



The Historian

The Newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf, and all areas of West Boynton, in addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole.

March 2022



Art Deco Goes International Egyptian Style

Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 7-8pm EDT via Zoom

For emails on file, check your inbox for an invitation from BBHSPrograms@gmail.com and set your reminders in your calendar. If your email isn't already on file with us, simply send a request to BBHSPrograms@gmail.com and we'll send you an invitation.

It's 6,450 miles from Boynton Beach to the **Great Pyramid of Giza**. Tonight, that distance will seem so much closer when you join us to travel the world and learn about historic architectural styles and visit the oldest civilization known to mankind. **Sharon Koskoff** will illustrate **Art Deco** structures around the globe and focus on her passionate journey to the pyramids of Egypt, where she explored the tomb of **King Tutankhamen** and the ancient discoveries by Howard Carter in 1922 when everything Egyptian became all the RAGE! The Egyptian skyline is a visual feast and explains how Art Deco originates stylization of forms found in these

Sharon Koskoff is an award-winning public speaker, and preservationist. She the Palm Beaches and most recently International Coalition of Art Deco



author, public mural artist, art instructor, is president of the Art Deco Society of joined the Board of Directors of the Societies, ICADS. www.ArtDecoPB.org.



Boynton Beach Historical Society

Since 1968

2021-2022 Board of Directors

OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – M Randall Gill

1st Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready

2nd Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor

Secretary – Alex Rousseau

Treasurer – Anne Rimler

TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2022 - Virginia Farace

2022 - Ben Lowe

2023 – Steve Anton

2023 – Heidi Bell

2024 - Donna Artes

2024 – Chadda Shelly

Non-Elected

Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

We are on the web www.boyntonhistory.org, and on Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach) and on Twitter [@BoyntonHistory](https://twitter.com/BoyntonHistory).

Questions or comments: **Programs** bbhsprograms@gmail.com

Membership bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, is sent approximately six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one newsletter per paid membership).

Previous issues are posted to our website. Issues were not published April 2020 to October 2021 due to COVID-19.

The first line on your mailing label has the **expiration date** of your membership. If you receive the *Historian* via email, we'll send you a renewal notice before your dues expire.

Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited toward the following season. Memberships run Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Joining or Renewing your Dues

Go to boyntonhistory.org. On the **Membership** tab, pay securely via **PayPal** or download the form and mail in with your check. Thank you!

Historical Society Bylaws

Society Bylaws: www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/

2021-2022 Season **Mondays @7pm EST** **Via Zoom**

Mar 28 Art Deco Egypt, **Sharon Koskoff**

Apr 25 Annual Meeting, Elections, Excellence Award & More



Zoom Program Meetings are Recorded

Find us on YouTube at "BBHS Programs"

Like and Subscribe!

The following represents our Membership Roll to date & Dues received from 2/2/2022 to 3/04/2022

Thank You to our Life Members

Vickie & Anthony **Barbar** Candy & Doug **Brueggemann**
EasyPay Tire/Doug & Ruth Besecker Linda & Mike **Callaway**
Robert and Jeanne **Gaylor** M Randall **Gill**
Robert & Carrie **Parker Hill** Robert & Christian **Oyer Macoviak**
Melear Bros., Cliff & Rick **Melear** Susan **Oyer**
Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth **Netzler** Alexander **Simon**
Scott & Camilla **Smith Richardson** Voncile Marshall **Smith**
George & Christine Weaver **Ternenyi** William & Gaye **Weaver**
Marion Weaver **Wester** Bill & Elsie **Winchester**

Thank You to our Corporate Members

Boynton Memorial Chapel, Stormet C **Norem**

Dan & Regina **Day**, Delray Awning

Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

Daniel & Lisa Ames **Suiter**

Thank You to our Patrons

Tim **Bednarz** Sandra L & Eugene **Palchanis**
Charles & Mary Theresa **Bilthuis** Ward & Martha **Parker**
Ron & Sarah Thomas **Bollenbacher** Billie Jo **Swilley**
Richard B **Castagnoli** Sheila **Rousseau** & Robert **Taylor**
Robert W **Ganger** Mary **Burns** & Tom **Warnke**
Gayle **Kranz** & George **Greider** Anne **Watts**
William G **James** Suzy **Winchester**
Charles & Betty **LaBella**

New and Renewed Memberships

Thank You!

Donna **Artes** Benoit **Mailloux** & Ben **Lowe**
Katherine **Baker** Ward **Parker**
Ron & Sarah Thomas **Bollenbacher** Norman **Price**
Barrie & Dave **Byron** & Bit **Shaw** Kandy **Thompson**
Michelle **Donahue** Debra **Tucker**
Christine **Sarno-Olson**

A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients

Dani **Apter** Judy **Musgrave**

What is a BOGO, you ask?

When you become a member or renew your membership, our gift to you: you may give away a FREE one-year membership! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. Simply provide the recipient's information and they will also receive "The Historian," via email. See the membership form on page 4 for details.



Volunteer Opportunities

We have openings for a Promotions Coordinator and a Zoom/Video Support person. If interested, email us at bbhsprograms@gmail.com. Full disclosure: we have high expectations for our volunteers; bring a team-oriented attitude of historical proportions and a good sense of humor. You may just find the extraordinary within yourself.



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A Fly on The Wall

Randall Gill, President of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, visited Nanie and Curtis Weaver as they reflected on life in early Boynton. This was their last interview before they both passed away in 2020. This is a springtime reminiscence that they shared. Curtis was past president, and both were active members, of the Society.

Each spring in the pioneer town of Boynton, a plague would descend upon the community. Huge horseflies would come in droves to bite and annoy the townspeople. Mules would wear straw hats and were draped with kerosene-soaked cloths to protect them from the insects' bites. The beauty of the cobalt blue ocean seemed like paradise, but the bite from a horsefly brought the pioneers back to reality. The horseflies received their name from feeding on horses and other livestock. At the Boynton schoolhouse (now home to the Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center), the horseflies buzzed so loud against the windowpanes that it was almost impossible to concentrate. These pioneers recalled how the horseflies flew in like the swallows of Capistrano. One Monday they were there and two weeks later they were gone. They made life very uncomfortable, especially since the windows didn't have screens. The horseflies just took over. One teacher kept two students at a time swatting at the flies and rotated them so that the students could do their work. Another student collected dead flies in a quart jar and took them home to feed to the chickens.

I recently confirmed that chickens do eat horseflies with someone who raises chickens. Curtis and Nanie Weaver encountered the horseflies as children. Curtis smiled and laughed, and said, "Oh, yes, the flies were pests. I remember hearing them hit the windows in class." The sash and weight windows didn't have screens in the old grade school. The windows opened to a good ocean breeze. They had to be closed when it rained because it soaked the floor.

Curtis said, "I remember a boy in class who caught a horsefly and tied a string around it. It took off into the air and he was holding the string. The class howled with laughter as the horsefly buzzed around the children's heads like a kite in the sky." Curtis and Nanie still laughed about old school memories from over 80 years ago. Curtis said, "Back in those days we made our own fun." Nanie added, "It was a simple time and we enjoyed jump rope, jacks, hopscotch, baseball, dodgeball and going to the beach."



President Randall Gill, Curtis and Nanie Weaver
Photo Courtesy R Gill



1913 Boynton Schoolhouse, Ella Harper Family Photograph Album
Photo from City of Boynton Beach Library Archives



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MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL - BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. **BOGO**.

We are stupendously pleased to make this SPECIAL offer available! When you become a member or renew your membership, you can give a FREE one-year membership for one friend, family member or other interested party! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE*. BOGO*. TWO memberships for the SAME PRICE!

Please provide the recipient's name, mailing address, email, and phone, and they will also receive "The Historian," via email, in addition to important Society notifications.

Have you already sent in your dues for 2022? Thank you! Please designate your BOGO recipient by sending an email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com with the info requested for your BOGO recipient. We'll do the rest.

****The BOGO recipient must be a NEW member to the Society.
*Student membership level is not eligible to gift the BOGO special.***

Boynton Beach Historical Society Membership Form

My Name _____

Select one – this is a:

New Membership. Membership Renewal.

Street _____

Select Membership Type:

City _____

Individual \$25

Family \$35

State / Zip _____

Patron \$50

Corporate \$100

Email _____

Student* \$10 (please provide valid Student ID)

Life (one-time payment) \$500

Phone # _____

I would like to Give a One-Year Membership to (BOGO Recipient's Information)*:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State / Zip _____

Email _____

Phone # _____

**The BOGO recipient must be a NEW member to the Society. Student membership level is not eligible to give BOGO specials.*

Complete and mail with payment **Boynton Beach Historical Society, PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL. 33435.** Or pay online securely using PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/ and send your BOGO Recipient's Information via email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization; your dues may be tax deductible.
Membership year runs Jan 1 to Dec 31. Expiration date is shown on first line of your mailing label.



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A Conundrum Seeking Solutions: Identifications Sought

Georgen Charnes, City of Boynton Beach Library Archivist, recently received 14 senior portraits of the **Boynton High Class of 1945**. She was able, by comparing to other photos in the archives, and poring through back issues of *The Historian*, to identify most. However, she is left with a mystery that she hopes our membership can solve.

According to a Palm Beach Post article, 17 diplomas were given out at the Boynton High graduation ceremony in 1945. One graduate, **Albert T. Peterson**, was noted as already being in the U.S. Navy. This may explain why there are only 16 in the group portrait (below). All but two of the senior portraits have been identified leaving three photos unidentified (see below). They might be **Jacqueline Tattersall** and **Muriel DeLoach**. And who is the third girl? Maybe a student who didn't graduate that year, or maybe just didn't attend the ceremony and then wasn't listed in the newspaper? If you can identify these young women, your help would be appreciated. Georgen can be reached at charnesg@bbfl.us or 561-742-6390.

All portraits are available for viewing online at <https://boyntonbeachhistory.omeka.net/>



#1



#2



#3



Group portrait ids: Row 1: Muriel DeLoach, Mildred Hackle, Cheryl Muster, Nancy Murray, Betty Jean Magnuson, Louise Bell. Row 2: Pearl Cline, Edgar Neil Fountain, Kathleen Mayberry, Thelma Partin, Charles Senior. Row 3: Mary Edna Sterrett, Curtis Weaver, Merna Miller, Jack Hayes, Jacqueline Tattersall.



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Archivist's Corner by Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library

<https://www.boynton-beach.org/city-library> (561) 742-6390 100 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 charnesg@bbfl.us

The History of City Hall

One of the recent displays in the Boynton Beach City Library was on the **History of City Hall**. Researching the display resulted in the usual down-the-rabbit-hole experience of historical discovery, and I'm left with some answers and more questions. Included below are photos of City Hall throughout the years.

The history of the first ten years of Boynton's Town Hall is a little uncertain. The first public meeting concerning town incorporation, held 27 February 1920, was at **Boynton Lumber Company**, where it was decided to restart the process (a previous attempt in 1917 was not completed). On 14 April 1920, the resolution of incorporating the town of Boynton was passed and officers elected at the same place. On 12 June 1920, the first meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Boynton Florida was held at the **Masonic Hall**, which according to Boynton Lodge No. 236, was in a back room near where Bud's Chicken is today but has also been recorded that the group met in the **Harrell Building**, which was on the south side of the 500 block of E. Ocean Avenue. Town Council Meetings were held at the Masonic Hall until 13 August 1920, when they were held in the "Town Hall," location unspecified. It may have been the same space, but just called a new name.

In January 1924, the Sanborn Insurance Map (see <https://www.boynton-beach.org/library/archives-research>) recorded the Town Hall as located at the south end of the plot at the southwestern corner of E. Ocean Avenue and the FEC railroad tracks. In November 1927, I found two mentions that the Town Hall had, until recently, been in a room in the Harrell Building. A newspaper article written in 1961 notes that the Town Hall was in a building adjacent to the old bank building before 1930, so perhaps that's where it moved to from the Harrell Building.

In 1930, the Town Hall offices moved into the old **Bank of Boynton** building after the bank failed, at the southeast corner of Ocean Avenue and U.S. 1/Federal Highway. The Town Hall remained there until moving into a new building on U.S. 1, where the current **Veteran's Memorial Park** is located. The site also held the Fire Station and a water tower.

In 1958, City Hall moved to a new building at the corner of Boynton Beach Boulevard & Seacrest as part of a complex with the Fire Department, Police Station, and parking garage. It was later extensively remodeled, reopening in 1989. These buildings were demolished in 2018, and the newest City Hall opened in 2020, where the Local History Archives is located on the second floor.



Photos courtesy Boynton Beach City Library Archives