



SARASOTA ALLIANCE
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

IN THIS ISSUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Ayres, *Vice President/Treasurer*
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Larry Kelleher, *Recording Secretary*
Dave Baber
Amy Barnes
Richard Herschner
Martha Horton
Linda Stevenson
Ginger Sutton
Robin Thomas
Joyce Waterbury

EDITOR

Erin DiFazio

Visit our Website

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation:

As your new president, I hope this finds you well and enjoying our Florida Fall. With the change in season comes change to the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation (SAHP) as well! I greet you as your new president.

First, I want to share with you my excitement at the thought of leading our organization for the next two years. My nomination as president comes after years of involvement with our organization. Like so many of you, my introduction to the SAHP was as a homes' tour volunteer. I can still remember working at my first tour back in 1993 and our early morning efforts to prepare a historic building for viewing. Our efforts included sweeping wooden floors, placing caution tape around hazardous areas, and waking a homeless man who sought refuge there for the night. That building, now long gone, was called "The! Inn" and was located on Fruitville Road just west of Coconut Avenue. Though ultimately lost, our homes tour raised awareness of its significance and demonstrated to me the amount of community interest there is in preserving historic buildings from people in all walks of life!

I was enlisted to volunteer for that first tour by Whit Rylee, a long-time preservationist in the community who some of you may remember. Since then, I have participated in many more tours, enlisted the assistance of many old friends, and made the acquaintance of new friends with a variety of interests. The Annual Historic Homes Tour is the signature event for our organization, and introduces thousands to our mission, which is to "preserve and enhance our historic places". My hope is that our future activities will appeal to a broad section of our community that celebrates our diversity.

I would like to thank the members of the board of directors who encouraged me to take on this new challenge and who offered me their professional support in conducting our day-to-day business. Thankfully past leadership left the organization in a sound financial position, a legacy



of successful homes tours, and the realization of important projects like the rehabilitation of the Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain at Luke Wood Park. Both the former President Joyce Hart and former Vice-President Ron McCarty continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the board and have agreed to continue their involvement with the 2018 historic homes tour.

For those of you who know me, it will be no surprise to hear that I hope to strengthen the SAHP's historic preservation outreach efforts. As we witness yet another boom period in Sarasota's development, the threats to historic resources and our community's unique identity are on the increase again. Look for a report from the recently created Historic Preservation Committee in this newsletter. The committee welcomes you to join their efforts.

Also needed are members willing to serve as government liaisons able to follow developments in both the city and county historic preservation programs and/or who can take the time to acquaint themselves with our local elected officials.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation established a successful initiative they call "This Place Matters." That's how I feel about Sarasota. I hope you will join me in demonstrating this in the months to come.

Lorrie Muldowney, President



Both photos represent The! Inn on Fruitville Road, *Courtesy of Sarasota County Historical Resources*

BAYFRONT HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL DISTRICT

Article by: Ruthmary Williams, *Corresponding Secretary*

Photos Courtesy of Sarasota County Historical Resources

The Municipal Auditorium (Sarasota Civic Center) was built with funds from the Works Progress Administration, the city of Sarasota, and several prominent businessmen during the Great Depression. Architects Thomas Reed Martin and Clarence A. Martin designed the building using elements of Art Deco and Moderne styles. The auditorium opened in February 1938 with the annual Sara de Soto Pageant ball; today the auditorium is used for a variety of events and continues to be an important part of Sarasota's culture. It has local and national historic designations.



John and Ida Chidsey donated funding for the construction of a Recreation Club (today's Bayfront Community Center) that contained a lounge area, a recreation room, and a men's card room. January 1940 marked the dedication of the complex as a recreation center which included lawn bowling, shuffle board, tennis, archery, and a putting green. Today, only the lawn bowling greens remain and they are in danger of being demolished. The Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club (SLBC), organized in 1927, was originally located at Gillespie Park; the greens were one of Sarasota's "must see attractions". The club moved to its current location in 1939. Last year SLBC

hosted the international tournament with fourteen countries participating; they will host the competition again this year.

Founded in 1926 as the “Sarasota Art Association” by Marcia Rader, the art supervisor for the Sarasota County schools district, Art Center Sarasota was Sarasota’s first arts and cultural institution. The Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 1943 and has been in its current location in the Sarasota Bayfront Cultural District since 1949. Art Center Sarasota’s mission is to inspire individual creative expression, nurture artistic talent and provide the community with accessible and diverse visual art opportunities.



The Chidsey Library, Sarasota's first public library, opened in October 1941 and was funded primarily by John and Ida Chidsey. The final cost was approximately \$25,000 with Sarasota's Junior Chamber of Commerce contributing about \$6,000 in furniture, equipment, and supplies. The building, designed by Thomas Reed Martin, has its original terrazzo floors in the lobby, glass block windows, and library stacks. The building has

local and national historic designations. After operating as the city’s library, it housed Sarasota County’s Historical Resources, then Visit Sarasota, and now The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center.

Victor Lundy, a member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, was commissioned to design a building for Sarasota’s Chamber of Commerce. Since 1956 the building, known locally as the Blue Pagoda, has been a city landmark because of its distinctive roof covered in blue celadon ceramic tiles. It has local and national historic designations.



The Sarasota Garden Club located on approximately 1.4 acres at the south end of the district was organized in 1927 and founders included Mable Ringling and Ellen Caples. In 1955 the City of Sarasota approved the plans for the Garden Club to build on city-owned land. John Crowell of the Sarasota School of Architecture designed the clubhouse.

Bert Brosmith, also with the Sarasota School of Architecture, designed the garden house to match Lundy's Blue Pagoda Building; the funds for this building were a gift from Marie Selby. The Japanese Lantern located in the pond between the clubhouse and the Blue Pagoda was a gift from Ellen and Ralph Caples in 1936. In 2009, the clubhouse was placed on the City of Sarasota's Historic Register. The grounds include seven distinct gardens including the Butterfly Garden which is a certified North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Garden. The clubhouse is available for a variety of events from weddings to luncheons to public meetings.



JACK WEST EXHIBIT **September 2017 - February 2018**

J WEST ARCHITECT 60 YEARS OF SARASOTA DESIGN

The exhibit examines more than 70 architectural and urban planning projects conceived by West and various partners from 1949 to 2009 while practicing in Sarasota. Curated by architect and author Joe King, AIA, the exhibit includes designs for education facilities, custom residences, civic and cultural buildings, recreational facilities, hotels, condominiums and more. Although focused in the Sarasota region, the exhibit also showcases projects and competitions as far reaching as Paris and Egypt.

Sponsors:



Sarasota Architectural Foundation presents SarasotaMOD Weekend

November 10 – 12, 2017

The fourth annual midcentury modern architecture festival celebrates the legacy of acclaimed Sarasota School architect Edward J. "Tim" Seibert, FAIA. Featuring Cocktail Parties, Presentations, Film Screening, Art Exhibition, House, Walking & Trolley Tours.

Tickets on sale now.

Go to <http://www.sarasotamod.com/> for the schedule and to purchase tickets.

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 on May 1 or 2, and you will enable us to expand our reach by providing tours of our historic places,



SAVE THE DATE
28th Annual
ANNUAL HOMES TOUR

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.

MARCH 4, 2018
Stay tuned for this year's location

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

REPORT FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Hershner, Chair; David Baber and Ginger Sutton

Central to the mission of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is the preservation and enhancement of our historic places. To address this goal a historic preservation committee of the Alliance was created this summer with leadership from board member Richard Hershner, who came to Sarasota and his 1925 Frame Bungalow in Gillespie Park in 2013. Richard has lived in historic houses and in historic districts since his undergraduate days at Brown University where he concentrated his studies in History and Architectural History. His first graduate studies were in the Preservation Planning program at Cornell. Later he received an MBA in Finance from New York University. For his thesis project he formulated the new revolving fund for the New York Landmarks Conservancy. He then financed large commercial real estate projects for major banks for 13 years. Becoming a published residential interiors and garden designer over the last 25 years, Richard has also been very involved in preservation by fighting to save buildings and lecturing and consulting with historic societies in Connecticut where he retains both 18th and 19th century homes.



An early activity of the committee was to meet with the City of Sarasota's new planning director Steven Cover in early August. Mr. Cover was kind enough to meet with the committee and share his background in urban planning, architecture and historic preservation. Mr. Cover has extensive experience in Arlington, Virginia and Madison, Wisconsin and one of his Master's thesis topics focused on some of the challenges of historic preservation.

During the committee meeting Mr. Cover indicated that one of his early goals is to work to understand all the codes, ordinances and plans that apply to historic preservation and see how these can be simplified and coordinated. Committee members discussed with him their concerns about the massive new construction in the Rosemary District which is resulting in the demolition of historic structures within the Overtown National Register Historic District and a loss of neighborhood identity.



Soon To Be Demolished:
1925 Moorish Revival Palmer Apartments
1225-1231 Second Street

An important advisory board staffed by Mr. Cover is the City of Sarasota's Historic Preservation Board which has numerous regulatory powers and the ability to initiate historic preservation activities. An early observation of the committee is that both the staff and the board often operate in a reactive mode perhaps due to a shortage of staffing and the lack of a clear vision for historic preservation in the city. Meanwhile major developments in the city get approved with limited consideration towards saving historic structures.

We welcome your comments on the above and your participation in our committee. We want to

be the voice of the Alliance so please make your opinions known. Also, the City of Sarasota Historic Preservation Board typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 PM in the City Commission Chambers in Sarasota City Hall, 1565 1st Street. Their monthly agenda is online as well as video tapes of previous meetings. Any citizen can subscribe to meeting notices and agendas and speak briefly at the beginning of each meeting. We encourage your active participation in these meetings.

THE MCCLELLAN SISTERS AND MCCLELLAN PARK

Article by: Ruthmary Williams, *Corresponding Secretary*

In the 1910s, Sarasota was the home of two unique, progressive women: sisters Katherine and Daisietta McClellan. In 1913 they purchased approximately 56 acres at the south end of Orange Avenue between Osprey Avenue and the bay to develop the subdivision McClellan Park, named for their father Dr. E. S. McClellan. Described as Sarasota's "Garden Spot," the sisters designed a planned residential area that included curved streets, cement sidewalks, pergolas at the entrance, a clubhouse, yacht basin, and landscaping. Lots, which sold for \$800 and up, had telephone and electricity access plus running water and septic tanks. An Indian mound on the property inspired Katherine to give the streets Seminole names. Dredging created a yacht basin for use by the residents and their guests. The pecky cypress clubhouse had a large reception room, a kitchen, pantry, manager's office, and dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen. A two-story piazza wrapped around the entire building. Space next to the clubhouse was laid out for tennis, croquet, and clock golf. March 6, 1916, marked McClellan Park's grand opening which was highlighted with tennis tournaments, afternoon tea, and an evening dance.



The Original Clubhouse Building, Courtesy of Sarasota County Historic Resources

Unfortunately the subdivision did not materialize as the sisters envisioned; lot prices were reduced and in 1923 the Bacheller-Brewer Corporation purchased the unsold lots. The sisters operated a tearoom in the clubhouse and later opened a gift shop downtown. Over the years McClellan Park expanded its original footprint. The clubhouse became The School in the Park, a tutoring center for middle and high school students. The building, which has been vacant for many years, is in very poor condition and has lost its school-use zoning status. Although no building or demolition permits have been issued, they are a possibility in the future. However, if a midden (Native American trash pile) is present with cultural artifacts, and potentially human remains, issues related to the property's sale and redevelopment are much more complicated. Both the City and County are involved in making sure all code issues are settled properly should the land be sold and new development planned.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP?

We have a great list of upcoming events listed in this newsletter, and we know you will 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 www.historicsarasota.org to pay online! If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you.

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

SAHP MEMBERSHIP DUES

RENEW NOW ONLINE

\$25 Individual
\$50 Family
\$100 Contributor
\$200 Business
\$1,000 Patron



The History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County announces nominations are open for the 2017 Sarasota County Heritage Awards. The Coalition wishes to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and understanding of Sarasota County’s prehistorical and historical resources. Besides honoring those who have devoted themselves to maintaining the integrity of our remaining architectural, archeological, and historical assets and educating the public to their importance, the Heritage Awards aim to raise the level of public support for governmental and citizen-based efforts to preserve our common past so future generations may learn from it.

All nomination materials must be submitted by email or regular mail by January 15, 2018.

Award recipients will be notified on or after February 15, 2018. Awardees will be announced publicly in March, and the Awards Ceremony Luncheon will be held April 7, 2018 at the Venice Golf and Country Club.

The 2017 Award Categories are:

1. **Archaeological Conservancy Award** – Recognizes outstanding efforts to preserve and document prehistorical sites and/or effective advocacy of archaeological conservation
Historical Research Award - Awarded for outstanding contributions through research and publication to increase knowledge of Sarasota County’s past.
2. **Lillian Burns Individual Achievement Award** – Conferred upon an individual who has made profound contributions to the history and preservation movement in Sarasota County. Contributions may include scholarly research and publication, education, museology, history and preservation organizational leadership, and public advocacy for history and preservation. The Awards Committee will be most impressed with nominations that document sustained excellence and high achievement.
3. **Organizational Achievement Award** – Presented to a Sarasota County historical or preservation organization for outstanding success in historical preservation, historical education, and/or support of historical research. The Awards Committee welcomes nominations of organizations that have successfully completed a project or a series of projects that have had a significant impact on preserving and understanding Sarasota County’s history.
4. **Historical Collections Preservation Award** – Recognizes outstanding work in preserving, describing, and providing public access to historical collections located within Sarasota County. The award will be given to individuals or organizations that demonstrate the use of best practices in the field of archival management.
5. **Historic Structure Preservation Award** - Recognizes and celebrates the best preservation projects in Sarasota County. Nominated projects must have been completed within the last five years of the submission deadline. Nominations are judged for their success in preservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration of our architectural heritage in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior standards as well as the impact of the project on the community.
6. **Student Scholar Award** - Promotes and recognizes excellence in student contributions to the field of history, archaeology, or preservation. Contributions should focus on Sarasota County history and can be in the form of a research paper, exhibit, website, or documentary. Nominations are open to juniors and seniors in high school and freshmen and sophomore college students.

Nominators must select one of the categories. However, the committee may move the nomination to another category if the members believe it to be more appropriate. Nominations may be emailed to scheritageawards@gmail.com or by mail to History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County, P.O. Box 895, Venice, FL 34284-0895.

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Select the Heritage Awards Category that applies to your nominee:
_____ Archaeological Conservancy _____ Historical Research _____ Individual Achievement
Award _____ Organizational Achievement Award _____ Historical Collections Preservation

Award _____ Historic Structure Preservation Award _____ Student Scholar Award
Name of Nominator _____

Phone _____ Email _____
_____ Street Address _____
_ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Name of Nominee _____
Phone _____ Email _____
_____ Street Address _____
_ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Briefly describe on a separate page why this individual or organization deserves the award.
(Please do not exceed 500 words.) Nominators must provide; this completed form, the 500-word
rationale, the nominee's resume/biography, and two letters of support. Additional
documentation is optional. The committee may request images or other information prior to the
awards ceremony.

The Heritage Awards Committee intends to uphold high standards so that these awards will be meaningful. The committee reserves the right not to make an award in a particular category if it feels that none of the nominations have made a compelling case. Individual self-nominations are not accepted. All decisions by the Heritage Awards Committee are final. It is the Coalition's hope that all historical, preservation, and archaeological groups in Sarasota County will enthusiastically support this effort to honor our own and raise public awareness of the work we do.

For information about the History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County, visit
historicpreservationsarasota.org

Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, Inc.
800-753-6061 | sahp.mailbox@gmail.com | www.historicsarasota.org

STAY CONNECTED

