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, 2006

Time:   7:00 p.m.

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.

All programs of The Boynton Beach Historical Society are Open and Free to the General Public.
BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2005-06

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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 Hurstou. 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.”
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 Lawrence; treasurer, Miss Lorraine Leverett; and parliamentarian, Miss Hermione Tregler.

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

At the luncheon meeting, Mrs. C. A. Knob and Mrs. 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 Baehnke and Miss Juanita Hoss. The Junior Women's Club has made big plans for the coming year. One of these is to put on a new finish on the dance floor.

BOYNTON TIES STRONGER LAKE WORTH TEAM

Boynton's Tigers outpaced 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 5-5.

Partin caught a long aerial from Johnson, just after the ball had started and sailed down the Lake Worth 3 yard line driving to the 30 before being stopped. There were long passes, runs and almost everything you want to see in a football game. Boynton got 99 yards on passes, completing 14 out of 20, while Lake Worth got 90 yards in 27 plays. 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 outmatched with the average 35 yards for Lake Worth to 30 for Boynton.

Boynton ran back every punt at least 5 yards while Lake Worth sometimes lost 3 or more. There were not many intercepted passes by either side as the signal was not always visible.

MORE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Happiness is where we find it, but very seldom where we seek it." —J. P. Stein.

It's a difficult job to light up a dark room, but it takes a live one to go up.
TRAILER-CAMP NEWS

TRAILERS are rolling in every day from all over the United States.

Among the campers, who are in many cases returning for another season, are Mr. and Mrs. McGraw, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

The campers are delighted with the weather and the facilities provided by the camp. They are looking forward to another season of fun and relaxation.

Boydton Junior Music Club

The Boydton Junior Music Club opened its new year with a meeting in October. The officers of the club are: President, Mr. Brown; vice president, Mr. White; secretary-treasurer, Mr. Miller; and members, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Brown.

The club meets every Wednesday evening, and all interested young people are invited to join.

Boydton High School Football Team

Boydton High School has a football team this year, and the players are working hard to prepare for the upcoming season. The team consists of eleven players, and they are practicing every day to improve their skills.

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NEWS FROM THE PAST

[From the News-Gazette, Saturday, Aug. 18, 1946]

TELEPHONE CREW DIGS UP HUMAN BONES

BOYDTON BONE - When a Southern Bell crew dug into a sidewalk to repair a telephone cable near the Boydton Bone Bank, they uncovered a human bone—a bit of old history.

According to Edgar D. Hurford, who recently retired after 25 years on the Cemetery Board, the bone was used to build a "sub road," or secretly, in the old part of the cemetery, located at the corner of Woodbright Road and Seaboard Boulevard.

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

Hurford said the "old days" ended shortly after World War II and that up until that time wooden caskets, which cost more, were used.

SOPHOMORE HAND-HELD DOWNS

The Sophomore class officers are as follows: Colin Turner; president; Milton Cuppeller, vice president; John Jones, secretary; and Jennings Quincy, treasurer.

The Sophomores have also set dates early. At their booth of hot dogs and pop at the P.T.A. Festival, a nice profit was realized. The booth was managed by Pat McCrea, Margaret Shepard, and Marion Weaver.

Methodist Church

The church was decorated very artistically. Three decorations were made possible by Helen Myers. Benches and milk cans were used as seats. Games which are typical of old-fashioned farm days were played. Ralph Poff, Leon 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 close.

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Lake Worth
UPDATES, AND A FEW CORRECTIONS---

In the November Historian, we printed the picture reproduced below.


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 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 lonliness 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.
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 Voncie Smith, 561-734-5653, or e-mail smithvm@bellsouth.net.

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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.