



The Historian

The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2006, No. 2, February, 2006

Voncile Smith, Editor

ART DECO ARCHITECTURE in South Florida

Come listen to **Sharon Koskoff**, Founding President of the Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches and a highly regarded local artist, tell us about an architectural style noted for its bold and decorative characteristics. Although the name did not come into usage until the 1960s, Art Deco represents a form which may date from the beginning of the 20th century. Many examples are found throughout the United States and in other parts of the world.

Ms. Koskoff is a full time professional artist known for her Decometric murals, graphic designs, children's programming and love of architecture. She is currently an art instructor at Old School Square. She received her Bachelor Arts, cum laude, from Brooklyn College, and a second degree in Color Theory from the New York School of Interior Design. She has completed numerous murals in the area. She has taught classes and workshops in a multitude of education facilities including the Norton Museum of Art, Boca Museum of Art, Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, Palm Beach Community College, Vero Museum of Art, Edna Hibel Museum, Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, and Wolfsonian Art Museum

What: Artist Sharon Koskoff,
Discussion and slide presentation

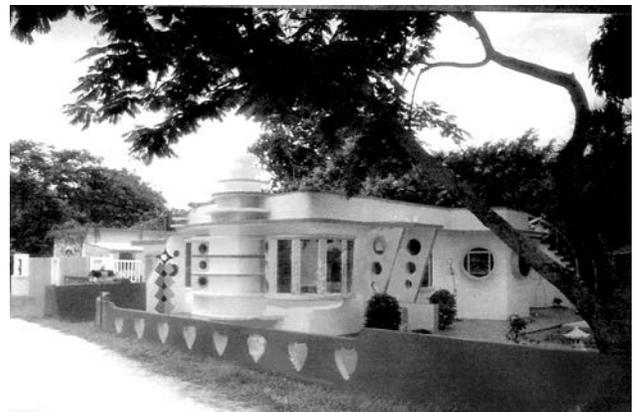
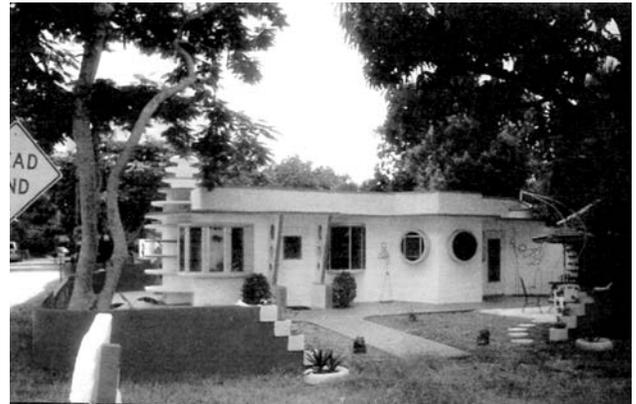
Topic: Understanding Art Deco
Architecture in South Florida

Where: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 South Federal Highway

Date: Monday, February 13, 200

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**All programs of The Boynton Beach
Historical Society are Open and
Free to the General Public.**



Two views of a home in the Boynton area in the Art Deco style. The black and white photographs do not reveal the bright colors setting off the various decorative features.

The house is owned by **Linda Stabile**, a member of the Historical Society. She is an advocate for the preservation of the buildings which exemplify this architectural style. Our speaker will discuss and show other examples that are found throughout South Florida.

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Currently the Historical Society has neither a telephone nor a website. Inquiries may be directed to the Historical Society President Voncile Smith at 561-734-5653 or smithvm@bellsouth.net

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The time is near for the Boynton Beach Historical Society to elect new officers, directors and trustees for the 2005-2006 year. Although we pay dues according to the calendar year, January 1 to December 31, officers serve from May to May after elections are held in March. That way new ones have some time to adjust to their new duties before the fiscal year begins.

All the officers (see above) are elected annually, and two directors and two trustees rotate off after having served three year terms.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please let us know as soon as possible. **Harvey E. Oyer** is Nominating Committee chair and can be reached at 561-732-8344 (home), 561-732-9305 Ex 204 (office), or 561-596-5312 (cell), or e-mail Voncile at smithvm@bellsouth.net (Harvey does not do computers)

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of the many contributions our citizens of African descent have made to American society, *The Historian* usually includes some special note to celebrate Black History or Black Heritage Month. You may have noticed the commemorative stamp we have selected this month which features Academy Award winner **Hattie McDaniel**, one of the stars of *Gone With the Wind*. In the next column, we feature three American writers of note.

TO HONOR BLACK HERITAGE—

Wally Amos. Wallace Amos, Jr. known as Wally Amos was born in Tallahassee in 1936. He showed interest in cooking from an early age and was inspired by his aunt's chocolate chip cookies. After serving in the Air Force, he went to New York City where he eventually got a clerical job working for the William Morris Agency. Soon he became the agency's first black talent agent, working with stars such as Diana Ross & the Supremes, Simon & Garfunkel, and others. He attracted clients by sending them chocolate chip cookies, which he baked himself, along with a note to visit him. In 1975 a friend suggested that he set up a store to sell his cookies. That year the first "Famous Amos" restaurant opened in Los Angeles. His new company expanded rapidly, and soon "Famous Amos" chocolate chip cookie bags could be found in supermarkets across the country. He has had guest spots in a number of sitcoms, gives lectures, and has written 13 books including *Watermelon Magic: Seeds of Wisdom*, *Slices of Life*, and *The Famous Amos Story: The Face That Launched a Thousand Chips*.

Zora Neale Hurston. Although born in Alabama, Hurston grew up in Eatonville, Florida. She is an acclaimed American author who received her B.A. from Barnard College in anthropology. Her background in ethnographic training led to work with noted anthropologist Franz Boas at Columbia University, and later with Ruth Benedict and fellow anthropologist Margaret Mead. After she died penniless, her grave in Ft. Pierce, dating from 1960, was unmarked until discovered by writer Alice Walker in 1975. Walker marked it, and wrote an article published in Ms. Magazine which led to a revived interest in Hurston's work. Her most widely read novel is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* which was adapted into a teleplay in 2005. Most critics now write that her works suffered neglect because of cultural and political factors of her time.

James Weldon Johnson. Born in Jacksonville, Johnson was a leading African American author, poet, early civil rights activist, and prominent figure in the Harlem Renaissance. He was the first African American accepted to the Florida bar. He served in several public positions including consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua. He was one of the first black professors at New York University. He is, however, best remembered for his writing which includes novels, poems, and folklore collections. He wrote the lyrics and his brother the music for *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*, commonly known as the "Black National Anthem."

CHURCH NEWS

The Baptist Church is without a pastor as its new pastor, Rev. Thompson, will not arrive until Dec. 15. Rev. Buchanan from West Palm Beach will preach on the 12 and 19 of November and Rev. Davis of Lake Worth, on the following Sunday.

The month of youth emphasis at the Methodist Church was brought to a close by a candlelight communion service on Sunday night, November 5. It is felt that the activities of this month made our young people aware of some of the many ways in which they could serve the church, and most certainly, it showed the adults just how capable and worthy our youth is.

Already our minds are beginning to turn forward to the Christmas season. The choir is planning to present a very lovely cantata on Christmas Eve, and the Delray Beach Music Club is to present Handel's Messiah at the preceding Sunday evening. The young people's division will plan and prepare some pantomimes, appropriate to the Christmas season which will be presented on a date to be named later.

The second quarterly conference was held by Rev. Ware, presiding elder, on November 7.

Adjourned session of the annual conference met at Lakeland Nov. 9 and 10.

Special Armistice Day services were held in the young people's meeting, and in the morning worship hour on Nov. 12.

Many winter visitors have been worshipping with us, and we will be delighted to have all who will join with us in all of our services. The senior and intermediate leagues meet at 7 o'clock on Sunday evenings and all are cordially invited to attend.

LITTLE THOUGHTS

Let your conscience be your guide but it'll still be a good idea to slow up at corners and curves and read the directions. All people smile in the same language.

Only those who have the patience to do simple things perfectly will acquire the skill to do difficult things easily.—Scholler.

FRESHMAN GIRL'S INITIATION FEATURE OF ASSEMBLY

The High School has had three more interesting and educational assemblies since the last issue of the Boynton Bugle.

The first assembly, which was announced by Weldon Jones, consisted of a poem, "Little Orphan Annie" by Clara Mills, "Columbus" by Burnie Thompson, and a pantomime given by members of the seventh grade English class. Sheriff H. Lawrence gave an address on "Safety" and displayed some weapons used in murders and some weapons used in capturing criminals.

The cast of the pantomime, "Count Twenty's Revenge" included:

County Twenty—Marion Weems. Lady Isadumbella—Betty Jane Magnuson.

Mark Hyme—Bert Peterson. Punko Polo—Curtis Weaver. Chin Deep—Thelma Partin. Captain of the Mud Guards—Bobby James.

Reverend Bloech led the devotional portion of the assembly.

The first part of our second assembly contained three interesting speeches given by Irene Phillips, Martha Pent and Mary Julia Thompson.

An anti-war play was given by Milton Culpepper, Burnie Thompson, Glenn Murray, Pat Woolbright, Marcus Weaver, Bates Fountain and Margaret Shepherd. Marvin Austin led the devotional portion of the program, and Scott French acted as announcer.

Lila Bloech led the devotional portion of our third chapel. We then sang "America, The Beautiful". Patsy Maddox recited a poem "Our Flag". Immediately afterwards an original pantomime was given. An original drama, "Love Experiment", was presented with a cast including Irene Phillips, George James, Francis McBride, Mary Julia Thompson, Clyde Brown, Maureen Lee, and Marvin Benson. Incidental music was played by Alton Murray.

The next two portions of this chapel were very hilarious.

The Freshman Girl Parade was given as part of their initiation. Their instructions were to wear their dress with two inches of slip showing, go barefoot, wear their

BOYNTON JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

In October the Boynton Junior Women's Club held their annual election of officers. Miss Helen Myers was re-elected as president. Other elected officers were: vice-president, Miss Helen Powell; secretary, Miss Harriet Lewerenz; treasurer, Miss Lorraine Lewerenz; and parliamentarian, Miss Bernice Traylor.

Further business taken up at the meeting pertained to a proposal that the present age of fifteen be reduced to 14 in the constitution. This motion was defeated.

Hostesses at the meeting were Mrs. O. C. Knuth and Miss Dorothy Shepard. Refreshments which consisted of cold drinks and a variety of cookies were served by the hostesses.

Two new members were taken in at this time, Miss Geraldine Baskin and Miss Jacqueline Partin.

The Junior Women's Club has made big plans for the coming year. One of these is to put a new finish on the dance floor.

clothes inside out, and not to comb their hair before coming to school. A "Rat Court" was then held in which four freshmen, Burnie Thompson, Alton Murray, Marvin Austin, and Gerald Lamb had different tasks to perform as a result of not obeying upper classmen the day before. Burnie Thompson wrestled with "Temptation"; Alton imitated a scrambled egg frying, and Marvin Austin and Gerald Lamb had to propose to and get a kiss from Buddy Partin, the shy beauty who appeared on the stage. Jean Jones and Scott French directed the last two features of the chapel.

BOYNTON TIES STRONGER LAKE WORTH TEAM

Boynton's Tigers outpassed and outplayed a supposedly stronger Lake Worth team to a stand still Tuesday in the best and most exciting game of the year. The score was 0-0.

Partin caught a long aerial from Gibson just after the game had started and eased down on the Lake Worth 3 yard line driving to the 30 before being stopped.

There were long passes, runs, losses and almost everything you want to see in a football game. Boynton got 99 yards on passes, completing 11 out of 20, while the Trojans tried 8 without completing any.

The Tigers drove down to the 3 inch line but couldn't get across. Woolbright caught the pass and was tagged just before crossing the goal. Although the Trojans outran Boynton 38 yards gained to 17, they lost 27 yards while Boynton lost 11 yards.

Both teams came close to getting touchdowns but couldn't add the finishing touch. Boynton was outpunted with the average 39 yards for Lake Worth to 35 for Boynton.

Boynton ran back every punt at least 5 yards while Lake Worth sometimes lost 2 or more. There were not many intercepted passes as most of them were out of everyone's reach.

MORE LITTLE THOUGHTS

Happiness is where we find it, but very seldom where we seek it.—J. Pettit-Senn.

It's dead easy to go down stream, but it takes a live one to go up.

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HI LAWRENCE

NONSENSE FROM CYBERSPACE---

[In case you missed it-- at least it names the major American newspapers of the 21st century. This article is dedicated to those later arrivals in South Florida who may have come from another area and may view *The Palm Beach Post* and *The Sun-Sentinel* as too provincial for their tastes, preferring something from "Up Home."]

Who's Reading What (Where do You Fit In?)

1. *The Wall Street Journal* is read by people who run the country.
2. *The Washington Post* is read by people who think they run the country.
3. *The New York Times* is read by people who think they should run the country and who are very good at crossword puzzles.
4. *USA Today* is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't really understand *The New York Times*. They do, however like their statistics shown in pie charts.
5. *The Los Angeles Times* is read by people who wouldn't mind running the

country—if they could find the time—and they didn't have to leave Southern California to do it.

6. *The Boston Globe* is read by people whose parents used to run the country and did a far superior job of it, or so they believe.
7. *The New York Daily News* is read by people who aren't sure who's running the country and don't really care as long as they can get a seat on the train.
8. *The New York Post* is read by people who don't care who's running the country as long as they do something really scandalous preferably while intoxicated.
9. *The Miami Herald* is read by people who are running another country but need the baseball scores.
10. *The San Francisco Chronicle* is read by people who aren't sure there is a Country—or that anyone is running it; but if so, they oppose all that they stand for.
11. *The National Enquirer* is read by people trapped in line at the grocery store.

The insert above and on the other side continues pages three and four from the edition of *The Boynton Bugle* for November 17, 1939. Pages one and two were copied into the January issue of *The Historian*.

TRAILER CAMP NEWS

Trailers are rolling in every day from all over the United States. Among the new comers are Mr. and Mrs. McGrath. Mr. McGrath is in photographic work and does advertising for Dude Ranches. They come from Wyoming.

Miss Mary Schepman, who will, in a few weeks, attend Boynton school as a senior, has already registered at school.

Dorothy and Helen Mann will start to school Monday the 18th. Their folks run the gift shop and filling station at Briny Breezes.

The swimming instructor and his wife have arrived. Mr. Bennet has completed a course in Red Cross water safety and will be swimming and diving instructor as well as life guard. They will be here all season. They came here from Indianapolis, Ind.

Two noted baseball players, Frank Heiber and Bruce Campbell, are expected in sometime this week.

Mr. Benson, a resident here, came down to catch big fish. He still expects to catch a kingfish.

Mr. George Standard is expecting his father soon for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.—Proverbs.

The man worth while is the man who can smile when his front teeth are all gone.

The Boynton Junior Music Club opened its new year with a meeting in October. The officers of the club are: President, Marvin Benson; vice president, Curtis Weaver; secretary-treasurer, Mary Julia Thompson; counselor, Mrs. Mercer.

At the second meeting of the year Burnie Thompson presented a very interesting program. Betty Magnuson is to be program chairman for December.

CONNISTON TRIPS BOYNTON

Conniston's football team beat a smaller Boynton team Thursday afternoon 7-0. It was Boynton's second successive setback, the first being by Central, 20-7.

On the second play of the game a pass was intercepted by Wager which was intended for Lanier.

After see sawing back and forth down the field, Conniston started making long gains by running and passing until they were on Boynton's 5 yard line, when Tumber caught a pass from Johnson and lunged over the goal. Wedge caught a pass from Johnson for the extra point to finish scoring for the game.

Boynton's running attack was good, but it could do little in the air. Fumbles were costly as Boynton fumbled 5 times.

Line-ups:

Conniston		Boynton
Orton	le	Weeks
Band	lt	Lanier
Miller	lg	Hackle
Cameron	c	Brant
Ward	rg	McRae
Wright	rt	Fountain
Wedge	re	Woolbright
Tumber	qb	Partin
Booth	lh	R. Weeks
C. Wedge	rh	Price
Johnson	fb	Gibson

Conniston, 7; Boynton 0.
Scoring: Conniston, Tumber, touchdown. Wedge, extra point.

SOPHOMORE HAND-ME-DOWNS

The class officers elected by the Sophomore class are as follows: Marcus Weaver, president; Milton Culpepper, vice president; Joan Jones, secretary; and Jennings Quincy, treasurer.

The Sophomores have also set sail early. At their booth of hot dogs and pop at the P. T. A. Festival, a nice profit was received. The booth was managed by Patry Maddox, Margaret Shepard, and Marcus Weaver.

METHODIST CHURCH

(Continued from Page One)

the church. The room was decorated very artistically. These decorations were made possible by Helen Myers. Benches and milk cans served as seats. Games which are typical of old fashioned farms were played. Ralph Futrell, Lenore Benson and Mary Julia Thompson were awarded prizes for the best costumes.

Friday, November 3, a banquet was held. This banquet brought the month of activities to a

max. It is planned to make this banquet an annual affair.

The following numbers were on the program: invocation, Rev. Ware; Doxology, by all; Welcome, toastmaster John Rouseau; girls' chorus accompanied by Miss Bowery; piano selections, Alton Murray; group singing, Mr. Crane accompanied by Mrs. Mercer; talk, "Democracy and Christianity," by Rev. Loutitt; Good Bless America, by all.

Altogether the month has been a success and it is hoped that it will be so each year.

JUNIOR PLAY

(Continued from Page One)

Bloch) doesn't do something exciting in each of her scenes.

And if the Duchess of Londonberry (Lenore Benson) doesn't stop the show before she gets her hands on T. Timothy Tweedoms.

Then — well — then — we suggest you call a doctor.

To be presented in December.

We wish to thank Mr. Crane who is directing our play and Miss White, our sponsor for their help in this play.

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NEWS FROM THE PAST—
[From the News/Sun-Sentinel, Saturday, Aug. 18, 1984]

TELEPHONE CREW DIGS UP HUMAN BONES
BOYNTON BEACH — When a Southern Bell crew dug into a sidewalk to repair a telephone cable near the Boynton Beach Memorial Park Friday morning, they uncovered three human bones—and a bit of city history.

According to Edgar D. Hurford, who recently retired after 25 years on the Cemetery Board, bodies used to be buried "sub rosa", or secretly, in the old part of the cemetery, located at the corner of Woolbright Road and Seacrest Boulevard.

"In the old days, they buried some people sub rosa. All types of burials, under cover of darkness," he said.

Hurford said the "old days" ended shortly before World War II and that up until that time wooden caskets, which deteriorate, often were used.

Tereesa Padgett, a retired city clerk, said no records were ever filed on the bodies placed in the older part of the cemetery. Only headstones, which disappeared over the years, told who lay underneath.

So when a Southern Bell backhoe dug up three legbones Friday, city officials and police expressed little surprise.

They said the bones rested in what had been the northernmost part of the cemetery and were paved over inadvertently when Woolbright road grew from two lanes to four lanes in the late 1970s.

"It's one of those things that's bound to happen when you get an old area," City Manager Peter Cheney said.

Lt. John Hollihan, who was called to the scene after the discovery, said the crew found the bones 3 to 3 1/2 feet below ground.

"I recognized them as being human," he said.

After calling the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner for advice, the bones were taken to a local funeral home, which was to reburly them, police said.

UPDATES, AND A FEW CORRECTIONS---

In the November *Historian*, we printed the picture reproduced below:



The caption we used at the time identified the event as a City Council Meeting, March 4, 1975. The names listed were correct, but we failed to identify all pictured as former mayors. We repeat their names with the years they served as mayor. Back Row L to R: Fred Benson 1941-1944; W.T. (Sam) Woolbright 11/8/48-1/3/49; Stanley Weaver 1956; Harvey Oyer 1960; John Archie 1961 & 1963; Thomas Summers 6 mos 1962 & 1970; J Willard Pipes 6 mos 1962; Front Row L to R: Joe DeLong 1974 & 1976; Emily Jackson 1978; Robert Effron 1972; Forest Wallace 1971; James Mahoney 1959 & 1965; Vincent Gallo 1964; Walter Madsen 1966, David Roberts 1975.

Sandy McGregor e-mailed the history of the house shown in January:



The home in the photo of E.L and Mae Winchester was purchased by Albert and Ruth McGregor sometime between 1939 (when Margie was born) and 1943 (when I was born). I came home to that house after my birth. It was our home until Albert sold it in the summer of 1961 to Bob Collier, a realtor. It was then that the "office" was built on the front of the house and the Colliers lived there and Mr. Collier had his real estate business in the "office." The 2 car garage with laundry room was demolished after 1961. Margie was in that house not too many years before she died. Very little had been done to the interior at that time. With owner Conti Reality I am sure much of the interior is different. It had a coquina rock fireplace with built-in bookcases on either side. The formal dining room also had built-in china cabinets with a window seat between them under the windows that can be seen to the right of the chimney in the photo. Hardwood floors throughout, and HURRICANE SHUTTERS which we used in the 1949 hurricane. Margie and I often fantasized about purchasing the house, moving in and restoring it. [Ed. Note: The house still stands at 915 S. Federal Hwy and is still a real estate office.]

LOCAL PIONEER FOODS

[In 1969 Lillian "Freda" Voss Oyer wrote a brief history of Boynton Beach. The following is an excerpt that pertains to the foods she, her parents and grandparents had in her childhood. Freda was born on Hypoluxo Island in 1896, but her family lived in Hypoluxo three miles north of Boynton during her girlhood.]

"To the women in pioneer days the problems of food and housekeeping were greater even than the loneliness and work. This was made more difficult because almost without exception the families who came to south Florida were from cities or towns. They were accustomed to all the conveniences of that time.

"As for actual food, nature provided it plentifully except for the staples such as flour, sugar, spices or seasonings, milk and butter.

"The lake was teeming with fish, oysters and ducks. There were turtles on the beach to provide additional items of diet while turtle egg pancakes were a treat. These were made with a quantity of the egg whites beaten stiff and folded into the batter. Venison and turkey were in the woods.

"Grapes and huckleberries grew in abundance. There were wild mulberry trees, pawpaws and the sapadillo with its dead-sweet, brown fruit dripping with syrup when broken open.

"Along the banks of the canal and in the low damp ground the elderberry bushes grew. They were attractive shrubs with great clusters of white bloom. Later, the quantities of berries furnished many delicious pies. Some of the men would tell you they also made delicious wine.

"Besides the berry pies, in the very early days here my Grandmother Pierce made cactus pies. Cactus here in this part of the state grow close to the ground. The blossom was flat, as large as a teacup and gleaming like golden satin. After the blossom dies, a fruit develops. It is round, about the size of a small guava, and covered with small sharp spines. Using long handled fork for piercing the fruit and a long knife for cutting it off and peeling, still Grandmother always got some cactus spines in her fingers.

"Jellies and jams were made from huckleberry, grapes, and seagrapes. Altho' the wild grapes and the quantity of huckleberries have all vanished before the builders, the seagrapes yet grow on the beach ridge. They are attractive shrubs and trees so often they are planted in yards now, for looks, not jelly.

"The first to come to the shores of Lake Worth had only one vegetable – palmetto cabbage. Today hearts of palm is rather a gourmet item, but then cabbage cooked with white bacon was ordinary food. Of course, getting the palmetto cabbage killed the tree. Indeed, the tree was usually chopped down. But who cared? There were hundreds growing everywhere.

"Many of the fruits and flowers which grew in bountiful profusion were native, but undoubtedly some were from seeds borne on the high winds or washed ashore from ships.

THE HISTORIAN
Boynton Beach Historical Society
P. O. Box 12
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012

JOIN NOW FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2006

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Memberships are for the Calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Check the appropriate line and return this form with the dues for that category to The Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012. If you have questions, please contact Voncile Smith, 561-734-5653, or e-mail smithvm@bellsouth.net.

Individual Membership \$25.00 ____ Family Membership \$35.00 ____

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If you would be willing to serve on a Committee for the Society, please check all that apply:

Public Relations ____ Educational ____ Membership ____ Minority History ____
Refreshments ____ Archives/ Preservation ____ Fund Raising ____ Program ____

The purpose of the Society is to act as a living repository for the traditions and history of Boynton Beach, to interpret items of historical and antiquarian significance, and to promote a better understanding of history. We are proud to serve Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf, Briney Breezes, and all areas west of Boynton Beach to U.S. Hwy 441, and, on occasion, greater Palm Beach County.