ALL ABOUT FOOD!

Annual Covered-Dish Dinner &
History of a Local Tradition –
“BUD’S CHICKEN & SEAFOOD”

On SUNDAY, May 17, 5:00 p.m. the Boynton Beach Historical Society will meet to eat and greet one another at our annual covered-dish dinner and to learn about one of our locally owned traditions, Bud’s Chicken and Seafood Restaurant.

Until the 1960s most restaurants in the area were locally owned businesses. A few national chains such as Woolworth’s lunch counter, the counter at Walgreen’s and Morrison’s Cafeteria were represented in West Palm Beach, but in Boynton Beach, the eateries were locally owned. Then the national chains such as McDonald’s, Burger King, Dominos Pizza, Carrabas, Red Lobster, IHOP, and others began appearing. Bud’s is one of the few locally owned establishments that has continued to flourish.

Bud’s Chicken and Seafood was founded in 1957 by Bud Brinkman and began as a single unit, take-out restaurant. The original menu featured a wide variety of items, but customer demand led to specialization in Southern-style fried chicken, seafood, barbecue ribs and homemade salads. Since its beginning it has been a family oriented business, and today the second generation of family is at the helm of Bud’s with seven locations in Palm Beach County.

Bud’s has generously donated some of their foods for our meeting, but because of dietary preferences of some of our members, we will have other entrees and dishes in line with what we have traditionally served. There will also be wine and non-alcoholic beverages. When you come, we ask that you bring a salad, vegetable casserole, or dessert large enough to serve at least eight. Those who prefer not to furnish a dish may pay $10 per person at the door.

WHAT: Covered-Dish-Dinner and Program “The History of Bud’s Chicken & Seafood”

WHEN: SUNDAY, May 17, 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Womans Club
1010 S. Federal Highway
BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2015-16

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]
President          Randall Gill
1st  Vice President, Programs  Anne Rimler
2nd  Vice President, Membership  Voncile Marshall Smith
Recording Secretary    Diana Dennis
Corresponding Secretary  Anne Watts
Treasurer          Frances Tuite McKeral

[Non-Elected]
Editor, The Historian  Voncile Marshall Smith
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster  Janet DeVries
Facebook Administrator/Webmaster  Ginger Pedersen

DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]
2016   Tim Bednarz
2016   Judith Merkel Howard
2017   Steven Anton
2017   Barbara Ready
2018   Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2018   Diane Gerino

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]
2016   Virginia Farace
2016   Susan Merkel Shaffer
2017   Ginger Pedersen
2017   Sally Hood
2018   Janet DeVries
2018   Audrey Gerger

Our website is www.boyntonhistory.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory@gmail.com

Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653. Boynton Beach Historical Society number is 561-327-4690.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach
www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory

The Historian is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

LIFE MEMBERS
Lenore Benson Rabon Boonstra
Randall Gill
Alexander “Sandy” Simon
Dorian Beck Trauger
Charlotte Tatum Weaver
Curtis and Nain Weaver

CORPORATE MEMBERS – 2015
Boynton Woman’s Club
Donald Day/Delray Awning, Inc
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home and Crematory
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi

2015 MEMBERSHIPS
The following memberships have been received since April 1st:

PATRON:
Robert W. Ganger
William M. and Gaye Lynn Weaver

FAMILY:
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak

INDIVIDUAL:
Barbara Gellner
Larry Grosser
Carol Kuenzel
Mary Patricia Ryan
Marion Weaver Wester

Thanks to each of you for joining us for the coming year. We are most happy to welcome new members Carol Kuenzel and Mary Patricia Ryan.

NEW OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS
At the April meeting of the Society the annual election was held as prescribed in the Bylaws. New officers are President Randall Gill replacing Janet DeVries who, because of professional time commitments, chose to become a Trustee, and First Vice President in charge of Programs Anne Rimler who replaces Ginger Pedersen. Ginger will continue membership on the Board of Directors, also as a Trustee. Both Janet and Ginger will continue their roles administering the website and Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Other officers were re-elected—Voncile as Second Vice President for Membership, Diana Dennis as Recording Secretary, Anne Watts as Corresponding Secretary and Frances Tuite McKeral as Treasurer. A new face as Trustee is Sally Hood who will be serving in tribute to her sister Nancy Hood McNamee who died from cancer in 2013 after serving on the Board for many years. We welcome Diane Gerino as a new Director.

Previous Director Linda Stabile and Trustees Christian Oyer Macoviak and Wendy Franklin chose not to continue as Board members at this time. We are most grateful to all three of them for their years of service to the Society and know they will continue to be helpful members for many years to come.

Directors and Trustees serve for 3 year staggered terms. Sheila Rousseau Taylor was elected to a new 3 year term as a Director and Audrey Gerger to a 3 year term as a Trustee. Both these positions run until April, 2018. Sally Hood is completing the term that Wendy Franklin had held which ends in 2017 and Ginger Pedersen replaces our new President Randy Gill as a Trustee whose term expires in April, 2017. Janet DeVries’ term as Trustee ends in 2018. For a comprehensive view of the current Board of Directors, see the masthead in the preceding column.

Please congratulate all these Board members when you see them, and offer your thanks for all the volunteer effort they make on behalf of the Society.
Conrad Pickel Celebration

The Boynton Beach Historical Society is joining the City, the Pickel Studio, McMow Artglass, and others to honor renowned stained glass artist Conrad Pickel, his life and global vision of the arts. The celebration will feature an historic tour, presentations and exhibits. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The tour will depart from the Boynton Beach City Library at 8 a.m. and will be narrated by Boynton Beach Historic Preservation Planner Warren Adams and Immediate Past President of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Janet DeVries. It will visit 5 locations that highlight Pickel's stained glass pieces. The tour is free, but interested attendees must call 561-742-6066 to register. For more information on the Celebration, call Debby Coles-Dobay, Public Arts Manager at 561-742-6026, or Warren Adams, Historic Preservation Planner at 561-742-6757.

Conrad Pickel Celebration

A Celebration about renowned stained glass artist, Conrad Pickel, his life and global vision of the arts.

Kick off the celebration by taking a narrated Historic Bus Tour highlighting Pickel's artwork. Later, join the experts in a series of lectures to discuss Conrad's life, the art of glassmaking, glass art demonstrations and a Conrad Pickel exhibition.

WHAT: Conrad Pickel Celebration
WHEN: May 23, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd.
COST: FREE

To register for the bus tour, call 561-742-6066.

Schedule of Events:
8:00 a.m. - Pickel's Historic Bus Tour
Boynton Beach Memorial Park Mausoleum
Ascension Lutheran Church
St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church
Former Gallery Fantasia
St. Mark’s Church

10:30 a.m. - Back to Back Lectures
Conrad Pickel: Celebrating the Stained Glass Artist’s Life and Vision
Presenter: Janet DeVries, President, Boynton Beach Historical Society
Conrad Pickel, Elevating the World of Glass Art
Presenter: Shannon Materio, President, McMow Artglass
Not Enough Time in the Day – Conrad’s Talents and Vision
Presenter: Paul Pickel, President, Conrad Pickel Studio
Past, Present and Future of Glass Art in Palm Beach County
Presenter: Rick Eggert, Creative Director, Benzaiten Center for the Creative Arts
Living in a Conrad Pickel Home
Presenter: The Jarcusos

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Glass Demonstrations & Conrad Pickel Exhibition
*Schedule subject to change.
MORE NOSTALGIC MOMENTS—

Bill Suiter, a Rousseau family descendant and one of our members, emailed us the following:
Finding a citron melon growing wild at Halloween, taking it home and carving it into a Jack-o-lantern—
Playing baseball in the street and playing sting-a-ree—
Going hunting in the local woods with a BB gun—
Climbing a mango tree and picking and eating the sweet, ripe fruit—
Finding a mulberry tree with ripe fruit. Oh, my—delicious—

Additions from another contributor:
“Skipping” small rocks across ponds--
Making faces while eating “Florida cherries”—
Gently touching doodle-bug indentations to make the bug wiggle to the surface—
Spelling a word correctly in a “Turn-down” spelling contest—
Listening to teacher Annie Shepard read “Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates”—

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A REMINDER

The Boynton Beach Historical Society offers no summer schedule. The May Covered-Dish Dinner and Program is our last meeting until September. No Historian is produced during the months of June, July and August. We will mail out the September Historian about a week prior to our September meeting. We wish everyone a fun-filled summer, and look forward to seeing our members again in the fall.

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MAR LAGO – FROM A DIFFERENT TIME

By Voncile Smith

Sometimes certain patches of memory stay in your mind and you wonder what their role has been in shaping your values. Such is my memory of Leon Robbins, a classmate off and on through my years in elementary school at the 1913 schoolhouse. Leon, who was also known as Lee by his family, lived on the beach, which at that time, other than having the ocean handy for swimming, most of my classmates and I did not regard as a luxury, but an inconvenience, since, other than walking, we had to depend on someone to transport us by car wherever we wanted to go.

I remember driving by Leon’s house, and was told that it was a little hotel. The word “motel” was not in general use at that time (indeed, if it had even been coined), and overnight accommodations in small hotels were then commonly called either “tourist courts” or if a series of small cabins, “tourist cottages” or “tourist cabins,” Later came “motor hotel” and eventually “motel.” I do not remember the exact location, but, other than being oceanfront, where the Robbins’ house was located did not concern me. What I do remember is a little sign, placed prominently in front of the building which read “Restricted Clientele.” I asked my aunt who was my driver what that meant. “Do you have to be very rich before they will let you in?” I had asked.

“No,” replied my aunt, “if you can pay for a room, you can stay provided you are not Jewish. It means “No Jews allowed.”

I remember being puzzled by this. We had Jewish friends, and I did not understand how anyone could exclude them. Anyway, at that time the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis was mentioned almost daily in the news, and most people I knew seemed horrified by the Jewish plight. But I did not know that anti-Semitic attitudes were very common at that time, particularly in Palm Beach, which excluded all Jews from much social activity

Leon and his parents, Martha and Leon Robbins, Sr. are all deceased. Leon’s older brother Bart, a retired engineer, still survives.

Martha and Leon Robbins

The Robbinses, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, moved to South Florida and built their little hotel which they named Mar Lago in 1932. Janet DeVries has written a short blog about them which appears at www.boyntonhistory.org.
Janet’s research situates the building directly south of the Boynton Inlet between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Hotel owners at that time could profit with only a few rooms. The Robbins hotel contained five rooms plus an adjacent cottage and was staffed by a cook and a housekeeper. The second floor had a lounge known as the “Miramar.” The U.S. Coast Guard used the second floor as a lookout during World War II.

In 1974 the hotel was razed and the land is now used for the county’s Ocean Inlet Park.

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The four pages of the Commencement Program for 1966 Seacrest High School (later Atlantic High School). A normal part of public high school commencement services at that time was a night devoted to a baccalaureate or religious service in which local clergy participated. Attendance was usually compulsory for graduates.
Beauty contests were very popular during most of the 20th Century and many cities and towns held them to select a contestant to go to Atlantic City to represent the locality in the Miss America contest. The editors of the Chamber publication did not include the name of this Miss Boynton Beach, nor do we know which year she was crowned. For the winners the contests offered prizes, scholarships and opportunities to travel plus whatever publicity the sponsors could generate.

Toward the turn of the century, such contests were declining in popularity and the Miss America contest has had trouble finding sponsors and securing television coverage in recent years.

Part-time Palm Beach resident Donald Trump has continued to sponsor Miss U.S.A. and Miss Universe competitions and they have acquired some of the notoriety once enjoyed by Miss America contests.

The changing roles for women has probably had an impact on the popularity of beauty contests, but prevalence of wide spread media showing beautiful women who have camera wiseness 24 hours a day has perhaps also been a factor.

Maybe, too, there were so many contests that people simply became tired of them.