



WWII: Coast Guard
Mounted Beach Patrol

Bonnet House Volunteers

Mitchell's Magical Day at Bonnet House

Letter From the CEO

Bonnet House Volunteers

Volunteer

Webster's Dictionary defines the word volunteer as "a person who does work without getting paid to do it."

When I first came to Bonnet House after leaving the "big corporate world" in 2002, I had very little experience with volunteers. I had served as a volunteer in several church organizations and had been Deacon in my church, but the notion of having hundreds of volunteers who handled many of the day-to-day operational functions was foreign to me.

Within a short period of time, I came to realize what a great gift we have at Bonnet House. Today we have more than 300 volunteers who regularly perform a variety of important roles in our operation. They include tour guides, tram drivers, wedding and event assistants, orchid and grounds care, curatorial responsibilities, teaching children's education programs, working in the Museum Shop, Front Door greeting and Courtyard coordination, and bartending at events like the Young Artist Music Series. In addition Bonnet House is blessed to have a wealth of volunteer time and talent in the board members serving on the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens and the Bonnet House Alliance Boards.

Bonnet House is a special place and it attracts some of the most dedicated and professional people I have ever known. Many of our volunteers work multiple days a week or perform various functions on a regular basis. They are here rain or shine. When Bonnet House was devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, volunteers were here helping to clean up.

This is the time of year when we count our blessings. Thank you Bonnet House Volunteers for your faithful and excellent service. We love you and couldn't exist without you!!!

Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO



Newsletter design by Monica Estevez
Cover photo: School Program by Pam Dadlani
Above photos: School Programs led by volunteers Jim
Dunn and Rose Holland

Development News

by Patrick Shavloske

Ticketing Pavilion Named in Memory of Joseph J. Lalli



Bonnet House is humbled to announce that it has received a gift of \$100,000 to name the south gate

ticketing pavilion in memory of Joseph J. Lalli. Joe was a well-respected landscape architect and planner and chairman of EDSA, a Fort Lauderdale-based landscape architecture and planning firm. He created the initial designs for re-opening the south entrance and donated hundreds of hours of design services to Bonnet House over the years. His plans for Bonnet House included screening landscaping to protect the estate's historic southern view corridors and master plans for future improvements. "Joe's guidance and vision are sorely missed," said CEO Karen Beard. "Having his name watching out over the south entrance is a fitting acknowledgement for all he did for Bonnet House. We extend our sincerest thanks to Jeanne Lalli, Joe's widow, for this incredible tribute," she said.

Impressions Gets an Update



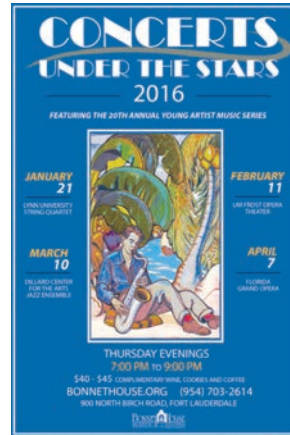
Dianne Delorey, *Flight of the Flamingos*

Bonnet House's largest annual fundraising event is being renamed *Making New Impressions* to re-launch the annual juried art competition. The opening of the exhibit will take place on March 3, 2016 and will be chaired for a second year by board members

TJ Bedard and Bill O'Leary. While a lot of the event will be familiar like the People's Choice award where attendees vote for their favorite piece of art in the exhibit, there will be some changes in 2016. For a start, admission to the event will be only \$75 this year to encourage more people to attend. The event will

start a bit later at 6pm to accommodate attendees with daytime commitments, and everyone will be invited to visit the upstairs bedrooms at Bonnet House. The committee is also encouraging contemporary artists to submit work. Funds raised from attendance and art sales benefit the ongoing preservation of Bonnet House and its programming. Save March 3rd on your calendars and plan to attend!

VIP Young Artist Music Series Tickets Available



Tickets for the 20th season of the Young Artist Music are now available, and Bonnet House has made a VIP experience more affordable this year. By becoming a sponsor at the \$500 level, donors will receive two tickets to each of the four concerts with seating in the foremost seating section, rows one through five. A portion of the sponsorship is also tax deductible. For

more information about becoming a sponsor, contact Patrick Shavloske at 954-703-2603 or patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org

Update on IRA Charitable Rollovers

Until December 31, 2014 holders of Individual Retirement Accounts who were 70½ or older could donate up to \$100,000 from these accounts directly to charities like Bonnet House. These gifts counted towards the required minimum distribution, were not considered taxable income, and did not generate a federal income tax deduction. Congress has not yet extended this provision for 2015. However, you can still make a gift to Bonnet House from your IRA! Under current law, the gift will be taxable as a regular withdrawal, may count as a portion of your required minimum distribution, and may be eligible as a charitable contribution. Should congress reinstate the rollover retroactively (as was done in the past), you will have the choice of using the existing rules or the charitable rollover rule. To be eligible for deduction for 2015, any gift to Bonnet House must be received by December 31st.

IRA Charitable Rollover



WW II Coast Guard Mounted Beach Patrol

by Denyse Cunningham

Once the U.S. was an active participant in World War II (1941-1945), the vulnerability of Florida's long coastline attracted German submarines, or U-boats, seeking to eliminate freighters who supported the Allies. During the War the beach in front of Bonnet House was kept safe from German U-boats and saboteurs by the Coast Guard Mounted Beach Patrol. Men on horseback with side arms patrolled from the Hillsboro Inlet to Port Everglades. The eight hour duty started at 4:00 P.M. and made for a grueling day.



Port Everglades



R. L. Landers

The Coast Guard unit whose men would pass by Bonnet House was headquartered at the site of the old Silver Thatch Inn located on A1A in Pompano. It was taken over in January of 1942. Many of the South Florida beach-front hotels of the day were requisitioned by the military both for training and barracks. South Florida

was ideal for training troops because the weather was nice all year long. Stables, corrals and a paddock were added to the Silver Thatch Inn's property while it was used by the Coast Guard. Men with prior experience with horses were sought to conduct the Coast Guard's beach patrol.

Huge amounts of debris washed up on the beaches. The paroles would often find the cargo of the bombed ships washed up onto the beach. Tragically bodies and body parts also were found washed ashore. At times dense black smoke could be seen to the east of the ocean and a dull red glow after dark would testify to the fact that ships were burning and sinking off shore. Windows rattled and the ground would shake with the offshore sound of war ship canon.



R. L. Landers

Port Everglades and the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse were also used by the Coast Guard as well as by the Navy. In 1945, the Silver Thatch Inn unit was

dcommissioned and the hotel was returned to civilian control. The hotel was torn down in 1972 when the Silver Thatch Atlantic Plaza was built on the property. The site is designated by the State of Florida as a Florida Heritage Site and a special historic marker indicates the former location of the Inn. A recreational area remains on the site because of a 1962 deed restriction, which precludes construction of any building there.

Also during the war, the U.S. government issued a blackout for all along the East Coast. The order, issued by then Governor Spessard L. Holland and the Commanding Officer at Key West was issued April 11, 1942. Governor Holland was governor when Hugh Taylor Birch gave what is now Birch State Park to the State of Florida in 1941. The Main House and the outbuildings around Bonnet House had to have heavy blinds over the windows to keep the lights from shining out onto the Atlantic Ocean. Direct light from shore would create silhouettes of the Allies' supply ships making them easy targets for the German submarines to shoot. Street lights were covered so only a small downward cast light would show. Automobile headlights were also covered. These limitations were enforced within two miles of the waterfront and did not cover lights on the west side of buildings. The light restrictions were enforced by Civil Defense wardens.

One of the local men in the Coast Guard was R. L. Landers. R.L. came from Texas and had never seen the ocean before coming to South Florida. While here he met a local girl, Helen Herriott. The two fell in love and were married. For many years Helen was the Broward County Historian and R.L. was a coach and athletic instructor. They still call Fort Lauderdale home.

Conservation Corner

Restoration of the Mizner Shields



The four car-touche-form shields from the Drawing Room were obtained by Mrs. Bartlett from Mizner Industries Palm Beach. The two large lanterns in the Haitian Loggia were also purchased from Mizner. The shields are Italian and real antiques. Mizner went

to Europe and collected antiques, brought them back to his factory in West Palm, and had his artisans copy them. He then sold both the antiques and the reproductions.

The shields are in very poor shape. Years of hanging in the Drawing Room with no air conditioning and being exposed to the elements have taken their toll. They are also riddled with holes from insect damage; termites have had a field day with them. I have always been afraid to take them down, having only done so once in 1998 when we had them fumigated.

Last year pieces of one began to fall off on people's heads as they walked in the room! Three of us got them down and had the pleasure of termite frass raining down on us from old damage.

They really need some major work. When finished they will not look "new" but they will be stable. This will be done by injecting material into the cavities to shore up the surface structure and thoroughly clean them.

We need to stabilize the artifacts and prevent further deterioration otherwise the condition of these artifacts will decline and limit the sustainability of the collection.

William Bock of William Bock Fine Art in Davie, Florida has been selected to restore the shields. Restoration will take approximately six months. Our sincere thanks go to the Bonnet House Alliance for funding this important conservation project.



William Bock

Learning Programs

Bonnet House Distance Learning Programs



Marlene Schotanus & Chris Bigney

Meet Chris Bigney, co-host for our Bonnet House Distance Learning programs. Chris was a member of the Peace Corps and has lived in Spain, Ecuador, Colombia and Costa Rica and is a retired media specialist from the Broward County Public Schools. He brings his knowledge, enthusiasm and musical talent into each of our programs.

Last year Bonnet House reached 165 schools with a total of 4,671 students. We have expanded our distance learning programs for the 2015-2016 school year. We added three new shows, one of them being a joint venture with the Broward County Humane Society, helping young people care about and understand the responsibilities of having a pet, a Head Start program following the themes and guidelines of the Broward County Schools and a show which highlights the history of our 50 states.

Acceptance has been overwhelming, and we are reaching more schools each month.

Mitchell's Magical Day at Bonnet House

Mitchell's Magical Day at Historic Bonnet House is a tale of historical fiction for intermediate readers (3rd - 5th grade), which highlights significant events that occurred on Bonnet House property from the early 1800s through the turn of the 20th century. The author, a long-time Fort Lauderdale resident and veteran school teacher, Bill Sydnor, provides readers with a creative presentation of important facts about Fort Lauderdale's unique history and vivid descriptions of early pioneer life.

The story's protagonist, Mitchell, uses his Pop Pop's 'magical' binoculars and his vivid imagination to transport himself into the past where he sees Tequesta and Seminole Indians, shipwrecking, the House of Refuge, and pioneer citizens slowly shape Fort Lauderdale's beachfront. Mitchell also has a chance meeting with Frederic and Evelyn Bartlett.

This paperback book is certain to be a hit with any young reader. Copies are available in the Bonnet House Museum Shop for \$8.00.

News

Hold Your Private Event at Bonnet House



Bonnet House offers the perfect setting for corporate affairs and cocktail receptions. Beginning with the stunning first impression at the main entrance, your guests will experience a night to remember in this beautiful and unique historic house. Become inspired by the innovative architecture, rich history, original artwork, and lush gardens. Experience the beauty and history of our facilities that combine the grandeur of the past with amenities of today. In compliment to the natural vegetation, the grounds contain a Desert Garden composed of arid plantings, a hibiscus garden, and the main courtyard planted with tropical vegetation.

Located in the center of Fort Lauderdale, Bonnet House is a culturally and historically rich venue with one-of-a-kind decor and a private parking lot, making it a choice destination to accommodate any event, but make sure to plan ahead – Bonnet House limits the number of private events, and dates are reserved based on availability when accompanied by your rental deposit.



For additional information contact Nicholle Maudlin at (954) 703-2608 or at nichollemaudlin@bonnethouse.org.

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The Little Gift Shop by Dianne Ennis



Shop till you drop! Our inventory is unique and eclectic. The “Season” is upon us and we have new inventory arriving daily. We have numerous diverse items covering low-to-high pricing which fits into anyone’s budget from purchasing French soaps to garden delights. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we feature worldwide jewelry designers to organic jewelry, exceptional household items and the list continues. Stop in, we look forward to seeing you and helping you discover that perfect gift for yourself or that special someone. Pick up a Gift Shop Pass at the Welcome Center or South Gate and you are on your way to a fun shopping experience.



The Museum Shop would like to thank Georgia Elfman, Carey Houghton and May Muench for their donations of slightly used and loved giftware items that we sold at

the shop. We welcome anyone who would like to do the same, please contact the museum shop for a list of items we are accepting. Your tangible donations are considered a “Gift in Kind” and may be eligible for tax deduction.

Help us make this season our best ever by visiting and supporting the Bonnet House Museum Shop.

Calendar of Events

Let's Go Birding



BIRDING CLASSES

January 10
*ASCEND TO BETTER
BIRDING*

March 6
*BIRDING BY EAR &
HABITAT*

Register online for all classes
and workshops at
bonnethouse.org

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

January 6 - February 10
9:30am - 12:30 pm or
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

February 24 - March 30
9:30am - 12:30 pm or
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

ORCHID WATERCOLOR PAINTING

January 22 & 23
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

ACRYLIC WORKSHOPS

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

February 25 - March 31
9:30am - 12:30 pm or
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

River Cruise



CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER

March 26, 2016
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Purchase tickets online at
bonnethouse.org

ZENTANGLE WORKSHOPS

January 12 - 26
12:30 am - 2:30 pm

February 9 - 23
12:30 am - 2:30 pm

March 8 - 22
12:30 am - 2:30 pm

CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

January 12 - February 9
9:30 am - 11:30 am

March 3 - 29
9:30 am - 11:30 am

ORCHID CLASSES

February 6, 13, 20 & 27
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

FLORA & FAUNA CLASSES

Sunday, April 3 & May 1
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

PASTEL WORKSHOP

April 7 & 8
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Concerts



CONCERTS UNDER THE STARS

January 21, February 11,
March 10 & April 7
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Young Artist Music Series

Purchase tickets online at
bonnethouse.org

LECTURE SERIES

January 11, February 8 &
March 14
10:00 am

A BONNET HOUSE FINE ARTIST EXHIBIT

January 14, 6:00 pm

ENTIRELY ENTERTAINING

February 22
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

IMPRESSIONS: A JURIED ART EXHIBIT

March 3
6:00 pm

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



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www.bonnethouse.org

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CONCERTS UNDER THE STARS 2016

FEATURING THE 20TH ANNUAL YOUNG ARTIST MUSIC SERIES

JANUARY
21

LYNN UNIVERSITY
STRING QUARTET

MARCH
10

DILLARD CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
JAZZ ENSEMBLE



FEBRUARY
11

UM FROST OPERA
THEATER

APRIL
7

FLORIDA
GRAND OPERA

THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

BONNETHOUSE.ORG (954) 703-2614



900 NORTH BIRCH ROAD, FORT LAUDERDALE



Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.



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