



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.



2012 Number 2

February 2012

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A special program in honor of Black History Month is being jointly sponsored by the Boynton Beach City Library and the Boynton Beach Historical Society for the February 13 meeting. Charlene Farrington Jones of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum will present a program about the rich history and cultural diversity of Delray Beach and South Palm Beach County. Ms. Jones is the daughter of Vera Rolle Farrington, founder of E.P.O.C.H. Expanding and Preserving our Cultural Heritage. Her program will highlight the fact that many of the early settlers in Boynton and Delray came from the Bahamas and other Caribbean Islands.

The Spady Museum is the former home of the late Solomon D. Spady who was the most prominent African American educator and community leader in Delray Beach from 1922 to 1957. His house (pictured below) is located at 170 NW 5th Avenue in Delray Beach. It is an historic two-story Mission-Revival style home completed in 1926.



The Spady Cultural Heritage Museum
[Photo courtesy apady.museum.com]

WHAT: Black History Month Program
Presented by Charlene Farrington Jones

WHERE: City Library Program Room
208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach

WHEN: Monday, February 13, 2012
6:00 p.m. [Please Note Time Change]

ALL MEETINGS OF THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2011-12

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Janet DeVries
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Ginger Pedersen
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2012	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2012	Delma Swilley
2013	Tim Bednarz
2013	Gloria Partin Turner
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2012	Christian Oyer Macoviak
2012	Victor Norfus
2013	Brian Edwards
2013	Virginia Farace
2014	Randall Gill
2014	Wendy Franklin

The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. Our e-mail address is boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach

Find us on Twitter:

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.

2012 MEMBERSHIPS

The following list represents those memberships paid between January 1 and February 1, 2012. If you joined earlier, your name was listed in the November or January *Historian*. A notation above your name on your *Historian* address label indicates when your membership expires.

Thanks very much to all of you who have sent in your dues in response to the request in past issues of *The Historian*.

CORPORATE:

Charlotte Oyer

PATRON:

Delma W. and Billie Jo Swilley
Robert B. and Sheila M. Rousseau Taylor
Cecile and Dr. N. Marion Weems

FAMILY:

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M. Randall and Patricia K. Gill
Ruth J. Jones and Emily Jones Little
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak
William J. and Theresa Marcacci
Ward C. and Martha P. Parker
Wyman H, Jr. and Barbara G. Scott
Helen Louise, Charles and Fred Senior
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Lois Oyer Dooley
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Jean Ann Thurber
Dorian Beck Trauger
Cindy Weeks
J.H. "Jim" Weeks

Two memberships are paid through December 31, 2013—Marie Horenburger and Robert and Virginia Foot.

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The February meeting of the Board of Directors will be Monday, February 27, 2012. The location is to be determined. Check the website or call Voncile or Janet for information on the location for the meeting.

Any member in good standing is welcome to attend any Board meeting and may participate in the discussion. However, only members of the Board may vote on an item. The Board is comprised of all officers, directors and trustees.

JANET DEVRIES TO PRESENT LIBRARY PROGRAM

In observance of Black History month the Library has scheduled several programs in addition to the one which they co-sponsor with the Boynton Beach Historical Society described earlier in this newsletter. On Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m., the Historical Society's first vice-president and archivist, Janet DeVries, who also is a Library employee, will present "The Rosenwald Schools of Palm Beach County."

The Rosenwald Schools, built after the 1928 devastating hurricane, were the first public spaces dedicated for black community use. Julius Roswenwald, president of Sears Roebuck and Company, established a fund for building schoolhouses for blacks in the rural south. Palm Beach County had 13 schools funded through contributions from Rosenwald's foundation, members of the black community, the white community and the State of Florida Department of Public Instruction. The segregated schools operated until 1971 when mandatory busing and desegregation began in Palm Beach County.

This presentation is open to the general public.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It seems fitting in honor of Presidents Day to learn a little more about one of our patriotic practices.

What is the history of the Pledge of Allegiance?

The following is from an e-mail your editor received from one of our members, Gillian Davis, in early January:

"I attended the January meeting [of the Historical Society] a few days after returning from my home in England and I was amazed to be able to impart some historic information to the American gathering. As they prepared to say the pledge of allegiance, I asked Voncile Smith if she knew when it was first recited. She replied that she thought it was passed by Congress in 1931 and then handed me the microphone to explain its provenance. Strange as it may seem, it was all laid out in a book on a Russian Music Publisher, 'The Beauty of Belaieff,' by my late husband (another Brit!) Richard Beattie Davis. The Russian composer Glazunov created a 'Triumphal March' based on the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' on the occasion of the *Worlds Columbian Exposition* in Chicago in 1893. Prior to that opening, on Columbus Day in October 1892, the pledge was said for the first time in public.

"The following is quoted verbatim from a description of the Exposition by Suzanna Hilton. 'On Columbus Day in 1892, the fair was dedicated with much ceremony. At the moment of dedication, twelve million schoolchildren stood to recite 'The Pledge of Allegiance' for the first time. The Pledge had been written in the offices of *The Youth's Companion*, a magazine for young people. Its editor had felt the need for some sort of patriotic pledge,

so that Americans could voice their feelings of patriotism.'"

[Editor's Note: Voncile was wrong about the date of official adoption for the Pledge. Fifty years after that simultaneous recitation by school children throughout the nation on October 12, 1892, the Pledge was formally adopted by Congress in 1942. It had been modified from the original three times during that 50 year period. In 1954 the words "under God" were added during the Eisenhower Administration. The wording remains unchanged since then.

Voncile confused her dates with the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" which Congress named our National Anthem in 1931.]



Courtesy of Gillian Davis, the cover of "Triumphal March. Op. 40" which Richard Beattie Davis discusses in "The Beauty of Belaieff" ISBN 978-1-905912-14-8 in which he reveals the 1892 initial recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by schoolchildren throughout America.

FAU MUSIC RECITAL TO HONOR RICHARD BEATTIE DAVIS

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, 3:00 p.m. at the University Theatre in Boca Raton, Leonid Treer of FAU, has planned a tribute to Davis. The program is:

Introduction - LT, GD, video of Davis talking on Taneyev

Henselt's "Ave Maria" -cello/piano- Claudio Jaffe

AMERICAN PREMIER

Piano works by students of Taneyev (one piece of each) - Medtner, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff

One song by Paul Juon (also his student) with soprano Sandra MacClain (FAU faculty member)

1 piece from "Seasons by Tchaikovsky (Taneyev's friend
INTERMISSION

Piano Quintet by S.I. Taneyev

Tickets are by suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

MORE ABOUT "HEART OF BOYNTON"

In the January issue of *The Historian* the Heart of Boynton Community Association, incorporated in 2008 to raise the level of community participation, was discussed. The organization grew from the frustration of many who saw little progress in the redevelopment of the area.



Willie Aikens, President HOB Community Association

The "Heart of Boynton" is a section essentially bounded by Boynton Beach Boulevard, the FEC railroad tracks, 13th Street and Interstate 95.

The residents who live there as well as many other citizens of the City have long agreed that the area needs redevelopment, including new businesses and homes to energize it. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard has been frequently identified as one location that requires help. Some of the need to repair damage from Hurricane Wilma five years ago has yet to be met.

About seven or eight years ago the City, through the CRA, commissioned the development of a renewal master plan for the area. Later two development companies, Intown and Auburn, failed to deliver on plans to add housing and businesses. Their efforts had been further clouded by an alleged "pay-off" scandal to the developers involved.

A change in the City Commission membership in 2010 spurred new hope among the residents, but the economic downturn has led to additional delays.

Last month groundbreaking took place in the 800 block of North Seacrest Boulevard for Ocean Breeze West, a development of 21 single-family homes in the Heart of Boynton Beach. Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach is partnering with the Boynton Faith-Based Community Development Corporation (CDC) to construct the development on land donated by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Eleven of the 21 homes will be constructed by Habitat and the remaining 10 by the CDC. Land will be placed in a Community Land Trust. The Trust is expected to drive

costs down for homeowners and to ensure affordability for future low-income home buyers.

This leased land provision has drawn some objections from members of the community. They are concerned that, while buyers may own their houses, they will not own the land. Home buyers would buy their houses but lease the land for 99 years. Buyers will be able to sell their homes, but the groups will maintain control over who moves in. Some who object feel that owning only the structure is not true home ownership. But all did agree that affordable housing is needed in the community.

The associate executive director of Habitat, Mike Williams, has said that the homes will have at least 3 bedrooms or more depending upon who is placed in them. He said that the homes whether built by either Habitat or CDC will look exactly the same. Habitat homes will have zero-interest mortgages, but the CDC mortgages will require some interest. Habitat requires that those receiving one of their homes must put in at least 500 hours of sweat equity. The project will be open to families with incomes up to 120% of the area median income. A family of four might have an income as high as \$88,800 or as low as \$22,200.



A Heart of Boynton Activity.

Standing on left: Victor Norfus, community activist and Boynton Beach Historical Society Trustee. Standing center: Gertrude Sullivan, a community activist, Director for the Heart of Boynton Community Association, and a long time advocate for redevelopment of the area.

[Information and photos from:
heartofboynton.org;
Boynton-beach.org/governmentdepartments/public_affairs/;
[palmbeachpost.com/news/revitalization of the heart of Boynton;
articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-01-07/news/fl-boynton-habitat-homes](http://palmbeachpost.com/news/revitalization_of_the_heart_of_Boynton_articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-01-07/news/fl-boynton-habitat-homes);
blogs.trb.com/community/news/boynton_forum/2012/01/habitat_for_humanity_break
articles.sun-sentinel.com/2011-10-20/news/fl-habitt-homes-boynton_20111020

IN MEMORIAM

MARY LUCILLE TUCK SCOTT—Lucille Scott, as we knew her, passed away January 10, 2012. In November 2011 *The Historian* had an article on Lucille and her husband Otley who predeceased her. The Scotts had operated one of Boynton's most successful family owned restaurants for 63 years. Eating at "Lucille & Otley's" was always a special treat whether it was chicken and dumplings, Southern fried chicken, or roast beef, a meal was always excellent especially when topped off with a slice of mile-high lemon meringue pie. Fresh roses from Lucille's own garden on each table added a special note to the cheery décor. Lucille was always impeccably dressed and was always pleasant and even-tempered to everyone. Boynton Beach has lost one of it's most memorable citizens.

The Historical Society extends our sympathy to her two daughters, Julie Kemp and Celia Weatherhead, her two grandchildren and her five great-grandchildren.



Lucille Scott at a 98th birthday celebration at the Boynton Senior Center August 2011.

[Photo courtesy Steven Anton]

ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER?

In 1950 you could buy a new Ford sedan for under \$1000.

In the 1950s you could buy magazines named Liberty, Look, Woman's Home Companion, Photoplay.

In the 1950s you could listen on the radio, in the movies or on disc recordings to Big Bands like Glenn Miller, Harry James, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey.

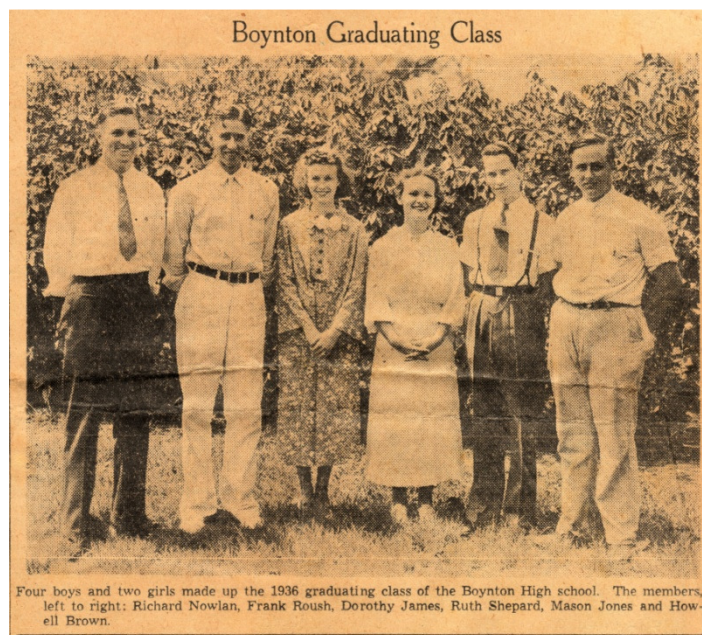
SOME OTHER CELEBRATIONS



Dow Ross and Rosalie Alvaroe Morrissey November 1984

Boynton Woman's Club Diamond Jubilee

[Photo courtesy Rosalie Morrissey]



Four boys and two girls made up the 1936 graduating class of the Boynton High school. The members, left to right: Richard Nowlan, Frank Roush, Dorothy James, Ruth Shepard, Mason Jones and How-ell Brown.

Boynton High School Class of 1936

L to R: Richard Nolan, Frank Roush, Dorothy James, Ruth Shepard, Mason Jones, Howard Brown

[Photo courtesy Ruth Jones]



1954 - Harvey Oyer with Fishing Queen and her Court

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member's
Name _____
2nd Member's
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Cell _____
E-mail _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____ FAMILY (\$35.00) _____
PATRON (\$50.00) _____ CORPORATE (\$100 or more) _____

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

THE HISTORIAN

P.O. Box 12
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012

We are proud to serve Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, Briny Breezes and all areas West of Boynton Beach to U.S. Hwy 441, and on occasion, greater Palm Beach County.



On Clematis Street, West Palm Beach 1920