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## SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# December 2013

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### Have You Renewed Your Alliance Membership?

If you haven't paid your dues, we encourage you to renew your membership now to take advantage of all of the wonderful things the Alliance has in store this year.

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### President

Dorothea (D') Calvert

### 1st Vice President

Wilson Stiles

## President's Message

2013 has been an exciting and fruitful year for Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. Our new board hit the ground running after its induction at April's Annual Meeting.

With the support of our members and the commitment of our directors we have been able to support the launch of Center for Architecture Sarasota. We collaborated with the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center and the University of Florida to promote the exhibit 'The Building Itself Teaches'. We offered a sold out Thomas Reed Martin Bus Tour. We supported the Laurel Park Overlay, a precedent setting agreement which gives a collaborative voice to preservation in Sarasota. We completed the construction of the Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain and constructed a plaque onsite in memory of our past president, Don Smally for his efforts in securing support for the fountain project. We have engaged Sarasota's Historic Preservation Board and the property managers of the Belle Haven to propose documenting the site in conjunction with the University of Florida's Envision Heritage initiative which uses 3-D laser scanning to virtually document historic sites.

Now, as we take a moment to reflect during our respective holidays it's important to recognize how much we have accomplished in the past year and with gratitude welcome the opportunities the New Year presents. Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation thanks you for your support and wishes you and your families a healthy and happy New Year. I hope you'll join us at our meetings, at our events and in our mission, preserving and enhancing our historic places.

Best wishes in 2014,

**2nd Vice President**

Ron McCarty

**Secretary**

Larry Kelleher

**Treasurer**

Rebecca Morgan

**Directors:**

Kristin Featherman

Sharon Haggard

Joyce Hart

Martha Horton

Veronica Morgan

Linda Stevenson

Ginger Sutton

Abby Whitenack

Dorothea (D') Calvert

## Mable Ringling Fountain Update

We are pleased to announce the completion of construction on the Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain in Luke Wood Park. Seventy seven years after the site's birth the water is once again flowing and new multicolored lights celebrate Mable's memory.

Through the generous support of the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation and the collaborative spirit of The Ringling new life has been given to a historic treasure and a public space enlivened. Steven High, Executive Director of The Ringling stated, "I congratulate the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation for their completion of the Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain. The Ringling Museum was honored to partner with the Alliance to provide support for their restoration of this Memorial Fountain that was originally established in 1936 to honor Mable's efforts in the beautification of the Sarasota community. I commend the Alliance for the hard work and dedication necessary to restore this important reminder of our community's history."

The Selby Foundation grant funded the major construction for the basin. The Ringling collaboration allowed our organization access to an original sculpture for casting the fountain centerpiece. Ringling also shared their relationship with Florida State University Master Craftsman Studios. Phil Gleason, Studio Manager, documented his students restoring and casting the centerpiece for the fountain and used cutting edge 3-D imaging to recreate the bowl which sits atop the 'Cluster of Boys.' Around the perimeter is a ring of 'Myakka bog iron' rock. These are original to the fountain and were carefully saved during the excavation. The lions guarding the fountain entrance, originally bequeathed by John Ringling to the project were kindly returned from J.D. Hamel Park to their original place with the permission of The Sarasota County Veterans Commission. The Arts and Cultural Alliance's support through the John Ringling Tower Grant for Historic Preservation funded the landscaping. The design was provided by board member Martha Horton, retired landscape architect in collaboration with the Sarasota Garden Club. The landscape,

irrigation and walkway installation was done by Diaz Landscape Maintenance with plant material donated by Robert Albritton of Albritton's Nursery. Fundraising will continue to provide historic markers in honor of Mable Ringling and Luke

Other important contributors are the Sarasota Garden Club, the Senior Friendship Center, Charles Stottlemeyer, Jesse White of Sarasota Architectural Salvage, Paver Development, Betsy Bagby, Nancy & David Morgan, Ginger Sutton and over one hundred other individuals and companies who have given their time and money to help make this project a reality.

The fountain's importance lies in its inception. Mable Ringling was the first President of Sarasota's Founder's Circle, and after her death in 1929, the Sarasota Federation of Garden Circles decided to honor Ringling's service with a memorial fountain and reflection pool. The fountain tribute was placed in Luke Wood Park in 1936. After World War II, the memorial fountain fell into disrepair from lack of maintenance funding. The fountain was subsequently filled with dirt and abandoned in the early 1950s.

In 2011, the Alliance received permission for the Sarasota City Commission to renovate the fountain. Working from archival images the excavation began on August 30, 2012. With the expert craftsmanship of Rob Craft, the artistry of Pearse Kelly of Splash Mosaics and many volunteer hours from the Sarasota Military Academy cadets, their families, and community friends, the fountain has been restored to its former glory. Some cosmetic work remains such as landscaping, extended shell walkways and commemorative marker that will be installed in early 2014.

The project has not relied on taxpayer funds, but solely on donations, grants and in-kind contributions of services, equipment, expertise and supplies. This project is, as it was originally, an act of collaboration and community effort. The unsung heroes here are the tradesmen, city staff and board members who have worked together with creative thinking, out of the box solutions and persistence of vision. The Sarasota Alliance thanks you all for your help in bringing this asset to the people of Sarasota. Please stop by, enjoy the fountain, and think about what is possible in this incredible historic park.

Please watch our progress at on Facebook at

[facebook.com/mablerringlingfountain](https://www.facebook.com/mablerringlingfountain) or on our web page [historicsarasota.org](http://historicsarasota.org).



Fountain as of 12/20/13

## Our New Event Registration Program

You may have noticed that SAHP has been using email for all their events and newsletters. We will now be using a program called EventSpot that will facilitate 24 hour registration and ticket purchases.

Notice of events will be emailed out with a link to the EventSpot registration form. We will also provide a link to our major events on our webpage for your convenience. Simply fill out the form with the basic information requested (Name, Email, Phone) then select your preferred payment option.

After these steps are completed, we will email you your tickets which you can print in the comfort of your home. Rest assured, we will have a full list of ticket holders on our reports if you should lose your tickets. If a check payment is applicable, you will receive an email confirmation of your payment arrival through email with your tickets attached. It's that easy!

## 24th Annual Homes Tour 2014 coming soon!!!

It's never too early to plan to attend our Annual Homes Tour on Sunday, March 2nd, 2014. This year's event will take place in historic Laurel Park; you don't want to miss it!

In gearing up for the tour, we are now accepting sponsorship ads for our beautiful and informative tour booklet, which doubles as your ticket for entry to the ten homes on the tour. All businesses and services are welcome to advertise and the prices for display ads can be found [here](#).

2013 Sponsors :

Day Hagen Asset Management

Dynan Construction Management, Inc.

Ginger Sutton

Giovanni Lundardi

J.Hart Interior Design

Melody's Center for Authentic Beauty

Lisa Russo of R.W. Baird Private Wealth Management

Ringling College of Art and Design

Sarasota Architectural Salvage

Schemmel Property Group



## Thomas Reed Martin Bus Tour

Thomas Reed Martin was one of the most successful and prominent architects in Sarasota County. Moving here from Chicago to work for socialite, Mrs. Bertha Palmer, Martin quickly established an office in Florida, eventually building over five-hundred

structures within Sarasota County including the design for the Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain and Luke Wood Park.

The Alliance presented their Annual Bus Tour, on October 13, 2013 and the event was sold out for both the morning and afternoon excursions. The tour was narrated by Ron McCarty (pictured), Curator and Keeper of Ca'd'Zan at The Ringling. The Annual Bus Tour is always a sold out journey into the past that is much loved by those who have been able to attend. Make sure to grab your tickets as soon as the next tour is announced. They are a hot commodity!



## The Building Itself Teaches

Looking for something to do on the weekend? Well, if you haven't made to this exhibit yet, it is still on display at the Sarasota County Visitor Center!

Morris Hylton III, Director of Historic Preservation at University of Florida, is displaying his research for the exhibit *The Building Itself Teaches*, which documents the people, events, and designs that shaped the Sarasota Public School Program. The exhibit is located at the Sarasota County Visitor Information Center, 701 N. Tamiami Trail.

Between 1954 and 1960, nine new facilities radically transformed the public educational environment of Sarasota, Florida and offered a new precedent for school design across

postwar America. These five new buildings and four additions would collectively come to be known as the Sarasota Public School Program. Presented by Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Friends of the Sarasota County History Center and the University of Florida Historic Preservation Program.



"Sarasota, Florida's Public School Program (1954 - 1960)"

## Save the Dates

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming Alliance events:

**MAR 2, 2014 | 11 am - 5 pm**

Historic Homes Tour (Laurel Park Historic District)

**April 2014**

Annual Meeting

## Have You Renewed Your Alliance Membership?

We have a great list of upcoming events listed in this newsletter, and we know that you'll want to be a part of each and every one of them. If you haven't already mailed in your dues payment, please take this opportunity to drop your membership check in the mail today or visit [historicsarasota.org](http://historicsarasota.org) to pay online! If you've already paid your dues, we thank you.

If you would like to volunteer for tours, membership drives or mailings, please let us know - we'd love to have you!

**SAHP Membership Dues:**

<p><b>\$25 - Individual</b> <b>\$50 - Family</b> <b>\$100 - Contributor</b> <b>\$200 - Business</b> <b>\$1,000 - Patron</b></p>
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