stempler. Mikkel says, "it was like a teenager was placed in an older person's body. Everything that came out of her mouth was something I would never expect. But, she was the person I became the closest with, and because of her, I fell in love with the place and wanted to come back every day."

Bonnet House wishes Mikkel all the best of luck as he enters college. The museum is always looking for new volunteers, including teens. Help spread the word about the fantastic place Bonnet House is to volunteer!

Photo above: Mikkel King and Tanya King

THE GIANT CLAM

Denyze Cunningham, Curator



ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DOORS INTO THE SHELL Museum are two halves of a giant clam shell. These shells have adorned the doors since the museum was created as a gift for Evelyn Fortune Bartlett by her husband Frederic Clay Bartlett around 1936. Frederic combined three of Evelyn's favorite things in the Shell Museum complex, shells, orchids, and cocktails.

The scientific name for a giant clam is *Tridacna gigas*. It is the largest bivalve mollusk in the world. Also known as the bear's paw clam, one can attain a length of over 4 feet and weigh over 500 pounds. A giant clam produces a billion eggs in a single spawning.

They are found in the Indian and South Pacific oceans and are especially numerous in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Their mantle tissue and the large muscle that closes the shell are highly prized as food. They have been heavily harvested and are becoming rare. Hatcheries can produce giant clams in tanks of seawater. They are then transplanted to natural reef areas where they can grow until they attain an appropriate size to be sold for food or decorative purposes.

Giant clams receive nutrition by a symbiotic association with photosynthetic algae. If they receive sunlight, algae will live deep within their tissues. They consume the algae so do not require feeding. They grow quickly.

Clams can produce pearls when an irritant such as a parasite or piece of sand is covered with mother-of-pearl produced by the clam. Most giant clam pearls are not valuable.

Stories of giant clams trapping humans are myths. The shell closes very slowly and they cannot eat fish or people.

The Bonnet House giant clam shell serves as an interesting outside ornament. It regularly fills with water, sand and leaves. Unfortunately exposing it to the elements is a literal "death sentence." Not only will the lower pH of rainwater gradually affect its carbonate structure, but the ultraviolet radiation (in sunlight) alters the structure of the organic matrix of the shell, also contributing to its wearing and eventual destruction. We regularly clean out the shells for this reason.

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING FOR BONNET HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Linda Schaller, Director of Education & Volunteer Programs

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, BONNET HOUSE Staff, Board of Directors, Members and Volunteers gathered together to celebrate all of the volunteers who gave so much to Bonnet House in 2022. Special thanks go to Patrick Shavloske our CEO, Julius Bianchi and Sonia Mesa who worked so hard to make this happen in my absence. We want to

thank our wonderful local restaurants for their participation with gift certificates to our volunteers who volunteered for over 200 hours.

Our thanks to: Shooter's Waterfront Restaurant, Parrot Lounge, Croissan'time French Bakery, Stork's Bakery & Coffee House, Bokamper's Sports Bar, Cooper's

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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

786-490-6660

Travel & Hospitality Award Winner

Adventure Activity
Of The Year

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

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Adventures.com



at Coconut
Cove Landing



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Hawk, Riverside Hotel, Padrino's Cuban Cuisine, PF Chang, Southport Raw Bar, Big Time Restaurant Group (Rocco's Tacos, Louie Bossi's, Big City Grill) and Pamela Schwier for donating gift certificates to Bonnet House; all of these wonderful donations were given to volunteers who had worked 200 or more hours.

Special thanks go to: Sid Goldenberg, Diana Mills, Cecilia Farinas, John Jors, Joe Dyke, Don Viny, Jan Amorosino, Jim Dunn, Jim Watts, Ana maria Leute-Megroz, Beatrice Flarida, Walter Jackson, Sarah MacIntyre-Goldstein, Ginger Westmoreland, Harold Bedoukian, Jillian Weissman, Katie Valli, and Julius Bianchi; all of these wonderful volunteers gave between 200 and 861 hours of their time to assist Bonnet House guests. In total Bonnet House volunteers gave over 14,000 hours of service in the 2022 calendar year.

We also want to thank our five-year Swan Pin

recipients: Jan Amorosino, Michael Hoehn, Denise Korngold, Charlee Kressbach, Bud Romboli and Andrea Stempler; our ten-year Monkey Pin recipients: Diana Howard and Barbie-Lynn Pearson and our fifteen-year Orchid Pin recipients: Barbara Davis and Peanuts Wick. Thanks to each of you for your years of service.

We also need to apologize to some of our long time volunteers. Each year I forget something or someone and I am sorry to say the list was left in the office. We want to give a VERY Special Thank You to: Susan Lochrie 1987, Dee Weiner 1993, Diane McBrearty 1996, Sami Settlemire & Gene Cain 1998, Alma Camphire & Kent Planck 2001. These wonderful volunteers have been here to help where needed and have stayed here by our side to help after hurricanes and doing great jobs with all of the visitors here at Bonnet House for many years.

Thank you for years of service – you have our undying gratitude.



Left to right: Sami Settlemire & Patrick Shavloske, Sid Goldenberg, Dee Weiner, Barkley Jackson, Julius Bianchi & Sonia Mesa

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2023

FAMILY SUMMER SPECIAL

JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 3

\$25 admission for adults and includes free admission for anyone 17 and under (must be accompanied by an adult)

CREATIVE HEALING WITH COLORED PENCIL DRAWING WORKSHOP

SATURDAYS | JUNE 3 - 24 | 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
\$245 Members / \$265 Non-members

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

SUNDAY | JUNE 18 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Dads free with one paid admission

ORCHID CARE CLASSES

ORCHID BASICS

TUESDAY | AUG 8 | 9:30 am - 11:30 am
or
TUESDAY | AUG 8 | 1 pm - 3pm
\$30 Members, \$35 Non-members

REPOTTING & MOUNTING + DIAGNOSING PESTS & DISEASES

TUESDAY | AUG 15 | 9:30 am - 11:30 am
or
TUESDAY | AUG 15 | 1 pm - 3 pm
\$30 Members, \$35 Non-members

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



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BONNET HOUSE
MUSEUM & GARDENS

JOIN US FOR

Art Workshops & Classes!

Orchid Care Classes and Colored Pencil Workshops

June – September 2023

REGISTER NOW

The banner features a bright yellow background with tropical foliage on the left and right. It includes the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens logo at the top. The main text is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the main text, it specifies the types of workshops and the time period. A blue button with white text says "REGISTER NOW". On the right side, there are two circular inset images: the top one shows a colored pencil palette and a drawing of a flower, and the bottom one shows two women smiling and working on art projects outdoors.