



SARASOTA ALLIANCE  
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation:

As our busy winter season ends it seems a good time to update members on recent activities. After the decision was made to cancel this year's historic homes tour because of logistical problems, your board rededicated their efforts to focus on developing new programs and directing our energies to historic preservation as we see our historic neighborhood homes being replaced with newer and larger homes.

Please help us plan by advising what kind of activities interest you. Through these conversations, we are hoping to gain a better understanding of the relevance of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation as we approach our 33rd anniversary.



With the assistance of our newest board member Erin DiFazio and our founder Veronica Morgan, an engaging presentation was offered at the Crocker Church, home of the Historical Society of Sarasota County. Registered members attended the conversations, which focused on historic preservation in Sarasota County, free of charge. The conversations began with a discussion of some early losses, such as the destruction of the

John Ringling Towers to make way for the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

That loss prompted the creation of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. Ongoing threats include increased development pressure and sea level rise. Recent success stories include our nomination to the History and Preservation Coalition Annual Awards Program for the preservation of the former Baker's Badcock Furniture Store at 1570 Boulevard of the Arts; now known as the BOTA Center. See the related article on this by Ruthmary Williams.

Members of our Board of Directors have been participating in the planning for the redevelopment of Sarasota's Bayfront. An important part of their conversations asks the question: Should the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and G. Wiz – The Science Museum be preserved as part of this undertaking? Both are iconic buildings designed by world renowned architects that have served our community for decades. In my opinion they warrant preservation. I would encourage your active involvement in this planning effort as it will shape our most important public space for years to come.

Another outreach effort is taking place with Sarasota neighborhood associations. Alliance board members are eager to share information about the historic resources located within their boundaries. Many of our neighborhoods have at least some recorded historic resources and some have areas that have been identified as eligible for historic districts. It is our hope that, by sharing this information, neighborhoods will gain a greater appreciation of their unique character. If you are interested in having an SAHP speaker come to your neighborhood, please contact the Alliance at 800.753.6061.

A 2016 study by PlaceEconomics related to this topic stated that:

***“Different analysts in different parts of the country using different methodologies have, for the most part, found very consistent results: in general, properties subject to the protections of a local preservation ordinance tend to have rates of appreciation greater than the local market as a whole and greater than similar, undesignated neighborhoods.”***

Best wishes for a great summer.  
Lorrie Muldowney

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## HERITAGE AWARDS LUNCHEON: April 7, 2018

Article by: Ruthmary Williams, *Corresponding & Recording Secretary*

The History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County (Coalition) held its second successful Heritage Awards Luncheon at the Venice Golf and Country Club on April 7. The purpose of the Heritage Awards is to honor outstanding efforts by individuals and organizations in Sarasota County to protect historically important artifacts, documents, and buildings; Native American middens, and burial grounds, and cultural artifacts; and other evidences of our past, such as photographs, books, film and video as well as to encourage historical research and historical education.

There are hundreds of individuals actively engaged in preserving Sarasota County history and educating the public about that history. Through these awards a few of these people can be honored and public attention can highlight the organizations and their members who devote time and money to uncovering and preserving the remarkable history of Sarasota County.

The Sarasota Alliance of Historic Preservation submitted two nominations and both were selected to receive awards this year. Jeff LaHurd was recognized with the Historical Research Award not only for the many books he has authored about Sarasota and its people, but also his presentations throughout the county which educate the public about Sarasota's history. Howard Davis accepted the Historical Structure Award for his rehabilitation of the mid-century Baker's Badcock Furniture Store, known now as the BOTA Center, located at 1570 Boulevard of the Arts in the Rosemary District. The BOTA Center is an outstanding example of ReUrbanism in Sarasota.

The other honorees for 2018 were Steven Koski, Archaeological Conservancy Award; Deborah Walk, Historical Collections Preservation Award; Sarasota Architectural Foundation, Organizational Achievement Award (accepted by Christopher Wilson); and Betty Intagliata, Lillian Burns Individual Achievement Award.



Left to right: Jeff LaHurd, Howard Davis (BOTA Center), Steven Koski, Betty Intagliata, Deborah Walk, and Christopher Wilson of Sarasota Architectural Foundation. Photo courtesy of Laura Dean

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

What kinds of member events would you most like to attend? Our Program Committee has been working to create a list of exciting experiences:

- Frank Lloyd Wright tour in Lakeland
- A tour of the historic Kenwood neighborhood in St. Petersburg
- An excursion to the Desoto Hotel in Arcadia, perhaps coinciding with the Rodeo

Drop us an email at [sahp.mailbox@gmail.com](mailto:sahp.mailbox@gmail.com) and let us know if any of these events appeal to you. Or if you have an idea to share, we would be thrilled to hear it!

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## Gearing Up for THE GIVING PARTNER CHALLENGE May 1-2, 2018 Noon-to-Noon

The Giving Challenge is an exciting, 24-hour ONLINE giving event for nonprofits, like the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. Shortly before May 1, you will receive an email reminding you to take part in this remarkable opportunity.

**Please remember to do your part!!!**

Make an online donation at: [www.givingpartnerchallenge.org](http://www.givingpartnerchallenge.org) on May 1 or 2, and you will enable us to expand our reach by providing tours of our historic places, working with the City of Sarasota to enhance its protective ordinances, and ensuring such notable structures as the Mable Ringling Fountain are properly maintained for years to come.

***(Donations are secure and 100% tax deductible, and can be made using a debit or credit card.)***

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EXPERIENCE OUR RICH HISTORY

## Newtown Alive

*A guided, interactive trolley tour showcasing the history of Sarasota's earliest African American pioneers.*



Travel to special places and meet unforgettable people with host Vickie Oldham and freedom song leaders.

Hear trailblazers' personal accounts of courage. Travel the same route they took to integrate the world's most beautiful beaches.

An African American pioneer drove the first stake into the ground to plat the town of Sarasota in 1884. Black labor built the community's infrastructure. Enterprising people of color cleared snake-infested land for developers and harvested crops to fuel the local economy.

### For questions:

[WWW.NEWTOWNALIVE.ORG](http://WWW.NEWTOWNALIVE.ORG)  
[NEWTOWNALIVESRQ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NEWTOWNALIVESRQ@GMAIL.COM)

**THE NEWTOWN TROLLEY TOUR**  
**May 15, from 10 - 11:30 am**  
**\$40 per person**

The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is pleased to invite you to an inspirational event, a guided, interactive live trolley tour showcasing the history

of Sarasota's earliest African-American pioneers.

This is a great opportunity to see and celebrate one of Sarasota's unique historic communities.

We will meet at the west side the Robert L.Taylor Community Complex.  
1845 34th St, Sarasota, FL 34234.  
Designated parking will be available.

Cost: \$40/ person

For more information about the event or to reserve your seats please contact the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. 1-800-753-6061.

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## **BAYFRONT 2020 & OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS ONSITE**

Article by : Joyce Waterbury

On April 19, at 3 PM, the Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization held their monthly meeting.

As always many were in attendance, and all went very smoothly until the Bayfront representatives basically acknowledged that there were no plans to save or repurpose the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall or the G-Whiz Science Museum.



Tom Barwin, City Manager of Sarasota, took exception to this comment, and Chair A. G. Lafley advised that the City Commissioners made this decision, not he.

Tom responded that that was before the current citizen survey, on which 100s of the responders advised they wanted them saved or repurposed, and he will have the matter placed on the agenda of the May 21 City Commission Meeting, so the commissioners can review their prior decision based on this new information.

As preservationists we should all be in favor of saving these valuable historic structures, as we do not want to lose them to the wrecking ball, as was the fate of the Lido Casino, John Ringling Towers, and the Bickel House.

Please contact your commissioner and/or plan to attend the City Commission Meeting on May 21.



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## **REPORT FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Richard Hershner, Chair; David Baber and Erin DiFazio

The Historic Preservation Committee made a strong case



for preservation at the April meeting of the City of Sarasota's Historic Preservation Board, when members spoke out with passion and armed with facts to support the City's Planning Department in their recommendation that the Board deny the demolition permit request for one of Sarasota's early treasures. The Hagen/Jackson house, named Etowah, was placed on the Local Register of Historic Buildings in 2000. A brief history of the home by Ruthmary Williams follows below.

Members of the neighborhood joined the grass-roots effort led by Richard Hershner (Chair), to present evidence of the structure's historical significance and relevance in the character of the area. After hearing testimony from both sides, the Historic Preservation Board voted to deny the demolition request. It is our hope that this sends a strong message to developers that we do care about our history here and when an owner makes the effort to designate their home on the local register, the City will do its part to protect it.

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**JOIN IN THE MOVEMENT!** Are you passionate about historic buildings? Does the tear-down mentality of the Gulf Coast make you cringe? The Historic Preservation Committee is looking for members like you to join in the good fight to save what's left of Sarasota's legacy. Board membership is not necessary for committee membership. Please call Richard Hershner, Chair, to discuss how you can get involved. 917-536-8588

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## THE HISTORY OF 'ETOWAH'

### 4511 Bay Shore Road, Indian Beach, Sarasota, FL

Article by: Ruthmary Williams, *Corresponding & Recording Secretary*

In 1925 Lee Hagan of Atlanta built the Mediterranean Revival style house in the Indian Beach subdivision, which at the time was promoted as the "ultra-exclusive residential area" of Sarasota. Mr. Hagan unfortunately did not enjoy his home for very long as he passed away in 1929. The trustee of his estate sold the house to Felix Jackson for approximately \$35,000 in 1930. He named his yacht and his house "Etowah" after the river that flows through his native Bartow County, Georgia. An avid fisherman, he added the boathouse. Although he came from humble beginnings, he had distinguished careers in various businesses including banking and transportation. With his wife Christine, he retired permanently to his Sarasota home in 1936 and quickly became involved with the community. Jackson died in 1940, and although Christine did not inherit Etowah, she was able to purchase it with her inheritance and she lived there until her death in 1966. Stanley and Gloria Goldman later purchased the property and made additions to the home. In the year 2000, they approved the proposal and process for the home to be placed on the City of Sarasota's register of historical properties.



Architect Clare Chapman Hosmer is credited with designing the house. Hosmer, originally from Chicago, was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright and worked with Sarasota architect Thomas Reed Martin. Hosmer was also involved with designing the Lemon Bay Woman's Club, the Cornish Apartments, and the American Legion War Memorial. Not only does this property represent Sarasota's Boom period, but it also has connections to Frank

Lloyd Wright through his student architect Clare Chapman Hosmer and it has historical significance as verified by the City of Sarasota's historical properties designation. For these reasons, this house and its additional structures should not be demolished.

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## RON MCCARTY'S RETIREMENT PARTY

Article by : Joyce Waterbury



On April 15, the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and the Historical Society of Sarasota County joined together to honor Ron McCarty's retirement as keeper of the Ringling Museum's Ca' d' Zan. Ron faithfully served the Ca' for thirty-seven years, but now plans to devote his retirement to creating art -- his second love.

The Champagne and Sweets Reception was held at the Crocker Memorial Church, home of the Historical Society. The champagne flowed and the sweets, provided by the guests, C'est le Vie, Kor's and Publix were enjoyed by all.

Marsha Fottler, President of the HSOSC, Lorrie Muldowney, President of the SAHP, and others praised Ron for his contributions to the historical associations which they manage. Ron never said no – he was always eager to help wherever his talents were needed.

The invited guests came from all walks of life, and each had a special story to tell about their beloved Ron. The celebration went on for hours, and ended with many bitter sweet moments.



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## SAHP ANNUAL MEMBER'S EVENT

On Wednesday, April 11, members of the Alliance gathered at the Garden Club on the bayfront for the annual celebration. Special guest, Harold Bubil, retired Real Estate Editor for the Herald Tribune, gave a riveting performance illustrating 100 Florida buildings he loves, complete with a rap song and audience participation. It was a wonderful opportunity for members to gather, share a meal, and learn about recent preservation successes and upcoming events. Thank you to all who joined us.



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## IS YOUR HOME ON THE LIST?

The Florida Master Site File (FMSF) was created as a state inventory of historic cultural resources. Homes, public buildings, archaeological sites, cemeteries and bridges over 50

years old may be included in the database. The FMSF is managed by Florida's Division of Historical Resources and contains over 20,000 records. Just recently, the city of Sarasota approved a plan and a budget to update the existing historical survey which is now considerably out of date. Many of the homes on the list have been demolished, and many significant structures were omitted. This is time consuming work, but it is extremely important to maintain accurate records of our cultural assets. When a property is included on the FMSF, it is assigned a number and any historical designations are noted including an initial statement of whether the building is likely eligible for either local or national designation.

While the homeowner may not even be aware, inclusion on the FMSF is important because it will trigger a review by the Staff of the Planning Department if a demolition permit is requested. This is the first step in protecting our priceless architectural legacy. It is imperative to note, however, that inclusion on the FMSF does not provide any inherent protection for a building—only by obtaining Local Historic Designation can a structure be protected by the oversight of Sarasota's Historic Preservation Board. The current FMSF database for the city of Sarasota is available on the city's website under Planning and Historic Preservation: <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/home/showdocument?id=2414>

Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.

800-753-6061 | [sahp.mailbox@gmail.com](mailto:sahp.mailbox@gmail.com) | [www.historicsarasota.org](http://www.historicsarasota.org)

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